



Planning & Development Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 114
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Frank Abbate, County Manager

THRU: John Denninghoff, Assistant County Manager, Development and Environmental Services Group

FROM: Tad Calkins, Director, Planning and Development Department *Tad Calkins*

SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2024028

DATE: April 1, 2024

CEER #2024028 was received by the County from Lora Losi.

Citizen Statement:

Landscape contractors are not under any regulation or supervision. Their lack of knowledge can lead to serious problems with excessive and dangerous use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, irrigation and landscape debris. This can lead to IRL and aquifer water pollution. Health problems can also occur.

Citizen Recommendation:

Institute a REVENUE GENERATING CERTIFICATION for lawn and landscape contractors, This could be a certification that contractors have to pay for training, annual certification, inspections etc. It would be especially important for those companies working in the IRL watershed. The certification would mean that companies would have to test soils for needs, not excessively irrigate, understand how and why and when to fertilize, not let clippings and unneeded chemicals become pollution etc.. KBB has a similar program with 9 companies enrolled. Brevard groundwater supplies and the IRL do not need any PREVENTABLE pollution . This program could save taxpayers having to clean drinking water and waterways. (as well as generate some certification monies) .

Why would companies ever go along with this?? Simple, BRAGGING RIGHTS!!!!!! "

Staff Analysis:

Brevard County licenses irrigation contractors. See e.g. Sec. 22-529, Brevard County Code of Ordinances, including as a class of competency "irrigation specialty contractor." There are currently 69 active licensees certified by the County, and 5 certified by the State and registered with the County. Broader local licensing requirements are generally preempted under Fla. Stat. Sec. 489.117. For those certified by the County, the



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

educational materials our test providers draw from include information on pollution and the prevention of runoff.

Contracted landscapers are required by law to receive training and certification from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) for the application of pesticides and fertilizers. Each individual seeking certification must satisfactorily pass an examination. Through UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County, we regularly provide the training and continuing education needed to obtain and recertify these required certifications. Examples are listed below.

Pesticide Applicator Trainings and Continuing Education

Chapter 482 (Structural Pest Control) of the Florida Statute states that all general use and restricted use pesticides applied within 10 feet of any building (i.e., "for-hire" contracted landscapers) must be applied by licensed applicators, or in certain instances, supervised by a licensed applicator. Licenses and certifications must be maintained and recertified with continuing education provided by FDACS approved education, such as by UF/IFAS Extension. For landscape professionals, we provide training and continuing education for Commercial Lawn and Ornamental, Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance, and Special ID Card holders.

Fertilizer Applicator Training and Continuing Education

Florida law states that all commercial fertilizer applicators must have a Limited Urban Fertilizer (LUF) certification from FDACS. To get this certification, each commercial applicator must be trained in the Green Industries Best Management Practices Certification Class (GI-BMPs) and receive a certificate of completion from UF/IFAS and Florida Department of Environmental Protection. We regularly provide this training at UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Certified Professional

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program offers a Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Certified Professional (FFLCP) designation to individuals who have completed the required training in FFL principles and are familiar with the latest UF/IFAS recommendations. These trained professionals have demonstrated the ability to recognize and address common landscape issues by using environmentally sustainable landscape management practices that help preserve and protect Florida's water and natural resources. UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County provides the required in-person Field Module training, annually, for landscapers pursuing the FFLCP designation. This is a voluntary program.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that CEER# 2024028 be rejected by the Board of County Commissioners, as there is already a mechanism in place for lawn and landscape contractors to receive education and licensing for the use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, irrigation, and landscape debris.

Recommendation Details

Contact Information

Full Name: Lora Losi Email Address: losi.loral@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 6534 Ridge Ct Titusville fl 32780 Alt Email Address: losi.loral@gmail.com

Phone Number 321-313-3121

Group/Organization space coast audubon

Recommendation Information

Recommendation Title: Landscape Contractor Certification

Areas Affected: Business

Department: NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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Problem Description:

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Recommendation Description

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Attachments

There are no attachments for this recommendation.

Administrative Action

Evaluation

Recommendation Timeline

User	Status	Date	Remarks
CEER WebUser	Citizen Submitted	Dec 27, 2023	
Karen Conde	Department Assigned	Jan 3, 2024	NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT Assigned
Karen Conde	Department Assigned	Jan 10, 2024	UF/BREVARD COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICES OFFICE Assigned

Awaiting action from department director