



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, Interim County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept (NRM)

AE

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2025067

CEER #2025067, titled Control of water flow, was received by the County from Ms. Lora Losi.

Citizen Statement:

Land and Development planning

Lack of planning for water movement, involving future flooding and pollution.

Citizen Recommendation:

In the long run -----Buying and maintaining wetlands instead of allowing ever increasing runoff into the IRL would certainly save money with less freshwater flowing into and damaging the salinity of the IRL.

We are seeing that development without proper planning can flood existing homes. In the long run this will hurt the property value of the entire region, including new builds. Tax revenues will fall, just when residents will need answers as to why simple GIS maps were not studied and development and remediation not properly planned.

Staff Analysis:

Environmental Review

NRM Environmental Resources Management (ERM) conducts environmental review of development activities on developed and undeveloped properties in unincorporated Brevard County. ERM assesses proposed development for compliance with 10 environmental protection ordinances including wetland, floodplain, aquifer recharge, and surface water protection. Development review includes site plans, subdivisions, and building permits, and other ERM-specific permits (e.g., surface water protection, small scale land clearing, and land alteration).

Brevard is also in the process of establishing and implementing LID strategies. In February 2022, Brevard County adopted 13 new "Peril of Flood" Policies as Comprehensive Plan,

Coastal Element, Objective 14, entitled Coastal Development and Redevelopment." The primary objective is to create procedures to allow consideration of the changing dynamics of flooding, sea level rise, and storm surge in growth management decisions within Brevard County. The Policies also direct the County to:

- Develop mechanisms to evaluate and recommend new design and development standards for public and private infrastructure projects that consider future climate conditions and amend land development regulations (LDRs) to reduce obstacles that hinder nature-based design standards and/or LID.
- Continually identify strategies and engineering solutions that minimize the loss of flood storage capacity in all floodplains and areas vulnerable to natural hazards such as flooding, storm surge, and sea level rise, and incorporate them into the LDRs.
- Encourage nature-based adaptation strategies design standards and/or LID design for development and redevelopment within areas vulnerable to current and future flooding impacts.

NRM will continue to implement Policies and LDRs to ensure avoidance and minimization of impacts to natural coastal ecosystems, including wetlands, floodplains, aquifer recharge areas, and dunes. Currently, staff are working on the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR), further modifying Policies in the Conservation and Coastal Management Elements to better facilitate the implementation of LID practices. Once the EAR is adopted later this year, staff will modify LDRs to align with the Comprehensive Plan policies.

Note that stormwater and floodplain development criteria are included in Chapter 46, Article V, entitled Stormwater, and Chapter 46, Article X, Division 6, entitled Floodplain Protection. The upcoming LID Policy and ordinance modification proposals will further enhance the existing standards as discussed above.

Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program

The Board of County Commissioners (Board) bonded \$3 million for Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program land acquisition. A variety of properties have been identified for future acquisition. These properties are a mixture of both wetlands and uplands and are primarily outparcels within or directly adjacent to existing conservation lands. EELs is in the process of hiring a contractor to pursue the acquisition of lands with the allocated funds. If the Board approves additional funds, the contractor will already be on board to carryout additional efforts.

Additionally, the EEL Program has been working diligently with the community since the mid-1990's to provide mitigation opportunities. EEL manages over 1,600 acres of conservation lands that have been directly donated or restored by the development community to offset

habitat loss impacts caused by residential and commercial development. These donation and restoration projects have also included over \$750,000 in management fees that are used by the EEL Program to manage these lands into the future.

In 2010, the State legislature, at the urging of the private mitigation bank lobby, ended the ability of local government to allow the development community to perform wetland mitigation restoration projects on County lands that were acquired specifically for conservation. The development community is still able to donate lands for wetland mitigation and perform scrub habitat restoration on County conservation lands. The opportunities are ongoing.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2025067 with revisions, as environmental review and PRD EEL program are already implemented as detailed in the staff analysis.

CC: Frank Abbate, County Manager

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 10:11 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2025067

Recommendation # 2025067

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2025067 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	lora losi
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Email	losi.loral@gmail.com
Alternate Email	losi.loral@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2025067
Recommendation Title	Control of water flow
Areas Affected	Land and Development planning
Department Affected	PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Current problem	Lack of planning for water movement, involving future flooding and pollution.
Recommendation	In the long run -----Buying and maintaining wetlands instead of allowing ever increasing runoff into the IRL would certainly save money with less freshwater flowing into and damaging the salinity of the IRL. We are seeing that developement without proper planning can flood existing homes. In the long run this will hurt the property value of the entire region, including new builds. Tax revenues will fall , just when residents will need answers as to why simple GIS maps were not studied and development and remediation not properly planned.
Attachments	No Documents were attached.

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