



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**Advisory Board Name:** Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

## **Meeting Dates and Attendance Records for 2025:**

See Attachment

## **Accomplishments or Work Product for 2025:**

- Accepted public comments throughout the year to inform annual plan update recommendations.
- Reviewed 21 funding proposals received for potential inclusion in the annual plan update.
- Considered revenue and inflation forecasts to revise 10-year revenue forecasts, cost estimates for future projects and contingency reserves, as needed.
- Welcomed eight (8) new members, six (6) returning members, and two (2) non-voting emeritus positions to the Citizen Oversight Committee in March 2025.
- Hosted 22 presentations on lagoon water quality, solutions to pollution, project performance measures, and community engagement at 10 public meetings:
  1. Brevard County Half-Cent Sales Surtax – SOIRL FY 24 Audit Report – Michelle Coppola and Jennifer Murtha, RSM US
  2. Quo Vadis North and Central Indian River Lagoon: Reprised – Chuck Jacoby, Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation
  3. Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Trends in the Indian River Lagoon - Kate Hubbard, Research Scientist, Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Center for Red Tide Research, Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Research
  4. Indian River Lagoon Seagrass Monitoring Update - Lori Morris, St. Johns River Water Management District
  5. Remote Sensing and Innovative Controls of Harmful Algal Blooms – Aleah Ataman, Environmental Specialist I
  6. The Indian River Lagoon Story: Linking SOIRL and Wastewater Policy – Todd Swingle, Chief Executive Officer, Toho Water Authority
  7. Sewer Lateral Repair Program – Josh Hibbard, Contracts Administrator
  8. Performance Monitoring of Wastewater Upgrades – Virginia Barker, Director
  9. Indian River Lagoon Regulatory Timeline – Don Deis, Chair, Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee
  10. Geology, Karst and Groundwater Vulnerability – Guy “Harley” Means, Director and State Geologist, Florida Geological Survey, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
  11. Septic to Sewer Project Prioritization & Groundwater Performance Data – Anthony Gubler, Environmental Specialist III, Brevard County Natural Resources



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12. Learning from Community Focused Pilot Hard Clam Restoration in the Indian River Lagoon: Techniques and Takeaways - Tyler Provoncha, Conservation Manager, Restore Our Shores, Brevard Zoo
13. Clam Farming in the Indian River Lagoon – Ed Mangano & Mike Abdul, Local Clam Farmers
14. Implementing Florida’s New Stormwater Standards – Borja Crane-Amores, Program Management Director, Division of Water Resource Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
15. Restoring the Historic Hydrologic Divide – Marc Van Heden, P.E., Supervising Professional Engineer, St. Johns River Water Management District
16. Small Box, Big Impact: Baffle Boxes in Action – Dani Straub, Assistant City Engineer, City of Melbourne
17. Denitrification Success in Stormwater Projects – Jennifer Thompson, Environmental Specialist III, Brevard County
18. Why is Muck Included in the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan? – Virginia Barker, Director, Natural Resources Management Department
19. Muck 101 – Ben Crews, Ph. D Graduate Student, Florida Institute of Technology
20. Phosphorus and Ammonium, Benthic Nutrient Fluxes in the Indian River Lagoon – Dr. Austin Fox, Assistant Professor of Ocean Sciences, Florida Institute of Technology
21. Muck, Sand, and Hypoxia: The Indian River Lagoon Struggle for Balance – Dr. Austin Fox, Assistant Professor of Ocean Sciences, and Rebecca English, Ph. D Graduate Student, Florida Institute of Technology
22. Cleaner Sediments, Cleaner Waters: The Benefits of Muck Removal – Abbey Gering, Environmental Specialist I, Natural Resources Management Department



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## Recommendations or Suggestions for the Board:

- Recommended cost share modification for septic upgrades in the 2025 SOIRL Project Plan Update to better reflect actual costs to homeowners.
- Recommended the modifications to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan Update for new project recommendations.
- Recommended approval of the 2025 Project Plan Update for the Save Our Indian River Lagoon program.
- Recommended offering same cost share rates that were offered last year for the 2026 Save Our Indian River Lagoon Plan Update, with the exception of an increase for Stormwater Projects for priority basins.
- Recommended expanding the funding for the City of West Melbourne Ray Bullard Water Reclamation Facility Upgrade Project by up to \$1,300,000 due to increased costs.

## Goals for 2026:

- Recommend changes for the 2026 Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan Update to adapt to evolving information, technical advancements, community requests and newer opportunities
- Receive and consider public comments at monthly Oversight Committee meetings
- Track the actual costs and benefits of project types through performance monitoring
- Share the status and functional performance of implemented projects
- Hold the program accountable for cost-effective implementation of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan and transparent expenditure of the Trust Fund
- Foster awareness of pollution sources and personal pollution prevention opportunities
- Host presentations on topics relevant to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Program
- Explore technological advancements for maximizing timely and cost-effective solutions
- Review and make recommendations on the annual cycle of funding proposals
- Review and make recommendations on contingency funding requests
- Review revenue and inflation forecasts to revise revenue projections, cost estimates for future projects, and contingency reserves, as needed



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**Advisory Board Name:** Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Listing of Advisory Board Appointees and their Attendance/Absence at Scheduled Meetings October 2024 through February 2025:

| Appointee                         | Appointed By: (District #/At-Large) | 10/18/24 | 11/15/24 | 1/17/25 | 2/21/25 | 3/21/25 | 4/18/25 | 5/16/25 | 7/18/25 | 8/15/25 | 9/19/25 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Lorraine Koss                     | Science                             | Present  | Present  | Present | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| Charles Venuto                    | Science                             | Present  | Present  | Present | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| Vinnie Taranto (Chair)            | Technology                          | Present  | Present  | Present | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| Don Deis                          | Technology                          | Present  | Present  | Present | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| John Windsor                      | Lagoon Adv                          | Present  | Present  | Present | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| Terry Casto                       | Lagoon Adv                          | Absent   | Present  | Absent  | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| Bobby Putnam                      | Tourism                             | Present  | Present  | Present | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| Laurilee Thompson                 | Tourism                             | Present  | Present  | Present | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| Stephany Eley                     | Education                           | Present  | Present  | Present | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| Kimberly Newton                   | Education                           | Absent   | Absent   | Present | Absent  | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| Todd Swingle                      | Finance                             | Present  | Present  | Absent  | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| Curt Smith                        | Finance                             | Present  | Present  | Present | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| Barbara Wall-Scanlon (Vice-Chair) | Real Estate                         | Present  | Present  | Present | Present | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| D. Eric Mannes                    | Real Estate                         | Absent   | Present  | Present | Absent  | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |



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List of Advisory Board Appointees and their Attendance/Absence at Scheduled Meetings March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025:

| Appointee                     | Appointed By: (District #/At-Large) | 10/18/24 | 11/15/24 | 1/17/25 | 2/21/25 | 3/21/25 | 4/18/25 | 5/16/25 | 7/18/25 | 8/15/25 | 9/19/25 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Don Deis (Chair)              | Science                             | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Absent  | Present | Present | Present | Present |
| Mark Schrope                  | Science                             | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent  | Absent  |
| Richard Nipper                | Technology                          | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Absent  | Present | Absent  | Present | Present | Present |
| Bruce Larson                  | Technology                          | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Absent  | Present | Present | Present | Present |
| Kimberly Newton               | Lagoon Adv/Ed                       | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Absent  | Absent  | Present | Present | Present |
| Deb Harmon                    | Lagoon Adv/Ed                       | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present |
| Laurilee Thompson             | Tourism                             | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Absent  | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present |
| Nicholas Sanzone              | Tourism                             | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Present | Absent  | Present | Present | Present |
| Richard Bankhead (Vice-Chair) | Lagoon Commerce                     | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent  | Present |
| Aaron Adams                   | Education                           | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Present | Absent  | Absent  | Absent  | Present |
| Curt Smith                    | Finance                             | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent  |
| Fred Goldstein                | Finance                             | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present |
| Barbara Wall-Scanlon          | Real Estate                         | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Absent  | Present | Present | Present | Present |
| D. Eric Mannes                | Real Estate                         | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Present | Present | Absent  | Present | Absent  |
| John Windsor                  | Emeritus                            | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Present | Present | Absent  | Present | Present |
| Charles Venuto                | Emeritus                            | N/A      | N/A      | N/A     | N/A     | Present | Absent  | Present | Present | Present | Present |