

## Boards Application Form

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### Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

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Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

_____	Deborah	A	Harmon
Prefix	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

debharmon2009@gmail.com  
Email Address

37 Marina Isles Blvd  
Home Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Suite or Apt

Indian Harbour Beach  
City

FL  
State

32937  
Postal Code

Mobile: (407) 808-4707  
Primary Phone

Home: (321) 241-4347  
Alternate Phone

### How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

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10 years

### To which Commissioner are you applying?

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District 4

### Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

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Yes  No

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### Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

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Yes  No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

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Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

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Eight years of SOIRL planning and implementation have yielded demonstrable water quality improvements, and as a resident whose home is located adjacent to the Banana River, I have a vested interest in ensuring that this progress continues in a way that makes best use of the tax dollars being invested by our community. Further, the credibility of the spending and outcomes from these investments will be critical to sustaining the long-term funding of continued progress, making these next two years especially critical to the program, in my opinion. The water quality challenges will extend beyond the first 10 years of the SOIRL tax, and I want to help ensure that strong community support continues until the health of the lagoon is fully restored.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

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For three decades ending in 2017, I worked in progressively more responsible business development, marketing, management and consulting positions in the environmental and water industry, roles which taught me how to assess the needs of clients and assist the technical team with translating those to achieve workable solutions for environmental protection and restoration. During that time, I found the science of environmental restoration so compelling that I went back to college and earned a degree in environmental studies (1997). While I remained primarily on a business track within the field, I worked with clients and multi-disciplined teams all over the country, and eventually became directly involved in consulting projects related to planning and infrastructure that are applicable to this program. In September 2017, I took a job locally in a related field (architecture/engineering) to spend less time traveling for business and had opportunities to engage in the community. These include the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Florida's Space Coast, Inc. (Board Chair in 2023, elected board member through 2025), Keep Brevard Beautiful (Board Chair 2024-2025), and the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition (communications and educational outreach volunteer). Please see my resume and reference letters for more details. I have also helped place oyster mats in the Banana River adjacent to my home in Marina Isles. An early lagoon restoration project, this installation failed to work as intended due to conditions specific to the locale. Water quality and science issues are complex; solutions are seldom instant and not always straightforward, and it's important to learn and adjust from what works and what doesn't.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

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I am a strategic thinker, skilled communicator and servant leader with a unique combination of personal experiences and accomplishments that could benefit the Citizen Oversight Committee. I have worked collaboratively with many different professionals, scientists, engineers, volunteers and stakeholders, and I believe that respect and integrity are paramount to successful working relationships and outcomes in any setting. I'm an effective listener, the foundation of all good communication. While I have a general working knowledge of the SOIRL plan and current project strategy, I have not been involved in the details to date, but you can be assured that I do my homework and strive to evaluate all pros and cons for a proposal or situation before forming an opinion. I have been a strong advocate for the lagoon in my volunteer activities and will continue to be one, while simultaneously bringing a collaborative leadership style and objective thinking to related topics and committee endeavors.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

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The Citizen Oversight Committee represents and advises the Brevard County Commission as a voice of the community and taxpayers. Transparency in keeping with Florida's Sunshine Laws, prudent stewardship of funding and science-based decision-making are absolute imperatives to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest. Further, opinions can vary in our community about the SOIRL program and among engineering and scientific professionals. That's why it's important to earn and sustain public confidence both by sticking with the SOIRL plan and openly discussing and deciding adjustments to the plan as projects are implemented and new data is received.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

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Deborah (Deb) Harmon's professional services career spans decades, including 30 years in the environmental engineering and water industry. She is an advocate for the value of engineering, science and design which promote robust economic development, create sustainable communities, and protect the environment and infrastructure that sustain the success and vitality of people, companies and their endeavors. Deb graduated from Rollins College with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies (summa cum laude) and displays an active commitment to community and environmental causes as a volunteer and community leader. She and her husband, a retired architect, live on the Banana River in Indian Harbour Beach, where she enjoys boating, kayaking and watching wildlife.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the following In order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

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Phone

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Harmon\\_Reference\\_Letters.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

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None.

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

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None.

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

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In a professional sense, I have transitioned from full-time employment to what some would call semi-retirement, while increasing my level of community involvement as a means of staying active and giving back. I have loved and enjoyed nature since I was a child, including outings on my uncle's boat around the spoil islands of the Indian River near Sebastian. When my husband and I moved from Orlando to Indian Harbour Beach in 2014, we chose to be near the waters we loved off Dragon Point where we kept our first sailboat years before, only to learn later that the pristine waters I knew as a child and the wildlife I valued were in peril. This has naturally motivated me to engage in protecting the lagoon as time has permitted, and the opportunity to serve on the Citizen Advisory Committee would allow me to increase that commitment and contribute to an endeavor that is both a passion and an obligation to future generations of Brevard County residents.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

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For three decades ending in 2017, I worked in progressively more responsible business development, marketing, management and consulting positions in the environmental and water industry, roles which taught me how to assess the needs of clients and assist the technical team with translating those to achieve workable solutions for environmental protection and restoration. During that time, I found the science of environmental restoration so compelling that I went back to college and earned a degree in environmental studies (1997). While I remained primarily on a business track within the field, I worked with clients and multi-disciplined teams all over the country, and eventually became directly involved in consulting projects related to planning and infrastructure that are applicable to this program. In September 2017, I took a job locally in a related field (architecture/engineering) to spend less time traveling for business and had opportunities to engage in the community. These include the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Florida's Space Coast, Inc. (Board Chair in 2023, elected board member through 2025), Keep Brevard Beautiful (Board Chair 2024-2025), and the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition (communications and educational outreach volunteer). Please see my resume and reference letters for more details. I have also helped place oyster mats in the Banana River adjacent to my home in Marina Isles. An early lagoon restoration project, this installation failed to work as intended due to conditions specific to the locale. Water quality and science issues are complex; solutions are seldom instant and not always straightforward, and it's important to learn and adjust from what works and what doesn't. Through donations and contributions, I also support the Marine Resources Council, The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund and the National Wildlife Federation.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

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None required.

[Resume\\_Deborah\\_Harmon\\_2024\\_Final.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

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**Agreement**

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

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**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

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I Agree

# DEBORAH HARMON

37 Marina Isles Boulevard | Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937  
debharmon2009@gmail.com | 407.808.4707

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## EXECUTIVE AND CONSULTANT

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Innovative, results-oriented and accomplished professional with extensive experience and demonstrated success in all phases of professional services consulting focused on the built environment, environmental services and water industries. **Inventive strategic planner with finely-honed organizational and implementation skills** and well-deserved reputation of hard work that shows results through exceptional productivity. **Collaborative consultant and trusted client service leader** with proven ability to design and deliver exceptional work products and brand experiences, resulting in customer loyalty. **Effective executive, communicator, facilitator, writer and messaging expert** for integrated proposals, presentations, work products and multi-media campaigns aimed at varied audiences. Skilled at **translating scientific and technical information** to non-technical audiences. Hands-on leader and multi-talented consensus-builder with a demonstrated **ability to build and lead cross-functional teams to heightened levels of achievement**. Engaged community leader and volunteer with strong desire to give back and sustain progress.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT – Indian Harbour Beach, FL** **JANUARY 2024 TO PRESENT**  
Formed Harmony Strategic Consulting, LLC, a women-owned business offering strategic planning, communications and management services to select clients. Provided pro bono presentation support services to the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition for a series of two workshops aimed at training Brevard residents and volunteers to better communicate about progress made on healing the IRL. Served as part of the three-member team of workshop facilitators.

**BRPH ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS, INC.** **SEPTEMBER 2017 TO DECEMBER 2023**  
**PRINCIPAL, CHIEF STRATEGIST, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT – Melbourne, FL**  
Leadership team member at Brevard-based, employee-owned international firm serving clients in aerospace, manufacturing, education, hospitality, entertainment and commercial sectors from nine offices across the U.S. Directed a staff of 10 and worked directly with senior managers, sector leaders and technical professionals to develop and implement growth plans, client strategies, sales activities and organizational development initiatives. Retired from full-time work at the end of 2023 to pursue other interests, especially community and non-profit involvement.

**T&M ASSOCIATES ENGINEERS AND CONSULTANTS** **JANUARY 2015 TO SEPTEMBER 2017**  
**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE STRATEGY – Middletown, NJ**  
Executive team member for \$70 million regional engineering, environmental and consulting firm serving commercial, industrial and municipal clients. Responsible for leading the implementation of growth strategies and organizational development initiatives across multiple business functions, geographies and client sectors.

**INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT – Indian Harbour Beach, FL** **OCTOBER 2014 TO JANUARY 2015**  
Freelance consultant specializing in management, strategic planning, brand development and management, multi-channel sales and marketing campaigns, proposal/presentation strategy and development, and communications, including technical and persuasive writing.

**BROWN AND CALDWELL – Orlando, FL, and Walnut Creek, CA**

**1996 TO OCTOBER 2014**

*Nationally renowned science, consulting, construction and engineering firm, specializing in environmental and water management.*

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING (2010-OCTOBER 2014)**

Provided vision and direction for brand management and strategic marketing for privately held \$350M company based in Walnut Creek, California. Member of Senior Management Team for restructuring of sales and marketing functions in post-recessionary period to successfully restart company growth. Directed a diverse creative team of 20 to implement over 350 separate projects annually for corporate public relations, image management and communications and responsible for \$2.5M annual budget. Continued to consult on strategic sales opportunities and paid assignments for utility agencies. Voluntarily left position in 2014 to relocate family and establish new career direction in Brevard County, FL.

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, INFRASTRUCTURE PRACTICE LEADER (2004-2010)**

Steered growth of national water/wastewater infrastructure engineering business. Promoted to Vice President and selected to lead the Infrastructure Practice, a first for a non-engineer, due to superior leadership skills and job performance. Ultimately advanced to Senior Vice President and led the team which grew revenues from \$7M to \$60M by the end of tenure, while producing an average of 20% growth year over year. Supervised business direction, annual business plan, business development, project delivery and quality oversight, as well as coordination with five geographic-based business units and technical consultants. Led consulting teams responsible for paid client assignments related to asset management and infrastructure refurbishment/replacement. Advanced from Vice President to Senior Vice President during this time. Promoted to Senior Vice President, Marketing due to superior job performance and exceptional marketing and communications skills.

**PRODUCT MANAGER & SENIOR CONSULTANT, BUSINESS CONSULTING AND INFRASTRUCTURE (2000-2004)**

Leadership contributor and senior marketing/business development official operating predominantly in the creation and establishment of the company's national Asset Management consulting services to water and wastewater utilities, which included both consulting and information technology offerings. Assessed market needs and client requirements and collaborated cross-functionally with technical consultants to develop service offerings, business development and marketing plans, messaging and approaches to resonate with clients and build business. Directly participated in developing, writing and leading winning presentations, qualifications statements, proposals, marketing materials, promotional strategies, pricing strategies and other positioning with clients and target segments. Led successful sales pursuit teams and secured multi-million contracts with public agencies throughout the country, managing the process, tracking government RFP requirements, and coordinating with diverse technical and support teams. Winner of Brown and Caldwell CEO ACE Award for Demonstrating Initiative and Teamwork.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, FLORIDA REGION AND CORPORATE (1996-2000)**

Advanced through progressively more responsible positions in the Florida Region, directing sales and marketing operations and proposal activities for five offices, and at the corporate level, providing leadership and overseeing corporate systems for proposals, training and marketing support nationally. Participated in developing and taught the company's proprietary sales approach in workshop settings.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:** Prior to Brown and Caldwell, worked in progressively more responsible business development and marketing positions for various regional environmental, transportation, architectural and professional services firms in Florida, in sales and public relations in the housing industry, and as a freelance writer for newspapers and publishing firms.



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## **EDUCATION & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

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BACHELOR OF ARTS – ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES – ROLLINS COLLEGE – WINTER PARK, FL (SUMMA CUM LAUDE)

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS – JOURNALISM – VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE – ORLANDO, FL

LEADERSHIP ORLANDO – GRADUATE

MELBOURNE REGIONAL CHAMBER – BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CURRENT), 2023 BOARD CHAIR

KEEP BREVARD BEAUTIFUL – BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CURRENT), 2024-2025 BOARD CHAIR

MARINA ISLES HOA – PRESIDENT 5+ YEARS

BREVARD INDIAN RIVER LAGOON COALITION – COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION OUTREACH VOLUNTEER



December 16, 2024

Dear Sirs and Madams,

It is my pleasure to recommend the appointment of Deborah "Deb" Harmon to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.

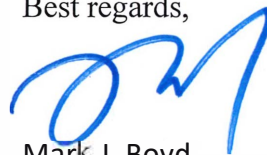
I have worked closely with Deb as part of the volunteer leadership on the Board of Directors of the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Florida's Space Coast, Inc. (where she served as Chair in 2023) and also Keep Brevard Beautiful, Inc. (where she currently serves as Chair). Deb's strategic mind, personal expertise, and collaborative spirit were quickly recognized by her peers in each of these organizations. These qualities led to Deb being selected for leadership early in each tenure.

As an Officer of the Melbourne Regional Chamber (including but not limited to her time as Board Chair), Deb has been a strong voice for the Indian River Lagoon in development of its advocacy agenda in recent years. Deb has represented the Chamber formally and informally with coalition groups and activities, including the 21st Indian River Lagoon Action Assembly this past summer. Deb's balanced approach to leadership-which is grounded in care for the organization's mission, stakeholders, and strategic objectives - has also been a structurally strengthening component for the Chamber that I have had the good fortune to inherit as a subsequent Board Chair.

As Board Chair of Keep Brevard Beautiful, Deb has been a true servant leader who is personally involved with activities benefitting the Indian River Lagoon and Brevard County as a whole. Deb has worked at tabletop environmental education events, including the 2024 Earth Day Celebration at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex and the recent Lagoon Straight Talk event presented by the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition, as well as the organization's cleanups. Here, too, Deb's balanced approach to leadership has been invaluable to the structure of the organization, and I have felt very reassured as a past Board Chair to know that it is under Deb's stewardship.

Deb's educational background and business experience also make her very knowledgeable about the subject matter of the environment in general and this important Committee in particular. In sum, I believe Deb's passion for the Indian River Lagoon and balanced approach to community leadership will make her an effective steward of taxpayer funds and a worthy member if appointed.

Best regards,



Mark J. Boyd

384 Norwood Avenue Satellite  
Beach, FL 32937

[mark.joseph.boyd@gmail.com](mailto:mark.joseph.boyd@gmail.com)

Dec. 19, 2024

Re: Recommendation for Deb Harmon for COC Membership

Dear Lagoon Supporters:

I am writing to express strong support for Deb Harmon's application to join the SOIRL COC. I have worked with Deb on a number of Lagoon related activities, and she has always been highly effective in identifying crucial issues, designing effective paths to success and facilitating enjoyable, collaborative solutions. Let me give an example.

At the end of 2023, the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition wanted to raise awareness in the business community about the progress being made by the SOIRL program. The Greater Melbourne Chamber of Commerce was one of the key organizations we wanted to engage. Deb was asked to help with our engagement and has done an outstanding job.

First, she helped us prepare a briefing for the Chamber's Board (of some 40 people). The briefing went so well that the Board voted unanimously to support the Coalition's effort to educate its members and the community.

As a next step, she worked with leaders at the Brevard Zoo and the Coalition to identify community leaders for a working meeting at the Zoo to develop approaches to expand communications throughout Brevard to increase awareness of the progress being made by the SOIRL program. She then took the actual workshop output and analyzed it to help design a coordinated communication program enlisting more than 70 leading organizations (including the Space Coast Realtors Association, Visit Space Coast, the City of Palm Bay, the IRL NEP, and WFIT) to share simple, clear, concise messages about progress via social media on a monthly basis. This effort has produced impressive increases in awareness both in the organizations and in the community as a whole.

I believe her business, educational and environmental background make her an outstanding candidate who can bring strategic, operational and communications skills that will advance the COC's and SOIRL's success in Healing Our Lagoon.

Thank you for the opportunity to recommend Deb Harmon as a COC member.

Lew Kontnik, Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition (BIRLC), Vice Chair

<https://www.facebook.com/BIRLC/>

[HelpTheLagoon.org](https://www.HelpTheLagoon.org)

<https://twitter.com/HelpTheLagoon>

[LewKontnik@gmail.com](mailto:LewKontnik@gmail.com)

H/O 321 775 3327, C 805 558 2295

December 18, 2024

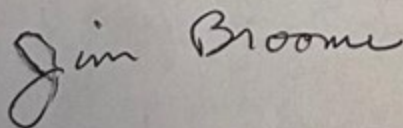
To Whom It May Concern:

As Chief Engineer for Orange County (FL) Utilities (OCU), I directed a multi-disciplined consulting team from Brown and Caldwell led by Deb Harmon as Project Officer to develop a sustainable infrastructure renewal/replacement program for wastewater gravity sewer, force main, and pump station infrastructure valued at more than \$2 billion. The purpose of this work was to provide a long-term strategy for successfully funding, renewing and managing these systems in a cost-effective way that would maintain a high level of reliability to prevent failures and related environmental consequences.

Deb interacted proactively with the OCU staff, her team of experts and specialized subconsultants to develop the program strategy and robust implementation plan. At every step of these multi-year efforts, Deb displayed a can-do attitude, creative thinking and a firm grasp of the technical matters at hand. She collaborated successfully with a variety of engineering, environmental, utility management, information technology, field maintenance and non-technical operations staff, contributing to workable solutions for the inherent challenges. Deb also demonstrated understanding and sensitivity to the fiscal obligations faced by public organizations responsible for stewardship of taxpayer and ratepayer funds by helping to establish the value and importance of these systems. These efforts by OCU staff, Deb and her team helped to build support for the infrastructure improvement program that was implemented.

Deb is a skilled professional, a strong advocate for infrastructure and the environment, and an outstanding person of integrity. I highly recommend her for an advisory board that could fully utilize her abilities and experiences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Broome". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Jim Broome, P.E.  
Chief Engineer (Retired)  
446 SW Aviation Drive  
Lake City, FL 32025