

SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting applications for two seats on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. Volunteers are sought to represent two fields of expertise: Real Estate and Technology.

Basic Requirements and Duties of Oversight Committee Members

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 one or more of the following fields: Real estate or Technology. 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 \$486 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.

Applications with resumés and letters of recommendation or endorsement should be submitted no later than **January 6, 2021**. The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners will review applications for Real Estate and Technology expertise and finalize the two appointments at their regular meeting on **January 26, 2021**.

Additional Requirements

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. 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.

Send your application, resumé, and letter(s) of recommendation to:

Natural Resources Management Department
Carol Gerundo, Administrative Assistant to the Director

Carol.Gerundo@brevardfl.gov

Phone: 321-633-2016

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As part of the application process the Board of County Commissioners requires each applicant to answer in writing each of the following questions:

Name
Mailing Address
City **State** **Zip Code**
Phone
Email

Please complete the following questions and statements.

1. Do you reside in Brevard County? Yes ☒ No ☐ Number of Years
2. Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings? Yes ☒ No ☐
3. Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Economics/Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education/Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lagoon Advocacy	

4. 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.

5. 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 SOIRLPP and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.

I grew up in Brevard County and have intimately experienced the Indian River Lagoon throughout my life. After graduating from UCF, I worked for the past 6 years. I am currently a GIS applications specialist at the Indian River Lagoon Authority. My work includes researching, understanding, and interpreting regulatory rules associated with the environment. I have experience with GIS applications of various technologies. I am also a member of the Native Plant Society, Audubon Society, and Surfrider Foundation. I am very aware of the issues that concern the Lagoon's health, including nutrient loading from Lake Okeechobee, adjacent agriculture, failed septic tanks, and commercial land uses. My technical knowledge would benefit the decision making process and further the work of nonprofits, researchers, and city, county, state and federal agencies.

6. 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.

I bring a technical opinion accompanied with a leveled demeanor. I am not quick to panic and thrive in making or providing context for decisions. I'm relatively young (30 yrs) and contribute the perspective of my generation. I'm very computer savy and have the ability to understand and apply contemporary software. I work well in a team environment and enjoy working with others.

7. 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.

The Indian River Lagoon belongs to the public and avoiding conflicts of interest is of the utmost importance. As a committee member, I would recuse myself of any personal real or perceived conflict of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of SOIRL Trust Funds. At the moment I do not own, have stake in, or work for any private commercial organization associated with the IRL. I also do not currently work for any agency that does work in the IRL. However, I would remove myself from recommendations if any of the above were to change

PAUL J. RUBEN

1125 North Highway A1A Unit 303 Indialantic, Florida | (321) 412-0537 | Pauljruben022@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE

- Archbold Biological-Station		<i>Venus, FL</i>
<i>GIS Research Assistant/UAS Pilot</i>		<i>October 2019 – Current</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ UAS Remote Sensing<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wetland Mapping- Prescribed Burn Mapping<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Orthomosaic, DTM, and DSM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ GIS Specialist<ul style="list-style-type: none">- ArcMap, ArcPro, and ArcCatalog- Research and Reporting Support	<i>40 hrs/wk</i>
Marine Surveys & Assessments		<i>Port Townsend, WA</i>
<i>Project Manager/Lead Wetland Biologist</i>		<i>August 2018 – October 2019</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Wetland Delineation, Rating, and Mitigation▪ Biological Evaluations (ESA Section 7)▪ Biological and Habitat Assessments▪ FEMA Flood Zone Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Project Management and Marketing▪ GIS Mapping▪ Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) Determinations▪ National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Reporting	<i>40 hrs/wk</i>
Westech Company		<i>Port Angeles, WA</i>
<i>Wetland Biologist</i>		<i>April 2017 – August 2018</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Wetland Determination/Delineation▪ Ordinary High-Water Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Quantitative Vegetation Monitoring▪ Wetland Reporting	<i>20-30 hrs/wk</i>
Kleinfelder, Inc.		<i>Tampa, FL</i>
<i>Ecologist</i>		<i>March 2014 – March 2017</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Wetland Delineations▪ Quantitative/Qualitative Monitoring▪ Threatened/Endangered Species Surveying	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Technical Compliancy Reporting▪ GIS Mapping▪ Invasive/Non-native species removal	<i>40-60 hrs/wk</i>

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

UAS Remote Sensing – FWC Post Burn Mapping (2019 – 2020)

Mapping prescribed burns and projects throughout the Lake Wales Ridge as requested by FWC.

City of Port Townsend Visitor Center Improvements – Habitat Assessment (2019)

Project manager and lead report writer for new construction and improvements to the existing Port Townsend Visitor Center. The proposed project was located in the Water Type S Riparian Buffer Zone Protected Area, FEMA 100-year Flood Zone AO, Seismic Hazards area, and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas. A determination of effect of potentially impacted ESA listed species was issued.

Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC Florida Operations (2014 – 2017)

Lead field and technical writer for projects within Mosaic's active phosphate mining and reclamation efforts throughout Florida. Projects included Threatened and endangered species surveys, wetland delineations, wetland/upland mitigation monitoring, land use mapping (GIS), and nuisance vegetation management/mitigation planting consultations – in support of federal, state, and local permitting efforts. Protected species surveys included identifying the occurrence of protected wildlife and floral species by foot, boat, and helicopter and utilizing strip/line transect methodology. Assisted in capturing and banding threatened and endangered species, including Florida burrowing owl and Florida scrub-jay. Reporting required MS Suite, and ArcGIS proficiency.

Vulcan Materials Company, LLC Florida Operations (2014 – 2017)

Lead field and technical writer for ~8,000 acre mine mitigation monitoring project with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and Lee County Environmental Sciences. Led protected species survey and baseline mitigation monitoring events at Vulcan sites throughout Central and South Florida.

EDUCATION

University of Central Florida

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies

Major: Life/Biology and Physical Sciences; Minor: Health Science

Orlando, FL
May 2010 – December 2013

AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS

- FAA Small Unmanned Aircraft System Certificate (2020)
- Esri Training GIS coursework (2019 – 2020)
- Wetland Professional in Training (2018)
- SDI Open Water Scuba Diver Certificate (2018)
- ACOE Wetland Delineation Certificate (Seattle, 2017)
- Mining Safety and Health Training (2016)
- Florida Phosphate Producers Access Card (2016 – 2017)
- First Aid & CPR certificate (2016 – Current)
- Kleinfelder Safety Award (2015)



Phone 863.465.2571
123 MAIN DRIVE ★ VENUS, FLORIDA 33960

January 6, 2021

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

Re: Application from Paul Ruben, Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Dear Commissioners,

As Executive Director of Archbold Biological Station, I have known Paul Ruben for approximately a year, when he worked for Archbold as a GIS Research Assistant and drone pilot. Archbold is an internationally recognized biological field station in Venus, Florida with research conducted on its 20,000-acre scrub preserve and working cattle ranch, and on other sites regionally.

During his time at Archbold, Paul was engaged in GIS, remote sensing, image processing and interpretation, and management of drones for environmental monitoring. He also worked as a member of Archbold's data management team with others who had experience in field instrumentation and sensors, wireless and radio communications, data management for large datasets, and photography and video management—although these were not his responsibilities. He demonstrated reasonable technological savvy for social media, websites, and communications.

I am personally very familiar with many of the issues facing the Indian River Lagoon. I was Professor at Florida Institute of Technology for several years, chaired the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection Committee, and edited the first volume of the Biodiversity of the Indian River Lagoon published in the Bulletin of Marine Science. Based on my knowledge of the needs of the Lagoon, I would recommend Paul to you as a young, up-and-coming scientist with a deep concern for the environment and knowledge of some of the technologies relevant to the Committee's mission. Although he is early in his career, he represents a blending of science and technology skills, love of the Lagoon, and a commitment to conservation.

Sincerely,

Hilary Swain, PhD

Executive Director