

**Brevard County
Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program
Selection and Management Committee Volunteer Application**

First Name: Jennifer Last Name: Thompson
Mailing Address: 217 Oak Lake Rd.
City: Melbourne State: FL Zip: 32901

Cell Phone: 321-292-9175 Alternate Phone: 321-350-8394
Email: sharkyjones24@hotmail.com

The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County.

*Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.*

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I am willing to serve on the committee for two years: Yes

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person.

I am available to attend in-person meetings: Yes

Please provide a brief overview AND resume of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements:

- Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design.

I obtained a BS in Marine Biology and a BS in Ecology from Florida Tech. I have worked in laboratories testing water quality (wastewater, drinking water, surface water and groundwater) for 9 years for 2 municipalities and then came to work for Brevard County's Natural Resources Management Dept. to sample and analyze water quality data for the past 3 years. I currently assess effectiveness of stormwater projects implemented by our department and the SOIRL program as well as inspect all County locations with hazardous waste to help isolate the waste from the stormwater system. Furthermore, I aid the oyster restoration program (conduct seagrass surveys, construct oyster bags, build oyster reefs, etc.), develop sampling protocols for SOIRL field projects, conduct field surveys of gopher tortoises, and investigate illicit discharges across the County.

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques.

Having worked with water quality for the past 18 years, whether through education or through hands-on analysis, I have gained first-hand knowledge of the Indian River Lagoon, its watershed, hotspots for pollution, perspectives of residents, and ways to improve the water quality. For 3 years I have inspected stormwater systems for hundreds of businesses and HOAs across Brevard, allowing insight for how water flows, structures, and human influences. When creating projects, I look at natural flora and fauna of the ecosystem (i.e. aquatic vegetation, invasive plants, nesting birds, entanglement issues for animals), influences from upstream, where the hydrology takes the water and possible impacts downstream, what the pre-existing condition of the system is and the most probable removal rate if alterations are made, and how to best sample the altered site to see if results are as expected. I have walked extensively in the Mims conservation area in search of gopher tortoise burrows, so I am familiar with the vegetation, sugar sand and hydrology of the northern area. I have also conducted numerous seagrass surveys in the lagoon and placed or removed several oyster restoration projects, so I am familiar with the depth and substrate changes in the lagoon and their influences on water quality. I have conducted woodstork rookery surveys and can identify several FL birds and nesting areas. I also have a solid working knowledge of fish and marine mammals in the lagoon and in stormwater ponds/canals. Finally, I have visited almost all the parks in the County, either for work or personal recreation, so I have seen differences between areas with high water tables, low-impact development, green infrastructure, nature trails, etc. and how we are able to integrate humans into natural surroundings (Erna Nixon and Enchanted Forest are my favorites).

Email SMC Volunteer Scientist Application

Jennifer Thompson
(321) 292-9175
Sharkyjones24@hotmail.com

Objectives

To pursue a career in which I am challenged to utilize my current talents in enhancing and protecting the environment and to further my knowledge and skills through hands-on experience in a positive work environment that rewards motivated, efficient employees.

Experience

5/19 – Current Brevard Co. Natural Resources Melbourne, FL

Environmental Specialist I

- Perform monitoring and sampling on stormwater with automatic samplers, flow meters, rain gages, and HydroLab equipment.
- Perform monitoring and sampling on groundwater with peristaltic pumps and HydroLab equipment
- Collect grab samples and monitor surface water while conducting aquatic vegetation surveys
- Inspect stormwater systems operated by the County for their NPDES requirements
- Conduct NPDES and pollution prevention training for employees across all departments plus the cities of West Melbourne, Malabar and Grant-Valkaria
- Calibrate and maintain monitoring and sampling equipment
- Attend pollution prevention meetings and training
- Maintain, trailer and drive a 19' boat
- Answer and investigate resident inquiries regarding stormwater, including site visits for illicit discharge
- Educate business and homeowners on BMPs to reduce pollutants
- Perform gopher tortoise surveys at the Mims Conservation area
- Help install oyster restoration projects and perform sea grass surveys

1/18 – 5/19 Brevard Co. Natural Resources Melbourne, FL

Associate Environmental Specialist

- Perform monitoring and sampling on stormwater with automatic samplers, flow meters, rain gages, and HydroLab equipment.
- Perform monitoring and sampling on groundwater with peristaltic pumps and HydroLab equipment
- Collect grab samples and monitor surface water while conducting aquatic vegetation surveys
- Inspect stormwater systems throughout the County
- Calibrate and maintain monitoring and sampling equipment
- Attend pollution prevention meetings and training

- Maintain, trailer and drive a 19' boat
- Answer and investigate resident inquiries regarding stormwater, including site visits for illicit discharge
- Educate business and home owners on BMPs to reduce pollutants
- Identify Gopher Tortoise burrows
- Help monitor oyster mats and bags by measuring live oysters, install and remove oyster mats and bags, and create shell bags

3/11 – 1/18

City of Melbourne

Melbourne, FL

Environmental Programs Coordinator

- Plan, develop and present interactive media and PowerPoint presentations
- Continually update and provide education programs for all residents throughout the water distribution area on recycling, stormwater, water conservation and pollution prevention
- Coordinate events such as Trash Bash, adopt-a-road cleanups, IRL Envirothon, IRL Day, Hands Across the Lagoon, Coastal Cleanup, Exemplary Science Teacher Awards, Research Rules (science fair preparation seminar) and Middle School Science Bowl
- Participate in events such as Paws in the Park, Teacher Open House at the Brevard Zoo, Better Living Expos, Youth Environmental Summit, festivals, Earth Day events/festivals, company events (Northrop Grumman, Rockwell Collins, FIT), career days for middle schools, science fairs, Wonders of Water Nights and HOA meetings
- Create boil water notices and FDEP incident reports
- Enforce irrigation, fertilizer and leak ordinances
- Update CUP and NPDES reports
- Obtain quotes, prepare purchase orders and develop art work for ordering promotional items
- Assist with preparation for distribution and editing of the monthly Public Works & Utilities Connection and quarterly Conservation Newsletter
- Manage toilet and rain barrel rebate programs
- Maintain budget, pay roll and inventory records and supplies
- Monitor and enforce the trash hauling contract for the city
- Work with residents that experience problems with Waste Management
- Assemble new customer welcome packets and records for reporting requirements

5/04 – 3/11

City of Melbourne

Melbourne, FL

Laboratory Analyst / Deputy QA/QC Officer

- NELAC certified for fecal coliform, cBOD and TSS
- Traveled to another water reclamation facility to collect samples and verify pH, turbidity and residual chlorine readings daily
- Daily routine consisted of performing cBOD, membrane filtration for fecal coliforms and TSS, along with making media and reagents

- Monthly routine consisted of performing chlorides, TDS, %TS, MPN, ammonia, total phosphorus, HPC, conductivity, pH, sterility, purity and viability checks and calibrating supporting equipment
- Ran a meeting once a week with the supervisor and analysts
- Sampled and analyzed groundwater quarterly
- Calibrated automatic samplers and thermometers biannually
- In 2006 I was upgraded to deputy technical director (DTD) for the quality control aspects of the lab and kept up with all regulation changes from EPA, NELAC, and DEP
- In 2010 I was upgraded to deputy QA/QC officer, which included all the duties of DTD plus conducting internal audits and making revisions to all SOPs and QC manuals

7/02 – 5/04

City of Titusville

Titusville, FL

Environmental Analyst

- Provided the city and contract clients with analytical services such as fecal and total coliforms (using filtration, MPN and Colilert methods), HPC, fecal streptococcus, chlorides, alkalinity, solids (TS, TS, %TS, VS and TDS) and COD for drinking water, reclaimed water, waste water and sludge
- NELAC certified for the above mentioned tests
- Collected samples daily for fecal coliform and solids
- Collected samples quarterly from wells and interconnects with the City of Cocoa

8/00 – 5/01

Florida Institute of Technology

Melbourne, FL

Molluscan Biology Research Assistant

- Entered research data concerning *Callinectes sapidus* for Dr. Rick Tankersley
- Conducted field research for *C. sapidus* and *Limulus sp.*

5/00 – 7/00

FTN Environmental Consultants

Little Rock, AR

Summer Intern

- Researched environmental factors affecting risk assessments for areas in Arkansas and Tennessee
- Collected groundwater samples for analysis
- Conducted fieldwork determining wetland delineation in Mississippi
- Entered MSDS data
- Completed secretarial duties
- Researched other companies in need of FTN's services by looking through compliance reports

Education

1998 – 2002

Florida Institute of Technology

Melbourne, FL

- B.S., Marine Biology
- B.S., Ecology
- 129.5 credit hours acquired

Training

- NAUI Wreck diving and advanced diving certified
- NOAA Project Design and Evaluation certified
- DEP Field Sampling Courses
- Driving Safety training
- CPR certified
- FDEP Sedimentation and Erosion Control Inspector
- FSA Stormwater Operator Level 2
- 24 Hour HAZWOPER
- FWC Boating Safety Course
- Brevard County's EDP Completion of Phase 1 & 2

Special Interests/Awards

- 2004-Became the Advisory Committee Chairperson for Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity, at Florida Institute of Technology
- 2011-Awarded the Meritorious Award for Large Utilities for Environmental Awareness and Conservation Programs by FSAWWA
- 2012-Became a trustee for Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB); 2013-became secretary for the South Action Team (SAT); 2014-became treasurer and We Noticed beautification awards chairperson for SAT
- 2012-2018-Member of the Space Coast Science Education Alliance
- 2014-Awarded the Education Award by KBB
- 2017-Awarded the Volunteer Leadership Award by Eastern Florida State College
- 2019-Awarded for Outstanding Service with the Brevard Regional Science Fair