



Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Legislation Text

File #: 2319, **Version:** 1

Subject:

Re-Appointment of Members and Alternates to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee and Permission to Advertise for Volunteers to Fill Vacant Seats.

Fiscal Impact:

No Cost

Dept/Office:

Natural Resources Management

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners: (1) Review meeting attendance records, resumes and applications of Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) members seeking re-appointment; (2) Reappoint COC voting members and alternates recommended by the Space Coast League of Cities; (3) Consider reappointing voting members and alternates previously ranked and appointed by the County Commission and willing to continue their service; (4) Consider promoting alternates to fill vacant voting member seats; and (5) Authorize staff to advertise for new applicants for specific seats representing vacant fields of expertise on the COC.

Summary Explanation and Background:

On August 23, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 1615 for the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan and Trust Fund. The Ordinance called for establishment of a Citizen Oversight Committee (Committee) to make recommendations to the County Commission regarding annual updates to the Save Our Indian River Project Plan that is funded by the half cent Save Our Indian River Lagoon sales tax. The Committee structure consists of 7 members and 7 alternates representing 7 fields of expertise: Science, Technology, Economics/Finance, Real Estate, Education/Outreach, Tourism, and Lagoon Advocacy. Terms are for 2 years, after which members and alternates can be reappointed or replaced.

Half of the Committee is nominated by the Space Coast League of Cities and half the Committee is selected by the County Commission, with all seats appointed by the County Commission. If replacement members or alternates are required, the entity who selected that member can:

- 1) upgrade the alternate to the member seat,
- 2) choose a replacement from the existing pool of applicants, or
- 3) request a new call for qualified citizen volunteers.

On November 9, 2020, the Space Coast League of Cities met and recommended reappointment of their 3 voting members and 4 alternates.

John Windsor	Lagoon Adv.	Member	Since 2016
Courtney Barker	Finance	Member	Since 2016
Stephany Eley	Education	Member	Since 2016
Vinnie Taranto	Technology	Alternate	Since 2016
Charles Venuto	Science	Alternate	Since 2016
Dennis Basile	Real Estate	Alternate	Since 2019
Laurilee Thompson	Tourism	Alternate	Since 2019

The County Commission is also requested to consider reappointment of the following members and alternates ranked and appointed by the County Commission, who are willing to serve for the next two-year term:

David Lane	Tourism	Member	Since 2016
Lorraine Koss	Science	Member	Since 2016
Terry Casto	Lagoon Adv.	Alternate	Since 2016
Todd Swingle	Finance	Alternate	Since 2016
Kimberly Newton	Education	Alternate	Since 2020
Vacant	Technology	Member	
Vacant	Real Estate	Member	

For filling the two vacant voting member seats, the County Commission is requested to consider upgrading the alternates, Vinnie Taranto and Dennis Basile to the voting member seats for Technology and Real Estate, respectively. Attached is a letter from the Citizen Oversight Committee to the County Commission regarding the benefits of promoting alternates who are most familiar with previous direction from the Board and the delicate balance of adapting to new information, challenges and opportunities while ensuring consistency with the enabling ordinance for the surtax and maintaining public trust.

For the remaining vacancies, staff requests permission to advertise for new applicants. If the County Commission chooses to promote alternates to voting member seats, this would vacate League of Cities' alternate seats. New applications would be provided to the Space Coast League of Cities for their review and their selections would be brought to the County Commission for approval.

Clerk to the Board Instructions: