



Apalachee • Central Florida
East Central Florida • Emerald Coast
North Central Florida • Northeast Florida • South Florida
Southwest Florida • Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast

Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting

Theme

Florida's Environment, the Foundation of Florida's Future

January 10, 2020

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DoubleTree Hotel

101 South Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

AGENDA

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| 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. | Hot Breakfast and Networking |
| 8:30 – 8:40 a.m. | Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions
Sandy Walters, SFRPC, FRCA President |
| 8:40 – 8:45 a.m. | Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of the August 16, 2020 Meeting Summaries• Approval of the January 10, 2020 Policy Board Meeting Agenda Sandy Walters, SFRPC, FRCA President |
| 8:45 – 9:00 a.m. | Setting the Stage
Sandy Walters, SFRPC, FRCA President |
| 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Florida's Environment from a Business Perspective
Chris Emmanuel, Director of Infrastructure and Governance Policy
Florida Chamber of Commerce |
| 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. | Current Initiatives to Protect and Improve Florida's State Lands
Callie DeHaven, Director, Division of State Lands
Florida Department of Environmental Protection |
| 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. | Resiliency Florida - The Role of RPCs and Local Governments
Representative Kristin Jacobs, Executive Director Resiliency Florida
Due to illness, Frank Bernardino, co-founder of Resiliency Florida,
took Rep. Jacobs's place addressing this issue |

- 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. BREAK**
- 10:45 – 11:15 a.m. Regional Planning Council Recent Environmentally Related Projects**
- **Regional Planning Council Report Outs**
- All Regional Planning Councils
- 11:15 – 11:20 a.m. FRCA Financial Report**
- Pat Steed, CFRPC, Treasurer, FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee
- 11:20 – 11:30 a.m. Presentation of the 2018-19 FRCA Annual Report**
- Pat Steed, CFRPC, Executive Director
- 11:30 – 11:35 a.m. Legislative Report**
- Chris Rietow, ARPC, Chair, FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee
- 11:35 – 11:40 a.m. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2020-2021 Policy Board Officers**
- Sandy Walters, SFRPC, FRCA President
- 11:40 – 11:45 a.m. Other Business**
- **Florida Chamber 2030**
 - **Rural Days, January 16, 2020**
 - **Summer Policy Board Meeting**
- Sandy Walters, SFRPC, FRCA President
Chris Rietow, ARPC, Chair, FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee

Adjourn

Florida's Environment—The Foundation of Florida's Future Setting the Stage for Today's Meeting

I'm excited about today's meeting and the theme we're sharing. Our current times remind me of the early 2000s, when our Florida Legislature and then-Governor Jeb Bush placed a priority on Florida's environment. Our longtime colleague and former Policy Board president, Lee Constantine, when serving in the Florida Senate, was the author of the Florida Forever Act. This bill extended the Conservation and Recreation Lands or CARL program and added citizen members to the Acquisition and Restoration Council or ARC that oversees the Florida Forever program.

I was honored to be appointed by Gov. Bush to that first ARC, helped write the enabling rule, and reviewed hundreds of applications for listings and State land management plans. It was quite an eye opener for someone primarily from SE Florida and the Keys to learn what an amazing State Florida is.

However, at that time my common observation was very true, that "you could romp and stomp with the environment anywhere else in Florida as long as you protected the Florida Keys." Florida has the most outstanding first-magnitude freshwater spring system in the world, which needs the same kind of water quality protection from the surrounding watersheds that were being implemented in the Keys—AWT or Advanced Wastewater Treatment to reduce nutrients as low as possible and land use controls to ensure retention and treatment of stormwater.

That kind of water quality protection—which is just as relevant for Lake Okeechobee and its connected rivers, and our offshore coral resources—is only now being implemented elsewhere in the State. Let's just pray it's not too late since it's a lot harder to clean water than to keep it clean. So the new observation around Florida should be, "if they are doing it in the Keys we should look at doing it here!"

Through my career as an environmental professional, I have typically had people—public- and private-sector—come to us with plans for projects that would help a lot of people but were going to harm—read remove—some of the natural environment and, because of government regulation, we would design and permit mitigation for those impacts. Which sounds pretty good, right? However, it's a zero-

sum game—as we are just replacing what we are damaging rather than restoring loss from years past.

I learned recently that one of the goals of leaders involved in addressing global climate change is to plant 1 trillion trees, which will roll back atmospheric carbon levels to about 50% more than what they were prior to the industrial revolution. That seems like a lot of trees, but worldwide we removed them in just the last 250 years and there are 7 billion more people around to plant them back now!

This apple is not just sitting here for my morning snack. I heard a great talk last week about how we can cause change that used an apple as the metaphor for a forest of trees. The apple represents each of us and what we can do if we cut to our core and release the potential there. In viewing Florida’s environment, it can represent what each person, business and community can do, leading to that forest, creating and maintaining the sustainability and resilience we need as the foundation for our future.

Our speakers this morning will address different aspects of this process.

- Chris Emmanuel, Director of Infrastructure and Governance Policy for the Florida Chamber of Commerce, will look at the relationship of business to the environment.
- Callie DeHaven, the Director of the Division of State Lands at the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, will describe current State programs to maintain, manage and grow our natural environment.
- Representative Kristin Jacobs, a masterful politician who manages to really achieve that elusive goal of bi-partisan solutions, founder of the 11-year SE Florida Climate Change Compact, and executive director of Resiliency Florida, will discuss the roles of our cities, counties and RPCs in developing that integration with the environment that leads us to true sustainability.
[Rep. Jacobs was ill and was very ably represented by Frank Bernardino, partner of the Anfield Team and co-founder of Resiliency Florida.]