



**SFRPC – TCRPC Joint Meeting
October 16, 2020**

The South Florida and Treasure Coast

Regional Planning Councils welcome our Special Guests

Terrie Bates, Principal, Water Resources Consulting, Inc.

Frank Bernardino, Partner, Anfield Consulting, Inc.

*Lynette Cardoch, Ph.D., Director of Resilience & Adaptation
and Vice President, Moffatt & Nichol*

Mikhael “Mike” Elfenbein, Delegate, Everglades Coordinating Council

*Jamie Monty, Regional Administrator, Florida Department of Environmental
Protection, Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection Southeast Region*

Nick Szabo, Founder, AguaCulture

*Joanna C. Walczak, Administrator, Florida Department of Environmental
Protection, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection,
Coral Reef Protection and Restoration Program*



Terrie Bates is a Principal at Water Resources Consulting, Inc. She worked at the South Florida Water Management District for 34 years; including 10 years as the Director of the Regulation Department and 10 years as the Water Resources Division Director. Most recently the scope of her responsibilities included executive management of the Agency's water supply planning, water quality and applied ecological science programs. Ms. Bates served as the Agency's incident commander for management of the 2007-2008 Drought Emergency.



Frank Bernardino is a Partner at Anfield Consulting, Inc., a boutique consulting and lobbying firm specializing in water and environmental resources management, serving both public and private clients. He has over thirty-eight years of experience working in Florida's environmental, political and governmental arenas. He holds a Master Degree in Biology and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Studies, both from Florida International University. Mr. Bernardino is well versed in the challenging arenas of environmental and growth management regulation. A recipient of the Florida Senate's prestigious Medallion of Excellence, "for his dedicated service in protecting Florida's natural resources," Mr. Bernardino is widely recognized as one of the most effective environmental advocates in the State.



Lynette Cardoch, Ph.D., Director of Resilience & Adaptation and Vice President, Moffatt & Nichol, is a coastal ecologist with over 25 years of experience in regulatory and water policies, coastal restoration, and urban and coastal resiliency. She has also worked closely with coastal utilities and natural resource agencies on integrated planning and operationalizing resiliency, particularly for coastal protection, storm surge, and interior flooding. She is an active resident of Miami-Dade County, participating on the Biscayne Bay Task Force. She also serves as Vice-Chair on the County's Planning Advisory Board.

Dr. Cardoch is, leading efforts to deliver comprehensive resiliency solutions & adaptation services in the coastal zone. Services range from coastal planning (e.g., decision economics and strategic consulting) to engineering of nature-based (e.g., wetlands and beaches) and built infrastructure (e.g. maritime structures). Dr. Cardoch earned a Master Degree in Marine Affairs and Policy from the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science; a Master Degree

in Biological Anthropology, A.B. Cum Laude from Harvard College; is a Fulbright Scholar; and earned her Doctorate in Oceanography and Coastal Sciences from Louisiana State University.



Mikhael "Mike" Efenbein is a delegate for the Everglades Coordinating Council, representing 17 conservation organizations throughout the greater South Florida region. Born and raised in Miami, he now lives on the southwest Florida coast with his wife and two children. He began his conservation efforts in Florida serving on the board of the Fishing and Conservation Trust before being hired as the Executive Director. Mike previously served on the SFWMD Water Resources Analysis Coalition, providing input on water issues throughout the region. Mike currently serves on the board of the Future of Hunting in Florida and is a member of the FWC Deer Management Technical Advisory Group. An avid outdoorsman spending his free time in the wilds of Florida with his family, a consummate conservationist.



Jamie Monty is the Regional Administrator of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection Southeast Region where she oversees work in Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, Florida Keys Aquatic Preserves Coral Reef Conservation Program and the state's co-management of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Ms. Monty has worked for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for more than 11 years, where she previously served as the Manager of the Coral Reef Conservation Program and Chair of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative Team, where she was responsible for management of the coral reefs within the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area, a marine managed area that comprises the northern third of Florida's Coral Reef. Jamie previously held the position of Senior Marine Biologist at Coastal Systems International, an environmental engineering and consulting firm where she managed projects for government agency clients. Prior to that Ms. Monty was Manager of the Restoration and Enhancement Section for Miami-Dade County's Regulatory and Economic Resource Division, where she managed Miami-Dade County's coastal natural resources, including overseeing offshore coral and artificial reef monitoring, Biscayne Bay water quality monitoring, Florida Bay seagrass monitoring, habitat restoration, beach nourishment, and manatee protection programs. She started her career with the Department as an Environmental Specialist assisting with the management of four of the state's 41 Aquatic Preserves associated with the Indian River Lagoon, the St. Lucie River, and the Loxahatchee River with FDEP's Southeast Florida Aquatic Preserves Office.

Ms. Monty started her professional career as a Research Assistant for Nova Southeastern University while obtaining her dual Master Degrees in Marine Biology and Marine Environmental Science, where she worked on a variety of coral reef assessment, monitoring, mapping, restoration, and research projects. Her Master's thesis incorporated citizen science into coral reef restoration, using techniques that have since been adopted as standard operating procedures by Florida's natural resource management agencies.



Nicholas Szabo, the Founder of AguaCulture, has been in Agriculture for more than 30 years. He grew up on a large hog farm in Southwest Ontario where his passion for Agriculture began. In 2008, Mr. Szabo began working on some of North America's largest farms where he utilized his expertise and logistics and converted what many in the industry considered a waste (manure) into a viable and desirable product for local crop farmers. Capitalizing on his Agricultural background and experience combined with working with agencies on water remediation, Mr. Szabo identified the opportunity to master logistics, streamline a process and clean water through the patenting of an

aquatic vegetation harvesting system.

AguaCulture has developed a patented harvesting technology focused on nutrient reduction by removing aquatic vegetation that has absorbed nutrients from the water column. This vegetation is reduced to a slurry which can then be applied to upland areas and harvested as part of a process that removes nutrients from the watershed. The result is improved water quality and a reduced potential for algae blooms. An additional benefit of the system is repurposing the waste into a useful product that can be used to improve soil conditions for higher yields and healthier crops.



Joanna C. Walczak is the Administrator for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection's newly established Coral Reef Protection and Restoration Program designed to focus the state's protection of Florida's Coral Reef and the administration of the more than \$15M appropriated in FY20-21 for these critical efforts. She was previously the Regional Administrator for the Department's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection Southeast Region including the Coral Reef Conservation Program; Biscayne Bay, Lignumvitae, and Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserves; and co-management of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Since 2012, she has been the State of Florida's Point of Contact for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee. She co-authored Florida's Coral Reef Protection Act of 2009 and has successfully overseen 23 reef injury cases leading to the recovery of more than \$2.3 million in damages. She helped design the Our Florida Reefs community planning process and Florida's Coral Reef media campaign. She represents the Department in leading Florida's multi-faceted partner response to the ongoing Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease outbreak.

Ms. Walczak holds a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University Galveston, and a Master of Science Degree from Nova Southeastern University's Oceanographic Center – both in marine biology. She specializes in coral reef ecology, stakeholder engagement in conservation issues, as well as permitted and un-permitted coral reef injury assessment, mitigation, and enforcement.