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COUNCIL GUESTS



Hanna Koch, Ph.D.

Director, Artificial Reefs
Monroe County BOCC



**The Honorable
Holly Merrill Raschein**

Monroe County Commissioner,
District 5



Rhonda Haag

Chief Resilience Officer
Monroe County BOCC



THE HONORABLE HOLLY MERRILL RASCHEIN

Commissioner, District 5

Monroe County Commissioner

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Holly Merrill Raschein is a former member of the Florida House of Representatives, elected 2012-2020, to represent the 120th district, which includes Monroe County and Southern Miami-Dade County. Originally from Alaska, Holly came back to her roots and attended Florida State University, where she graduated with a degree in political science in 2003. She then moved to the Florida Keys, where she worked as a Legislative Aide for Representatives Ken Sorensen (R) and Ron Saunders (D).

During her tenure in the House Holly served on several key committees, including chairing the Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, the primary appropriations committee for issues relating to resiliency and the environment, and the Rules Committee, which sets the House agenda. While in office Holly was involved in the National Conference of State Legislators where she co-chaired the Committee on Disaster Recovery. She was also the Florida Lead for the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, the Florida Director for the National Foundation for Women Legislators, and a gubernatorial appointee on the Florida Defense Support Task Force.

In 2016 Holly joined the Baptist Health of South Florida team as the project coordinator for both Mariners Hospital and Fishermen's Community Hospital where she helped lead the coordination of a custom-made modular hospital in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, aligning federal, state, and local resources in the disaster recovery process.

In addition, she assisted with the building of the new, state-of-the-art replacement facility that will provide life-saving healthcare services to the Middle and Lower Keys. In 2017, Holly received her Master's in Public Administration from Florida International University.

She joined First State Bank of the Florida Keys, Monroe County's only locally owned bank, where she works directly with the leadership team as a market advisor to engage the community and promote the bank's products and services. Since December of 2020, she has also been the Government Relations Director for AshBritt, a national turnkey rapid-response disaster recovery and special environmental services contractor. Additionally, in September of 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Holly to the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners Seat District 5.

She is active in numerous organizations including Young Philanthropists of Baptist Health, Leadership Monroe County, the Monroe County Education Foundation, the Florida Council on Arts & Culture, the Florida Keys Council of the Arts, Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition, Thriving Mind South Florida, Florida National Parks Association Board, Miami/Florida Keys Chapter of the Red Cross, Board of Directors Early Learning Coalition, Florida Association of Counties Board, and the Upper Keys Rotary Club. Holly enjoys scuba diving, fishing, and ballet, and she resides in the Upper Keys with her son, Drake.



HANNA KOCH, PH.D.

Director, Artificial Reefs Program,
Monroe County

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Hanna Koch, Ph.D. is the Director of Monroe County's Artificial Reefs Program and a marine scientist with more than 6 years of conservation related experience in the Florida Keys. Formerly with The Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research and Restoration at Mote Marine Laboratory in Summerland Key, she began her position as the Monroe County Artificial Reefs director on April 1, 2024. In this position she has the task of overseeing roughly \$15 million Keyswide program to create a series of artificial reefs. Dr. Koch holds a doctorate in natural sciences, a master's in biology, and a bachelor's in marine science.

Her research expertise includes artificial reefs, coral reproduction, restoration and assisted evolution, and evolutionary biology. Her key responsibilities include the development of a framework for designing, deploying, and evaluating habitat support structures to mitigate for the loss of quality habitat across the Florida Keys.



RHONDA HAAG

Chief Resilience Officer,
Monroe County

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Rhonda Haag is the Chief Resilience Officer for Monroe County in the Florida Keys. She has been with the County for 14 years and leads the County's resiliency and sustainability efforts to help prepare the County and its coastal communities for the effects of sea level rise in what is one of the most vulnerable regions in the country. To assist in these efforts, Ms. Haag has helped develop \$5 Billion in resilience projects for the County and is actively working with the municipalities to do the same. She serves as an active member of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Steering Committee.

She leads the County's environmental canal restoration program, a \$500 Million program to restore 96 canals in the Keys that do not meet State water quality standards. She also leads the county's marine debris removal efforts for canals that have been affected by hurricanes.

Ms. Haag's experience includes previous service with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District, where she served in several roles including Service Center Director, Everglades Outreach Manager, and Contracts Manager. Ms. Haag is committed to improving the marine environment in the Keys, providing for the future livability of residents in these vulnerable island communities and ensuring the resilience efforts of the County continue to remain in the forefront and ahead of the cumulative effects of climate change.