

FEBRUARY 28, 2025

JOINT MEETING SOUTH FLORIDA & TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

Welcome to today's discussion, bringing together regional leaders to focus on key policy priorities, shared challenges, and opportunities to strengthen collaboration across Southeast Florida.

**9:30 AM Check-In, Meeting 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Or Conclusion of Meeting**

Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization
100 West Cypress Creek Road, Suite 650 (TRI-RAIL Cypress Creek Station)
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309

This meeting will be recorded for future viewing by persons unable to attend the meeting.



Agenda & Bios



South Florida
Regional Planning Council
954-924-3653
sfadmin@sfrpc.com

Treasure Coast
Regional Planning Council
772-221-4060
lgulick@tcrpc.org

- 9:30 a.m. Check In**
- 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Call to Order - The Honorable Michelle Lincoln, Chair, SFRPC**
- Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call
 - Welcome to Broward County – The Honorable Quentin “Beam” Furr, Broward County Mayor and Council Member, SFRPC
 - Welcome to the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization – Bryan Caletka, Director of Transportation
 - Chairs’ Comments – The Honorable Michelle Lincoln, Chair, SFRPC, and The Honorable Ed Dodd, Acting Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer, TCRPC
 - Approval of Joint Council Meeting Minutes (03-15-2024)
- 10:30 a.m. Florida’s Coral Reef Update**
- Maurizio Martinelli, Administrator, Coral Protection and Restoration Program, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 - Mollie Cordo, Southeast Regional Administrator, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 - Thomas Reinert, Ph.D., Regional Director, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Consideration of SFTC Resolution #25-01**
- 11:15 a.m. Biscayne Bay Reasonable Assurance Plan: A Plan to Restore the Health and Resilience of Biscayne Bay**
- Pamela Sweeney, Senior Water Scientist, Department of Environmental Resources Management, Miami-Dade County
 - Nancy Jackson, MPA, Biscayne Bay Program Director, Miami-Dade County
- 11:45 a.m. Pick up Lunch**
- Noon Lunch Presentation: 2025 State of Florida Legislative Session Pre-View**
- Ronald L. Book, Founder, President & CEO, Ronald L. Book, P.A.
- 12:45 p.m. Southeast Florida Counties Legislative Programs and Priorities**
- Thomas J. Lanahan, Executive Director, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
 - Isabel Cosio Carballo, MPA, Executive Director, South Florida Regional Planning Council
- 1:00 p.m. SFRTA / Tri-Rail Update and Future Plans**
- David Dech, Executive Director, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
- 1:30 p.m. Southeast Florida Restoration & Flooding Resilience Studies, Projects, and Timelines**
- John Mitnik, P.E., Assistant Executive Director and Chief District Engineer, South Florida Water Management District
 - Ana Carolina Coelho Marán, P.E., Ph.D., Chief of District Resiliency, South Florida Water Management District
 - Eva B. Vélez, P.E., Chief, Ecosystem Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
- 2:30 p.m. Public / Council Member Comments**
- 3:00 p.m. Adjournment**

HOST & SPEAKER BIOS



**The Honorable
Michelle Lincoln**

Chair
South Florida Regional
Planning Council



**The Honorable
Ed Dodd**

Acting Chair and Secretary-Treasurer
Treasure Coast Regional
Planning Council



**The Honorable
Quentin "Beam" Furr**

Broward County Mayor
and Council Member
South Florida Regional
Planning Council



Bryan Caletka

Director of Transportation
Broward Metropolitan
Planning Organization



Isabel Cosio Carballo

Executive Director
South Florida Regional
Planning Council



Maurizio Martinelli

Administrator
Coral Protection
and Restoration Program
Florida Department
of Environmental Protection



Mollie Cordo

Southeast Regional Administrator
Office of Resilience
and Coastal Protection
Florida Department
of Environmental Protection



Thomas Reinert, Ph.D.

Regional Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission



Pamela Sweeney

Senior Water Scientist
Department of Environmental
Resources Management
Miami-Dade County



Nancy Jackson, MPA

Biscayne Bay Program Director
Miami-Dade County



Ronald L. Book

Founder, President and Chief
Executive Officer
Ronald L. Book, P.A.



Thomas J. Lanahan

Executive Director
Treasure Coast Regional
Planning Council



David Dech

Executive Director
South Florida Regional
Transportation Authority



John Mitnik, P.E.

Assistant Executive Director and
Chief District Engineer
South Florida Water
Management District



**Ana Carolina Coelho
Marán, P.E., Ph.D.**

Chief of District Resiliency
South Florida Water
Management District



Eva B. Vélez, P.E.

Chief, Ecosystem Branch
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS



**The Honorable
Michelle Lincoln**

Chair
South Florida Regional Planning Council



The Honorable Ed Dodd

Acting Chair and Secretary-Treasurer
Treasure Coast Regional
Planning Council



**The Honorable
Quentin "Beam" Furr**

Broward County Mayor
and Council Member
South Florida Regional
Planning Council



Bryan Caletka

Director of Transportation
Broward Metropolitan
Planning Organization



Isabel Cosio Carballo, MPA

Executive Director
South Florida Regional Planning Council



Thomas J. Lannan

Executive Director
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council



THE HONORABLE MICHELLE LINCOLN

Chair, South Florida Regional Planning Council

Elected to the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners (District 2) in 2018, Michelle Lincoln chairs the South Florida Regional Council and serves on several committees, including NACo's Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee. She's the incoming President of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), and she is a Certified, Advanced, and Advanced 2 County Commissioner graduate. Previously, Chair Lincoln served three years on the Marathon City Council, including one year as Mayor. A Monroe County resident since 1999, she previously worked as a Child Advocate Coordinator for the Guardian ad Litem Program and continues to volunteer. She received the 2018 Kay Gradick Woman of the Year Award and mentors with Take Stock in Children.

Chair Lincoln is a member of several local organizations, including Rotary and Chambers of Commerce, and an alumna of Leadership Monroe County. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from Northern Kentucky University and has two daughters, a son-in-law, and a dog.



THE HONORABLE ED DODD

Acting Chair and Secretary-Treasurer

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Ed and his wife Denise have been residents of Sebastian since 2001. Ed is a Vietnam veteran, retired after a 30 plus year career in business and technology consulting. Prior to his retirement he was President and CEO of a health insurance technology firm.

Currently Ed is serving his fifth term as a member of the City Council. Prior to being elected to the Council he was a member of the Code Enforcement Board, serving as chair for two years; served on the Charter Review Committee; and he was a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for six years.

Ed also serves on several regional boards including Indian River County 2020 Census Committee, 2nd Vice President of Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (Secretary-Treasurer), Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments.

Ed's priorities for the next two years are to continue with Sustainable Sebastian Initiative, begin modification to Land Development Code to support the new Comprehensive Plan, septic to sewer conversion, and control of city spending.



BRYAN CALETKA

Director of Transportation

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization

Bryan holds two Master's degrees from the University of Texas and the University of Rochester. He was elected to the Davie Town Council five times and served on the Broward MPO during his time in elected office. He served in the positions as Board Member, Deputy Vice Chair, Vice Chair and the Chair of the Board. Bryan served as a Board Member for the southeast region of the USA at the National Association of Regional Councils. Bryan loved serving on the MPO and decided to apply for an open position at the Broward MPO and in 2020 he was hired as the Director of Transportation.



ISABEL COSIO CARBALLO, MPA

Executive Director

South Florida Regional Planning Council

Isabel Cosio Carballo is the Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council. During her 27-year tenure at the Council she has held positions of significant responsibility. A primary focus of her work has been the creation of collaborative, broadbased partnerships with public and private sector, non-profit, philanthropic, and community leaders to identify areas of opportunity and address issues of regional concern such as transportation, affordable and workforce housing, education, access to opportunity, the environment, and economic development. She spearheaded and organized, in collaboration with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and other regional stakeholders, the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership and its successful application to the U.S. HUD Inaugural Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. In October 2010, Southeast Florida was named one of 45 inaugural "Sustainable Communities" securing \$4.25 million for a seven county regional planning and capacity building process. Completed in 2014, and matched by more than \$2.3 million in local contribution, the Seven50: Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan lays the groundwork for the region's future development, prosperity, and sustainability.

Prior to joining the Council in 1996, Mrs. Cosio Carballo served as chief of staff and legislative assistant to now Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, and legislative liaison for Broward County She has a Bachelor of Arts from the McComb School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Public Administration from Florida International University. She currently serves as a board member of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Life Sciences South Florida, Broward County Climate Change Task Force, Miami-Dade Public Schools 21st Century School Board Advisory Committee, and Coordinating Council of Broward.



ANA CAROLINA COELHO MARÁN, P.E., PH.D.

Chief of District Resiliency

South Florida Water Management District

As the Chief of District Resiliency at the South Florida Water Management District, Carolina Maran, Ph.D., P.E. has led one of the nation's most robust resilience efforts. Under her leadership, the District has advanced comprehensive resilience planning and infrastructure adaptation to protect South Florida's communities from flooding, ensure long-term water supply, and safeguard critical environmental resources. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration, cutting-edge science and tools, and data-driven solutions, Dr. Maran has spearheaded initiatives that address the challenges posed by sea level rise, extreme rainfall events, and other evolving climate conditions—all of which threaten the region's infrastructure and economy. Her responsibilities include coordinating resilience efforts across multiple levels of government, integrating scientific research into actionable projects, and developing and implementing robust adaptation strategies. These responsibilities directly support the region's ability to mitigate flood risks, enhance water management systems, and safeguard water supply and the environment, ensuring that South Florida remains a thriving and sustainable place to live, work, and invest.

Carolina has 25 years of experience working on water and climate resiliency; water resources planning, management and regulation; hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, decision support systems and GIS; water allocation rules and conflict resolution. Prior to joining SFWMD, Carolina was the Water Manager at Broward County, worked over 10 years as a Water Resources Specialist for the Federal Water Agency in Brazil, and collaborated with International Organizations as part of technical consulting teams. She holds a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering – Water Resources from Colorado State University and a Master's Degree in Water Resources Engineering from Parana Federal University in Brazil. Currently, she serves on the Florida Water and Climate Alliance Steering Committee, Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact Steering Committee, and on the Board of Directors of South Florida Hydrologic Society. Mom of two incredible boys, Carolina enjoys watching them play little league and travel baseball and visiting new places with her family.



MOLLIE CORDO

Southeast Regional Administrator

Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Mollie Cordo is the Southeast Regional Administrator for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (ORCP).

ORCP coordinates the protection of Florida's natural, cultural, and economic coastal resources, and manages more than 5.3 million acres of submerged lands and coastal uplands. Mollie is based in Miami, FL and oversees the southeast managed areas and programs, including the Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve, and Lignumvitae Key Aquatic Preserve, co-management of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, as well as the Coral Protection and Restoration Program. She has been with Florida DEP since 2014, first serving as the Reef Injury Prevention and Response Coordinator before moving into managerial roles. Mollie holds a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University and a master's degree from Nova Southeastern University.



DAVID DECH

Executive Director

South Florida Regional Transportation Authority

David Dech is the executive director of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority / Tri-Rail. An executive with 30 years in the rail industry, Dech has management experience in both freight and commuter rail service, including commuter rail operations, field operations, system and division level leadership, leading public-private partnerships, and negotiating and managing contracts with host and tenant railroads. Dech was chosen to oversee the SFRTA at a pivotal time for the agency, as it prepared to expand Tri-Rail service into Downtown Miami; he brings experience in designing, constructing and opening rail yards. David Dech is a self-motivated, self-starter with a willingness to listen to the people who perform the work as the key to the success of any project. He operates with the guiding principle that all people in an organization are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect.



THE HONORABLE QUENTIN "BEAM" FURR

Broward County Mayor and Council Member

South Florida Regional Planning Council

Beam Furr is a Broward County Commissioner representing District Six, the southeast part of the county. He currently serves as Mayor of Broward County. He was first elected to the Broward County Commission in 2014. Prior to that, he was a Hollywood City Commissioner for 12 years.

As an elected official, he has focused on environmental issues, early childhood education, transportation, housing, economic opportunity, and the arts.

Mayor Furr serves as Chair of the Southeast Florida Transportation Council, the co-chair of the Broward Climate Change Task Force, Broward County Solid Waste Authority and Broward Reads, as well as a board member of the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), CareerSource Broward, the Broward County Tourist Development Council (TDC), and South Florida Regional Planning Council. Beam also served as a board member of the Broward County Children's Services Council for 9 years.

Commissioner Furr was a teacher in the Broward County School system for 25 years. During that time, he taught social studies, before becoming a librarian for Flanagan High School. Beam grew up in South Florida and now lives in Hollywood with his wife, Shelli Edwards, and is the proud dad of his daughter, Eliza.



NANCY JACKSON, MPA
Biscayne Bay Program Director
Miami-Dade County

Nancy Jackson is the Biscayne Bay Program Director in the Office of Resilience for Miami-Dade County. Nancy works across multiple county departments to support the many infrastructure projects and grant-funded programs necessary to reduce pollution in Biscayne Bay. She also works with municipal and community non-profit partners, to educate and raise awareness about how to protect Biscayne Bay and actions that everyone can take. Previously, Nancy worked for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins, District 5 as District Director. Nancy has a double master's degree in public administration and Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin.



THOMAS J. LANAHAN
Executive Director
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Thomas J. Lanahan has been employed by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council for the past 8 years, and has completed his 6th year as Executive Director. After receiving a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Notre Dame, Mr. Lanahan worked for an architecture and construction management firm for 7 years. He then worked for the City of Greenacres in Palm Beach County for 16 years, including 14 years as the Planning and Engineering Director along with 4 years as the Assistant City Manager with oversight of the Planning and Engineering, Public Works, and Building departments. Mr. Lanahan's community service includes serving on the City of Atlantis Architectural Review Committee for almost 25 years and volunteering as a railcar tour guide for events at the Pullman National Historical Park in Chicago, IL for the past 4 years.



MAURIZIO MARTINELLI
Administrator
Coral Protection and Restoration Program
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Maurizio Martinelli is the Administrator for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Coral Protection and Restoration Program. Prior to this role, Martinelli coordinated the statewide response to stony coral tissue loss disease and a large public-private partnership called Florida's Coral Reef Resilience Program, working closely with the four lead agencies (FDEP, FWC, NOAA, and NPS) to collaboratively make management decisions, advance key conservation priorities, and expand support for coral reef ecosystem management in Florida. Martinelli holds a bachelor's degree from McGill University and a master's degree from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD. Outside of work, Martinelli loves to dive, cook, and befriend the neighborhood cats.



JOHN MITNIK, P.E.

Assistant Executive Director and Chief District Engineer South Florida Water Management District

John Mitnik serves as the Assistant Executive Director and Chief District Engineer at the South Florida Water Management District. He works every day to restore South Florida's ecosystem, improve water quality, protect the region from flooding and ensure water supply for millions of Floridians.

The Assistant Executive Director oversees close to 1,000 staff who serve in divisions including Engineering and Construction, Ecosystem Restoration, Water Resources, Real Estate and Land Management, Field Operations, District Resiliency and Emergency Management.

His expertise in management, operations and policy have ensured optimal performance of all the Divisions he oversees. In addition, he successfully built innovative partnerships with leaders from federal, state, and local government as well as diverse stakeholders and environmental groups to deliver results and influence critical policy changes.

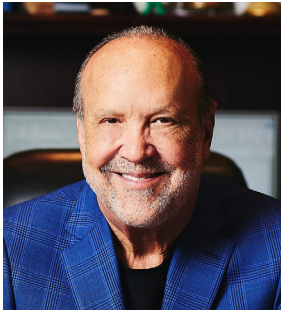
During his tenure as Assistant Executive Director, Mitnik has been instrumental in some of the most critical Everglades Restoration projects including the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Project, C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area and Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir. In addition, he managed and was responsible for implementing the District's Capital Improvement Program, which is vital to restoring and safeguarding our environment.

He implements strategic priorities set by the agency's Governing Board to carry out the agency's core mission and prioritizes science-based solutions to regional water quality challenges.

Mitnik manages around-the-clock water control operations and monitoring of the regional water management system and coordination with local entities. He also supervises the inspection and refurbishment of existing facilities, along with the design and construction of new projects and infrastructure.

Mitnik's appointment to Assistant Executive Director in 2019 followed a career that spans over 25 years dedicated to public service. He previously served as the Water Management District's Engineering and Construction Bureau Chief after working as a section administrator and a supervising engineer. Prior to joining the District in 2004, he worked as an environmental administrator and engineer for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Mitnik has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from the University of Florida and an MBA specializing in Environmental Resource Management from Florida Atlantic University. He is a professional engineer registered in the State of Florida.



RONALD L. BOOK

Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer

Ronald L. Book, P.A.

Ron Book is the Founder and CEO of Ronald L. Book, P.A., a law firm specializing in government affairs for decades. The firm has consistently been ranked in the top 5 lobbying firms in the state by the news media and those who follow Florida politics.

Ron's start in the political process was in the 1970's, when he began working for the Florida Legislature. Ron later served as Special Counsel and Interim Chief of Staff to Florida Governor Bob Graham and then later as Director of the Administrative and Governmental Law Department for Sparber, Shevin, Shapo, Heilbronner & Book, one of Florida's most influential law firms from 1982 to 1987.

Since opening his own firm 37 years ago, Mr. Book has developed a client list that is a "who's who" of business and industry, hospitals and health care providers, local governments, professional and not-for-profit associations. His reputation as a tireless hard worker, dedicated to his client's causes, has earned him a place in the upper echelon of Tallahassee access. Simply put, if it is an issue that you have read about, Mr. Book has been at the center of the debate, influencing the decisions of policymakers for the past 50+ Regular and Special Legislative Sessions.

Mr. Book is a dedicated volunteer to many charitable causes, however, his two prioritized charitable causes are, the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, where he serves as Chairman, and oversees a \$103 million budget and the Lauren's Kids Foundation, where he also serves as Chairman of the Board. Founded by his daughter, Lauren, Lauren's Kids is dedicated to preventing child sexual abuse through education and awareness and helping victims heal.

Mr. Book holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Tulane University and a B.A. in Political Science from Florida International University. Ron spent three years at the University of Florida where he was a letterman as a member of the Fighting Gator track team and is the recipient of numerous awards including two Emmy's and one Gracies Award, the 2023 recipient of the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, and in October, 2024 became a Nobel Peace Prize nominee in the area of Peace.



THOMAS REINERT, PH.D.
Regional Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Thomas Reinert has been the Regional Director for the FWC's South Region since 2016. The 10-county region extends from St. Lucie County south through Monroe and includes Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, and Collier. With Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades, Florida's Coral Reef, and everything in between, there is always something happening in the region. As Regional Director, Tom works with interested parties, elected officials, and leaders from other governmental agencies and provides leadership across FWC's programs in the Region. Before that, Tom ran the FWC lab in Tequesta for 10 years and supervised Manatee staff on the east and southwest coasts.

Tom has degrees from Wake Forest University (B.S., 1991), Louisiana State University (M.S., 1993), and the University of Georgia (Ph.D., 2004). He lives in Jonathan Dickinson State Park, where his wife Libby is the Assistant Park Manager. They enjoy hiking and biking in the park and going on walks with their three dogs.



PAMELA SWEENEY
Senior Water Scientist
Department of Environmental Resources Management
Miami-Dade County

Born and raised in Miami, Pamela Sweeney (she/her) currently serves as Miami-Dade County's Senior Water Scientist and Senior Manager of the Water Resources Section in Miami-Dade County's Division of Environmental Resources Management. In this role, Pamela collaborates across DERM and other County departments, works with municipalities, state and federal agencies, and community stakeholders as DERM implements projects, policies and programs focused on innovation and collaboration to identify and eliminate pollution reaching Biscayne Bay to restore its health and resilience and maintain focus on local and regional restoration goals. Prior to this role, Pamela served as the Section Manager for the Restoration and Enhancement Section where she oversaw the County's natural resource monitoring programs. Before joining County service, Pamela served as the manager of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves program for most where she oversaw the management of 70,000 acres of submerged lands.

Pamela has served as an instructor at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and has been recognized for her work as a community organizer working to advance the rights of people who are LGBT.



EVA B. VÉLEZ, P.E.
Chief, Ecosystem Branch
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District

Eva serves the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Jacksonville District as the Chief of the Ecosystems Branch in the Programs and Project Management Division, responsible for the management and execution of aquatic ecosystem restoration efforts in the South Florida Ecosystem and the resiliency efforts of the Central and Southern Florida system.

The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) program's goal is to restore and protect ~2.4 million acres known as America's Everglades. The Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) system provides flood control, water supply, recreation, navigation and preservation of fish and wildlife to a population of over ~9 million Floridians and spans 16 counties.

Previously, Eva was the Strategic Program Manager of the Everglades restoration program in the Programs and Project Management Division, Ecosystems Branch, South Florida Program Office. She has supported District Command, District leadership, and the Project Delivery Teams in the execution of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program (SFER).

Spanning over twenty-five years, her experience includes both private and public sector work. Prior to joining USACE, Eva served the State of Florida as the Director of Everglades Policy and Coordination for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). In that role, she was the SFWMD's executive leader responsible for coordination, development and implementation of comprehensive policy and projects to preserve, restore and protect the South Florida ecosystem, including America's Everglades, while recognizing the needs of external constituents, stakeholders and federally recognized tribes.

In her prior private sector work, Eva formed her own company, Velez Engineering, Inc. where she was the principal for an engineering firm with an emphasis on water resources. Much of her private sector work experience was as a Project Manager and Senior Engineer for AECOM Technical Services, Inc where she was responsible for the management, design, permitting and regulatory certification of water resources projects.

Eva is a licensed professional engineer in the State of Florida since 2004. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biological Engineering with an Area of Concentration in Natural Resources Conservation (Soil & Water) from the University of Florida. Some highlights of the awards she has received in her career include Young Engineer of the Year, Florida Section, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), 2006; Engineer of the Year, Florida Section, ASABE, 2016; and 2022 Great Minds in STEM (GMiS/HENAAC) Professional Achievement Level II Award winner.

Eva is a native of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico and is bilingual in the English and Spanish language. Eva is married to her college sweetheart and is the mother of two boys – they live in Port Saint Lucie, Florida.

