



**Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies
2005 Annual Conference**

*Environmental Protection in Florida
Focusing on the Future*

**August 3-5 , 2005
Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa**



*In addition to a strong technical program, excellent presentations and networking opportunities,
there will be a guided turtle walk and the famous FLERA shrimp boil and BBQ.*

2005 FLERA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3rd

9:00 am – 12:00 pm **FLERA Quarterly Business Meeting**

10:00 am – 5:00 pm **Conference Registration**

10:30 am - 5:00 pm **Exhibits Open**

10:30 am – 5:00 pm **Silent Auction**

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm **Welcome and Introductions**

Rick Wilkins, President

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Wrap-Up of the 2005 Legislative Session**

This session will feature a lively panel discussion of the 2005 Florida legislative Session by four of the state's premier public and private sector environmental and growth management lobbyists. Successes and failures of legislation covering a wide variety of subject matters will be presented in an informative, interactive format that will include commentary on the serious (and sometimes not-so-serious) issues introduced during this year's Session of the Florida Legislature.

Moderator: Jon Van Arnam, Deputy Director
Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management

Panelists: Jennifer Fitzwater, Director
Office of Legislative and Governmental Affairs, FDEP

Eric Draper, Conservation Director
Audubon of Florida

Terry E. Lewis, Attorney
Lewis, Longman & Walker, PA

Frank Bernardino, Legislative Affairs Representative
South Florida Water Management District

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Break in Gallery (Silent Auction & Exhibits)**

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm **Concurrent Sessions A & B**

A. Applying Lessons Learned In Watershed Management from National Estuary Programs

A panel with more than 50 years of cumulative experience with local National Estuary Programs (NEPs) in Florida and New York State will present examples of how NEPs are supporting local government efforts to improve watershed management practices within and outside of the NEP watersheds. From leveraging funds for water quality and habitat improvements, to facilitating development and implementation of TMDLs, the lessons learned from NEP experiences can be applied to watershed throughout Florida.

Moderator: Dick Eckenrod, Executive Director
Tampa Bay Estuary Program

Presenters: Troy Rice, Director
Indian River Lagoon Program

Holly Greening, Senior Scientist
Tampa Bay Estuary Program

Tiffany Busby, Independent Consultant
City of St. Augustine, Florida

Vito Minei, Director
Peconic Estuary Program, New York

B. Hurricanes: Implications for Environmental Management

Moderator: Tony Carper, Director
Broward County Emergency Management

Effects of Extreme Hydrologic Events on the Loxahatchee River and Estuary

The Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District has been monitoring the quality of the water and surrounding habitat of the Loxahatchee River for the past 30 years. In the fall of 2004, hurricanes Frances and Jeanne made landfall in the area, and the associated rainfall and runoff had substantial impacts on the coastal environmental resources of the area. The workshop will discuss the monitoring program and the impacts of the storms on the area that were observed.

Presenter: Richard Dent, Executive Director
Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District

Overflows and Discharges

Flooding and power outages brought on by hurricanes Frances and Jeanne resulted in numerous sanitary sewer overflows and industrial wastewater spills. These discharges can have a significant effect on public health and the environment. This workshop will provide an overview of a local program's response and assessment of these events.

Presenter: Fred Nassar, Manager of Compliance Assurance Section, Water Mgmt Div
Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission

Waste Disposal Issues

Hurricanes can have significant effects impacts on communities, their local government and the area's environmental resources. In addition to the impacts from a qualitative point of view, there may be enormous impacts in terms of sheer volume of debris to be disposed of. The workshop will discuss the lessons learned in 2004 as we enter the 2005 hurricane season.

Presenter: Richard Tedder, Program Administrator
Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste, FDEP

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Welcome Reception

9:00 pm Slide Show and Guided Turtle Walk

Join us for this educational slide show and sea turtle walk to learn more about sea turtles and (hopefully) to observe a turtle while nesting! The "Talk" and "Walk" are professionally guided by the Marine Life Center. While there are no guarantees of seeing a sea turtle, we encourage you to take this opportunity to learn more about the nesting habits of this endangered species.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 4TH

- 7:30 am – 5:00 pm** **Conference Registration**
7:30 am – 5:00 pm **Exhibits Open**
7:30 am – 3:30 pm **Silent Auction**
7:30 am – 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**
8:30 am – 10:00 am **Concurrent Sessions A & B**

A. History of Development in Florida

This session will focus on changes to the Florida landscape over the last 100 years and what is in store for the future. Florida's past natural resources will be described and compared to resources present today. The protection of today's resources is closely tied to growth management. Are growth management policies and regulatory protection requirements sufficient to provide for the type of Florida we want to see in the future?

Moderator: Rick Garrity, PhD, Executive Director
Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission

Presenters: Honey Rand, PhD, ATR, Author and Public Affairs Consultant
Environmental PR Group

Bruce McClendon, Director Department of Planning and Growth Management
Hillsborough County

Allen Overman, PhD, Professor (*invited*)
Agriculture and Biological Engineering, College of Engineering, UF

B. Media Training

A reporter is on the phone or is waiting just outside of your office and needs your comment for tonight's 6 o'clock news . . . What do you do? How is your message conveyed in a clear, easy to understand fashion? Steve Overton has 22+ years experience as a journalist in print, radio and TV. His workshop will help local officials be better prepared when dealing with the media. It will give you insight into how to manage the media to your advantage for the benefit of your jurisdiction.

Moderator: Steve Overton, Media Consultant
Tampa

10:00 am – 10:30 am **Break**

10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Concurrent Sessions A & B**

A. Protected Species

Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and for the benefit of people is becoming more and more challenging with the recent and expected future growth of residents and visitors to Florida. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is using science-based management and leadership to create sustainable and healthy futures for our fish and wildlife resources. Part of that management and leadership involves studying the interaction and impacts of population growth on those resources. Panel members will describe their science and management activities of fish and wildlife resources and the impacts of population growth on them.

Moderator: Ann Forstchen, Research Coordinator
Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

Presenters: **Human\Bear Conflicts in Florida**
Brian Scheick, Biologist, Bear Research Program
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Urban Development and the Decline of the Gopher Tortoise in South Florida
Ricardo Zambrano, Regional Non-game Biologist, Div. of Habitat and Species
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Manatee -Urban Dweller
Sara McDonald, Researcher, Wildlife Research Section
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

B. Stormwater And Water Conservation

Moderator: Chris Bird, Director
Alachua County Environmental Management

Green Industries Best Management Practices for Florida

The Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices (BMP) Program has recently been developed in an attempt to reduce non-point pollution dues to lawn fertilizations. The workshop will discuss the development of the Green Industries BMP Program, some of the specific points to reduce non-point source pollution and the on-going educational program to train lawn care workers, planner, government officials and others.

Presenter: Laurie E. Trenholm, PhD, Assistant Professor
University of Florida/IFAS

Water Quality and the Water Conservation Program in Broward County

Conservation of local water resources is a growing concern for many Florida cities and counties. Water resource planning for future growth is becoming an ever-increasing challenge statewide. The workshop will discuss the initiatives and partnerships that support the water quality and water conservation efforts as part of the countywide plan for meeting future water demands in Broward County.

Presenter: Jennifer Jurado, PhD
Broward County Environmental Protection Department

Stormwater Update: Water Quality Issues to Drive Innovation

A series of seemingly unrelated events combine to produce a dramatic impact on the science and practice of stormwater management. Both the NPDES and the TMDL programs have shifted their focus to include stormwater discharges as a major source of surface water impairments. This change in focus is resulting in a more pollutant specific approach to stormwater and also is forcing innovation in Best Management Practices. This workshop will highlight the challenges ahead and provide some potential solutions that may be employed by local government agencies.

Presenter: Michael Bateman, PE, Regulatory Relations Manager
Vortechincs

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm Break in Gallery (Silent Auction & Exhibits)

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Awards Luncheon in Restaurant

- *Environmental Leadership Award*
- *Commissioner Leadership Award*

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Concurrent Sessions A & B

A. Water Quality Initiatives

Moderator: Andrew P. Squires, Assistant Director
 Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management

Water Quality Improvement through Constructed Wetlands

The project was designed to provide water quality treatment in a 1600-acre property purchased through Hillsborough County's Environmental Land Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP). The design called for a 30-acre wetland to provide water quality treatment for approximately three square miles of agricultural land uses including citrus groves, pastures and tropical fish farms. From the conception of the project, several governmental and regulatory agencies were involved and worked together diligently to bring this project to fruition. Hillsborough County, SWFWMD, EPC and the Port Authority jointly funded the project.

Presenter: Subrata Bandy, PhD, PE, Vice President for Engineering Services
 Ayres Associates

Martin County Watershed Restoration Activities

Martin County's Office of Water Quality was established in 2001 for the purpose of implementing a program that addresses water quality through a strategic approach based on historic flooding and stormwater impacts. Retrofits for water quality and implementation of the County's Healthy Rivers Program for environmentally significant land acquisition have worked hand in hand to promote improved water quality and watershed restoration for the Indian River Lagoon, St. Lucie Estuary and the St. Lucie and Loxahatchee Rivers.

Presenter: Kimball Love, Water Resource Manager
 Office of Water Quality, Martin County

TMDL Implementation Using a Basin Management Approach

In most cases, implementation of TMDLs will be achieved through the development of a Basin Management Action Plan or BMAP. The workshop will focus on the development of the BMAP for the Orange Creek Basin, and will include a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the process, potential improvements and barriers to successful implementation.

Presenter: Steve Peene, PhD
 Applied Technology and Management

B. Land Use and Land Management Issues

Moderator: Roger Clark, Land Stewardship Manager
 Lee County Parks and Recreation

Pinellas County's Parks and Preserves: A Model of Urban Ecology

Pinellas County has long been recognized as a leader and innovator for its implementation of park, recreational and open-space investments. The presentation will discuss some of the highlights of the county's award-winning model of urban ecology and will illustrate how Pinellas and other urban areas must take charge of their conservation futures in the midst of accelerating population growth.

Presenter: H. Bruce Rinker, PhD, Administrator Environmental Lands
 Pinellas County

Lee County Smart Growth Initiative

Lee County's Smart Growth Department was created by the Board of County Commissioners in October of 2001 following a year-long study of the issue by a special task force. The Board also created an 18-member Smart Growth Advisory Committee, with each Commissioner appointing three members. The goal of Smart Growth is to achieve a good balance between community livability, economic viability and environmental sensitivity. One of its keys is proactive and inclusive community-supported growth management. Elements include Environmental Quality, Land Use, Transportation, Water Supply and Community Character.

Presenter: Wayne Daltry, Director, Smart Growth
Lee County

Hillsborough County's Environmental Land Acquisition and Management Program

Hillsborough County has one of the more active local programs for the acquisition and management of environmental lands in Florida. The workshop will provide an overview of the program's funding sources, amount of money raised and its uses, and will discuss the management of environmental lands once they are acquired.

Presenter: Pete Fowler, Deputy Director (*invited*)
Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Concurrent Sessions A & B

A. Environmental Activism

True, long term success in improving environmental quality must involve partnerships between local governments and various local interests, especially the environmental community. Many opportunities exist for local governments to forge partnerships with the environmental community that can result in long-term, "win-win" situations. The panel will discuss how working together at the local level can result in improvements to environmental quality that is accomplished on a cooperative basis.

Moderator: Rick Wilkins, Director
Broward County Environmental Protection Department

Panelists: Eric Draper, Director of Conservation
Audubon of Florida

Scott Randolph, Florida Policy Director
Clean Water Network

Jan Platt, Former Hillsborough County Commissioner and
Recreational Fishing Representative, TBRPC Agency on Bay Management

B. Growth Management and Water Concurrence

Recent initiatives by both the Legislative and Executive branches of state government have refocused attention on population growth in Florida, the infrastructure necessary to accommodate growth and when such facilities must be in place. Such "concurrence" requirements may be implemented through three different initiatives: Revisions to state on the Growth Management and Water Supply, and new legislative policy clarifying how Florida will implement the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) requirements of the Clean Water Act. The panel will discuss each initiative, and how and when their effects may be felt at the local level.

Moderator: Dan Blood, Department of Planning and Growth Management
Hillsborough County

Presenters: Palmer Mason, Director of Legislative Affairs (*invited*)
Department of Community Affairs

Kurt Spitzer, Executive Director
Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

Carlyn Kowalsky, Director
Water Supply Department, SFWMD

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Silent Auction Winners Announced

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm BBQ and Shrimp Boil

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5TH

7:30 am – 10:30 am Exhibits Open

7:30 am – 8:30 am Continental Breakfast

7:30 am – 10:00 am Conference Registration

8:30 am – 10:00 am Environmental Protection in Florida: Focusing on the Future

This session includes leaders of three key state agencies whose policies affect Florida's environment. With Florida continuing to be one of the fastest growing states in the country, the speakers will discuss how their respective agencies plan to meet the challenges of environmental protection in the future.

Moderator: Rick Wilkins, Director
Broward County Environmental Protection Department

Panelists: Colleen Castille, Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Carol Ann Wehle, Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District

Thaddeus Cohen, Secretary
Florida Department of Community Affairs

10:00 am – 10:30 am Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Delegation and Contracts with Local Programs

Local environmental programs and the administration of state programs by local governments provide a critical link in the management of environmental protection services in Florida. In many instances, these partnerships between state and local governments allow the service to be delivered in a more efficient or effective manner than if administered entirely at the state level. But as with most programs, there are trade-offs that must be considered by both parties. The workshop will look at the history of contracts and delegation between DEP and local governments, and will discuss future challenges and opportunities for such programs.

Moderator: Hooshang Boostani, Division Director Waste Management
Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission

Panelists: Allan Bedwell, Deputy Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Kent Edwards, Manager of Wetland/Upland Resource Section, *Biological Resource Division, Broward County Environmental Protection Department*

Jake Stowers, Assistant County Administrator
Pinellas County

12:00 pm Conference Adjourned

FLERA 2005 Annual Conference Details

Who Should Attend?

Professional Staff and Elected Officials from Cities, Counties and Special Districts; Engineers, Consultants, Environmental Managers and Planners in both the public and private sectors; and, Staff from Regional Planning Councils, Water Management Districts and State Agencies.

Registration

Advance registration is desired and you are encouraged to mail in your registration early. The registration form included here is also available at www.flera.org. The early registration fee is \$225 per person for FLERA members (\$200 each additional attendee from same member agency), and \$275 for non-FLERA members. To qualify for the early registration rate, registration forms must be submitted with payment prior to July 20, 2005. All registrations received after July 20th will be charged the late registration rate. The registration fee includes all sessions, conference materials, breaks, luncheon, continental breakfasts and BBQ dinner.

Cancellation / Refund Policy

Full registration refunds will be given only if notice of cancellation is received in writing by **5:00 p.m. July 27, 2005**.

Special Events

In addition to a strong technical program, excellent presentations, networking opportunities, exhibits and a silent auction, there will be guided turtle walks and the famous FLERA shrimp boil and BBQ. All events except the BBQ are located at the Jupiter Beach Resort. The BBQ will be held offsite at the Jupiter Beach Park (North Pavilion), immediately adjacent to the Resort. All events are included in the low registration fee!

Accommodations

The conference will be held at the beautiful Jupiter Beach Resort, 5 North A1A, Jupiter, Florida, 33477. A block of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees at the discounted rate of \$109 per night, plus a \$5 per night resort fee. To make your reservation call (800)228-8810 or (561)746-2511 by July 2, 2005. You must identify yourself as a FLERA Conference attendee to receive the discounted rate.

Conference Attire

Please dress comfortably; dress is casual at this beachfront conference.

Silent Auction

This year's Silent Auction will open Wednesday, August 3rd at 10:30 am and winners will be announced Thursday, August 4th at 5:00pm in the Gallery. If you are interested in contributing an item for the Silent Auction please contact the FLERA office at (850)561-0904. All conference attendees are invited to participate in the Silent Auction during various breaks throughout the day.

About FLERA

The Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies, Inc. (FLERA) is a statewide association of local government environmental programs providing services to over 12 million Floridians. An important goal of FLERA is to further relationships and partnerships with public agencies and the private sector in preserving, restoring and protecting Florida's environment. Join now to take advantage of the great FLERA benefits including reduced conference registration! For more information on membership, contact FLERA at (850) 561-0904

Questions? Visit us at www.flera.org or call 850/561-0904.

**FLERA 2005 Annual Conference
REGISTRATION FORM
FEIN: 59-3708514**

Attendee Information: *(one attendee per registration form, please make copies for additional attendees)*

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Registration Options:

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late (after July 20th)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FLERA Member	\$225	\$275
<input type="checkbox"/> FLERA Member (additional person from same agency)	\$200	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-FLERA member	\$275	\$325

Method of Payment:

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$_____.
*Make checks payable to FLERA and mail with completed registration to:
FLERA, PO Box 10530, Tallahassee, FL 32302 or
FAX completed form to 850/222-4124.*

Enclosed is a Purchase Order. Please invoice me for \$_____

Please charge my credit card Visa / Master Card *(circle one)*

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

