



FLERA FOCUS!

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

www.flera.org

Volume 1, Issue 5

Board of Directors Report

The FLERA Board of Directors has voted to provide that Association will take a more proactive position during the 2007 Legislative Session. With more oversight of the environmental issues during the legislative session, FLERA members will be better-informed of the actions taken that could affect them in their local communities. Six key issues have been identified at this time: 1) Regulation of fertilizer; 2) Preemption of local regulations of wetlands; 3) Pre-emption of County Charter Powers; 4) Incentive-based/performance-based permitting; 5) Election of local governing Board members for the Water Management Districts; and, 6) the Florida Forever Program's successor. Members of the newly-established Legislative Committee include: Committee Chairman Chris Bird (Alachua County), Patti Webster (Broward County), Rob Robbins (Palm Beach County), and Alan Marshall (Orange County).

The Chairmen of the current FLERA Standing Committees are: Education/Conference, Andy Squires; Membership, Rick Garrity; Communications, Lori Cuniff. If you are interested in serving on a Committee, [please fill out the attached form and fax to the FLERA office at \(850\) 222-4124.](#)

Long Range Planning Session Set

The FLERA leadership will meet for a one-day long range planning retreat in Orlando this coming February. The purpose of the session is to identify goals and objectives for the organization over the next three to five years that will help FLERA become a more robust organization, and expand and improve member services. Goals for education, training, communications and advocacy will be discussed.

It's Easy Being Green in Pinellas

Not only is it easy being green, it's prestigious! Pinellas County's environmental stewardship has now received statewide attention. The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) has named Pinellas the first jurisdiction in the state to receive the coveted *Green Local Government* designation as a silver award winner. The formal announcement was made at the Board of County Commissioners workshop meeting Tuesday, Oct. 31. Later that day, officials went to Weedon Island Preserve to show off some of the steps Pinellas County takes to be environmentally friendly. For the complete story see <http://www.pinellascounty.org/newsrel.htm#green>

Florida Forever

For more than 15 years, the state of Florida has been a national leader in the preservation of conservation lands. Starting with Preservation 2000 in 1990, then Florida Forever in the year 2000, the state has dedicated \$6 billion and acquired more than 2 million acres of fragile natural areas. Despite such successes, however, conservation funding has not kept pace with Florida's incredible growth. Between 1999 when Florida Forever was conceived and 2005, the price the state has paid for conservation land has increased 112 percent, according to the Land Conservation Statistical Abstract, prepared by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Due to Florida's incredible growth, the annual conservation funding that represented \$23 per person in 1990 has dropped to \$15 today. FLERA is joining a coalition of organizations seeking to increase funding for the program. Go to <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/florida/press/press2668.html> for more information.

Call for Presentation Proposals

FLERA's 2007 conference will focus on the role of local programs in environmental management as they work toward sustainability in Florida. In addition to invited speakers, professionals in state, regional and local government and in the environmental, academic and consulting communities are encouraged to make presentations. Please visit the FLERA website at <http://www.flera.org/conference.html> for more information.



**FLERA
COMMITTEE REQUEST FORM**

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is responsible for the supervision of the FLERA website and other communication services.

Education/Conference Committee

The Conference Committee is responsible for the planning and administration of Annual Conference.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is responsible for soliciting new members, providing membership services and ensuring continuity of the existing membership.

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee monitors the activities of the Florida Legislature, and state and federal agencies as they relate to the objectives of the Association.

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

Name: _____

Jurisdiction/Firm: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____



Please complete form and fax back to FLERA at 850-222-4124 by October 7, 2005.
Questions? Call 850-561-0904