



FLERA FOCUS!

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

www.flera.org

Volume 2, Issue 2

2007 Annual Conference – Mark Your Calendar!

FLERA's 2007 Annual Conference is August 1-3, at the Sarasota Hyatt. This year's theme is *"Local Environmental Programs: Working Toward Sustainability in Florida."* The keynote address will be provided by Carol Wehle, Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District. From *Establishing Scientifically-Based Ecological Buffers* to *Engineering Dark Beaches*, the FLERA Conference will offer sessions for everyone! Wednesday's Welcoming Reception and Thursday's Dinner-Reception at Mote will give you plenty of time to visit with your colleagues too! Be sure to register and **book your room before July 4th** for the best rate! After July 4th room availability will be limited.

Annual Business Meeting for FLERA Membership

The Annual FLERA membership meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on August 1st in conjunction with the Annual Conference at the Sarasota Hyatt. This meeting will offer important Association information and require decisions regarding changes to the FLERA bylaws and membership dues structure. FLERA is also recruiting members to assist with Committee work. This would be a great opportunity to become involved with your Association. Mark your calendars now and please plan to attend!

Radon Training Sessions Offered

The Florida Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health will be conducting free one-day training sessions on radon at various locations throughout the state. This free training is intended for CHD staff, extension agents, building inspectors, school officials or anyone wanting more in-depth knowledge about radon. The training sessions scheduled in August follows: August 2nd – Tallahassee, August 21st – Tampa and August 23rd – Ft. Lauderdale. You may register online at <http://survey.doh.state.fl.us/survey/entry.jsp?id=1181672107344> or from the link on the department's radon web page at <http://radon.doh.state.fl.us>. Call (850) 245-4288 for more information.

Legislative Wrap-Up

As predicted, the primary general area of interest to FLERA during the 2007 Legislative Session was the pre-emption of the ability of local governments or the public to set environmental standards. This manifested itself in several pieces of legislation, with only a few actually moving forward. Go to the FLERA website (<http://www.flera.org>) for more information:

- Charter Amendments (FAILED) – Required a dual vote when adopting charter amendments setting standards countywide.
- Fertilizer Application (PASSED) – Established a Task Force to examine ordinances regulating the sale and use of household fertilizer. Measure pre-empting local ordinances were removed from the bill.
- Mining Operations (PASSED) – Established a special committee to examine demand for aggregate materials needed for the construction of roads. Requires extraordinary measures of local governments adopted policies restricting the siting or permitting of mining facilities.
- Wetlands Pre-Emption (FAILED) – Measures to pre-empt the ability of cities/counties to regulate the impacts of development on small wetlands were removed from the bill, and then the bill itself did not pass.
- Lake Okeechobee/Northern Everglades Restoration (PASSED) – A major addition to the Lake Okeechobee/Everglades Restoration program. Adds the tributaries and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers to the state's restoration programs. Provides \$100 million per year in funding.

New Members

Please welcome our new FLERA members for 2007! Brevard County Natural Resources Management; Janicki Environmental; Jones, Edmunds & Associates; Pandion Systems; Pasco County; TREEO Center at UF; William Hinkley Center for Solid and Hazardous Waste; and, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin. We hope to see you at the Annual Conference!

"Providing Community-Based Environmental Protection"