

2026 FLERA Annual Conference Schedule of Events

September 15-17, 2026

Hilton Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Duval County

Tuesday, September 15

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Wetlands Workshop (*Kim Tapley*)
More Information & Registration Coming Soon

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Working Board of Directors Dinner (*Hilton Mayo Clinic*)

Wednesday, September 16

8:00 am – 8:30 am **BREAKFAST**

8:30 am – 9:15 am **Opening Remarks & Annual Business Meeting: Installation of Officers/ Overview of Committees**

9:15 – 10:15 am **AI and the Environment: The Need for a Pragmatic Approach**
Joshua C. Gellers, Ph.D., LEED Green Associate,
Dean of Professional and Lifelong Learning and Inaugural Faculty Fellow for Artificial Intelligence, University of North Florida
Additional Speakers To Be Determined

10:15 – 10:30 am **BREAK**

10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Navigating PFAS Compliance**
Michael Goldstein, Esq.
Goldstein Environmental Law Firm
Additional Speakers To Be Determined

12:00 – 1:30 pm **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

1:30 pm ***Committee Meetings***
Air
Water Resources
Land Conservation
Natural Resources
Waste Management/Tanks

2:30 -3:00 pm **BREAK**

3:00 – 5:00 pm Committee Presentations

5:30 – 7:00 pm **WELCOME RECEPTION** (*Hilton Mayo Clinic*)

Thursday, September 17

8:00 – 8:30 am	BAGELS & COFFEE
8:30 – 9:30 am	Managing & Resolving Conflict Effectively Matthew Socik, Ph.D., Associate Professor <i>University of Florida/IFAS</i>
9:30 – 10:30 am	2026 Legislative Briefing & 2027 Forecasting Diana Ferguson, FLERA Executive Director <i>Rutledge Encina</i> Peter Abello, Associate Director of Public Policy <i>Florida Association of Counties</i>
10:30 -10:45 am	BREAK
10:45 – 11:45 am	Community Air Monitoring Board Member: James Richardson Mobile Air Unit- Mike Williams, Air Branch Manager City of Jacksonville Environmental Quality Division Community Air Monitoring Project-Hillsborough County
11:45 – 1:15 pm	AWARDS LUNCHEON Honoring 2026 Legislators of the Year The Honorable Kim Kendall, Florida House of Representatives The Honorable Jennifer Bradley, Florida Senate 2026 Rick Wilkins Lifetime Achievement Award John Hickey, Manager of Air and Water Quality Sarasota County, <i>Retired</i>
1:15 – 2:45 pm	The Future of Sustainable Development The Path to Wellness Way: Brooke Moffis, Commercial Horticulture Agent <i>UF/IFAS Extension Lake County</i> Miami-Dade OSTDS: Speaker To Be Determined Live Local Project: Helena Parola, Planning Department Director <i>City of Jacksonville – Duval County</i>
2:45 – 3:00 pm	BREAK
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Emerging Trends in Water Quality Microplastics in Tampa Bay: Speaker To Be Determined Biscayne Bay Report Card: <i>Miami/Dade Water Resources</i> Emerging Contaminants in Fish and Sediments: Speaker To Be Determined
4:30 pm	CLOSING REMARKS