



FLERA

FLORIDA LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCE AGENCIES

2026

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

www.flera.org

SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2026
HILTON JACKSONVILLE MAYO CLINIC
DUVAL COUNTY

AGENDA

TUESDAY- **SEPTEMBER 15**

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Board of Directors Meeting & Dinner
Hilton Jacksonville Mayo Clinic
Northstar 3

WEDNESDAY- **SEPTEMBER 16**

8:00 – 8:30 AM **BREAKFAST** (*Foyer*)

8:30 AM (*St. Johns I*)

Welcome Remarks, Annual Business Meeting
(Installation of Officers) & Overview of
Committees

David Vanlandingham, FLERA President
Director, Environmental Permitting Division
Broward County

9:00 – 10:00 AM

AI and The Environment: The Need for a
Pragmatic Approach

Joshua C. Gellers, Ph.D., LEED Green Associate
Dean of Professional & Lifelong Learning and
Inaugural Faculty Fellow for AI
University of North Florida

10:00 – 10:15 AM **BREAK**

10:15 – 11:00 AM

Transforming Environmental and Resilience
Projects with AI and Geospatial Technologies

Brendan V. Brown, PWS,
Sr. Environmental Scientist
CDM Smith

11:00 – 12:30 PM

All Things PFAS: From Compliance to Cleanup
(Session)

Evan Ged, Operations Manager
Advanced Environmental Laboratories

PFAS Legal Issues - From Regulation to Litigation:

Michael Goldstein, Esq.
Goldstein Environmental Law Firm

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Miami-Dade County DERM Perspective:

Wilbur Mayorga, M.S., P.E., Chief
Department of Environmental Resources Management
Miami Dade County

Moderator: David Vanlandingham, FLERA President

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

2:00 PM **Committee Meetings**

Air Committee: *Mayport II*

Water Resources: *Mayport II*

Land Conservation: *Mayport I*

Natural Resources: *Mayport I*

Waste Management/Tanks: *St. Johns I*

3:00 – 3:15 PM **BREAK**

3:15 – 5:00 PM **Committee Presentations**

Air Committee

Water Resources

Land Conservation

Natural Resources

Waste Management/Tanks

5:30 – 7:00 PM **WELCOME RECEPTION**

Hilton Jacksonville Mayo Clinic
Northstar 4

AGENDA

THURSDAY - **SEPTEMBER 17**

8:00 – 8:30 AM **BREAKFAST (Foyer)**

8:30 – 9:30 AM (*St. Johns I*)

Managing & Resolving Conflict Effectively

Matthew Sowcik, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Leadership Program
University of Florida/IFAS

9:30 – 10:30 AM

2026 Legislative Briefing & Look Ahead at 2027

Diana Ferguson, FLERA Executive Director
Rutledge Encina
Peter Abello, Associate Director of Public Policy
Florida Association of Counties

10:30– 10:45 AM **BREAK**

10:45 – 11:45 AM

Community Air Monitoring (Session)

Mobile Air Unit: Mike Williams, Air Branch Manager
City of Jacksonville Environmental Quality Division

Community Air Monitoring Project:

Jason Waters, P.E., Air Monitoring Section Manager
Christian Rodriguez, Senior Environmental Manager
Environmental Protection Commission
Hillsborough County

Moderator: James Richardson, FLERA Board Member

11:45 AM– 1:15 PM **AWARDS LUNCHEON (Mayport)**

Keynote Speaker: *The Honorable Bobby Powell,*
Commissioner, Palm Beach County

Legislator of the Year Award Recipient:

Representative Kim Kendall, Florida House
Senator Jennifer Bradley, Florida Senate

Rick Wilkins Lifetime Achievement Award:

John Hickey, Sarasota County

1:15 – 2:45 PM

The Future of Sustainable Development (Session)

The Path to Wellness Way: Brooke Moffis,
Commercial Horticulture Agent
UF/IFAS Extension – Lake County

Alachua County's Florida Friendly Landscaping

Ordinance: Eliana Bardi, Senior Planner
Environmental Protection Department
Alachua County

Live Local Project: Helena Parola,
Planning Department Director
City of Jacksonville

Moderator: Stacie Greco, FLERA Vice President

2:45 – 3:00 PM **BREAK**

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Emerging Trends in Water Quality (Session)

Microplastics in Tampa Bay:

Lyndsey (Zee) Grossman
USF College of Marine Sciences

JEA Buckman Ozone Wetland Pilot Study:

Michael Dvoroznak, Wastewater Planning &
Engineering Manager
Jacksonville Electric Authority
Shayne Wood, Vice President
CDM Smith

Wastewater and Stormwater Impacts in Florida's Estuaries:

Sherryl Gilbert, MS, MBA
Anthony (AJ) Gross, Graduate Student
USF College of Marine Sciences

Moderator: Steffanie Wickham, FLERA Board Member

4:30 PM **CLOSING REMARKS**

Stacie Greco, FLERA Vice President
Water Resources Program Manager
Environmental Protection Department
Alachua County