



**Johnson Education Center
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University
Fort Pierce, Florida**

Friday, February 8, 2019 – *Engaging the Public: What Are the Counties Doing?*

The focus of this year's public forum for the Indian River Lagoon Symposium centers on its theme of *Indian River Lagoon: Quo Vadis? Quo Vadis?* "Quo Vadis?" literally means: "Where are you going?". With all of the changes we have seen in the Lagoon over recent years, we seek to address questions like: Are we making any progress? Have we reached a tipping point? In particular the Public Forum will address the question, what are the counties doing?

There will be a panel discussion addressing that question, with representatives from each of the five major counties along the Lagoon (Brevard, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, and Volusia). In addition, a number of organizations will be on hand to meet with the public on the work they do and the opportunity for the public to become more involved.

8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee & Tea

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Informal Dialogue with Representatives from Various IRL Organizations

The five counties and other organizations will have displays and discuss their IRL activities and how citizens can participate.

9:30 - 9:45 a.m. Welcome and Announcement of Center for Coastal and Human Health

The new Center for Coastal and Human Health combines leading expertise to examine the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem and associated watersheds, creating a better understanding of the connections between climate change, the local environment, Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), and resulting human health issues. The Center, based at FAU Harbor Branch, includes collaborations with a number of organizations, including other academic institutions, agencies, and counties.

9:45 - 12 Noon Panel Presentation and Discussion on What Are the Counties Doing?

A panel comprised of representatives from each of the five major counties along the Lagoon (Brevard, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, and Volusia) will briefly describe what IRL projects they are doing, including restoration, and how citizens can participate in these efforts.

Panel Members:

Brevard County - Virginia Barker (Director, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office)

Indian River County - Vincent Burke (Director, Indian River County Utilities)

Martin County - John Maehl (Manager, Martin County Ecosystem Restoration and Management)

St. Lucie County - Wren Underwood (Senior Environmental Education Coordinator, St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department)

Volusia County - Debbie Wingfield (Manager, Manatee Protection Program, Volusia County Environmental Management)

12 Noon - 1:00 p.m. Informal Dialogue with Representatives from Various County & IRL Organizations

Counties Present:

Brevard County

Indian River County

Martin County

St. Lucie County

Volusia County

Organizations Present:

Brevard Zoo

Florida Oceanographic Society

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University

Marine Discovery Center

Marine Resources Council

Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce

We thank all of the panelists, the counties, and the organizations participating in this year's forum.