

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT SOCIETY

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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

Cape Coral Mayor Marni Sawicki will speak at the March 8th luncheon, sponsored by [State Insurance Agency](#).

Management of water resources will be discussed by Dan Delisi, former board member and chief of staff at South Florida Water Management District, at the April 12th luncheon. Sponsored by [GHD Services](#).

The May 10th luncheon will be sponsored by [IBERIAbank](#).

REIS welcomes your suggestions on programs. Please share your ideas with [Karen Miller](#), (239) 936-4003.

Luncheon and Event Sponsorships:

Contact Chairman [Peter Rossi](#), 239.514.4100 for availability and details.

Scholarship Foundation:

REIS is accepting contributions toward scholarships to be awarded this fall. Details are available on the [REIS website](#) or by contacting Chair [Bob Bassett](#).

Education Workshop:

Co-chairs [Mary Gentile](#) (239.333.3272) and [Noel Davies](#) (239.337.3850) are planning to hold the annual program at Florida Gulf Coast University on September 9th. Prime sponsorship opportunities are available.

Annual Party:

Chair [Arleen Hunter](#) (239.949.6262) welcomes suggestions on this year's theme and assistance with planning and sponsorship sales.

TARGET MARKETING

Advertising space is now available on the REIS website. Your ad on the website's home page will enjoy prime time exposure to the leaders in Southwest Florida's real estate investment and development industry—at a rate on only \$35 monthly. Contact [Bill Burdette](#) (239.936.1404).

2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW

REIS joins the Urban Land Institute (ULI), Florida Planning & Zoning Association (FPZA) and Lutgert College at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) to assess what happened in the 2016 Florida Legislative Session and how it affects our industry. The popular annual event takes place April 21st at FGCU. All state legislators from Lee and Collier Counties have been invited. Local experts will also explain the ramifications of new legislation. Details to be posted soon on the REIS website.

BE SURE TO VOTE!

Early voting begins March 5th and continues through March 15th for:

- Florida's presidential preference primary
- City of Bonita Springs mayor and council members
- Town of Fort Myers Beach council members

REIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Please join in welcoming our new members:

Pamela Peters, Busey Bank
David Fry, Vantage Construction Services

A limited number of memberships are available for new members, details are on the [REIS website](#)

REIS MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

REIS member **Michelle McIntyre** has been elected president of Construction Standards Institute (CSI) Florida SW Chapter.

REIS member **Brent Addison** has been elected president of Florida Engineering Society (FES) Calusa Chapter.

INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

The [Resources section](#) of the REIS website has been updated and includes quick links to elected officials, government agencies, economic development offices, and other valuable information sources and reports. The Regional Economic Indicator Report also available every month on [REIS website](#), provided by the Regional Economic Research Institute of the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION REPORT

Commercial Lease Tax (SB 116 / HB 247):

Bills to reduce Florida's 6% sales tax on commercial leases 1% each year until eliminated. The bills fate of the bills will likely be decided in conjunction with approval of the state budget and appropriations.

Water Management (HB 7003 / SB 552):

Comprehensive water policy bill creates the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act to expedite protection and restoration of water flow and quality in the aquifer and springs. Also restructures the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Act to reflect and build upon the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) completion of basin management action plans (BMAP) for Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee Estuary, and St. Lucie River and Estuary. **Passed** Legislature and approved by Governor.

MRTA Amendments (CS/HB 7031):

Proposed amendments to Florida's Marketable Record Title Act (MRTA) would allow that covenants and restrictions of a homeowners association would not necessarily be extinguished after 30 years.

In a related issue, a judicial decision in January, *Save Calusa Trust v. St. Andrews Holdings, Ltd, et al*, determined that restrictive covenants imposed by governmental zoning approvals are not subject to MRTA and may not be extinguished in 30 years.

Surplus Lands (CS/HB 1075 / SB 1290):

Bill would establish process for sale of state-owned lands and allow landowners to acquire adjacent state lands in exchange for conservation easements. House bill is poised to come to vote. Senate bill is in committee.

Wetland Permitting (HB 795):

Bill would delegate wetland review and permitting from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for projects up to 10 acres. The bill is poised for a vote in the House.

Ad Valorem Taxation (HB 499 / SB 766):

Bill would revise procedures and timeframes for appealing property assessments and value adjustment board policies. Senate bill is on Appropriations Committee agenda March 1st, House bill is poised for a vote.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND GETS BOOST

The Paul Sands Memorial Slaw Dog Invitational Golf Tournament, held in December, generated a \$7,500 donation to the REIS - Paul Sands Memorial Scholarship program at Florida Gulf Coast University. REIS Scholarship Chairs Mark Morris and Bob Bassett, and President Amanda Brock accepted the check at the REIS February luncheon.



LEE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW

The Charter Review Commission will discuss changing the Board of County Commissioners to 5 single-member districts and 2 at-large commissioners. at 6pm on March 3rd and the public is encourage to attend and participate. The meeting is in the first floor conference room of the Administration Building on Second Street in Fort Myers.

BUILDING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Real estate analysts and government officials will explore the elements involved in managing Collier County's future growth in a half-day program presented by Urban Land Institute (ULI) Southwest Florida. Details on [ULI website](#).

SWFL SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

Annual conference takes place in Estero on April 28th with experts in healthcare, business, government, and city planning talking about redefining the trajectory of Southwest Florida's future. Details and registration at <http://www.swflsustainability.com>

BONITA SPRINGS PLANS FUTURE

While downtown improvements are progressing, Bonita Springs is developing plans for redesigning Bonita Beach Road and major intersections. The latest [report on public workshops](#) and the [retail market study](#) are available.

ESTERO TOWN CENTER WORKSHOP

The Village of Estero conducts a public workshop on its Town Center on March 8th at the Living Waters Church.

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