

2019 OFFICERS:

President Alexis Crespo, AICP
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Jason Brewer
Gordon Glover
Tim Hancock, AICP
Travis Merrick
Lori Moore
Justin Thibaut
Austin Turner
Past President Bev Larson, CCIM

BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

Airport growth and economic impacts will be discussed by Jeff Mulder, executive director of Lee County Port Authority at the May 14th luncheon. The event is sponsored by [ECS Florida](#).

The annual Legislative Review will take place at the June 11th luncheon and will be led by State Representative Dane Eagle. Sponsored by [Velocity Engineering](#).

The July 9th luncheon will feature a presentation on Public Safety Strategies for a Growing Community. Sponsored by [Alico ITEC Park](#).

REIS welcomes your program suggestions. Please share your ideas with [Mary Gentile](#), 239-275-4922, ext. 235. If you would like to lead the invocation and pledge at a luncheon, please contact [Tim Hancock](#), 239-649-4040.

Sponsorships:

Contact [Austin Turner](#), 239-344-1178, for information and availability of opportunities to sponsor REIS events.

Scholarship Program:

Information on the program, criteria for applying, and a donation form are on the [REIS webpage](#).

Real Estate Symposium:

The annual workshop will take place at Florida Gulf Coast University in September and focus on strategies for coastal development, redevelopment, and resiliency.

Social Events and Member Relations:

The Committee - [Jason Brewer](#), [Travis Merrick](#), and [Gordon Glover](#), is scouting locations and planning the November 14th annual party and welcomes your ideas.

Membership:

A limited number of memberships are currently available. Information and [membership application](#) are on the website. Contact [Bill Burdette](#) if you have questions.

HEARING ON USE OF WETLANDS

The Lee County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on land uses in wetlands on May 22nd. County staff has proposed an amendment (CPA1029-00001) to the Future Land Use Plan that will authorize Lee County to issue Development Orders for non-residential uses in the wetlands category where impacts are authorized by a State agency. Anyone interested in future development of the County is encouraged to attend and participate. The proposed amendment and staff report are available for review on the REIS website: [Resources - Reports & Documents](#).

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will expire again on May 31st unless Congress approves another extension. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared revisions to the program that would become effective October 1, 2020 and property owners will learn the impact on their rates on April 1, 2020.

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

Florida Department of Environmental Protection hosts a brainstorming session on how local governments can grow support for Low Impact Development implementation in their communities in Fort Myers on May 17th. The meeting is in conjunction with the Environmental Services Expo. Local government officials, engineers, planners, builders, and other related professionals are welcome to attend. See [REIS events calendar](#) for agenda and details.

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA FUNDED

The Florida House of Representatives backed off its plan to discontinue the business development program and agreed with the Senate to provide \$16 million, same as last year. The Visit Florida program to promote tourism will also continue. After the Senate accepted the House proposal to let the program expire October 1st, the House approved \$50 million to fund the program for one year. The existence of Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida are expected to be debated again in the 2020 Session.

BEV LARSON, CCIM

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STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE

Business Rent Tax: the final tax package (HB 7123) included a reduction in the tax rate from 5.7% to 5.5%.

Home Rule: HB 3 would prohibit local governments from imposing or adopting new regulations of businesses and preempt regulation and licensing of professions and occupations to the state. *Died in committee.*

Impact fees: HB 207 revises minimum requirements for adoption of impact fees by specified government agencies. Exempts water and sewer connection fees from Florida Impact Fee Act. *Passed.*

Open and Expired Building Permits: HB 447 provides requirements related to open and expired permits, permit requirements, closing of permits, amendment of Florida Building Code, applicability & notice requirements. *Passed*

Wetlands Mitigation: HB 0521 authorizes a local government to allow permittee-responsible mitigation on lands purchased and owned by a local government for conservation purposes under certain circumstances; requiring such mitigation. *Passed.*

Dredge and Fill Permitting: HB 799 urging Congress to direct U.S. EPA to issue memorandum of agreement so Florida may complete assumption of section 404 dredge and fill permitting program under federal Clean Water Act. *Died in committee.*

Comprehensive Plan Amendments: HB 6017 removes acreage limitations applying to small-scale comprehensive plan amendments. *Passed.*

Opportunity Zones: HB 481 would enable state and local governments to provide incentives to developers if they proceed with opportunity zone projects that benefit the local community. *Died in committee.*

Affordable Housing: the Senate proposed fully funding the program with \$332 million but the House only proposed \$124 million. They agreed on \$200 million, sweeping \$125 million from the housing trust funds for other uses. SB 70 and HB 1105 would have prohibited sweeping the State Housing Trust Fund and Local Government Housing Trust Fund, collectively known as the Sadowski Fund. *The bills died in committees.*

REIS MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

REIS 2018 President **Bev Larson** received the CCIM Southwest District's Exceptional Leadership award.

REIS board member **Lori Moore** has joined the board of directors of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC).

REIS members **Tim Byal, Edward Canterbury, Linda Miller, and Mitch Hutchcraft** have been named to the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity.

REIS board members **Jason Brewer** and **Travis Merrick** have been named to the board of directors of Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida. REIS member **Brandon Box** also joins the board.

The Lee County Port Authority Airports Special Management Committee has elected REIS member **Randy Krise** as chair and former REIS President **Robbie Roepstorff** as vice chair.

REIS member **James Ink** has been appointed chair of the Lee County Local Planning Agency (LPA).

REIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Please join in welcoming our newest members:

Kenny MacDonald is a sales representative with Advanced Roofing and Sheet Metal.

Lisa Merlo is an account executive with Crown Roofing.


Fred Drovdic is a principal planner and senior project manager with Waldrop Engineering. He is an experienced land use planner and development consultant.

Alicia Dixon is director of planning and environmental compliance with Lee County Port Authority, coordinating master plans, permitting, and mitigation management for Southwest Florida International and Page Field airports.

Membership information is on the [REIS website](#).

IN MEMORY OF LARRY KIKER

Larry Kiker, chairman of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners and former mayor of Fort Myers Beach, passed away in April. The Real Estate Investment Society salutes his public service and leadership in advancing sound public policy, responsible government, community development and economic growth.



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