



May 5, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Presentation of the May Team Member of the Month Award

Category

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Chad Butzow, Director Public Works Department

Action Requested

No Action Required

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Manatee County Code § 2-2-3 Awards and Incentives to Employees
Resolution R-09-202 Performance Compensation Programs

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

This award is presented monthly.

Team Member of the Month award to Chris Zitzow, Senior Engineering Specialist, Public Works.

This employee will receive a \$300.00 cash award in addition to one paid day off.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

N/A

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

\$380.00 0010003700-549001 - Awards Ad Valorem Tax

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

None



Team Member Recognition Nomination Form

Team Member Name(s): Chris Zitzow

Department: Public Works

Job Title: Senior Engineering Specialist

Nominated By: Thomas Gerstenberger

Phone #: 7228

Award Type: Team Member of the Month Team Award Heroism Award Safety Award

***** FOR HUMAN RESOURCES PURPOSES ONLY *****

Submission Date: 01.23.2016

Approved Disapproved

Employee ID: M007305

Date of Hire: 01.11.2016

Certifying the nominated team member(s) are in good standing without any disciplinary actions in the last 12 months.

Please describe why you believe this individual, or team, deserves recognition for the selected award by detailing their actions, achievements, or contributions that go above and beyond their normal job duties.

Chris has been employed with the county since January 11, 2016, or over 10 years of service. Prior to employment with Manatee County, Chris was employed with SWFWMD for 15 years in permitting compliance, and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) for 3 years involved in operation of canal/flood control gates. He served 4 years in the Marine Corps and 24 years in the Air Force Reserve. His military service included deployment to Afghanistan in 2010-2011 for Operation Enduring Freedom, and awarded a Meritorious Service Medal and Air Force Commendation Medal.

Chris Zitzow is a valued team member of Stormwater Engineering Division. He is responsible for routine inspection, maintenance, and calibration of the present 56 rain and stream gauge stations which monitor county drainage systems and coastal areas. His routine inspection of each station ensure the reliability and accuracy of rain and stream gauge data throughout the year. In addition, he is responsible for collecting data from eight (8) telemetry sensors. Chris preforms inspections of county stormwater facilities to ensure certification of Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permits. He also performs inspection and certification of stormwater management systems associated with as-built record drawings. His storm-related duties include documenting flood inundated areas, High Water Marks (HWM), and damage assessment of rain and stream gauge stations.

Chris is well respected by his peers and coworkers in Public Works Department and externally with contractors and vendors related to rain and stream gauges and review of record drawings. He responds promptly to service request through research and communication. His nomination referrals note his dedication, work ethic, courtesy, and professional demeanor.



Team Member Recognition Nomination Form

Additional Comments:

Chris is a great example of someone who truly respects the job and employer. He performs well, consistently and at a high level, with no effort from the leadership team. He is self starting and the quintessential "no drama" team member. I wish I had, 5 more Christian Zitzow's.

Chad Butzow

Nominator Signature: Thomas R. Gerstenberger Thomas R Gerstenberger (Jan 23, 2026 08:46:28 EST) **Date:** 01/23/2026
Team Member's Director Signature: Chad Butzow Chad Butzow (Jan 23, 2026 11:37:12 EST) **Date:** 01/23/2026

Submit this form to the Human Resources Department at employeerecognition@mymanatee.org.

***** FOR COUNTY ADMINISTRATION PURPOSES ONLY *****

Team Award/Heroism Award/Safety Award: Approved Disapproved

Signature: Jessica Beckler Date: 01.26.2025