October 20, 2026 -Regular Meeting

Subject
Appointment of One Applicant to the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Advisory Committee, Kara Koenig, Environmental Lands Program Section Manager - Countywide

Motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, seconded by Chairman Siddique, and carried 6-0, to appoint Mark VanDeRee to the Florida Engineering Society Seat.

Category
REGULAR

Briefings
Briefing Provided Upon Request

Contact and/or Presenter Information
Kara Koenig, Environmental Lands Program Section Manager, ext. 6052

Action Requested
Appoint One Member to Serve on the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Advisory Committee for the Florida Engineering Society seat

Enabling/Regulating Authority
Manatee County Code of Ordinances Section 2-25-55; Florida Statutes Chapter 125

Applicable Advisory Board
Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Advisory Committee

Background Discussion
•The Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Advisory Committee (ELMAC) is comprised of 15 members, who make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on environmental land acquisition and management issues, including recreational planning and programming of public lands. ELMAC also serves as the Tree Advisory Board to promote awareness of the Countywide tree canopy and tree education programs.
•Initial terms are selected for one (1), two (2) or three (3) years to promote a staggering of terms. Terms of re-appointment are for (3) years, except for members appointed by each individual Commissioner for their District, whose terms shall expire with the appointing Commissioner's term, or after three (3) years, whichever is sooner.
•The Board of County Commissioners is requested to select appointment for the Florida Engineering Society (FES) representative seat. The FES seat has been open since February 2026 and has been an open rolling application since that time. Please refer to the candidate application and matrix for more information.

Attorney Review
Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records
Please provide the official appointment to:
Kara Koenig - Kara.Koenig@mymanatee.org and
Kendall Carson - Kendall.Carson@mymanatee.org
Distributed 10/21/26, RT

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name
N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs
N/A

Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Advisory Committee (ELMAC)			
Member	Appointed by BOCC	Term Expires	Seat Requirement
Vacant			Florida Engineering Society
Merrie Lynn Parker	Apr-25	Apr-27	Environmental group
Scott Tussing	March-26	March-29	Education in active outdoor sports
Ruth Lawler	Aug-25	Aug-28	Banking, Finance or Real Estate
Jennifer Hoffman	Aug-26	Aug-29	Keep Manatee Beautiful Representative
Mike Burton	Aug-25	Aug-28	Chamber of Commerce Environmental Resources Committee
Kate Horne	Aug-25	Aug-28	Agricultural Community
Robert Brown	Aug-25	Aug-28	Schooled in Natural Sciences
Charles Richards	Apr-25	Apr-28	District 1
Mason Gravley	Mar-22	Dec-26	District 2
Kyle Fisher	Apr-25	Apr-28	District 3
Vacant			District 4
Eric DiSilvestro	Apr-25	Apr-28	District 5
Vacant			At Large
Alyssa Gay	Apr-25	Apr-28	At Large

ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS MANAGEMENT AND ACQUISITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ELMAC)
APPLICANT SUMMARY TABLE – October 2026

FLORIDA ENGINEERING SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE SEAT

Commission District	Applicant Name	Profession / Employment	Education/Experience/Employment	Current Advisory Board Member
1	**Mark VanDeRee**	Retired	• **Education:** B.S.E., University of South Florida • **Experience:** - 49 years of engineering design and construction experience, including large scale infrastructure and remediation projects worldwide. - Current Florida Engineering Society Member - Current Registered Professional Engineer- FL, WA, LA, TN & VA - Waterline Road Preservation Group- Founding Member - East Manatee Preservation Association- Founding Member - Community Planning Manatee- Founding Member	No

Advisory Board Application

Manatee County Government

Submitted On:
Sep 17, 2026, 05:16PM EDT

Select Advisory Board	Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Advisory Committee
Seat you're interested in	A member of Florida Engineering Society
Florida State Statute 119.07 designates this application as a public document to be made available for anyone requesting to view it. If you qualify for exemption from public disclosure under the terms of this statute, please explain.	
Full Name	**First Name:** MARK **Last Name:** VANDEREE
Home Address	**Street Address:** 17515 Waterline Road **City:** Bradenton **State:** FL **Zip:** 34212
Is your mailing address the same as your home address?	Yes
Home Phone	941-747-0750
Work Phone	
Cell Phone	
Email	vanderee2@gmail.com
Occupation (if retired, please indicate)	Retired
Business Name	
Business Address	
Are you registered to vote in Manatee County? (This is required for some boards/commissions)	Yes
Which County Commission District do you reside in?	District 1
Do you reside in unincorporated Manatee County?	Yes
Gender	Male

List any governmental Advisory Boards/Committees/Commissions on which you currently serve.	None
List any Manatee County Advisory Boards/Committees/Commissions on which you have previously served (include dates of your service).	None
Why do you want to serve on this Advisory Board or Committee?	Support ELMAC efforts to conserve and protect natural lands.
Describe your education and experience that will provide a benefit to this Advisory Board.	BSE, University of South Florida, Current Registered Professional Engineer- FL, WA, LA, TN, & VA, Current Florida Engineering Society member. 49 years of engineering design and construction experience with large scale infrastructure and remediation projects worldwide.
List your professional credentials, licenses or certificates that are relevant to this Advisory Board.	Current Registered Professional Engineer- FL, WA, LA, TN, & VA, Current Florida Engineering Society member.
List organizations and positions in which you serve in local civic or community groups.	Waterline Road Preservation Group- founding member; East Manatee Preservation Association-founding member; Community Planning Manatee- founding member.
Upload File(s)	MV_CV_09172026.pdf
Which of the following is your area of expertise?	
Do you currently work for or do business with any municipalities within Manatee County?	No
Do you currently work for or do business with the State of Florida or the Florida Governors office?	No
Have you ever filed for bankruptcy or foreclosed on any property that was owned by yourself or business?	No
Please Describe what the DOGE initiative means to you:	Spending taxpayer funds wisely and efficiently, eliminating waste, and increasing efficiency.

Do you or your immediate family members have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business entity or agency which does business with or receives funding from Manatee County Government?	No
Do you know of any other reason that would prohibit you from serving on this board that could be deemed as a conflict of interest?	No
Signature Data	First Name: Mark Last Name: VanDeRee Email Address: vanderee2@gmail.com  Signed at: September 17, 2026 5:14pm America/New_York
Date	**Month:** 9 **Day:** 17 **Year:** 2026