

For the benefit of our newer members --- our Citizens Advisory Committee invested much time, effort and energy a few years back addressing our city's Septic to Sewer problems. As a result of that process, we became aware of the acute water quality problems in the St Lucie estuary system.

At that time, it was determined our plate was full and we could come back at a later date and address the water quality problems in the St Lucie system.

Because these ever-increasing poor water quality problems are multi-faceted and compounded daily by our city's runaway growth, I respectfully propose we initiate the first step in addressing this multijurisdictional problem by recommending to City Council the following action for their consideration:

I move the Citizens Advisory Committee recommend to City Council a Special Task Force be formed to address the existing water quality problems in the St Lucie estuary system. Such a Task force could be made

up of representatives from the City of Port St Lucie, the City of Stuart, the City of Ft Pierce, the St Lucie County, the Martin County and have as their purpose the development of both short- and long-term plans to improve upon and protect water quality in the St Lucie River.

## **Background**

For too long the water quality problems in our St Lucie River have progressed in the wrong direction as proven in the published water quality reports from Florida Oceanographic. It's common knowledge these problems are primarily attributed to leeching of sewage from septic tanks and storm water runoff into the river. To make matters worse the rapid growth of our city has only exacerbated these problems which have persisted for years and have been passively addressed. What is needed is a clearly defined plan of action which will achieve both qualitative and quantitative results for our river system.

At present the PSL Depts of Utilities and Public Works, the Florida Dept of Health and the St Lucie County Health Dept have an important role to play and are critical to the development of the above-mentioned plan to accomplish the goals of a clean, protected and beautiful St Lucie River.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Jennings