

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(4)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** April 4, 2023

**FROM:** Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution waiving, by a two-thirds vote of the full membership of the Board of County Commissioners, the resident elector requirement of section 2-11.38 of the Code and appointing Kevin M. Cunniff to the Miami-Dade County Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board for a four-year term

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The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.



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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

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MDC001

# Memorandum



**Date:** May 2, 2023

**To:** Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Daniella Levine Cava  
Mayors *Daniella Levine Cava*

**Subject:** Appointment to the Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board;  
Waiving Requirement that All Board Members Be Permanent Residents and  
Electors of Miami-Dade County

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## **Executive Summary**

Appointment to the Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board of Kevin M. Cunniff, representing the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners waive the resident elector requirement and appoint Kevin M. Cunniff to the Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board as the representative for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

## **Scope**

The recommendations and actions of the Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board have countywide impact.

## **Delegation of Authority**

The proposed resolution does not delegate authority to the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee.

## **Fiscal Impact/Funding Source**

There is no fiscal impact associated with appointing Kevin M. Cunniff to the Advisory Board. The primary cost of the Advisory Board is staff time by the County's Chief Bay Officer team and technical and professional staff throughout County departments, who also provide necessary support. Additional costs including those associated with hosting summits and conferences for the purpose of developing the Watershed Recovery Plan will be included in the Office of Resilience's annual budget.

## **Track Record/Monitor**

The Advisory Board is staffed by the Chief Bay Officer team and support staff from the Office of Resilience. Technical and professional staff from the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Division of Environmental Resources and Management (DERM), Water and Sewer Department (WASD), and the Office of Resilience will provide technical information regarding projects aimed at reducing pollution and nutrients in the bay on a regular basis.

**Background**

The Miami-Dade County Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board (Advisory Board) was created by the Board of County Commissioners, through Ordinance No. 21-72, as recommended by the Biscayne Bay Task Force. The Advisory Board was created by newly enacted Article CLXIV of Chapter 2, Sections 2-2420 to 2-2426 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (Code) as a permanent board established to advise the Board of County Commissioners (“BCC”) and the County Mayor on issues related to Biscayne Bay, including but not limited to, (1) the long-term management of Biscayne Bay, (2) health of the marine community, (3) run-off and other impacts to water quality, (4) marine debris, (5) education and outreach, (6) economic development and vitality related to Biscayne Bay, and (7) how conditions in Biscayne Bay may affect residents and property owners. These recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners will be used to update chapter 24 of the Code of Miami-Dade County to incorporate a new management plan and prioritize projects for Biscayne Bay. In addition, the advisory board provides a local perspective on Biscayne Bay problems, issues, and solutions.

The advisory board consists of 21 members. Pursuant to Sec. 2-2421 of the Code, 14 of the members will be representatives from various entities and organizations, as recommended by the respective entities and organizations, as follows:

1. One representative from the Miami River Commission, recommended by the Miami River Commission;
2. Three representatives with scientific expertise from each of, and as recommended by, the following institutions: one from the Florida International University Institute of Environment, one from the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, and one from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
3. One representative from Biscayne National Park, as recommended by the Superintendent of Biscayne National Park;
4. One representative from the Greater Miami Visitors and Convention Bureau, as recommended by the Greater Miami Visitors and Convention Bureau;
5. One representative of the development industry, as recommended by the South Florida Builders Association;
6. One representative who is a coastal engineer working in Miami-Dade County, as recommended by the Florida Engineering Society;
7. One representative who works in banking and finance in Miami-Dade County, as recommended by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce;
8. One representative of the marine or boating industry, as recommended by the Miami Marine Council;

9. One representative of the agricultural industry, recommended by the Dade County Farm Bureau;

10. One representative of the Miccosukee Tribe, as recommended by the Miccosukee Tribe; and

11. Two representatives from environmental groups, one recommended by the Nature Conservancy and one recommended by the Biscayne Bay Marine Health Coalition.


After nominees are recommended for appointment pursuant to the procedure in Ordinance No. 21-72, such nominees may be appointed to the Advisory Board by the Board of County Commissioners via resolution. The following nomination from the Miccosukee Tribe was submitted to the County and is recommended for appointment to the Advisory Board.

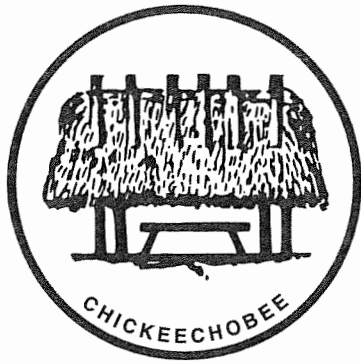
**Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida**

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida has recommended Kevin M. Cunniff for appointment. Correspondence from the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the resume of the nominee are included in Attachment A.

Please note staff has verified that the nominee, Mr. Cunniff, is not a permanent resident of Miami-Dade County. Pursuant to section 2-11.38 of the Code, “[a]ll members of County boards shall be permanent residents and electors of Miami-Dade County unless the Board of County Commissioners, by a two-thirds vote of its membership, waives this requirement.”

The attached resolution waives the resident elector requirement in section 2-11.38 of the Code and appoints Mr. Cunniff to a term of four years. This waiver is necessary for the appointment, as discussed above.

  
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Jimmy Morales  
Chief Operations Officer



# Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

**Business Council Members**

Talbert Cypress, Chairman

Lucas K. Osceola, Assistant Chairman

Kenneth H. Cypress, Treasurer

William J. Osceola, Secretary

Pete Osceola, Jr., Lawmaker

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Irela Bagué  
Chief Bay Officer  
Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board  
Miami-Dade County  
Email: Irela.Bague@miamidade.gov

**SUBJECT: Nomination of Miccosukee BBWMAB Representative**

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Dear Ms. Bagué,

The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida appreciates the County's continued inclusion of a Tribal voice on the Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board. In 2022, we mourned the passing of the Tribe's prior nominee to the BBWMAB, Mr. Truman "Gene" Duncan, who also served as the Tribe's Water Resources Director. We are grateful for the work that Mr. Duncan did for our Tribe and the Miami-Dade community more broadly, and we are appreciative of Commissioner Higgins for her initiative to hold an In Memoriam in his honor.

In his stead, we see fit to nominate Mr. Kevin Cunniff, the Tribe's Chief Sustainability Officer. We are confident that he will provide diligent and conscientious representation of the Tribe's concerns as a stakeholder in the Miami-Dade community. Please find attached Mr. Cunniff's curriculum vitae, and don't hesitate to reach out to my office with any further questions about this nomination.

Sincerely,

Talbert Cypress  
Chairman  
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

**KEVIN M. CUNNIF**

116 NORTH AVENUE

LEHIGH ACRES, FL 33936

[KEVIN.M.CUNNIF@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KEVIN.M.CUNNIF@GMAIL.COM)

(305) 773-0841

**PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT:** As an environmental scientist and resource management professional with over 23 years of working experience in the Florida Everglades, I endeavor to use my knowledge and skills to provide the highest degree of service to the Leadership and Members of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and assert, protect, and defend the sovereign interests and needs of the Tribal Community to ensure the continued cultural vitality of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida for the next seven generations.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE*****Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida******Miccosukee Reservations and Tribally-owned Lands, FL*****Chief Sustainability Officer, January 2023 – Present (40 hours/week)**

- Provide leadership and vision to the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (MTIF) Environmental Protection Agency.
- Advise MTIF Business Council on environmental and cultural resource management, protection, enhancement, and restoration matters.
- Advise MTIF Business Council on various environmental policy positions, drafting, implementation, and effects on MTIF interests.
- Advise MTIF Business Council on sustainable Tribal Community development and business enterprise opportunities.
- Serve as MTIF liaison as well as facilitate the government-to-government relationship between MTIF and United States of America governmental agencies, including: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- Serve as MTIF representative on various federal Everglades restoration stakeholder group fora, for which MTIF is a key partner, including South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and RECOVER (REstoration COordination & VERification) Leadership Group.
- Serve MTIF Business Council and Tribal Community interests and needs, in any manner required, and with dedication to assert sovereignty.

***Seminole Tribe of Florida******Seminole Reservations and Tribally-owned Lands, FL*****Director, Environmental Resource Management Department, August 2019 – July 2022 (40 hours/week)**

- Provided leadership and vision to the Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD), administration of water resource, fisheries, wildlife, and habitat management programs, and direct oversight of ERMD staff in service to the Seminole Tribe of Florida (Tribe).
- Advised Tribal Council on federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects and disposition, climate change, sustainable development, energy independence, environmental, fisheries, wildlife, and water resource matters of interest to the Tribe, both on Reservation and off Reservation, from federal, state, and private sector land/water management actions, land use changes, and development projects.
- Advised Tribal Council on sustainable business enterprise opportunities to generate long-term revenue for the Tribe.
- Advised and provided regular outreach to the Tribal Community via Community meetings, Cattle and Range meetings, written/electronic communications, social media, Community events, and with individual Tribal Members upon request.
- Synthesized conventional environmental science methods with Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to provide a data and information-driven foundation that supported informed, culturally relevant decision-making processes by Tribal Leadership and the Tribal Community.
- Authored and produced a 5-year strategic plan, the first ever in ERMD's 35 years, complete with a new vision and mission statement, to guide program planning, capacity building, standard operating procedures production, and enhanced service to the Tribal Community.
- Executed annual ERMD budget in excess of \$6 million; provided direction on annual ERMD strategic operational budget planning, including capital equipment requests, capital improvement projects, and federal grants.
- Administered 16 federal grants, constituting dozens of contracts, including establishing annual workplan and task deliverables, accounting compliance, and progress reporting.
- Facilitated the government-to-government relationship between the Tribe and United States of America governmental agencies, including: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. EPA, U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- Facilitated the quasi-government-to-government relationship between the Tribe and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), as stipulated within the *Water Rights Compact Among The Seminole Tribe of Florida, State of Florida and South Florida Water Management District*, and liaised with other state and local agencies related to Tribal interests (e.g., Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and various county/city government agencies).
- Authored and issued formal letters of correspondence to federal, state, and local government agencies regarding various environmental and cultural resource matters of interest to the Tribe.
- Facilitated and executed on-Reservation environmental review and permitting for Tribal water resource development, land use change, and all building and infrastructure projects to ensure applicable federal compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act (including Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act) and compliance with provisions codified within the *Criteria Manual to the Seminole Water Rights Compact* with SFWMD.
- Served as Tribal representative member of U.S. EPA Region 4 Regional Tribal Operations Committee.
- Served as Working Group member of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force in support of continued interagency and Tribal government coordination and planning efforts to restore the Florida Everglades, for which the Tribe is named partner and key stakeholder.
- Served as RECOVER Leadership Group member and spearheaded the formation of a new Southwest Florida Module to provide dedicated programmatic focus and funding for Western Everglades Restoration Project scientific monitoring, assessment, and performance tracking.

***Seminole Tribe of Florida******Big Cypress Reservation, FL*****Program Analyst, Executive Operations Office / Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Collections Division,****December 2017 – June 2019 (40 hours/week)**

- At the direction of the Executive Operations Office (EOO), conducted collaborative strategic planning with Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) staff and management.
- Conducted a comprehensive assessment of ERMD operations, capital improvement plan, and budget in order to provide programmatic improvement recommendations to EOO and Tribal Leadership.
- Grant-funded position within Museum's Collections Division to archive and preserve culturally and historically significant photographic media and to make these resources more accessible to the Tribal Community.

***Sandra Walters Consulting, Inc.******Key West, FL*****Senior Ecologist, May 2013 – August 2019 (Project-based hours)**

- Served as manager of ecological and resource management services for public- and private-sector clients, with responsibilities including data collection and analysis, report writing, and oversight of compliance timetables and budgets.

***Florida Department of Environmental Protection******Naples, FL*****Research Coordinator, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, November 2013 – July 2016 (40 hours/week)**

- Administration of RBNERR's mission-driven scientific water resource, fisheries, and wildlife research and monitoring programs, including capital improvement project and annual budget development; provided new forward vision for RBNERR Research Department development within the NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).
- Engaged strategic planning for the 10 year RBNERR operational plan, complete with mission statement, goals, objectives-based work plans, performance metrics, and progress assessment tools.
- Direct oversight of full-time staff within Research Department, including development of annual work plans, performance metrics, and work products assessment.
- Represented RBNERR's science program within NOAA NERRS, provided input on NERRS initiatives and mandates within the Research Sector, and worked to incorporate NERRS initiatives within RBNERR programs.
- Technical science lead and project management for a 3-year NOAA Science Collaborative Grant (\$815,000 total award).
- Designed and implemented new applied ecological research for the purpose of providing guidance for science-based resource management and restoration of RBNERR's 110,000 acres of coastal/estuarine benthic, freshwater wetland, and upland habitats, fisheries, and wildlife.
- Designed, implemented, and evaluated a mangrove hydrologic restoration project, including post-restoration ecological monitoring.
- Established and maintained important external collaborative research partnerships and directly supported visiting investigator efforts to conduct research within RBNERR.
- Results analysis and reporting for authorship in peer-reviewed scientific journals and for presentation at international scientific conferences.
- Provided regular reports and presentations of Research Department work products, accomplishments, and new mission-driven initiatives to FDEP, NOAA, and the greater public, as per annual operations grant requirements.
- Request for Proposal (RFP) and external grant writing for RBNERR program funding and in collaboration with partnering investigators.

***Cardno******Wellington, FL*****Senior Staff Scientist, December 2010 – May 2013 (40 hours/week)**

- Project management duties for SFWMD legally-mandated, regulatory water quality monitoring program work orders, including regular client communications, work order task deliverables, invoicing, reporting, and staff training. Annual work order budgets exceeded \$100,000.
- Results analysis, QA/QC, and reporting from benthic research studies conducted in the Gulf of Mexico related to nearshore resource impact assessments stemming from the MC-252 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- Reviewed, analyzed, and provided written comments for various Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for domestic and international clients.
- Provided on-site wildlife monitoring at the USACE Site 1 Impoundment Project with daily reporting to construction foreman.
- Reviewed and provided written comments on RFPs for business solicitation and Statements of Work (SOWs) for various domestic and international environmental restoration projects.
- Contracted position (December 2010 – September 2011) with the SFWMD, Water Restoration Services Section, to conduct ecological field research and monitoring in Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) marshes, encompassing a total of 65,000 acres.
- Conducted benthic assessments within STA marshes in order to ascertain status and trends of submerged aquatic vegetation within water quality treatment cells.
- Co-managed daily field and laboratory operations for the STA1-W mesocosm experiment and contributed ideas and feedback on adaptively improving the experiment's implementation, based on data review and project objectives.
- Database management and data QA/QC validation.

**R.C.T. Engineering, Inc.****West Palm Beach, FL****Level IV Environmental Scientist, September 2005 – September 2010 (40 hours/week)**

- Contracted position with the SFWMD, Everglades Division, Florida Bay – Everglades Ecosystem Research Section to conduct ecological field and laboratory research in Florida Bay in support of Everglades assessment and restoration efforts.
- Designed and implemented hypothesis-driven, applied ecological research and monitoring in the Florida Bay estuary, southern Everglades mangrove ecotone, Everglades tree islands, and adjacent freshwater marsh systems related to the on-going management and restoration activities of these ecosystems.
- Conducted benthic assessments in Florida Bay seagrass communities to assess impacts from a prolonged regional algae bloom.
- Conducted laboratory research on microbial responses to phosphorus addition from Taylor Slough and Shark River Slough communities.
- Reviewed development plans and pilot data for the C-111 Spreader Canal restoration project.
- Performed detailed data analyses of extensive biological datasets, constructed and managed databases, and organized and cataloged data for the SFWMD ECO-Database with full metadata and QA/QC check descriptions.
- Authored SFWMD technical reports and peer-reviewed scientific journal manuscripts from ecological field and laboratory research projects and monitoring activities.
- Coordinated collaborative research projects with scientists from universities, state and federal government entities, and the private sector.
- Co-managed all field and laboratory activities in the Aquatic Science Research Lab at the SFWMD, including staff technical skills training and evaluation, and administered field and laboratory safety orientation and training for full-time SFWMD and visiting researchers.
- Reviewed statements of work and deliverables from SFWMD contractors.

**Florida International University/Southeast Environmental Research Center****Miami, FL****Graduate Research Assistant, January 1999 – August 2004 (20 hours/week)**

- Coordinated and conducted field research and laboratory activities for the Seagrass Ecosystems Research Lab (SERL) and Southeast Environmental Research Center (SERC) at FIU in the FKNMS and Gulf of Mexico, funded by the U.S. EPA and NOAA, and in Florida Bay as part of the Florida Coastal Everglades Long-Term Ecological Research (FCE-LTER) Program.
- Conducted extensive field work performing benthic habitat assessments in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), southwest coastal shelf of the Gulf of Mexico, and Florida Bay for a long-term EPA/NOAA project and in support of the FCE-LTER program.
- Logged 3700+ research dives (SCUBA), totaling 3100+ hours of bottom time, with over 40,000 individual benthic surveys.
- Analyzed and QA/QC'd data for inclusion with the results of multiple long-term benthic research and monitoring projects.
- Contributed authorship for annual EPA/NOAA reports and manuscripts published in peer-reviewed scientific journals.
- Utilized electronic data acquisition instruments to qualify and quantify site-specific environmental water quality and biological parameters.
- Conducted laboratory processing of field collected plant, soil, and water samples utilizing standardized and original techniques.
- Maintained laboratory instruments, vehicles, and vessels.
- Assisted other graduate students and post-doctoral researchers in original field and laboratory-based research.

**Florida International University****Miami, FL****Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Biological Sciences, January 1999 – August 2000 (20 hours/week)**

- Instructed, evaluated, and graded undergraduate students in the laboratory sections of Microbiology, Ecology, and General Biology courses.

**EDUCATION****Florida International University****Miami, FL****College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences****Master of Science, Biology (Marine Ecology focus), May 2006**

- Thesis title: "Phenology, sexual reproduction, and the factors affecting the sexual reproduction of the marine angiosperm, *Thalassia testudinum*, in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS)."
- Recipient of FIU Tropical Biology Program research and travel grant (\$2000), awarded in 2000 and 2001.
- Dean's List (1999 – 2001).

**Fairfield University****Fairfield, CT****College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology****Bachelor of Science, Biology, August 1998**

- Marine Science minor, Environmental Studies minor.
- Dean's List (1997, 1998).
- NCAA Academic All-American, Men's Swimming (1997, 1998).

**TECHNICAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE****Marine/Estuarine, Freshwater, and Terrestrial Scientific Acumen**

- Expert working knowledge of community structure and ecological function of Florida Everglades aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, with particular expertise in water quality, effects of altered hydrology and eutrophication on aquatic/wetland ecosystem structure and function, nutrient biogeochemistry, structure and function of Everglades tree islands, and environmental restoration, resiliency assessment, and planning.

- Extensive and qualified experience with Everglades restoration planning, monitoring, and impact assessment.
- Extensive experience using hydrologic models (e.g., MIKE SHE/MIKE 11, AFSIRS, etc.) to understand status and effects of altered hydrology, land use impacts, point and non-point source pollution, nutrient loading, and environmental stochasticity on freshwater wetland habitats, water quality, and food chains.
- Extensive working knowledge of Everglades tree island ecosystem structure and function.
- Qualified experience in designing and implementing hypothesis-driven, statistically rigorous applied ecological research and monitoring programs.
- Qualified experience in designing and implementing aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial ecosystem restoration projects.
- Qualified experience in invasive species biology, including modern techniques to support Early Detection and Rapid Response efforts.
- Experience with the development and implementation of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) in Florida Bay (salinity) and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in Florida surface waters (nutrients).
- Excellent and adaptable writing and communication skills for results dissemination to technical and lay audiences.

### ***General Environmental Sampling Methodologies and Expertise***

- Extensive field experience in marine, estuarine, and freshwater wetland environments, mangrove forests, Everglades tree islands, tropical hardwood hammocks, scrub uplands, and other south Florida wetland and terrestrial environments with 1400+ documented working field days.
- Extensive experience utilizing FDEP/EPA surface water quality, biological tissue and soil sample collection techniques and methodologies, including QA/QC.
- Extensive experience utilizing FDEP/EPA laboratory bench chemical processing techniques and methodologies for water quality, biological tissue, and soil sample post-collection processing and analysis.
- Excellent critical observation skills necessary for the comprehensive documentation of site-specific field conditions.
- Transect sampling and plant community characterization of freshwater wetlands, terrestrial uplands and forests, Everglades tree island communities, mangrove forests, and coastal benthic habitats.
- Extensive experience with marine/estuarine benthic community habitat survey techniques, including: Braun-Blanquet Cover and Abundance Index, Point-intercept method, implementation of transect sampling, and EMAP stratified-random design.
- 40,000+ individual marine/estuarine benthic habitat surveys in seagrass and coral reef habitats.
- 14,000+ hours trailering and piloting small vessels (11' - 45') and airboats with excellent shallow water, inshore, and offshore navigation prowess utilizing GPS technology and nautical charts; proficient in general vessel, trailer, and vehicle maintenance.
- 3,700+ logged scientific research SCUBA dives totaling 3,200+ hours bottom time.
- Experience working from vessels (11' - 45'), airboats, helicopters, all-terrain vehicles, and Everglades marsh sampling platforms.
- Experience with conducting sediment elevation table (SET) measurements in mangrove forests, Everglades tree islands, and coastal estuaries (Florida Bay).
- Extensive experience utilizing multi-parameter field sampling instruments, data loggers, and software, as well as routine instrument maintenance, calibration, and performance QA/QC including, but not limited to: YSI sondes (6-Series, EXO-Series), Hydrolabs, nutrient autosamplers, Li-Cor light meters, leaf-area index canopy light meters, sap-flow instruments, various permanent monitoring platform instruments and gauges, data telemetry, various remotely deployed data loggers (e.g., HOBOS – Onset Corporation), fluorometers, spectrophotometers, Dataflow high speed flow-through water quality mapping system, Turner Designs C-6 sampling platform and Cyclops-7 fluorometers, hydro-acoustic benthic mapping, pulse-amplitude modulated (PAM) fluorometry, GPS, and underwater photography.
- Extensive experience utilizing automated laboratory analysis instruments, software, and the QA/QC of instrument performance including, but not limited to: Turner Designs 10-AU fluorometer, Fissons NA 1500 NCS elemental analyzer, and Perstorp Analytical Alpkem inorganic elemental analyzer.

### ***Project Management***

- Strategic planning, workplan coordination, and budget assessment aligned to meet stated organizational mission goals and objectives.
- Administration of annual budgets exceeding \$6 million.
- Experienced in navigating the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, including project development, budgeting, and deliverables scheduling.
- Contract management, including contractor Statements of Qualification (SOQs) review, contractor selection, and deliverables review and acceptance.
- Federal grant and contract management, compliance, work planning, task deliverables execution, and reporting.
- Produced bids and SOQs for various grant-funded project RFPs.
- Management of direct report staff activities including annual work product goals, work product evaluation, skills development, and safety training.
- Conducted site safety evaluations and authored and produced Job Hazard Analyses (JHAs) along with comprehensive job safety manuals for various field project work orders.
- Authored and produced Quality Assurance Assessment Protocol (QAAP) manuals for U.S. EPA and SFWMD project scopes of work.
- Produced comprehensive annual work budget projections for fiscal year (Tribal, state, and private sector) for varied projects.
- Federal grant proposal authorship and submission through grants.gov.

## CERTIFICATIONS

- Divers Alert Network (DAN) CPR, First Aid, AED Administration, and emergency O<sub>2</sub> Administration (2017)
- Basic Wildland Firefighting (2016)
- FDEP Motor Boat Operator (2013)
- Qualified as an expert witness by Broward County Circuit Court Judge for testimony in trial matters related to seagrass habitats and endangered species (*Halophila johnsonii*) distribution and seasonality (2009)
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Safety Instruction, State of Florida (2007)
- American Red Cross Instructor: Lifeguard Training, First Aid, CPR, AED Administration, O<sub>2</sub> Administration (2003)
- NAUI Nitrox Diver (2001)
- AAUS Scientific Diver (1999)
- Class E Driver's License (with Motorcycle), State of Florida (1999)
- PADI Rescue Diver (1997)
- PADI Advanced Open Water Diver (1995)
- PADI Open Water Diver (1994)

## PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Indigo Lakes Community Association, President (2013 – 2017)
- City Commission Environmental Advisory Board, Chairman, City of Coconut Creek, FL (2008 – 2013)
- Ecological Society of America (1999 – Present)
- Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (1999 – Present)
- Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (1999 – Present)

## SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS AND TECHNICAL REPORTS

Madden, C.J. and Cunniff, K.M. 2011. Tropical Connections: Facts about south Florida's marine environment. IAN Press, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Cambridge, Maryland. William L. Krczynski and Pamela J. Fletcher (eds). 452 pp.

Madden, C., Alleman, R., Bennett, R., Kelly, S., Cunniff, K.M., McDonald, A., and Rudnick, D. 2010. Ch. 12: Management and restoration of coastal ecosystems. *2011 South Florida Environmental Report Vol I*. South Florida Water Management District.

Madden, C.J., Rudnick, D.T., McDonald, A.A., Cunniff, K.M., and Fourqurean, J.W. 2009. Development of ecological indicators for assessing seagrass status and trends in Florida Bay. *Ecological Indicators* 9 (6), 68 - 82.

Madden, C., Alleman, R., Bennett, R., Kelly, S., Cunniff, K.M., McDonald, A., and Rudnick, D. 2009. Ch. 12: Management and restoration of coastal ecosystems. *2010 South Florida Environmental Report Vol I*. South Florida Water Management District.

Madden, C., Alleman, R., Bennett, R., Kelly, S., Cunniff, K.M., McDonald, A., and Rudnick, D. 2008. Ch. 12: Management and restoration of coastal ecosystems. *2009 South Florida Environmental Report Vol I*. South Florida Water Management District.

Rudnick, D. et al. 2007. Ch. 12: Management and restoration of coastal ecosystems. *2008 South Florida Environmental Report Vol I*. South Florida Water Management District.

Cunniff, K. M., Kelly, S., and Rudnick, D. 2007. A rapid assessment of the Lake Surprise benthic community and sediments. South Florida Water Management District Technical Report.

Rudnick, D. et al. 2006. Ch. 12: Management and restoration of coastal ecosystems. *2007 South Florida Environmental Report Vol I*. South Florida Water Management District.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Cunniff, K.M. 2022. Earth Week Panel Discussion on Biscayne Bay Nutrient Pollution. University of Miami School of Law, Environmental Law Society. Featured panelist.

Cunniff, K.M. and Snyder, M.A. 2018. Increasing Community Access to a Photograph Collection Through Cataloging and Dissemination. Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Conference.

Frankovich, T.A., Cunniff, K.M., Kelly, S.P., and Fourqurean, J.W. 2013. Reduced light availability complicates aquatic vegetation restoration in estuaries thought to be controlled by salinity. 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation.

Frankovich, T.A., Barr, J., Morrison, D., Fourqurean, J.W., and Cunniff, K.M. 2011. Differential importance of water quality parameters and temporal patterns of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) cover in adjacent sub-estuaries distinguished by alternate regimes of phytoplankton and SAV dominance. 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation.

Frankovich, T.A., Morrison, D., Fourqurean, J.W., and Cunniff, K.M. 2010. Seasonal patterns in benthic macrophytes and water quality parameters in the Mangrove Lakes region of Florida Bay. Florida Keys Science Conference.

Frankovich, T.A., Morrison, D., Fourqurean, J.W., Barr, J., and Cunniff, K.M. 2010. Seasonal patterns in *Chara* and *Halodule* communities in the mangrove lakes and estuaries of the coastal Everglades: Relationships to environmental variables. Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference.

Rudnick, D., Boyer, J., Blair, S., Madden, C., Kelly, S., Cunniff, K., and Kelble, C. 2007. Disturbance and ecosystem change in Florida Bay and southern Biscayne Bay. 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Estuarine Research Federation.

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Cunniff, K.M. and Fourqurean, J.W. 2001. Sexual reproduction of the marine angiosperm *Thalassia testudinum*. Florida International University Tropical Biology Symposium.



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** April 4, 2023

**FROM:**   
Gen Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 8(L)(4)

Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Statement of social equity required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present \_\_\_\_, 2/3 membership , 3/5's \_\_\_\_, unanimous \_\_\_\_, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) \_\_\_\_, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) \_\_\_\_, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) \_\_\_\_ ) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(4)  
4-4-23

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION WAIVING, BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE RESIDENT ELECTOR REQUIREMENT OF SECTION 2-11.38 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND APPOINTING KEVIN M. CUNNIFF TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BISCAYNE BAY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM

**WHEREAS**, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board, by a two-thirds vote of its membership, hereby waives the resident elector requirement of section 2-11.38 of the Code of Miami-Dade County and appoints Kevin M. Cunniff, as recommended by the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, to the Miami-Dade County Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board to serve a four-year term beginning with the effective date of this resolution.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman  
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman

Marleine Bastien	Juan Carlos Bermudez
Kevin Marino Cabrera	Sen. René García
Roberto J. Gonzalez	Keon Hardemon
Danielle Cohen Higgins	Eileen Higgins
Kionne L. McGhee	Raquel A. Regalado
Micky Steinberg	

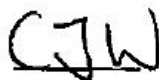
The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LUIS G. MONTALDO, CLERK AD INTERIM

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Christopher J. Wahl