Informational Meeting
Florida Red Tide

Wednesday, August 29, 2018
6 – 8 p.m.

North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road

6:00 – 6:05 Thaddeus Cohen (Moderator) Welcome

6:05 – 6:10 Commissioner Taylor

* Speaker Introductions

6:10 - 6:40 MOTE Drs. Vince Lovko, Tracy Fanara, & Rich Pierce

* What is Ted tide
* Red Tide vs Microcystis
* Health & Wildlife Effects
* Potential Causes & Mitigation

6:40 – 6:45 Rhonda Watkins

* Collier County’s Role

6:45 – 6:55 Phil Flood

* What is a Watershed
* SFWMD Environmental Resource Permitting

6:55-7:00 Lt. Colonel Jennifer Reynolds

* Lake Okeechobee Discharges

7:00 - 7:10 Jennifer Leeds

* Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program

7:10 – 7:20 Dr Bill Mitsch (via Skype)

* Investigating the Causes and Mitigation of Harmful Algal Blooms, Including Red Tide, in South Florida

7:20 – 7:45 Q & A

7:45 - 8:00 Elected Official Comments

**Dr. Vince Lovko**, is the Staff Scientist and Program Manager Phytoplankton Ecology with MOTE. Dr. Lovko received his bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science with minors in Chemistry and Sociology from Christopher Newport University in Virginia in 1997. From there, he worked as a laboratory chemist before acquiring a position as a tech in the electron microscopy lab at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester, Virginia. He entered into the graduate program at VIMS in 2001 working on Pfiesteria. Vince earned his doctoral degree from VIMS in 2008 and accepted a post-doctoral appointment at the University of Southern Mississippi Department of Marine Science working on optical detection and characterization of harmful algal blooms in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Following the completion of his post-doc appointment near the end of 2010, he accepted a position as staff scientist at Mote Marine Laboratory in the Phytoplankton Ecology program. Dr. Lovko is now the Program Manager of the Phytoplankton Ecology Program at Mote.

**Dr. Tracy Fanara** is the Staff Scientist and Program Manager Environmental Health with MOTE. Dr. Fanara joined the Environmental Health program in March of 2015. Dr. Fanara has extensive experience in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling through her doctoral research as well as almost 10 years of engineering consulting experience. At Mote, Dr. Fanara manages the Environmental Health Program, investigating the effects of marine and freshwater chemicals on public health. A focus of the program is Mote’s Beach Conditions Reporting System, which is an operational, non-federal, sub-regional observing system providing real and near-time data from the Florida Gulf coast. Tracy works with Gulf Coast beaches to organize twice daily beach condition reports, which are available to the public at [www.mote.org/beaches](http://www.mote.org/beaches). She also brings creative ways to educate and inform the public about Florida red tide and other harmful algae blooms.

**Dr. Richard Pierce** is Senior Scientist for Ecotoxicology and Associate Vice President for Research at Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, FL. He received his B.A. & M.S in Chemistry from the University of South FL, and Ph.D. in Chemical Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island, GSO, followed by Postdoctoral Research in plant pathology at URI. Dr. Pierce was Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at the University of Southern Miss., and Associate Professor of Chemical Oceanography at FL Institute of Technology. He joined Mote Marine Laboratory as a Senior Scientist where he developed the research program in Ecotoxicology, focusing on the source, fate and effects of toxic chemicals in the marine environment. His studies include Harmful Algal toxins in air, water and marine organisms along the FL Gulf coast, as well as pesticides and other endocrine disrupting compounds in the FL Keys National Marine Sanctuary. He has special interest in trophic transfer and bioaccumulation of toxins in shellfish, and strategies for mitigating adverse effects of toxic chemicals to environmental and public health. Dr. Pierce has more than 75 published manuscripts and lectures nationally and internationally on his research. He continues to mentor college students as research interns at Mote and by serving on graduate student research committees at various universities.

**Rhonda Watkins** is a Principal Environmental Specialist with Collier County Pollution Control. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Biology from Wittenberg University with special studies from Duke University. She has been working with water quality in Collier County for 28 years. She has been monitoring red tide for nearly 25 years and has participated in various research programs and grant panels involving red tide.

**Phil Flood** serves as the Regional Representative at the South Florida Water Management District’s Ft. Myers Service Center and serves as the agency’s legislative liaison advocating natural resource issues with the Florida Legislature.  He has worked for the District for 12 years and has over 25 years of resource management experience with the State of Florida including the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, Department of Environmental Protection and Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Environmental Protection.

**Lt. Colonel Jennifer A. Reynolds** has served as the Deputy District Commander for South Florida in the Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since June 2015 working on hurricane response and recovery, water management operations, Everglades restoration, and the full portfolio of Corps activities in south Florida. In 2017, she deployed from Florida for 7 months to serve as the Deputy Commander of the Mosul Dam Task Force in Iraq. Her previous assignments include: Chief of the Corps' Unified Operations Center in Washington D.C. in 2014-2015, Assistant Director, Civil Works from 2011 to 2013, and numerous Army engineer assignments with combat and combat support units worldwide since 1995. She has served in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Germany. Her undergraduate degree is in natural resource management and her graduate degree is in strategic planning.

**Jennifer Leeds** is the Section Administration in the Everglades Policy and Coordination office overseeing the management of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP).  I have been with the South Florida Water Management District for over 20 years working on Everglades Restoration, starting in research then transitioned into CERP.

**Dr. Bill Mitsch** has been Eminent Scholar and Director, Everglades Wetland Research Park, and Juliet C. Sproul Chair for Southwest Florida Habitat Restoration at Florida Gulf Coast Universityin Naples FL since October 2012. After a B.S. in engineering from the University of Notre Dame, he received an M.E. in environmental engineering and a Ph.D. in systems ecology at the University of Florida, the latter under H.T. Odum. Before coming back to Florida, he was a professor “up north” for 36 years including the last 26 years as Distinguished Professor of Environmental Science and Founder/Director of the Olentangy River Wetland Research Park at The Ohio State University. His research and teaching have focused on wetland ecology and biogeochemistry, and restoration of wetlands, estuaries, rivers, floodplains, and landscapes. His over 700 publications include 5 editions of the textbook *Wetlands*. He is Past President of the *Society of Wetland Scientists* and *American Ecological Engineering Society* and founder and editor-in-chief for 25 years of *Ecological Engineering*. Among his many awards, he received the Stockholm Water Prize from H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. Dr. Mitsch has advised 79 graduate students at 4 universities to completion. Nineteen of his former grad students and post docs are now teaching in universities and he is currently advising 3 Ph.D. students in Florida.