ECOSWF Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 25, 2025
5300 COLONIAL OAKS BLVD. SARASOTA
COLONIAL OAKS PARK ROOM A*
9:30 – 2:30

Hello ECOSWF members,
It is hard to believe a year has past already. It certainly was a year for environment challenges. Together, we have been able to stop many of them, that is the value of having an umbrella organization of environmental organizations and individuals. In legislative decisions, numbers matter.

ECOSWF membership also offers our members the opportunity to enlist ECOSWF in support of their causes, again, there by increasing the numbers of supporters. ECOSWF's Webpage and Facebook page allow our members to reach an even broader audience ECOSWF's members include organizations from Manatee, Sarasota, Collier, Glades, Highlands, Desoto and Charlotte Counties) by ECOSWF's posting your events, action alerts and educational information. ECOSWF's Board of Directors meets by teleconference the last Thursday of the month. All member organizations official representative are welcome to join the Board.

ECOSWF's Annual Meeting will include ECOSWF's annual business meeting, the members' Family Reunion and this year, Attorney and former law professor, Richard Grosso will solve the puzzle of public participation in land use planning and decisions.
Mr. Grosso's presentation has limited seating (60) with priority going to ECOSWF members, then organizations involved in land use decisions. Each organization may have two representatives. See attached reservation form. The sooner you RSVP, the sooner ECOSWF can acknowledge reservations.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

9:30 – 10:00	REGISTRATION
10:00 – 10:30	BUSINESS MEETING. Election of Officers, Annual Budget, Last year's Minutes, Members' Motions
10:30 – 12:00	FAMILY REUNION. ECOSWF's member organizations share information.
12:00 – 1:00	POTLUCK LUNCHEON Bring a dish full, enough to share, of your favorite food. The Family Reunion may continue after plates are filled if necessary.
1:00 – 1:30	REGISTRATION FOR RICHARD GROSSO'S PRESENTATION

*DIRECTIONS: Colonial Oaks Blvd. in west off Cattleman Road. Cattleman Rd. can be reached from I75 Bee Ridge (south of Colonial Oaks) or Fruitville (north of colonial Oaks) Roads exits. There is a stop light at Colonial Oaks Blvd. Follow the Blvd. and you will see the park.

ECOSWF MEMBSHIP APPLICATION

ORGANAIZATION:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____**STATE:**_____**ZIP:**_____**COUNTY:**_____

PHONE:_____**CELL:**_____**EMAIL:**_____

ECOSWF DESIGNATED CABINET MEMBER:_____**EMAIL**_____

This will be the person voting for the cabinet organization at the business meeting.

ANNUAL DUES PAYABLE IN JANUARY $ 25.00

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO : ECOSWF AND SEND TO:
Linda Wilson, 6205 Marcum Street, Englewood FL 34224 or go to www.ecoswf.org and press join.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR RICHARD GROSSO'S PRESENTATION

NAMES (2 PER ORGANIZATION)_____

_____

ORGANIZATION _____

CONTACT INFORMATION TO CONFIRM RESERVATION_____

_____

QUESTIONS? Becky Ayech at environmentalconfederation@gmail.com or 941-322-2164.
Email this registration to environemtalconfederation@gmail.com or mail to Linda Wilson , 6205 Marcum Street, Englewood FL 34224

RSVP NOW TO ENSURE A SEAT.

SOLVING THE PUZZLE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN LAND USE DECISIONS .



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DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES CONTINUE TO GROW EXPONENTIALLY.

Members of the public are faced with more and more comprehensive plan amendments, rezone requests, special exceptions and variances from existing regulations. Legislative proceedings and quasi-judicial proceedings are handled differently.

The public is frustrated because it appears commissioners are not listening to them.



RICHARD GROSSO BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Richard Grosso, President of Richard Grosso, P.A., in Plantation, Fla., is a widely recognized environmental public interest lawyer and advocate, with 37 years of experience as a litigator, appellate lawyer, advocate and counselor in the areas of federal and Florida environmental, land use, constitutional, property rights and related governmental and administrative law.

Mr. Grosso has served as a Law Professor at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Executive Director and General Counsel of the Everglades Law Center, Inc., Legal Director for 1000 Friends of Florida, and attorney for the Florida departments of Community Affairs and Environmental Regulation. Over a 37 – year litigation and appellate career, he represented numerous public interest clients and the state of Florida in federal and state administrative and judicial proceedings. He frequently appears before local governments, state and federal agencies, and other bodies concerning land use and environmental issues.

Mr. Grosso has successfully litigated many significant and precedent setting cases in the areas of federal and state environmental permitting, land use planning and development, and property rights. He has also authored numerous publications on, and speaks and lectures extensively about, these and related legal and policy issues. In recent years, Mr. Grosso's work has focused on climate and ecosystem sustainability legal and policy issues.

Richard's work and analysis has been quoted or referenced in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Forbes, Politico*, National and Florida Public Radio, in almost

every major news media in Florida, and other newspapers and blogs across the country and around the world.

Mr. Grosso will explain how to be effect when providing testimony on land use decisions and more importantly how that lets you win