



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Volusia County Council
Reported by Karen Rainville

March 3, 2026

Public Participation

Discussions included concerns regarding land conservation and Volusia Forever. A program, "Dream Green Volusia" has been launched by citizens to oppose changes to "Volusia Forever". This included holding officials to the promised perpetuity of Volusia Forever.

Consent Agenda item 1- Environmental Management

Ginger Adair was thanked for her efforts in securing grants to convert septic systems in DeLeon Springs. Council member David Santiago proposed the same for the Blue Springs Basin.

March 17, 2026 - Submitted by Nancy Vaughn

At the March 17th County Council Meeting Item 03-Volusia Forever was scheduled for discussion. It was previously requested by Councilman Dempsy on December 2, 2025, passed by the council and put on the agenda. In preparation for the agenda Item 03 County Council Staff had put together a thorough presentation to clarify the time-tested features of Volusia Forever that have been called into doubt over the past year. There were dozens of people in the chamber to speak in support of the program. Councilman Robins pulled the item from the agenda, the council voted to leave the program as it is and to explore only the bonding process at a future meeting. While this outcome was welcomed by supporters of Volusia Forever, there remain some issues. One, because the staff presentation wasn't given in chambers the inaccurate allegations against Volusia Forever were never rebutted. Two, a workshop was granted at the request of Councilman Dempsy where no public comment is allowed. Three, it encourages continued undermining of a time-tested program. Volusia Forever and conservation in general have never been partisan issues in Volusia County or in the State of Florida.



The County Council will consider an item related to bonding for future Volusia Forever acquisitions. It will be presented by the County's Chief Financial Officer at the April 7, 2026, meeting and is Item H [FILE NUMBER 13429](#) Authorization of Reimbursement Resolution and Preliminary Matters for Limited Tax General Obligation Bond Issuance for Volusia Forever Lands Acquisition.