

FRANCES HOWELL-COLEMAN

Frances Howell-Coleman has been involved in water resource conservation issues since the early 1970's. As a long-time resident of Polk County, home of 554 natural lakes, vast wetlands and portions of 4 major rivers, she has focused her efforts on the protection of these environmental assets.

Frances has served on numerous committees, stakeholder groups and on several non-profit organizations that have affected the regulation, protection or enhancement of Florida's water resources:

- Winter Haven Federation of Lakes Association – 1977 – present (Purpose: To preserve and protect the lakes of Greater Winter Haven area. The Federation promotes and encourages the conservation of the water resources of the Greater Winter Haven area lakes, will protect the lakes from pollution, and will provide educational opportunities to allow people to better understand the importance of the lakes.)
- Sierra Club Florida Chapter Chair – 1980
- Save Our Lakes – 1980's
- Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Highlands Ridge Water Use Caution Area Workgroup - 1989
- Polk County Comprehensive Plan Citizen Advisory Committee – 1990 (Frances authored a Committee Minority Report on the plan because the plan was silent to significant conservation issues. The plan was so ridiculously bad that it did not make reference to the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern of which 189,000 acres are designated in Polk County.)
- SWFWMD Winter Haven Chain of Lakes Surface Water Improvement & Management Citizens Committee - 1997
- City of Winter Haven Visioning Committee: Lake Preservation and Enjoyment Key Performance Area – 2000
- City of Winter Haven Lakes Advisory Committee – 2004 – present (The responsibility of the Lakes Advisory Committee is to receive input and gather pertinent information concerning any adverse impacts to City lakes. The advisory then reports the data and any proposed action(s) to the City Commission.
- South Florida Water Management District Lower Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Public Use Work Group – 2007 http://consensus.fsu.edu/FWC/KCL/KCL_Report_Feb07.pdf
- Polk County Committee to develop rules for new park on Lake Kissimmee (now called Coleman Landing Shady Oaks Recreation Area) – 2008
<http://www.theledger.com/article/20111105/NEWS/111109633>
- Polk County Lakes Access Advisory Committee – 2009 - 2014
The Committee evaluates ways to increase public access to Polk County's lakes, and reports findings and makes recommendations to the County Commission.

Frances was recognized as Water Conservationist of the Year in 2012 by the Florida Wildlife Federation.