



## AGENDA

April 10, 2019 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Estero Rec Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero, FL 33928 - 239-498-0415

(Subject to change. Times are approximate.)

**6:30 PM – Gathering (Chat, set up tables and chairs, etc.)**

**6:45 PM - Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Reading of the First Amendment**

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Liberty is essential to political life, we tell the world. (<https://editorials.voa.gov/a/the-importance-of-the-first-amendment-/3733070.html>)

### **Welcome to the Club – Steven Blumrosen**

- Introduction of Officers and Directors
- Anyone not sign in?
- Please contribute what you can to the donation jar to help the Club pay for the room
- Soda machine in hall. Restrooms down the hall or by front door of the rec center.
- Reminder, this is a good time to renew membership or apply to become a member. (only \$20/30!)

### **Secretary’s Report – Help Wanted: One Good Club Secretary**

### **Treasurer’s Report – Jim Watson**

**7:00 PM – Steven Blumrosen – Guest Speakers**

1. **Steven Blumrosen – Red Tide, Green-Blue Algae, Democrats and Other Mammals** (about a 15 minute powerpoint inspired by Allen Stewart’s talk at last month’s Club meeting)
2. **Attached is an urgent message from SCCF.** If we need a conversation starter, this is a good one. What do those Republicans in the Statehouse do with their spare time? Think up things that make no sense? It makes no sense, to me, to talk about new roads through the Everglades when we’re still trying to recover from the Summer of 2018. And, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is yet to be fully implemented.

**8:15 PM – Get up, Stretch, chat with Speaker, Replace tables and chairs.**



## Take Action; OPPOSE Harmful Toll Road!

Before Thursday please contact the Senate Appropriations Committee members to **oppose SB 7068**. This Senate priority to implement three mid-state toll roads is being sold as a fix for traffic congestion in our coastal communities, rural economic development and hurricane evacuation assistance. SCCF believes this cost prohibitive plan will result in sprawling development that will impact wildlife corridors, existing conservation land and will not solve coastal traffic congestion by building roads in the interior.



In addition to providing an expressway no one has asked for – this plan would divert up to \$100 million per year for three years from the State's general fund and authorizes the FL Dept. of Transportation to borrow billions more even if FDOT determines that these toll roads will not generate enough revenue to make their annual payments on the bonded money. Our focus should be to fund existing priorities such as hurricane recovery, water quality and full funding for the Florida Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF).

This mid-state expressway plan would destroy many highly productive natural resource conservation areas. At a time when our state is challenged by polluted water, our priority should be to support those natural systems that filter water, not eliminate them with road construction and development. The following map provided by Defenders of Wildlife illustrates the potential damage to existing conservation land and the complete bifurcation of natural flow-ways and wildlife corridors:

[SB 7068 – Proposed Suncoast and Heartland Expressway multi-use corridors](#)

There are a multitude of more effective and efficient ways to support rural economic development, address the state's traffic congestion and assist hurricane evacuation including:

- Investing millions in rural economic development by building on their existing strengths. Rural areas need permanent solutions and boasts of job creation for road construction only provide temporary jobs.
- As a whole, the Southwest Florida region, with U.S. Census Bureau 2017 population estimates of 1.76 million people which includes Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota counties, has a hurricane shelter deficit of almost 123,000 shelter spaces. According to the 2018 Florida Emergency Management Division, State Wide Emergency Shelter Plan, spending much needed funds to build new hurricane shelter facilities and/or local designation of new space could significantly reduce or eliminate the projected deficits. More local shelter capacity also reduces hurricane evacuation traffic loads.
- Addressing practical transportation solutions where the traffic is; in traffic congested metropolitan areas of the state. Building an expressway in rural areas will do nothing to help families get their children to school, employees to get to work or alleviate gridlock in Florida's population centers.