

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION**  
**MMRB Liaison: Dr. Evelyn Cardenas, (319) 936-6416**

**MISSION**

Recommends revisions to regulations affecting the continuing protection of the environmental quality of the air, water, and land in Orange County; holds public hearings on appeals of staff decisions regarding environmental permits.

**STATUS OF VACANCIES**

There are three vacancies on this seven-member board in the agricultural interests and at large representative categories due to the resignation of Billy Butterfield and the removal of Jared A. Gasper for non-attendance. The terms of Karin Leissing, Margaret Shan Atkins, Peter Fleck, Kelly Eger-Smith, and Richard A. Horn have expired.

**THE MMRB RECOMMENDS:**

Consideration of the reappointment of Karin Leissing in the licensed professional engineer representative category with a term expiring December 31, 2026 and Margaret Shan Atkins in the recognized conservation organization representative category, Kelly Eger-Smith in the environmental specialist representative category, and Peter J. Fleck in the regulated private business or municipality representative category with terms expiring December 31, 2025; the appointment of Dawson L. Amico to succeed Billy Butterfield in the agricultural interests representative category with a term expiring December 31, 2025; and the appointment of J. Gordon Spears to succeed Jared A. Gasper in the at large representative category with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

<b><u>APPLICANT</u></b>	<b><u>OCCUPATION</u></b>	<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>ETHN</u></b>	<b><u>GEN</u></b>	<b><u>DIST</u></b>
Dawson L. Amico	Hospitable Harvests/Business Owner/Consultant	O	NH	M	1
J. Gordon Spears	Retired	O	NH	M	5

**SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Dawson L. Amico:** Mr. Amico is a business owner and consultant with Hospitable Harvests. He studied environmental science at the University of Central Florida.

**J. Gordon Spears:** Mr. Spears is retired. He has a bachelor's degree in environmental design from Auburn University. He previously served on the Affordable Housing Advisory Board and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

## CURRENT BOARD

	<u>ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>	<u>RACE</u>	<u>ETHN</u>	<u>GEN</u>	<u>DIST</u>
<b><u>Licensed Professional Engineer</u></b>						
Karin Leissing	12/31/22	12/31/24	A/PI	NH	F	4
<b><u>Agricultural Interest</u></b>						
Billy Butterfield [RESIGNED]	12/03/19	12/31/23	W	NH	M	3
<b><u>Recognized Environmental Conservation Organization</u></b>						
Margaret Shan Atkins	09/12/23	12/31/23	W	NH	F	5
<b><u>Regulated Private Business or Municipal Representative</u></b>						
Peter J. Fleck	10/12/21	12/31/23	W	NH	M	1
Richard A. Horn	12/14/21	12/31/24	W	NH	M	3
<b><u>Environmental Specialist</u></b>						
Kelly Eger-Smith	03/07/23	12/31/23	W	NH	F	1
<b><u>At Large Citizen Representative</u></b>						
Jared A. Gasper [REMOVED]	03/07/23	12/31/24	W	NH	M	4

Vacant

## **Advisory Board Application for Appointment**

**Date:** 1/1/2025

**Application Number:** 93102

**Application Expires:** 1/1/2027

**Name:** Mr. Dawson Lance Amico

**Business Address:**

Not Listed

**Home Address:**

14649 Lone Eagle Drive

Orlando, FL 32837

**Mail Address:**

14649 Lone Eagle Drive

Orlando, FL 32837

**Email Address:** dawsonamico@gmail.com

**Home Telephone Number:**

(407) 405-8291

**Work Telephone Number:**

Not Listed

**Employer:** Hospitable Harvests

**Job Title:** Business Owner/ Consultant

**Years Employed:** Not Listed

**Education:**

**School:** University of Central Florida

**Degree:** Environmental Science

**Boards of Interest:**

Environmental Protection Commission

Agricultural Advisory Board

Sustainability Advisory Board

**Licenses and Certificates:** Market Gardening

**Issue Date:** 7/15/1905

**Issuing Authority:** FDACS/ IDEAS

**Disciplinary Action:** Not Listed

**From:** Not Listed

**To:** Not Listed

**Personal History:** I have lived in Orlando my whole life as a resident of Hunters Creek. I personally believe I qualify for the boards I have chosen because I am a leader in the central Florida environmental community. I am the oldest year of Generation Z at age 25 and believe that I can offer a fresh perspective on how Orlando needs to sustainably develop amidst the population boom we are currently experiencing. This means smart urban development with ecologically responsible practices. Throughout my career I have converted degraded unused land such as lawns and turned them into small but mighty ecological paradises ranging from microfarms to native plant meadows. The national park service says that "if half of american lawns were replaced with native plants, we would collectively create the equivalent of a 20 million acre national park 9 times bigger than Yellowstone." This is entirely within reach and Orlando and other HOA's within should adopt rules that not only allow but incentivize these practices. Everywhere I look in Orlando I see underutilized space that could be combatting the biodiversity crisis this world is currently experiencing. The underutilized space in Orlando ranges from lawns as previously mentioned, to retention ponds that should have wetland plants in their shorelines to prevent erosion and mitigate flooding from hurricanes. Imagine transforming a retention pond from a barren body of water to an aquatic butterfly garden. The positive impact this could have goes beyond just the ecological community and improves the lives of Orlando residents. Orlando is beautiful and I cannot help imagining how much potential it has to be more gorgeous and serve the community at the same time. Ultimately my passion for this city, its people, and our wildlife invigorates me to continue fighting for change on a local level. Serving on any one of these boards would be an absolute honor and I hope to be strongly considered. Thank you!

**Prior Relationship with County:** No

**Explain Prior Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** Lee Perry

**Phone Number:** (407) 314-1761

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Previous Boss

**Reference:** Caroline Chomanics

**Phone Number:** (407) 970-6135

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Previous Boss

**Reference:** Clayton Ferrara

**Phone Number:** (772) 486-8280

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Previous Boss

**Professional Organizations:** Fleet Farming

**From:** 2021

**To:** 2024

**Professional Organizations:** IDEAS For Us

**From:** 2018

**To:** 2024

**Orange County Resident:** Yes

**Registered Voter:** Yes

**Previously Served On:** Unlisted

**Year Previously Served:** Unlisted

**Gender:** Male

**Date of Birth:** 6/3/1999

**Are you of Hispanic origin?** Not Hispanic

**Resident Since:** 1999

**District:** Orange County District 1

**Disabled:** No

**Age:** 25

**Race:** Other

## Advisory Board Application for Appointment

**Date:** 1/5/2025

**Application Number:** 93202

**Application Expires:** 1/5/2027

**Name:** Mr. J. Gordon Spears

**Business Address:**

Not Listed

**Home Address:**

1626 Baltimore Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32803

**Mail Address:**

Not Listed

**Email Address:** jgspears2022vote@gmail.com

**Home Telephone Number:**

(407) 758-8478

**Work Telephone Number:**

Not Listed

**Employer:** Retired

**Job Title:** Ecologist

**Years Employed:** 30

**Education:**

**School:** Auburn University

**Degree:** BS Environmental Design

**Boards of Interest:**

Environmental Protection Commission

**Licences/Certificates Information:** Not Listed

**Personal History:** More than 30 years experience as a professional ecologist specializing in habitat mapping, ecosystem restoration, wetland delineation, & protected species management.

**Prior Relationship with County:** No

**Explain Prior Relationship:** Not Listed

**Reference:** D. J. Silverberg

**Phone Number:** (407) 375-4822

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Former colleague

**Reference:** Aaron Powell

**Phone Number:** (407) 222-0167

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Co-Board Member, Orlando Bike Coali

**Reference:** Michael Rizzo

**Phone Number:** (407) 353-3226

**Capacity/ Relationship:** Co-officer in Neighborhood Assn

**Professional Organization Information:** Not Listed

**Orange County Resident:** Yes

**Resident Since:** 1995

**Registered Voter:** Yes

**District:** Orange County District 5

**Previously Served On:** Planning & Zoning Commission/Local Planning A

**Year Previously Served:** 2016

**Gender:** Male

**Disabled:** No

**Date of Birth:** 11/14/1958

**Age:** 66

**Are you of Hispanic origin?** Not Hispanic

**Race:** Other

**Current Applicants for the Environmental Protection Commission as of 3/5/2025**

Name	Sex	Race	Hispanic Origin	District/County	Application Date
Alvarez, Sergio	M	Other	Hispanic	Orange County District 5	1/15/2025
Amico, Dawson Lance	M	Other	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 1	1/1/2025
Ballard, Emily M.	F	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 3	2/10/2025
Bersani, Angelo	M	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 1	3/19/2024
Betts, Laura	F	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 1	7/10/2023
Brandon, Brian P.	M	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 2	4/22/2024
Dalton, Kyle Edward	Unlisted	Unlisted	Unlisted	Orange County District 3	9/25/2024
Figueroa, Stacy A.	F	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 1	5/23/2024
Graham, Quibulah	F	African American	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 6	4/10/2024
Grocholske, Matthew D.	M	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 5	12/9/2024
James, Majorie D.	F	African American	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 2	8/6/2024
Lafata, Rachael	F	Caucasian	Hispanic	Orange County District 5	5/30/2023
Miller, Kathryn Metzinger	F	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 5	9/19/2024
Munizzi, Daniel S.	M	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 5	4/17/2023
Nemes, Sarah	F	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 4	8/15/2023
Plate, Richard R.	M	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 3	12/30/2023
Reinhart, Debra R.	F	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 5	1/3/2025
Spears, J. Gordon	M	Other	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 5	1/5/2025
Stamm, David John	M	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 1	6/27/2024
Thomas, Neal E.	M	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Seminole County	3/27/2024
Willhoit, Robert Reilly	M	Caucasian	Not Hispanic	Orange County District 4	5/7/2024