



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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TWO NEW LEADERS JOIN MARION COUNTY'S TEAM

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Oct. 20, 2009) – The Marion County Board of County Commissioners unanimously confirmed two new leaders for Marion County government during today's board meeting, filling the open Public Services Assistant County Administrator and Utilities Director positions.

Kenneth Griffin, 59, is Marion County's new Public Services Assistant County Administrator. Griffin comes to Marion County from Hillsborough County and has 30 years of experience in management, public works, engineering, strategic planning and project management. He has a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry, two Master's degrees in Civil Engineering and Ecosystems and a Ph.D. in Leadership.

Griffin will oversee seven Marion County departments, including Animal Services, Community Services, Extension Service, Growth Management, Libraries, Parks and Recreation and Veterans Services. Griffin replaces Drew Adams, who has served as the Acting Public Services Assistant County Administrator since April 2009. Adams, who did not apply for the position, will resume his lead role as Human Resources Director. Griffin will earn \$117,000 a year.

The interview panel that unanimously chose Griffin consisted of Public Safety Assistant County Administrator M. Stuart McElhaney, Public Works Assistant County Administrator Dr. Larry Thacker, Administrative Services Bureau Chief Bill Kauffman, Human Resources Director Drew Adams, Information Technology Department Director Valerie Kendrick and citizens Ron Ewers and Dr. Jo Clifford.

Meanwhile, Flip Mellinger, 47, received a promotion from Assistant Utilities Director to Utilities Director. Mellinger replaces Andy Neff, who resigned in June 2009. Mellinger is a proven leader with 28 years of experience in utilities management. He also has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and a Master's degree in Business Administration. He is currently pursuing a second Master's degree in Environmental Management. Mellinger understands Marion County's challenges and personnel. He is knowledgeable about the master plan and wants to focus on increasing efficiency and reducing costs.

Mellinger will direct and maintain the infrastructure for Marion County Utilities to ensure that water, wastewater and reuse water are provided to protect public health and comply with regulatory and environmental requirements. Mellinger will also oversee Utilities' capital improvement program. He will maintain and evaluate the existing infrastructure and lead Marion County in the design of long term solutions for the countywide utilities systems.

The interview panel that unanimously chose Mellinger consisted of Solid Waste Director Ken Whitehead, Procurement Services Director Susan Olsen, Assistant Budget Director Audrey Doody, Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce President Jaye Baillie and citizen Jeff Halcomb. Mellinger will earn \$94,265.60 a year.

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