Summary

Versatile senior manager excels at leading intergovernmental and multi-disciplinary teams to solve complex urban, social and environmental resource problems using talents in planning, design and engineering (and supporting disciplines). Keen political acumen from decades of public administration and private sector service employing innovative design, programmatic, management, budgetary and legislative solutions. Agile small and large-group facilitator, public specialist and consensus builder formulating outreach implementing shared strategic visions. Skilled at grants, appropriations and issues advocacy. Reported to chief executives, senior elected and appointed local, regional and high-level state officials. Worked with at least twelve Community Redevelopment Agencies in Florida, and one revitalization plan in Oklahoma.

Experience (Years)

Principal, Community Solutions: Sole Practitioner consultant applying planning, engineering, and design talents to develop or revitalize communities, business, properties, or organizations. Provide full suite of planning services (master, comprehensive, strategic, visioning, LDRs, etc.) & development entitlement for sustainable and economic development, jobs centers, conservation and resource management. Served dozens of local government clients including Community Redevelopment Agencies from Oveido to North Miami; partner/collaborate with numerous engineering and planning firms, including serving as **Vice President** of Keith & Schnars (2015-16), a 130-person, \$15 M annual Florida-based company. (7 years and current)

Strategic Planner/Facilitator: Apply advanced facilitation, various nominal group workshop, and Charrette-style planning techniques to consensus visions and strategic priorities plans for local governments, not-for-profits, neighborhoods, economic development zones, landowners and businesses. Diverse strategic plan portfolio from small companies to local governments ranging from 35,000-180,000 population. (9)

Director, VHB Miller Sellen (formerly MSCW), Stuart, FL: Comanaged branch office providing community and resources planning, civil engineering, and design consulting services to public and private clients for 35,000+ acres in the Treasure Coast region. Master, site, comprehensive, mixed-use, and strategic planning for clients ranging from CRAs to large agri-business landowners, applying urban design, planning and sustainability principles. (5)

Academia & Certifications

Master of City & Regional Planning, Ohio State University, 1983. $A\Phi A$ Academic Honorary

Certificate, Liberal Arts, Architecture/Town Planning, New College, Oxford University, England, 1981

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science; Community Development (minor). Southern Illinois University, 1980. *ATΩ* President

Charrette Planner, National Charrette Institute

Advanced Facilitation, Broward County Board of County Commissioners

Merchant Mariner Credential, (Sea Captain) 50 Ton Master, United States Coast Guard

Affiliations & Activities

Urban Land Institute, Vice Chair of Southeast Florida/Caribbean Advisory Board

Florida League of Cities, "Strategic Planning in Tight Budget Times" seminar leader at Annual Conference, 2011

Florida Association for Intergovernmental (City/County) Relations, President

South Florida Regional Planning Council, Ex-officio gubernatorial appointee

American Planning
Association, Member & Speaker,
Legislative Policy Committee,
National Instructor for Institute of
Certified Planner (AICP) on-line
study course

Chambers of Commerce/ Economic Development Councils, Various memberships and guest speaking/ collaboration.

James Anaston-Karas

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Legislative Manager, Broward County, FL: Formulated, executed and advocated complex agenda supporting \$4B+ annual budget in the legislative and executive branches of state government. Managed lobbying team (staff and contracted), devised persuasive arguments, delivered testimony and forged coalitions to pass new legislation and secure multi-millions in appropriations for a wide range of projects and programs. (5)

Director, South Florida Water Management District, Broward County, FL: As Director of countywide Service Center, managed staff, budget, grant awards and programs for symmetry between economic development/urban growth and sustainable water resources. Negotiated and authored portions of first Regional Water Supply Plan; project managed State's first Integrated Water Resource Plan. Advisor to County's Water Advisory Board and member, Technical Advisory Committee. Liaison to 30 local governments including during emergencies/ hurricanes. Managed public and media outreach, environmental education, land use policy review, and \$50 million in alternative water supply planning local government partner projects and grants. Staffed the Governor's Commission for Sustainable South Florida. Timer Powers Productivity Award. (8)

Policy Coordinator for Speaker of Florida House, Growth Management House Subcommittee Chief Analyst, and Senior Legislative Aide in the Florida Senate. Specialties in local government/growth management, transportation, water and natural resources, and special districts. Coalition building/negotiating while drafting, assisting with major legislation such as creation of "Preservation 2000", comprehensive 5-year transportation capital plan, indexing of gas tax, intergovernmental conflict resolution. (8)

Media Outreach, Spokesman, and Public Speaker: Organized multiple media outreach events, press conferences and forums, managed messaging; Frequent conference, seminar and workshop presenter/moderator. Multi-media interviews. Project spokesman for multi-million-dollar community master plans. (16)

Adjunct Professor, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL: Created and taught new core curriculum in Environmental Planning. (3)

Affiliations & Activities

American Water Resources
Association (Florida):
Member & Event Chair

Florida Redevelopment Association, Member

Strategic Plan Steering Committee, Arcosanti, AZ. International appointee charting future for \$250M+ solar-designed architectural/urban prototype

Florida Clean Energy Congress: Statewide Conference Delegate, 2010 & 2013.

Sustainable Treasure Coast, Inc.: Vice President and
Executive Committee.

Leadership Broward Foundation, Inc., Vice President, Event Chair, Honoree. Creator, History-Urban-Environment Leadership Day.

Waterways, Marine
Master Plan Steering
Committees. Appointee
assisting with waterways/
marine master plans in
Treasure Coast and Broward
Counties.

Philanthropic,

Boys and Girls Clubs, Mentoring. Broward & Martin Counties. Unit President, Board Member; Mentor of the Year, STARS Academy for at-risk youth; Over \$50,000 not-forprofit fund-raising.