

Bernice Slutsky

BIO

I grew up in the Midwest (Iowa). After finishing my Ph.D. in Biology at the University of Iowa and working in laboratories in Belgium and Michigan State, I spent the rest of my career in the Washington D.C. area. I left my laboratory work and focused my career on applying my scientific background to policies affecting scientific innovation, primarily in agriculture. My work in the US Government (US EPA and USDA) and the private sector (American Seed Trade Association) centered around the interconnection among science, the law and public policy. Throughout my career, I participated in or led advisory panels and negotiating teams that included a diversity of interests in often controversial topics, such as biotechnology, trade, environment and food safety. Over the last 20 years, I was increasingly involved in international policy efforts and organizations, encompassing an even broader set of backgrounds and views. We bought our Hilton Head house in 2019 and were able to move here permanently in 2020. Until 2023, I was a part time consultant, continuing to chair an international program under the International Seed Federation.

Why I Wish to Serve the Sea Pines Community

Like many, I have been vacationing in Hilton Head for over 25 years. It did not take long to appreciate the beauty of Sea Pines and its uniqueness. I knew from my first trip that Sea Pines was where I wanted to spend my retirement years. Since moving to Sea Pines in 2020, I have developed a better understanding of Sea Pines' distinctiveness, reflected in the interests of property owners and commercial interests. The SPPOA plays a pivotal role for SP property owners. It serves as a point of information flow to property owners and as an avenue for gathering views of property owners and communicating them to CSA and to relevant entities both inside and outside of Sea Pines. The SPPOA has made clear that communication and openness is key through its established priorities and workstreams. I have always felt it is important to become involved in the community where one lives. Now that I am completely retired without the same travel schedule, I know that I am able to fully participate in the important work of the SPPOA and believe that my past experiences can help me make a positive contribution.