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| **For Immediate Release**  **June 15, 2017** | *With photo* |
| **Florida Electric Cooperatives Association Names New GM**  ***Mike Bjorklund to succeed Bill Willingham***    **TALLAHASSEE, FL. –** The Florida Electric Cooperative Association (FECA) today announced that Mike Bjorklund will succeed Bill Willingham as General Manager (GM). Willingham will retire in July after nearly 20 years of service to Florida’s electric cooperatives.  Bjorklund is an accomplished government relations and communications strategist. He has worked with FECA since 2007, most recently serving as Director of Legislative Affairs.  “For years, Mike has effectively advocated for Florida’s electric cooperatives at the state legislature. I’m excited to have him take the helm of our association,” said Kelley Smith, President of FECA. “Mike brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position, and he well understands the importance of electric cooperatives to Florida’s economy. The Florida cooperative mission is one of innovation, community empowerment and economic advancement. I look forward to Mike helping us continue that mission for years to come.”    “I owe a debt of gratitude to Bill and thank him for his exceptional leadership over the past two decades,” Bjorklund said. “The future is full of opportunity for Florida’s electric cooperatives. I’m honored and excited to work with our members as we continue powering and empowering Florida’s families and businesses.”  Bjorklund started as GM in early May. He is a graduate of Troy University and worked for the Florida House of Representatives before joining FECA.  The Florida Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. is a not for profit, statewide trade association representing 15 electric distribution cooperatives and two generation and transmission cooperatives, serving nearly 2 million consumers in 53 of 67 Florida counties.  ### | |