

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF ST. JOHNS, STATE OF FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINDINGS OF ITS CITIZENS COMMITTEE AS APPOINTED ON APRIL 23, 1991 TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR AN "AQUATIC PRESERVE" AND THE ANALYSIS PREPARED BY THIS ST. JOHNS COUNTY AQUATIC PRESERVE COMMITTEE, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR OF THIS STATE, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, THE ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, THE N.E. FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNSEL AND OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITIES REFLECTING A JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARY OF THE LOWER BASIN OF THE ST. JOHNS RIVER.

WHEREAS, in the interest of the citizens of St. Johns County, an Aquatic Preserve Committee (the "Committee") was established by the St. Johns County Commission (the "Commission") for the purpose of analyzing the designation of an "Aquatic Preserve" and the need to halt the decline of the water quality of the St. Johns River within St. Johns County; and

WHEREAS, the Committee, has for the past seven months researched, interviewed, discovered, and analyzed reports from Florida State regulatory agencies, including, but not limited to, the Department of Natural Resources, the Florida Fish and Game Commission, the Department of Environmental Regulation, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Florida Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission acknowledges that the St. Johns River and its tributaries and basin is one of Florida's great natural resources and deserves a high level of protection; and

WHEREAS, there is ample evidence as determined by the Committee that progressive deterioration of water quality in the lower St. Johns River and its tributaries in adjacent county's is taking place and will expand over the next decade as the population it serves grows unless there is joint action by state, regional and basin authorities to prevent same; and

WHEREAS, the Commission seeks to avoid deterioration of the river's water quality by the rigorous application of the anti-degradation policies and standards of the State of Florida to protect Florida surface waters.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The entire lower basin (Ocean to Oklawaha River) of the St. Johns River should be protected by a standing advisory committee to the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Regulation whose membership is drawn equally from the six counties through which it passes. Said Committee shall investigate, formulate, and propose with the various regulatory agencies immediate action under the present existing statutory guidelines to correct deteriorative water quality and protect the natural resource of the St. Johns River. The advisory committee should be formed with one member in good standing of each of the six County Commissions in the basin area plus one participating citizen of each county demonstrating the knowledge and interest in pursuing the protection and maintenance of water quality. Additionally, this Lower St. Johns River Basin Advisory Committee should consist of the Executive Director of N.E. Florida Regional Planning Counsel, St. Johns River Water Management District, and representatives of the Department of Natural Resources, The Florida Fish and Game Commission, and The Department of Environmental Regulation who preferably live in the St. Johns Basin Area and have first hand knowledge of the Lower St. Johns River Basin. The Commission shall endeavor to immediately pursue the establishment of said advisory committee with the six counties involved and direct its efforts and findings to the Department of Environmental Regulation and the Governor of the State of Florida.

Section 2. Said St. Johns River Lower Basin Committee and the County of St. Johns should, thereafter, where economically feasible, support, initiate, control and coordinate the regulatory authorities to pursue active anti-degradation from any sources of the St. Johns Lower

Basin. Additionally, this Commission and its supportive counties shall direct the Department of Environmental Regulation and the St. Johns River Water Management District to immediately analyze all point source and nonpoint source discharges to the lower St. Johns area basin on a regular basis and to further coordinate with the Department of Natural Resources the duties relegated to their regional and state authority to control and manage said discharges.

Section 3. In an effort to further facilitate and upgrade water quality, the six county advisory committee and the Commission shall request from the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Regulation a specific plan for coordination of all agencies with a uniform application of laws and rules applicable to all counties in the basin area. It is the intent of the Commission to further enhance coordination, cooperation, and communication, and, to coordinate their activities of enforcement and jurisdictional review of existing regulations with all state and regional agencies.

Section 4. The Commission and its advisory committee for the "Aquatic Preserve" has found it unnecessary at this time to further pursue the designation of an "Aquatic Preserve" but alternatively recognizes the high need for supporting more effective and basin wide correction of the degradation in surface waters which is taking place. However, in conjunction with the State and County's comprehensive plan, the Commission hereby directs the County Administrator to study, analyze, and report on ways in which St. Johns County ordinances may coordinate with existing Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Regulation, St. Johns River Water Management District and U.S. Corp. of Engineers any and all permitting activities within the lower St. Johns area basin so as to minimize damage to grass beds. Similarly,

the County Administrator would be asked to work with these same agencies to cause bulkheads to be located at or above high water lines and to control the run off of herbicides, pesticides and nutrients from surfaces behind such bulkheads so that the first 1/2" of rainfall is retained before it enters the surface waters within St. Johns County jurisdiction.

Section 5. Lastly, and in conjunction with the mandate of higher water quality for the St. Johns River, the Commission will continue to urge, cooperate with and support the state and regional regulatory authorities in their vigorous application and enforcement of existing state statutes. Accordingly, the Commission shall initiate action to appoint the advisory committee as recommended herein to present an annual "Florida Water Quality Assessment" for the St. Johns River Basin within St. Johns County to the St. Johns County Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 26th day of Novmeber, 1991.

ATTEST: CARL "BUD" MARKEL, CLERK BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Patricia DeGrande  
Deputy Clerk

By: Tom Beal  
Its: Chairman

Aquatic Preserve Committee

Member

Baron Bartlett

David Tillis

Tom Beal

Ben Williams

John Stump

Pinkham Pacetti

Joe Tuttle

Sponsor

Commissioner Balsavage

Commissioner Brinkhoff

Commissioner Herold

Commissioner Bailey

Commissioner Maguire

Commissioner Roberts

Commissioner Floyd

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