

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: January 9, 2007

(X) Consent () Regular
() Ordinance () Public Hearing

Department

Submitted By: Environmental Resources Management

Submitted For: Environmental Resources Management

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to adopt: a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida, in support of the Legislature of the State of Florida (the Legislature) creating and permanently funding a similarly-designed successor program to the “Florida Forever Program”, which is scheduled to expire in the year 2010.

Summary: The Florida Forever Program, developed by the State of Florida to continue the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands initiated in the Preservation 2000 (P-2000) Program, is scheduled to be concluded by 2010. In order to continue the vitally important work of preserving the State's remaining environmentally sensitive lands, the Legislature may consider the establishment of a new land and water conservation program as a successor to Florida Forever Program. Palm Beach County has received over \$61 million in state matching funds from the P-2000 and Florida Forever Programs to assist in its land acquisition efforts, but has received no state funds for the management of these lands. The County anticipates applying for and receiving additional state funds for land acquisition during the remaining years of Florida Forever. Therefore, it is in the best interests of the County and its citizens for the County to support a new land and water conservation program similar to the Florida Forever Program that will include additional dollars to account for the increased land values in the State and will provide management funds for conservation lands currently managed by the County and conservation lands anticipated to be acquired in the future. Countywide (SF)

Background and Justification: The State's P-2000 and Florida Forever Programs are the largest and most successful land acquisition programs in the country for the preservation of environmentally sensitive lands. The P-2000 Program was responsible for the acquisition of 1,781,489 acres of land and the Florida Forever Program has acquired more than 1 million acres of land in the past 5 years. Many of these acres were acquired in conjunction with local government land acquisition programs. Palm Beach County has received more than \$61 million dollars from these State Programs to assist the County's efforts to acquire environmentally sensitive lands through two separate bond referendums, the 1991 Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program and the 1999 Lands for Conservation Purposes Program. Responsible management of the conservation lands already acquired is to be done in perpetuity. It is in the best interest of the County to have a successor State program in place that can provide monetary assistance for any future County acquisitions and for the long-term management of these environmentally sensitive lands.

Attachments:

- ## 1. Resolution

Recommended by:

Department Director

12/7/06
Date

Approved by:

County Administrator

12/20/00
Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____
Budget Account No.: Fund _____ Agency _____ Org. _____ Object _____

Reporting Category _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

C. Department Fiscal Review: _____

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Administrator Comments:

Jim Dahl 12-14-06
OFMB 12/18/06 CN/12/11/06
Jim - J. Jacob 12/18/06
Contract Administrator 12/18/06

B. Legal Sufficiency:

Monroe T. S.
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 - _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA CREATING AND PERMANENTLY FUNDING A SUCCESSOR PROGRAM TO THE "FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM".

WHEREAS, Preservation 2000 (P-2000) and Florida Forever have been the state of Florida's premier land preservation programs since 1990 and have provided funds to acquire and, therefore, save much of Florida's best remaining natural land; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever is scheduled to be concluded in the year 2010; and

WHEREAS, Florida's population continues to grow by more than 1,100 people per day and such population growth has caused the rapid conversion of forests, wetlands, farms, wilderness and other green space; and

WHEREAS, We must protect, preserve, and restore water and land resources for natural systems and human use, as well as for habitat for plants, animals and fisheries; and **WHEREAS**, We must provide exceptional opportunities for outdoor recreation for all Floridians and visitors in order to enhance Florida's economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, We must ensure the effective long-term management of public lands; and

WHEREAS, Florida's native plant and animal species do not yet have sufficient habitat for survival, and Florida's wild lands are being invaded by non-native plant and animal species; and

WHEREAS, Land acquisitions under the P-2000 and Florida Forever Programs have provided significant environmental protection but have not yet completed the job of setting aside enough land and water areas to meet Florida's pressing natural resource needs; and

WHEREAS, In anticipation of the expiration of the Florida Forever Program, a new land and water conservation program to succeed Florida Forever is needed to further the protection of Florida's exceptional wild lands; and

WHEREAS, A successor program to Florida Forever will provide funding for continued land acquisition and, most importantly, for management of previously purchased lands and for lands to be purchased under the new program; and

WHEREAS, The establishment and funding of a successor program to Florida Forever will provide the method and means to meet Florida's critical need to continue to preserve our remaining wild lands, protect our crucial water resources, provide local recreational opportunities, manage publicly owned conservation and recreation lands at both the state and local levels, and restore major ecosystems in Florida.

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- The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner_____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner_____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

COMMISSIONER ADDIE L. GREENE, Chairperson _____

COMMISSIONER JOHN F. KOONS, Vice Chair _____

COMMISSIONER KAREN T. MARCUS _____

COMMISSIONER WARREN H. NEWELL _____

COMMISSIONER MARY McCARTY _____

COMMISSIONER BURT AARONSON _____

COMMISSIONER JESS R. SANTAMARIA _____

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2007.

**PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
DOROTHY H. WILKEN, CLERK**

By: _____
Deputy Clerk