

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date:	October 7, 2014	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular
		<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
Department			
Submitted By:	<u>Environmental Resources Management</u>		
Submitted For:	<u>Environmental Resources Management</u>		


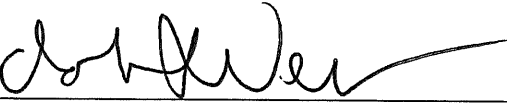
I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to adopt: a Resolution supporting passage of the Water and Land Conservation Amendment to the State Constitution, encouraging support of the Amendment by other organizations, and providing an immediate effective date.

Summary: This Resolution expresses Palm Beach County’s support for passage of the Water and Land Conservation Amendment to the State Constitution, which will appear on the November 4, 2014 ballot as Amendment #1. Support of Amendment #1 by Palm Beach County re-emphasizes the County’s commitment to preserving and restoring the water and natural resources of the County and State for the benefit of all. This Water and Land Conservation Amendment will not increase or decrease any State or local revenue, nor will it alter any tax rate to create the dedicated funds needed to fulfill the purposes of the Amendment. However, it will secure a certain portion of funds that are already collected on real estate and recorded document transactions (documentary stamp tax revenue). The Amendment will secure 33% of this funding source for a period of 20 years. Approval of Amendment #1 may also provide the opportunity for new funding sources to be made available to the County for management and maintenance of natural areas within Palm Beach County. Countywide (SF)

Background and Justification: Amendment #1 was proposed to ensure a secure funding source for the State to protect both its water and land natural resources in the wake of reduced State budgets since 2009 in the Florida Forever Program. Lands remain to be acquired under the visions of the Florida Forever Program and its predecessor, the Preservation 2000 Program. Drinking water resources and the values of our rivers and large springs also need to be preserved, restored and enhanced. Palm Beach County supports the purposes of Amendment #1 and will work diligently to support a portion of the funds raised being set aside for management and maintenance of local government natural lands, and for restoration of the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, Lake Worth Lagoon, and the Loxahatchee River, as well as the enhancement of drinking water supplies for the growing population of our county.

Attachments:
1. Resolution

Recommended by:		<u>9-9-14</u>
	Department Director	Date
Approved by:		<u>9/17/14</u>
	County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	<u>-0-</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes _____ No X

Budget Account No.: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____ Object _____

Program _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:
There is no fiscal impact with this item.

C. Department Fiscal Review:

JP

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

[Signature]
OFMB *9/10* *WAK* *9/10/14*

[Signature] *9/11/14*
Contract Development and Control
9-11-14 *Bohacker*

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature]
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA
WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION AMENDMENT TO THE
STATE CONSTITUTION; ENCOURAGING SUPPORT OF THE
AMENDMENT BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS; AND PROVIDING AN
IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution states, "It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty"; and

WHEREAS, Florida is known for beautiful rivers, lakes, streams, spring sheds, wetlands, forests, wildlife habitat and beaches and shores, and these natural assets are central to our quality of life and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation and tourism is one of Florida's most significant industries, employing one out of every 9 citizens, drawing 90 million people annually to our state, having a \$71 billion annual economic impact in 2012; and

WHEREAS, with support from Florida's Governors and Legislatures from 1990 through 2008, two state programs, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever, received approximately \$300 million in state funding each year; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County manages over 31,300 acres of natural area lands and contains many treasured natural resources of significant environmental importance that contribute greatly to the quality of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of Palm Beach County that action be taken to protect the natural resources of Palm Beach County by acquiring, improving and managing environmentally significant lands; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of these environmentally significant lands will provide opportunities for both existing residents and future generations to enjoy wild and scenic areas and will provide opportunities for resource-based recreation and educational uses as well as opportunities to maintain good surface water quality by using appropriate lands for their natural stormwater cleansing abilities; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County, has benefited directly from state land conservation, management, and restoration programs funded through Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever by receiving over \$82 million in grants from these programs; and

WHEREAS, acquisition, management, restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands in Palm Beach County requires a sustainable, dedicated source of both local and state funding; and

WHEREAS, documentary stamp tax revenues have historically been used to provide state funding for conservation and recreation in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the "Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment" does not increase or decrease revenues to the state or local governments; and

WHEREAS, the "Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment" does not increase the amount or rate of any tax; and

WHEREAS, the “Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment” is on the November 2014 ballot as Amendment #1; and

WHEREAS, the "Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment" ballot title and summary read as follows:

TITLE: Water and Land Conservation- Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands

SUMMARY: Funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; beaches and shores; outdoor recreational lands; working farms and ranches; and historic or geologic sites, by dedicating 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents for 20 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners supports the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment.

Section 2. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners encourages support of the Amendment by county municipalities, the League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties and other organizations that seek to enhance the quality of life throughout the State of Florida by preserving and protecting conservation lands, recreational lands, working farms and ranches, historic or geologic sites, water resources and drinking water sources; and the water quality of rivers, lakes, streams, beaches and shores.

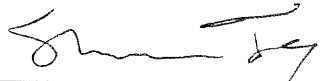
Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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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, was as follows:

	ABSENT	AYE	NAY
COMMISSIONER Priscilla A. Taylor, Mayor	_____	_____	_____
COMMISSIONER Paulette Burdick, Vice Mayor	_____	_____	_____
COMMISSIONER Hal R. Valeche	_____	_____	_____
COMMISSIONER Shelley Vana	_____	_____	_____
COMMISSIONER Steven L. Abrams	_____	_____	_____
COMMISSIONER Mary Lou Berger	_____	_____	_____
COMMISSIONER Jess R. Santamaria	_____	_____	_____

The Mayor thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of October, 2014.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY	PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BY:  County Attorney	_____ Sharon Bock, Clerk & Comptroller