Agenda Item: <u>3L2</u>

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	October 6, 2015	(X) Consent	() Regular
		() Ordinance	() Public Hearing
Department			
Submitted By:	Environmental Res	ources Management	
Submitted For:	Environmental Res	ources Management	

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to adopt: a Resolution dedicating the 562-acre Winding Waters Natural Area in honor of Mr. Richard E. Walesky's instrumental role in establishing the County's environmentally sensitive lands program and his years of dedicated service to the County.

Summary: In recognition of Mr. Richard E. Walesky's 24 years of excellent service as the Director of Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management from its inception in 1987 until his retirement in 2011, and for his passionate support of the land and water resources of Palm Beach County, the County wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Walesky by dedicating the Winding Waters Natural Area in his honor. <u>District 7</u> (SF)

Background and Policy Issues: Mr. Walesky was the Director for the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) from its creation in 1987 until his retirement in 2011. Under his tenure, in 1991 and again in 1999, ERM successfully spearheaded two bond referendums for the acquisition and preservation of environmentally sensitive lands within the County. With his ardent guidance, the Natural Areas Program preserved more than 31,000 acres on 37 separate natural areas. Over the years, the program was recognized as worthy of multiple awards, both nationally and locally, the most recent of which was the "Special Places Award" in 2014 from Audubon Florida.

In addition, Mr. Walesky led efforts to improve the health of our reefs and beaches, protect listed species, restore the Lake Worth Lagoon, clean up groundwater contamination and to protect the County's drinking water supplies.

For Mr. Walesky's leadership and the environmental ethic he helped bring to the County, the County deems it appropriate to dedicate the Winding Waters Natural Area in Mr. Walesky's honor.

Attachments:

1. Resolution		
Recommended by:	Rolt Alli	9/23/15-
-	Department Director	, Date
Approved by:		9/25/,5
	Deputy County Administrator	Date
	\cup	

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

А. **Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Fiscal Years	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Capital Expenditures Operating Costs		0	0	0	0
External Revenues Program Income (County) In-Kind Match (County)					
NET FISCAL IMPACT	¥				
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)					
Is Item Included in Current Budget Account No.:	0	Yes _ Department		bject	

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

Program _____

С.

Department Fiscal Review: Menny

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Administrator Comments: A.

Contract Administrator 9-9-15 Bligheeler 9/10/15 128

Legal Sufficiency: B.

Assistant County Attorney

С. **Other Department Review:**

Department Director

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - _____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY Δ COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, DEDICATING THE **562-ACRE** WINDING WATERS NATURAL AREA RICHARD то Ε. WALESKY IN **RECOGNITION OF HIS 24 YEARS OF GUIDEING THE** DEPARTMENT OF **ENVIRONMENTAL** RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FROM ITS INITIATION IN 1987 UNTIL HIS **RETIREMENT IN 2011 AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, FOR** HIS UNFAILING SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTY'S NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, on October 1, 1987, The Board of County Commissioners created The Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) with Mr. Richard E. Walesky selected as its director, and a complement of 38 staff positions; and

WHEREAS, in March of 1991, with Mr. Walesky's leadership efforts, Palm Beach County voters approved a \$100 million bond referendum for the purchase of environmentally sensitive lands; and

WHEREAS, again in March of 1999 the voters of Palm Beach County approved a second bond referendum for \$150 million for the acquisition of lands for conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Walesky's guidance, ERM staff provided support to the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Acquisition Selection Committee (ESLASC), and the Conservation Lands Acquisition Selection Committee (CLASC) for the acquisition of natural area lands; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the program, the County has acquired more than 31,300 acres of representative south Florida native ecosystems owned and/or managed by ERM on 37 separate natural areas, and the vast majority were acquired during Mr. Walesky's tenure; and

WHEREAS, many of the individual property acquisitions were made possible by the skillful negotiation strategies offered by Mr. Walesky; and

WHEREAS, the dedication and passion for the preservation of the County's environmentally sensitive lands promoted and fostered by Mr. Walesky continues to be exhibited today by ERM's staff; and

WHEREAS, the efforts initiated by Mr. Walesky, and continuing today under ERM's current leadership, have been recognized several times throughout the years with awards nationally from the United States Department of the Interior and the White House's Cooperative Conservation program, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Association of Counties, the National Center for Public Productivity at Rutgers

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University, and locally from the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals, The Nature Conservancy, and most recently in 2014 from Audubon Florida, when for the first time ever they recognized a local government program (i.e., the Palm Beach County Natural Areas Program) with their "Special Places Award".

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

- The above Whereas clauses are hereby incorporated as findings of fact upon which this Resolution is based.
- 2. The Board of County Commissioners approves dedicating the Winding Waters Natural Area in honor of Mr. Richard E. Walesky and authorizes ERM to place a sign or plaque at the Winding Waters Natural Area's trailhead stating "Dedicated to Richard E. Walesky in recognition of his years of passionate devotion to preserving Palm Beach County's natural areas." This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

(REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)

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

5	COMM. SHELLEY VANA, Mayor	
6	COMM. MARY LOU BERGER, Vice Mayor	- <u></u>
7	COMM. HAL R. VALECHE	
8	COMM. PAULETTE BURDICK	
9	COMM. STEVEN L. ABRAMS	
10	COMM. MELISSA McKINLAY	
11 12	COMM. PRISCILLA A. TAYLOR	

The Mayor thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2015.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: _____ County Attorney

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY **COMMISSIONERS** SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK

> By:___ Deputy Clerk