

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

Meeting Date: February 9, 2021 Consent Regular
 Workshop Public Hearing

Department: 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 (County), Florida supporting the State of Florida’s activities to monitor, analyze, protect and restore the quality of water resources, as well as provide funding support to local governments.

Summary: This Resolution is seeking to encourage the State of Florida to implement the following activities to help improve the quality of water resources: increase funding for water quality grant programs to accelerate and expand opportunities for storage and water quality improvement, in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, within Lake Okeechobee, and in tributary basins of Lake Okeechobee and connected coastal ecosystems, including the Lake Worth Lagoon and Loxahatchee River; expand Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Innovative Technology and other water quality improvement-related grant programs to allow private entities, that may possess innovative technologies that support water quality improvement in the greater Lake Okeechobee watershed, to apply directly for said grants as the Eligible Grant Recipient; to encourage all public and private entities to explore opportunities for collaboration and implementation of projects and activities that will improve water quality in the Lake Okeechobee watershed and continue to support sound agricultural practices and production; and to support the South Florida Water Management District to identify and prioritize additional funding to focus on projects that support water quality restoration and maximize nutrient reductions in water bodies and their contributing watersheds, including septic upgrades / conversions, and stormwater improvements. **There is no cost to the County.** Countywide (SS)

Background and Policy Issues: The County, in cooperation with state and local partners, has invested over \$500 million in the acquisition, restoration and management of approximately 32,000 acres of natural areas, resulting in improved water quality. The County has also invested approximately \$88 million to restore the Lake Worth Lagoon and \$46 million to restore the Loxahatchee River and Estuary. The County wishes to encourage the State of Florida to continue efforts to protect and restore the quality of water resources and continue to provide funding support to local governments to implement water quality improvement projects.

Attachment:
 1. Resolution

Recommended by: Deborah J. Juma 12-22-2020 SAS 12/22/2020
 Department Director **Date**

Approved by: Joe 1/20/21
 Assistant County Administrator **Date**

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

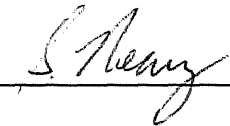
A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
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 <u>X</u>		
Does this item include the use of federal funds?	Yes _____		No <u>X</u>		
Budget Account No.:	Fund _____	Department _____	Unit _____	Object _____	Program _____

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

There is no fiscal impact.

C. Department Fiscal Review:

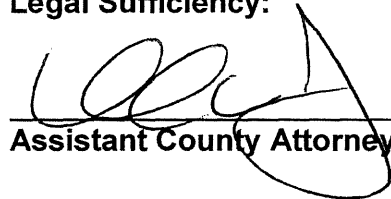


III. REVIEW COMMENTS

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

 OFMB 11/11	 Contract Development & Control 1-20-21TW
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B. Legal Sufficiency:


 Assistant County Attorney
 1/21/21

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

RESOLUTION NO. R2021-_____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S ACTIVITIES TO MONITOR, ANALYZE, PROTECT AND RESTORE THE QUALITY OF WATER RESOURCES, AS WELL AS PROVIDE FUNDING SUPPORT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

WHEREAS, State of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order (EO) Number (No.) 19-12 on January 10, 2019 recognizing that water and natural resources are the foundation of Florida's communities, economy and way of life; and

WHEREAS, EO No. 19-12 directed the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to create the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency to organize and direct integrated scientific research and analysis to ensure that all state actions are aligned with key environmental priorities; and

WHEREAS, EO No. 19-12 directed FDEP to appoint a Chief Science Officer to coordinate and prioritize scientific data, research, monitoring and analysis needs to ensure alignment with current and emerging environmental concerns most pressing to Floridians; and

WHEREAS, EO No. 19-12 directed the establishment of a Blue-Green Algae Task Force to ensure that objective and sound science informs Florida's decision-making process, including providing input to support key funding and restoration initiatives and guide regulatory changes necessary to improve water quality for the benefit of all Floridians; and

WHEREAS, the FDEP created the Innovative Technology for Harmful Algal Bloom Management Grants Program to financially support projects that prevent, mitigate, or clean-up harmful algal blooms, with an emphasis on those that prevent blooms through nutrient reductions; and

WHEREAS, Lake Okeechobee is an integral component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and is critical to meeting the environmental restoration and water supply needs of South Florida; and

WHEREAS, Lake Okeechobee is the liquid heart of an integrated regional water management system and is essential and interconnected to communities, businesses, public water supply utilities and ecosystems throughout Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County, in cooperation with state and local partners, has invested over \$500 million in the acquisition, restoration and management of approximately 32,000 acres of natural areas, resulting in improved water quality and habitat; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County, in cooperation with state and local partners, has invested approximately \$88 million to restore the Lake Worth Lagoon; and \$46 million to restore the Loxahatchee River and Estuary; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County wishes to encourage the State of Florida to continue efforts to protect and restore the quality of water resources and continue to provide funding support to local governments to implement water quality improvement projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the Board hereby encourages the State of Florida to implement the following activities to help improve the quality of water resources:

1. Increase funding for water quality grant programs to accelerate and expand opportunities for storage and water quality improvement, in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, within Lake Okeechobee, and in tributary basins of Lake Okeechobee and connected coastal ecosystems, including the Lake Worth Lagoon and Loxahatchee River; and
2. Expand FDEP's Innovative Technology and other water quality improvement-related grant programs to allow private entities, that may possess innovative technologies that support water quality improvement in the greater Lake Okeechobee watershed, to apply directly for said grants as the Eligible Grant Recipient; and
3. Encourage all public and private entities to explore opportunities for collaboration and implementation of projects and activities that will improve

water quality in the Lake Okeechobee watershed and continue to support sound agricultural practices and production; and

4. Support the South Florida Water Management District to identify and prioritize additional funding to focus on projects that support water quality restoration and maximize nutrient reductions in water bodies and their contributing watersheds, including septic upgrades / conversions, and storm water improvements.
5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

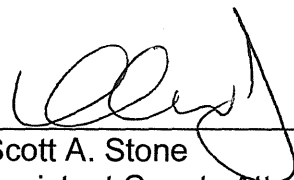
The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Dave Kerner, Mayor	_____
Commission Robert S. Weinroth, Vice Mayor	_____
Commissioner Maria G. Marino	_____
Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss	_____
Commissioner Maria Sachs	_____
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay	_____
Commissioner Mack Bernard	_____

The Mayor thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted on this _____ day of _____, 2021.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY ITS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By:  for 1/21/21 Date
Scott A. Stone
Assistant County Attorney

JOSEPH ABRUZZO
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
By: _____
Deputy Clerk