



FLORIDA GULF OF MEXICO RESTORATION PROJECT SUBMITTAL FORM

Form Purpose and Instructions:

- To assist the project proposal and review process, please complete this Submittal Form. Completion of the Form will contribute to the appropriate information being completely and accurately submitted for each project.
- Take as much space as needed for each question, but please keep responses as focused as possible. It may assist you to review all the questions before addressing any one question.
- If you have multiple projects – please submit one Form for each project.
- When you have completed the form hit the submit button in the upper right hand corner. Once your Form is successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation email from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Submit all back-up maps, information, etc. to Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us
- To submit updated information, please fill out this form and update fields as needed
- * Indicates required fields

New Project

Update to Previous Submittal

Project #

***Project Name**

Contact Information

*** Full Name**

Phone Number

*** Email**

Organization Name

Additional name(s), phone number(s), email address(s), and organization name(s) and/or project partners

***Project Location**

Include a map, if possible, and the city, county, longitude/latitude decimal degrees if known, and parcel # if applicable.

***Watershed(s)**

Select all that apply. A map of corresponding Florida watersheds is provided to assist in accurate placement of the project. If the project pertains to off shore or open ocean efforts, select Open Ocean. [Florida Watersheds Map](#)

All FL Coastal Watersheds	Lake Worth Lagoon-Palm Beach Coast	Suwannee
All FL Gulf Coast Watersheds	Lower St. Johns	Tampa Bay
All FL Watersheds	Middle St. Johns	Tampa Bay Tributaries
Apalachicola-Chipola	Nassau-St. Marys	Upper East Coast
Caloosahatchee	Ochlockonee-St. Marks	Upper St. Johns
Charlotte Harbor	Ocklawaha	Withlacoochee
Choctawhatchee-St. Andrew	Open Ocean	
Everglades	Pensacola	
Everglades West Coast	Perdido	
Fisheating Creek	Sarasota Bay-Peace-Myakka	
Florida Keys	Southeast Coast-Biscayne Bay	
Indian River Lagoon	Springs Coast	
Kissimmee River	St. Lucie-Loxahatchee	
Lake Okeechobee		

***Project Description**

Describe all aspects of the project.

***Project Category**

Although projects may identify under multiple categories, please place your project in the best fit category. A document of category definitions and examples is provided. [Category Definitions](#)

***Estimated Project Costs**

Describe the estimated costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations/maintenance. Identify other secured funding sources such as matching funds, in-kind contributions or state/federal dollars. In addition, if possible, complete and submit the Cost Appendix Sheet associated with this Form.

***Total Estimated Project Cost** \$

***Other Funding**

Indicate if the project is submitted for any potential funding or if it may be used to leverage additional funding, if so, please describe the funding source [e.g. State/Federal Grants]. Put NA if not applicable.

Technical Feasibility

Describe the technologies involved and any relevant past experience or proven success with similar projects.

Conflicts or Complements to Existing Efforts

Describe any ongoing activities in the project implementation area, if the project is part of another plan, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work. Please consider how the project may complement existing local, regional, and state efforts/plans/objectives.

Complies with Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Laws/Regulations

Describe any concerns or potential conflicts.

Readiness for Implementation

Describe if the project has had any design or permitting work started or completed [attach permits or design work]. Please address any issues that may delay start or finish of the project.

Environmental Benefits

Describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project. If possible, describe potential environmental performance measures [e.g. pollutant reduction]. Please address any potential environmental impacts associated with implementing or maintaining the project [e.g. loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation].

Economic and Social Benefits

Describe the economic and social benefits including those related to the project's improved ecosystem services and any estimates on jobs created or preserved.

Community Resilience

Describe if the project assists Florida's ability to anticipate, withstand, or recover from hazards or threats [e.g. hurricane preparedness, establishing living shorelines].

Public Acceptance

Describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project.

Additional Information you wish to provide

Please include any maps, designs, drawings, photos or background resources that may assist in completely and accurately understanding the project. If these are too large to attach here, please email them to Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us.

COST APPENDIX SHEET

Cost Item

Cost Estimate

Planning

Contracts	
Feasibility	
Engineering, Design, Land Rights & Bid Prep	
Restoration Plan	
Site Visits & Cost of Site Selection	
Administration, Overhead and Indirect	
Other	
Planning Subtotal:	

Construction

Contracts	
Administration & Mobilization/Demobilization	
Other	
Construction Subtotal:	

Monitoring

Contracts	
Data Collection	
Monitoring Administration	
Other	
Monitoring Subtotal:	

Project Cost

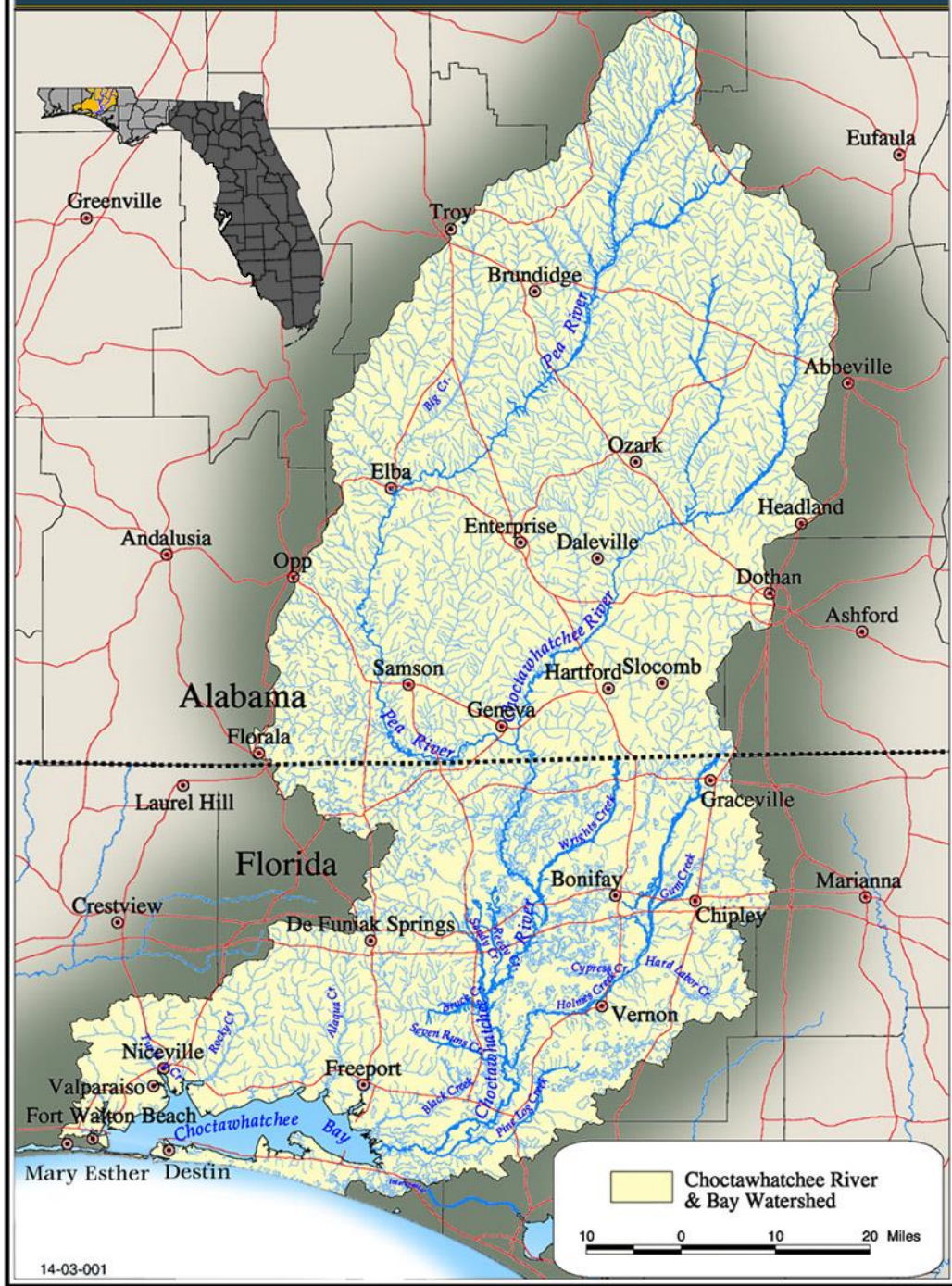
Contracts	
Subtotal:	
Contingency (<i>traditionally calculated at 10% of the subtotal</i>)	
TOTAL:	

Estimated Costs by Year

Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	

Map

Choctawhatchee River and Bay Watershed



Letters of Support



RESOLUTION NO. 16- 60

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution 15-143 expressing support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish Estuary Programs for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of seven Northwest Florida Estuaries, including Perdido, Pensacola, Choctawhatchee, St. Andrew, Apalachicola, Ochlockonee, and St. Marks; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Walton County and Okaloosa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS
FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

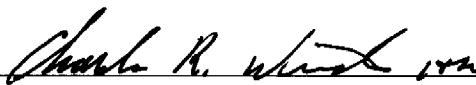
Section 2. The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

Section 3. The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners hereby supports working with Walton County in jointly submitting a proposal to the EPA for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

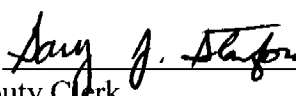
DULY ADOPTED this 1st day of March, 2016.

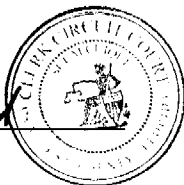
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**


CHARLES K. WINDES, JR., CHAIRMAN



ATTEST:
J. D. PEACOCK, II
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: 
Deputy Clerk





RESOLUTION NO. 16-18

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WALTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA EXPRESSING
SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY
ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE
COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT,
RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF
THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY;
PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL;
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Walton County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution 2015-62 expressing support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish Estuary Programs for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of seven Northwest Florida Estuaries, including Perdido, Pensacola, Choctawhatchee, St. Andrew, Apalachicola, Ochlockonee, and St. Marks; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Walton County Board of County Commissioners supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Walton County and Okaloosa County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS
FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

Section 2. The Walton County Board of County Commissioners hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

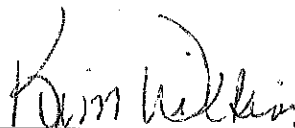
Section 3. The Walton County Board of County Commissioners hereby supports working with Okaloosa County in jointly submitting a proposal to the EPA for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

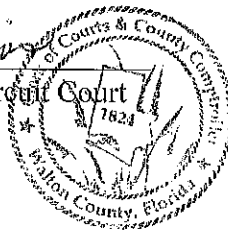
Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED this ___ day of March, 2016.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA**


Sara Comander, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST: 
for Alex Alford, Clerk of Circuit Court
and County Comptroller





RESOLUTION NO. 16-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Holmes County Board of County Commissioners supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Walton County and Okaloosa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

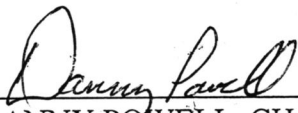
Section 2. The Holmes County Board of County Commissioners hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

Section 3. The Holmes County Board of County Commissioners hereby supports working with Walton County in jointly submitting a proposal to the EPA for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

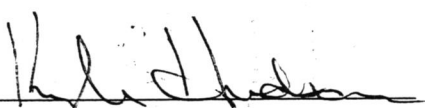
Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED this 14 day of June, 2016.

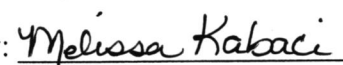
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA**



DANNY POWELL, CHAIRMAN



ATTEST:
KYLE HUDSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: 

Deputy Clerk



WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
April 21, 2016 Regular BCC Meeting - Commission Board Room
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 5
Alan Bush	Charles Kent	Charles Brock	Todd Abbott	Lynn Gothard
Chairman	Vice-Chair			

- A. PROCLAMATION – Deputy Woolover
- B. Call to Order – Chairman Bush
- C. Invocation/Pledge – County Coordinator Corbin/Chairman Bush

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners met on the above referenced date with the following members present: Chairman Bush, Commissioners Kent, Abbott, and Gothard.

Commissioner Brock was present via polycom.

Also attending the meeting are as follows:

Jeff Goodman, County Attorney

Shawna Faison, Executive Assistant to Clerk of Court Lora C. Bell

David Corbin, County Coordinator

Johnnie Odom, Deputy Clerk

I. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Future Land Use Map Amendments – Caitlin Cerame, WFRPC Planner spoke on the Future Land Use Map Amendments, which include locations 2841 Dauphin Road, parcels 3436-0016 and 3436-0034, Bonifay, Hwy. 273 frontage, and The Florida Gas Transmission Company, 2508 River Road, Caryville. The Planning Department Staff recommends approval.

2007 North Hwy. 181, Westville, FL 32464 asked permission from the Board to participate in a fund raising event, which would be used as an opportunity to raise safety awareness.

There was no opposition from the Board for the Fire Department to participate in the event.

V. CONSENT AGENDA –

- A. Request approval for the Clerk of Court to pay vouchers for March 2016 totaling \$2,192,988.55
- B. Planning Department Fee Schedule – The Planning Department proposed the following changes to the Planning Department fee schedule: \$20.00 fee for Land Use Certifications, \$250.00 small scale amendment (10 acres or less), and \$1,000.00 for a large scale amendment
- C. Future Land Use Amendments – Staff is continuing the County initiated amendment process to properly identify land uses. Parcels 3436-0016 and 3436-0034 will be changed from their current status of conservation to agriculture/silviculture and conservation. Parcels 2586-0002 and 2587-0000 will become agriculture/silviculture and conservation. Parcel 5530-0001 will change from agriculture/silviculture to public/semi-public (utility). Adoption of Ordinance 2016-01.
- D. Commercial Intent Overlay – Proposed Hwy. 77 and Hwy. 79/Douglas Ferry intent overlays shall lay a foundation to foster economic development in strategic areas and aid the County in developing areas prime for premier office and industrial business and employment centers. Adoption of Ordinance 2016-02.
- E. Wheeler Emergency Management Task Order 5 – Month 3
- F. Estuary Program –Washington County Board of County Commissioners support the establishment of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the

Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary.

- G. Presidio Maintenance Agreement
- H. Budget Amendment – Transfer \$50,000.00 from FEMA funds to distribute \$10,000.00 into each Commissioner’s district materials budget
- I. Transportation Alternative Program Resolution – Supports construction of a sidewalk from Ussery Road to Brickyard Road
- J. Building Maintenance Truck Replacement – Replace the Building Maintenance 2001 truck with a truck from Chipola Ford, quoted at \$23,669.00
- K. Greenhead Road Change Order – Mix granite rock into clay for (7) miles
- L. Department of Economic Opportunity Technical Assistance Grant

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and carried to adopt the consent agenda.

- VI. AGENDA ITEMS – Planning Commission At-Large Appointment – Caitlin Cerame, WFRPC Planner advised the Board the seat is currently vacant and they have advertised, receiving (3) applications.
The information was provided to the Board.

Caitlin Cerame advised the Board historically the Planning Department has provided the Board a recommendation.

Commissioner Abbott recommended the Planning Commission bring forth a recommendation before the Board.

There was no opposition from the Board.

Caitlin Cerame, WFRPC Planner asked for additional time to present the Board with a recommendation.



RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CINCO BAYOU TOWN COUNCIL EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Cinco Bayou Town Council supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Walton County and Okaloosa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CINCO BAYOU TOWN COUNCIL, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

Section 2. The Cinco Bayou Town Council hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

Section 3. The Cinco Bayou Town Council hereby supports working with Walton County in jointly submitting a proposal to the EPA for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED this 12th day of May, 2016.

APPROVED

MAYOR:


JEAN HOOD

ATTEST


KEITH WILLIAMS, TOWN MANAGER/CLERK





RESOLUTION 2016-9

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state, and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Walton Beach City Council supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located in both Okaloosa County and Walton County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA:

1. That the City Council of the City of Fort Walton Beach finds the above recitals to be true and correct and incorporate them herein by reference.

2. That the City Council of the City of Fort Walton Beach hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary.

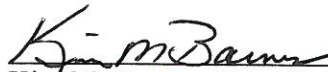
3. That the City Council of the City of Fort Walton Beach hereby supports partnering with Walton County in jointly submitting a proposal to EPA for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

RESOLUTION 2016-9

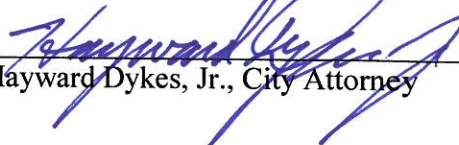
4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council of the City of Fort Walton Beach.


Mike Anderson, Mayor

Attest:


Kim M. Barnes, City Clerk

Approved for form, legal sufficiency


Hayward Dykes, Jr., City Attorney





RESOLUTION 16-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY; SUPPORTING OKALOOSA AND WALTON COUNTIES JOINTLY SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR FUNDING OF THIS PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety, and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state, and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Destin City Council fully supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve the water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located in both Okaloosa County and Walton County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

Section 2. The Destin City Council hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary

Program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

Section 3. The Destin City Council hereby supports Okaloosa and Walton Counties jointly submitting a proposal to the EPA for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

Section 4. This resolution shall be transmitted to the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners and shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

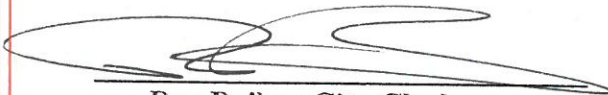
SO DONE THIS 18TH DAY OF JULY 2016

By:



Scott Fischer, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rey Bailey, City Clerk



The City of
Mary Esther, Florida

RESOLUTION NO. 16-03

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MARY ESTHER CITY COUNCIL
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE
COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND
PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY;
PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to start up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Mary Esther City Council supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefit, and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Walton County and Okaloosa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mary Esther City Council, as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

Section 2. The Mary Esther City Council hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watershed Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management restoration and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

Section 3. The Mary Esther City Council hereby supports working with Walton County in jointly submitting a proposal to the EPA for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO DONE this 5th day of July 2016.

By: Chris Stein
Chris Stein, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dana L.S. Williams
Dana L.S. Williams, CMC
City Clerk



RESOLUTION NO. 16-07-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NICEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR
THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION,
AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY
ESTUARY; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING
FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Niceville City Council supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Walton County and Okaloosa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NICEVILLE CITY COUNCIL, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

Section 2. The Niceville City Council hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary.

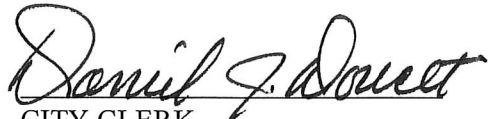
Section 3. The Niceville City Council hereby supports Okaloosa and Walton Counties jointly submitting a proposal to the EPA for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted in regular session this 12th day of July, 2016.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

Niceville Valparaiso

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE



RESOLUTION 2016 -01

A RESOLUTION OF THE NICEVILLE VALPARAISO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

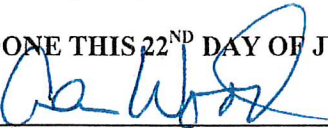
WHEREAS, the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Okaloosa County and Walton County,

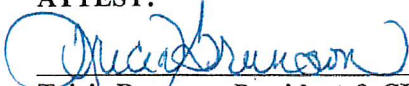
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NICEVILLE VALPARAISO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce hereby supports Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project to establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary, and also supports the joint submission by Okaloosa and Walton Counties of a proposal to the EPA for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

SO DONE THIS 22ND DAY OF JUNE 2016.


Alan Wood, 2016 Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:


Tricia Brunson, President & CEO





Destin
CHAMBER



Advocating for Businesses – Strengthening our Community

RESOLUTION 2016 – 3

A RESOLUTION OF THE DESTIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of the Destin Area and Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Destin's and Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Walton County and Okaloosa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DESTIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT THEY SUPPORT A MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE CHOCTAWHATCEE BAY WATERSHED.

DONE SO THIS 28TH DAY OF MARCH 2016 BY:

**Jonathan Ochs, Chairman of the Board
Trustmark Bank**

ATTEST:

**Shane A. Moody, CCE, FCCP
President and CEO**





GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"Believing and Achieving Together"

Tammy McGaughy
2016 Chair of the Board
Warren Averett, LLC.

Bill Roberts
2017 Chair-Elect
Barnes Insurance and
Financial Services

LA Woodall
Immediate Past Chair
The Arc of the Emerald Coast

Matt Turpin
Treasurer
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC

Mary Tinsley
Section Chair – Professional
Development
Edward Jones Investments

Ryan Price
Section Chair – Community
Business Interiors

Ron Raybourne
Section Chair – Special Events
APEX Broadcasting

Eddie Springle
Section Chair – Business to
Business
Okaloosa Gas District

Nick Chubb
Section Chair – Networking
Cabinets RRR Us

2016 Board of Directors:
C LeDon Anchors*
Charlotte Bergman
Jackie Blue
Mark Dutram
Jason Floyd
Ken Hair
Kathy Houchins*
Bernard Johnson
Henry Kelley
Cliff Long*
Bruce Marshall*
Melissa Matern
Mitch Mongell
Jeanne Rief*
Joyce Sanders*
Dr. Scott Smith
Stephen Smith
Pam Woodall
Marcia Wright-Reynolds
*Life Director

2016 Sponsors



RESOLUTION 2016-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA EXPRESSING SUPPORTING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

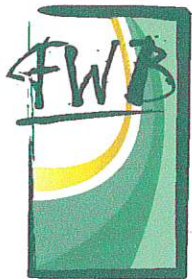
WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Walton County and Okaloosa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, Florida as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.



GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"Believing and Achieving Together"

Tammy McGaughy
2016 Chair of the Board
Warren Averett, LLC.

Bill Roberts
2017 Chair-Elect
Barnes Insurance and
Financial Services

LA Woodall
Immediate Past Chair
The Arc of the Emerald Coast

Matt Turpin
Treasurer
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC

Mary Tinsley
Section Chair – Professional
Development
Edward Jones Investments

Ryan Price
Section Chair – Community
Business Interiors

Ron Raybourne
Section Chair – Special Events
APEX Broadcasting

Eddie Springle
Section Chair – Business to
Business
Okaloosa Gas District

Nick Chubb
Section Chair – Networking
Cabinets RRR Us

2016 Board of Directors:
C LeDon Anchors*
Charlotte Bergman
Jackie Blue
Mark Dutram
Jason Floyd
Ken Hair
Kathy Houchins*
Bernard Johnson
Henry Kelley
Cliff Long*
Bruce Marshall*
Melissa Matern
Mitch Mongell
Jeanne Rief*
Joyce Sanders*
Dr. Scott Smith
Stephen Smith
Pam Woodall
Marcia Wright-Reynolds
*Life Director

2016 Sponsors



Section 2. The Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

Section 3. The Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors hereby supports working with Walton County in jointly submitting a proposal to the EPA for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DONE AND ADOPTED by the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce
this 24th day of March 2016.

Tammy McGaughy
2016 Chair of the Board
Greater Fort Walton Beach
Chamber of Commerce

Ted Corcoran
President/CEO
Greater Fort Walton Beach
Chamber of Commerce



EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Jeremy Whitehead

PAST PRESIDENT

Chris Taylor

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Hymel

TREASURER

Andy Wilson

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Garrett Floyd

SECRETARY

Joe Nacchia

PAST 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Scott Wagner

PRESIDENTIAL APPT.

Debbie Moore

PRESIDENTIAL APPT.

Betty Sims

PRESIDENTIAL APPT.

Glenn Langan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Babin

Carmela Bell

Felix Beukenkamp

David Cox

Fred DeRamus

John Dowd, Jr.

Bobby Fisher

Rick Goff

Doug Liles

Jonny Miller

Joe Pelter

Kevin Reeves

Marion Ruckel Skalicky

Jeremy Stewart



**THE BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
OF OKALOOSA & WALTON COUNTIES, INC.**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF OKALOOSA – WALTON COUNTIES, INC. EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution 15-143 expressing support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish Estuary Programs for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of seven Northwest Florida Estuaries, including Perdido, Pensacola, Choctawhatchee, St. Andrew, Apalachicola, Ochlockonee, and St. Marks; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Building Industry Association of Okaloosa – Walton Counties, Inc. supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Walton County and Okaloosa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF OKALOOSA – WALTON COUNTIES, INC., FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Jeremy Whitehead

PAST PRESIDENT

Chris Taylor

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Hymel

TREASURER

Andy Wilson

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Garrett Floyd

SECRETARY

Joe Nacchia

PAST 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Scott Wagner

PRESIDENTIAL APPT.

Debbie Moore

PRESIDENTIAL APPT.

Betty Sims

PRESIDENTIAL APPT.

Glenn Langan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Babin

Carmela Bell

Felix Beukenkamp

David Cox

Fred DeRamus

John Dowd, Jr.

Bobby Fisher

Rick Goff

Doug Liles

Jonny Miller

Joe Pelter

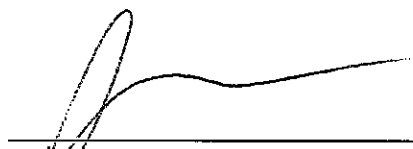
Kevin Reeves

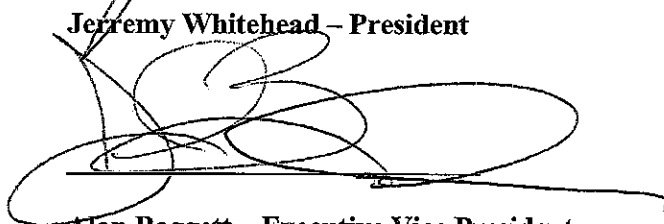
Marion Ruckel Skalicky

Jeremy Stewart

Duly adopted this 28 day of April, 2016

Building Industry Association of Okaloosa – Walton Counties, Inc., Florida


Jeremy Whitehead – President


Alan Baggett – Executive Vice President



RESOLUTION 2016-17

MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority has supported environmental and water quality throughout its existence; and

WHEREAS, support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project will help establish Estuary Programs for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of seven Northwest Florida Estuaries, including Perdido, Pensacola, Choctawhatchee, St. Andrew, Apalachicola, Ochlockonee, and St. Marks; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

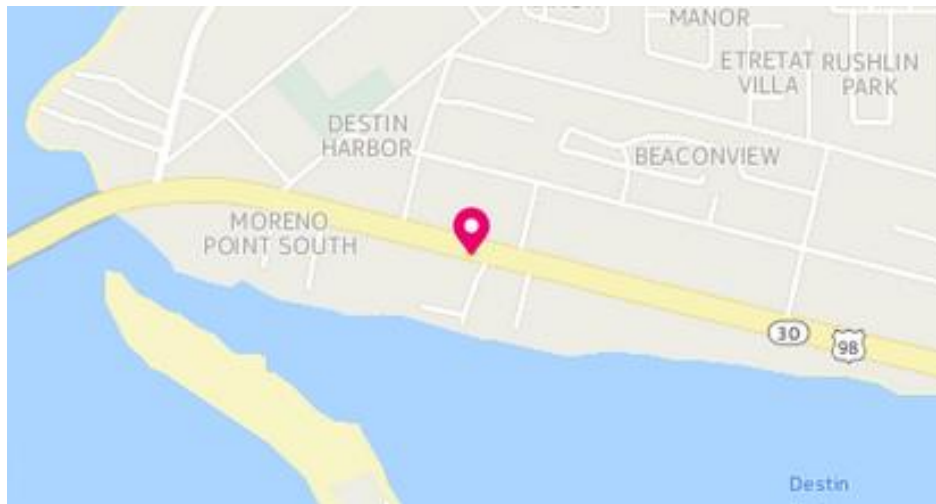
Dated this 23rd day of June 2016

MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY


James D. Neilson, Jr., Chair

Attest


Virginia A. Asthana, Secretary-Treasurer



DESTIN FISHERMAN'S COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.
210C Highway 98 East, Post Office Box 291
Destin, Florida 32540
850-654-4999 Fax 850-650-0606
destincoop@dfc.gccoxmail

May 25, 2016

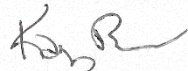
To Whom It May Concern:

The Destin Fisherman's Cooperative Association supports 120 plus member boats, all who make their living on local waters. We are Charter boats, Party boats, Commercial Fishing vessels, Parasail boats and Dolphin Cruise boats. We also value a majority of Destin's private fleet as customers. We endorse the development and funding of a North West Florida management and Estuary Program for Choctawhatchee Bay and its Water Shed.

The Grant program offers the opportunity for development of plans to ensure the water quality of the estuaries to protect them from drastic or catastrophic changes; thereby directly affecting the health and sustainability of the entire Gulf Coast. With the growth and expansion of the area this is most important to insure that we can continue to enjoy our waterways as healthy and productive playgrounds and work areas.

We strongly recommend the approval of this grant for the Choctawhatchee Basin area. Thanking you in advance for your consideration in this matter, we are

Sincerely yours,



Kay Biggers
General Manager





1 Energy Place
Pensacola, FL 32520



November 3, 2015

Ms. Erika Zambello
Marine Economic and Tourist Development Resource Coordinator
Emerald Coast Convention Center
Ft. Walton Beach, FL. 32548

RE: Gulf Power Support to the Florida Panhandle Estuary Program

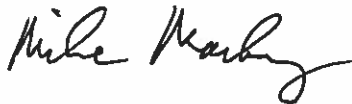
Dear Ms. Zambellow:

As you may be aware, Gulf Power Company serves more than 436,000 customers throughout Northwest Florida. We are very active in environmental stewardship, community and economic development, and energy conservation. We see the merits of this issue and thus support your EPA grant application for a Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

The grant program offers the opportunity to develop plans and projects to ensure water quality protection in the watershed as a whole, thereby directly affecting the health and sustainability of this region of Florida. Protecting the Choctawhatchee Bay ensures that our waterways continue to be healthy and productive playgrounds and work areas.

We recommend the approval of this grant for the Choctawhatchee Bay watershed. Thank you making us aware of this matter. If you should have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at (850) 444-6573.

Sincerely,



Richard "Mike" Markey
Environmental Affairs Director

Cc: File

NWFL Estuary project - Message (Plain Text)

FILE

MESSAGE

Ignore

Junk

Delete

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Meeting

More

Move

Rules

OneNote

Actions

Mark Unread

Categorize

Follow Up

Translate

Find

Related

Select

Zoom

Delete

Respond

Move

Tags

Editing

Zoom



Sat 5/14/2016 8:13 AM
Gary Jarvis <gjabd@aol.com>
NWFL Estuary project

To Erika Zambello

You replied to this message on 5/16/2016 10:51 AM.

As president of the Destin Charter Boat Association I would like to write this letter in support of the development and funding of a North West Florida management and Estuary Program for Choctawhatchee Bay and its Water Shed . Many of our members and related businesses rely on a healthy and sustainable fishery on Choctawhatchee Bay. It also has direct effects on the health and well being of our local coast line along the Gulf of Mexico that effect all of our fishing companies. Not only that but as more and more upland development changes the dynamics of the Choctawatchee water shed we need a direct and well thought out plan to make sure the estuaries of this body of water are protected from drastic or catastrophic changes in water quality. For these reasons the DCBA strongly recommend that this grant be approved and put into motion without delay.

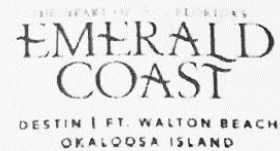
Capt Gary Jarvis
President D.C.B.A
F/V Back Down2
Destin,Fl



THE HEART OF FLORIDA'S
EMERALD
COAST

DESTIN | FT. WALTON BEACH
OKALOOSA ISLAND

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM



DATE: June 23, 2016
TO: Tourist Development Council
FROM: Ed Schroeder, Tourist Development Department Director
Erika Zambello, Marine Economic & Tourism Development Resource Coord.
SUBJECT: Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program Resolution

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: Request approval of a Resolution supporting the establishment of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

BACKGROUND: Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors. Mismanagement of Northwest Florida estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of citizens and visitors.

The Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution # 15-143 expressing support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish Estuary Programs for the comprehensive management, restoration and protection of seven Northwest Florida Estuaries, including Perdido, Pensacola, Choctawhatchee, St. Andrew, Apalachicola, Ochlockonee, and St. Marks. The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution 16-60 expressing support for the establishment of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program. The Environmental Protection Agency was awarded funding from the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council to stand up one (1) estuary program and will be issuing a request for proposals in the near future.

Resolutions of support have been obtained from multiple local authorities and will be included as backup documentation with the Choctawhatchee Bay submission to the EPA's request for proposals.

OPTIONS: Approve or Deny

RECOMMENDATION TO BCC: Approve Resolution 16-__ supporting the establishment of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program, and authorize the Chairman to sign.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

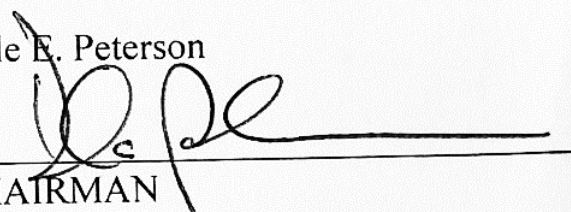
Section 2. The Tourist Development Council of Okaloosa County hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED this 23rd day of June, 2016.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Dale E. Peterson


CHAIRMAN





United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

June 7, 2016

Ms. Gina McCarthy, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20460

RE: Okaloosa County - EPA - Natural Estuary Program

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Okaloosa County's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to establish an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee watershed. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Okaloosa County has continued to be an ardent advocate for conservation programs within the Gulf community and has successfully initiated and implemented strategies to safeguard their natural resources and environment. If funded, the County seeks to develop a much needed Comprehensive Estuary Program within the Choctawhatchee watershed. This proactive environmental initiative will create a legacy program improving their water quality, habitat and natural resources as well as producing much needed economic benefits for the community.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

BN/jm

CC: Ms. Mary Louise Hester, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson



RESOLUTION NO. 16-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution 15-143 expressing support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish Estuary Programs for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of seven Northwest Florida Estuaries, including Perdido, Pensacola, Choctawhatchee, St. Andrew, Apalachicola, Ochlockonee, and St. Marks; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Okaloosa County, Florida supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Walton County and Okaloosa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

Section 2. The School Board of Okaloosa County, Florida hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED this 27th day of June, 2016.

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Catherine S. Thigpen, Chairman

ATTEST:

By: _____
Mary Beth Jackson
Superintendent and Corporate Secretary



Eglin AFB

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE AND
OKALOOSA COUNTY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ESTUARY PROGRAM**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made on this ____ day of _____, 2016, between Eglin Air Force Base ("Eglin AFB") and Okaloosa County, FL ("County") for the purpose of achieving the various aims and objectives relating to the application to establish the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program ("Program").

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located within Okaloosa County and Eglin AFB (among other counties); and

WHEREAS, Eglin AFB and the County desire to improve the health of the Choctawhatchee Bay and the Choctawhatchee Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, Eglin AFB and the County wish to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to set forth each parties' responsibilities and coordinated efforts necessary to establish the Program.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein and other good and valuable consideration, the parties hereby agree as follows:

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum is to memorialize Eglin AFB's support of the County applying for a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

Obligations of Parties

Both parties acknowledge that no contractual relationship is created by this Memorandum, but agree to work together to ensure that the appropriate leadership, administrative, and operational efforts are put forth in order to ensure the Project's success. Furthermore, this Memorandum can be terminated at any time, for any reason, by either or both parties without recourse.

The activities and services for the Program shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Eglin AFB shall offer advice when needed in the Program application process and support the purpose of the application.
- b. The County shall coordinate with Walton County and others in preparing the application for submittal.

CHRISTOPHER P. AZZANO
Brigadier General, USAF
Commander, 96th Test Wing

CHARLES K. WINDES, JR.
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

J.D. Peacock II
Clerk of Circuit Court



Infographic

CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY Estuary Program

Water quality in the Choctawhatchee Bay watershed is a critical component of the local environment and economy. The watershed as a whole drains 5,405 sq mi throughout Florida and Alabama, and the bay itself covers more than 116 sq mi. In addition to important fish nurseries, the watershed provides habitat for iconic species, including the dolphin, osprey, and Okaloosa darter.

An Estuary Program, started with a \$2 million EPA grant, would work to improve the waters, habitats, living resources and economy of the Choctawhatchee Bay watershed. Projects could include storm water abatement, dirt road paving, habitat restoration, and best management programs.

ECONOMIC

impact of Choctawhatchee Bay

\$1.6 billion
tourists spend annually

\$2.9 billion
local sales annually

36,000+
jobs created



SOCIAL

fishing community • recreation
local families/residents



ENVIRONMENTAL

fish life cycles • bird habitats
flora/fauna



CHOCTAWHATCHEE RIVER & BAY WATERSHED



SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS:

Surface Area: 129 mi²
Drainage Area: 5,405 mi²
Average Daily FW Inflow: 63,665 gal/s
Average Depth: 16.4 ft
Average Salinity: 25 ppt
Coastal Wetlands: 437 mi²
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation: 4.6 mi²



Source: Economic Analysis of the Contribution of Choctawhatchee Bay to Okaloosa and Walton Counties, Haas Center, June 2006