

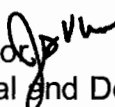



Interoffice Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM

January 5, 2017

TO: Mayor Teresa Jacobs
— AND —
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Director 
Community, Environmental and Development
Services Department

CONTACT PERSON: Alan Marshall, Assistant to Director 
Community, Environmental and Development
Services Department
407 836-5884

SUBJECT: January 24, 2017 – Discussion Item
State Funding for Conservation Lands

The Orange County League of Women Voters approached District 5 Commissioner Bonilla regarding Orange County's support of a Resolution requesting the State Legislature to provide permanent annual funding for land acquisition. Commissioner Bonilla brought the issue to the Board of County Commissioner's during open discussion at the December 13, 2016 meeting.

At that meeting, Mayor Jacobs asked staff to provide a presentation on the issues for Board consideration. The proposed Resolution (attached) identifies the 2014 approval of a state Constitutional Amendment related to conservation land acquisition and the desire for a recurring \$300 million investment. State funding for conservation land acquisition has been well below this level since 2008.

This item is for informational purposes.

JVW/AV:rep

Attachment

RESOLUTION

of the

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regarding

Florida Water And Land Legacy Fund

Resolution No. 2017-_____

WHEREAS, Orange County is committed to protecting its natural resources, preserving the beauty and function of waterways, and the ecology and habitat that surrounds them; and

WHEREAS, there are natural areas and conservation lands necessary to protect our water resources, fish and wildlife, and recreational potential reaching across Florida from west to east and north to south; and

WHEREAS, Florida's remarkable biological diversity and its natural systems are the fundamental basis of its quality of life and economy; and

WHEREAS, Florida Department of Environmental Protection states: "Florida Forever is Florida's premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving natural resources and renewing Florida's commitment to conserve the state's natural and cultural heritage"; and

WHEREAS, population growth and development are projected to increase enormously in the next two decades and will pose major challenges to our natural resources and the services they provide; and

WHEREAS, 79.7% of Orange County voters and 75% of Florida voters (4.2 million) voted on November 4, 2014 to approve an amendment to Article X, section 28 of the Florida Constitution, to acquire the best of what is left of our natural areas; and

WHEREAS, it is the request of Orange County that the Legislature fulfill its obligation to its people to provide significant additional funding for conservation land acquisition as called for by Amendment 1; and

WHEREAS, land purchases of importance to the future of Orange County and nearby areas are: Wekiva-Ocala Greenway, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Pine Island Slough and Adams Ranch; and

WHEREAS, these lands need to be acquired and preserved by fee simple acquisition, conservation easement or purchase of development rights for our future prosperity; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

Section 1. The Board respectfully requests that throughout the duration of Article X, section 28 of the Florida Constitution, at least \$300,000,000 be provided on an annual basis for land acquisition within the State of Florida and that such acquisitions be in accordance with the currently established Florida Forever Program.

Section 2. The Board considers the acquisition of lands with Amendment 1 Funds to be a crucial benefit to the future of this County and the State of Florida.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be effective upon passage by the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2017.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

By: _____
Teresa Jacobs
Orange County Mayor

ATTEST: Phil Diamond, CPA, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: _____
Deputy Clerk