



# 14

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

The Board of County Commissioners meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium, 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida 32055. All agenda items are due in the Board's office one week prior to the meeting date.

Today's Date: 09/27/2016

Meeting Date: October 6, 2016

Name: Paula Vann

Department: Tourist Development Council

Division Manager's Signature:

1. Nature and purpose of agenda item:

Approve Resolution No. 2016R-38 which formally supports designating the Suwannee River in Columbia County as a National Water Trail by the United States Department of the Interior.

Attach any correspondence information, documents and forms for action i.e., contract agreements, quotes, memorandums, etc.

2. Fiscal impact on current budget.

Is this a budgeted item?

[X]

N/A

[ ]

Yes Account No.

[ ]

No Please list the proposed budget amendment to fund this request

Budget Amendment Number:

Fund:

FROM:

TO:

AMOUNT:

For Use of County Manger Only:

[X]

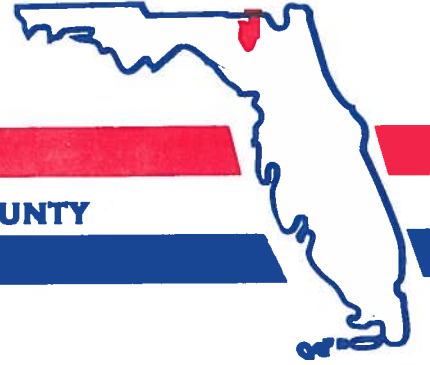
Consent Item

[ ]

Discussion Item

THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON OCT 06 2016 WITHOUT EXCEPTION WITH NOTED EXCEPTION

District No. 1 - Ronald Williams  
District No. 2 - Rusty DePratter  
District No. 3 - Bucky Nash  
District No. 4 - Everett Phillips  
District No. 5 - Scarlet P. Frisina



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS • COLUMBIA COUNTY**

October 6, 2016

Ms. Liz Sparks, Paddling Trail Coordinator  
Office of Greenways & Trails  
Division of Recreation & Parks  
Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: Letter of Support and Consent for Public Access

Dear Ms. Sparks,

I am contacting you as Chairman of the Board on behalf of Columbia County Board of County Commissioners to enthusiastically support the efforts of the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails application to the Department of the Interior for designating the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

The original Suwannee River Wilderness Trail (SRWT) was established in 2003 and has been an exemplary alliance of private and public partners coordinating innovative management practices to protect natural, historic and cultural resources. The SRWT begins at the town of White Springs and flows 171 miles through eight riparian counties to end at the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf of Mexico. Creation of the Suwannee National Water Trail will extend the river's designation northward to include the headwaters of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Georgia and will increase the distance of the trail for a total of 235 miles. Public partners in the state of Georgia are wholeheartedly supportive of this endeavor.

Abundant natural resources, rich history, and cultural heritage combined with endless recreation opportunities make the Suwannee River an outstanding candidate for this prestigious designation. National Water Trail designation will increase awareness of the river, provide economic benefits to local communities and provide an opportunity to educate the public about the significance of supporting conservation of natural resources.

The Suwannee River has multiple public boat access sites in Columbia County that are encompassed by the scope of the project maintained by various government entities. We offer this support and approve of these sites being included in the requested designation with the understanding that they will not be restricted nor regulated in any manner by this requested designation.

We strongly support designation of the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

Sincerely,

Bucky Nash, Chairman of the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners

BOARD MEETS FIRST THURSDAY AT 5:30 P.M.  
AND THIRD THURSDAY AT 5:30 P.M.

P. O. BOX 1529 ▼

LAKE CITY, FLORIDA 32056-1529 ▼

PHONE (386) 755-4100

## What is the National Water Trails System?

- The *National Water Trails System* (NWTS) is administered by National Park Service through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA). The program serves to bring existing and newly identified water trails together into one cohesive national network of exemplary water trails. The NWTS is a network of water trails the public can explore and enjoy, as well as a community of water resource managers that can benefit from information sharing and collaboration
- The NWTS program recognizes trails of national significance that:
  - Connect communities
  - Help youth discover nature
  - Encourage stewardship
  - Promote public/private partnerships
  - Incorporate best management practices
  - Provide opportunities for education about water resources, cultural heritage, stewardship
  - Provide opportunities for communities to develop strategies that enhance and restore health of local waterways and surrounding lands
  - Encourage local communities to provide support and advocacy for stewardship of the trail
  - Facilities are designed and maintained by incorporating sustainability principles
- There are 20 designated National Water Trails throughout the country that encompass 600 miles of waterway trails but none located in Florida. These water trails are located in diverse settings ranging from wilderness to urban areas and encompass recreation opportunities for a wide variety of users. The beloved Suwannee River is certainly deserving of receiving national recognition!

## What are the benefits of designation?

- If selected, benefits of designation as a National Water Trail may include:
  - Designation by the Secretary of the Interior, including a letter and a certificate announcing the designation of the Suwannee National Water Trail
  - National promotion and visibility, including use of the NWTS logo in publications
  - Positive economic impact for communities from increased tourism
  - Opportunities to obtain technical assistance and funding for planning and implementing water trail projects
  - Mutual support and knowledge sharing as part of a national network
  - Assistance with recognition and special events highlighting the trail
  - Inclusion in NWTS online searchable database of trails
- **Designation has NO effect on property rights of landowners along the trail or use of the waterway**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016R-38**

**A Resolution in Support of National Water Trail Designation of The Suwannee River in  
Columbia County**

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of designation of the Suwannee River in Columbia County as a National Water Trail include being recognized nationally as a recreation destination, nationally promoted on maps and through website, increased tourism, and increased revenue for local businesses


**WHEREAS**, our region benefits from promoting nature-based recreation opportunities, especially paddling, biking, hiking, equestrian activities, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing, to increase health benefits to our local communities and encouraging youth and families to participate in outdoor activities

**WHEREAS**, the region benefits from promoting the rich culture and history contained within the watershed of the Suwannee River, drawing visitors eager to explore the historical legacy


**WHEREAS**, the Suwannee River National Water Trail offers a unique opportunity for residents and visitors to explore an unspoiled, pristine area of Florida and Georgia

**WHEREAS**, the cultural, historical and natural resources of this area are some of the most unique in the Southeast

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of County Commissioners, Columbia County, Florida, endorses the Office of Greenways & Trails application for designation of the Suwannee River in Columbia County as a National Water Trail by the United States Department of the Interior.



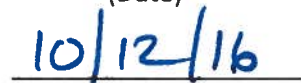
(Signature)



(Date)



(Signature)



(Date)



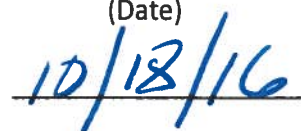
(Signature)



(Date)



(Signature)



(Date)



(Signature)



(Date)

**BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

214 NE 351 Hwy  
Post Office Box 2600  
Cross City, FL. 32628

• • •  
Phone 352/498-1206  
FAX 352/498-1207  
SUNCOM 656-1206

---

**Gene Higginbotham**  
District One

**W.C. Mills**  
District Two

**Jody Robson**  
District Three

**Jason Holifield**  
District Four

**Ronnie Edmonds**  
District Five

---

August 4, 2016

Ms. Liz Sparks  
Paddling Trail Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: Letter of Support and Consent for Public Access

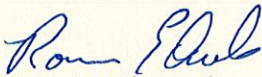
Dear Ms. Sparks,

On behalf of Dixie County Board of County Commissioners, we would like to express our support towards the efforts of the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails application to the Department of the Interior for designating the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

Abundant natural resources, rich history, and cultural heritage combined with endless recreation opportunities make the Suwannee River an outstanding candidate for this prestigious designation. National Water Trail designation will increase awareness of the river, provide economic benefits to local communities and provide an opportunity to educate the public about the significance of supporting conservation of natural resources.

The Suwannee River has public boat access sites in Dixie County encompassed by the scope of the project maintained by Dixie County. We give approval of the sites being included in the designation application.

Sincerely,

  
Ronnie Edmonds,  
Board Chairman



---

**Rhett Bullard**  
County Attorney

**Dana D. Johnson**  
Clerk/Auditor

**Timothy W. Alexander**  
County Manager

---

**Resolution Number 2016-36**

**In Support of National Water Trail Designation of The Suwannee River in Dixie County**

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of designation of the Suwannee River in Dixie County as a National Water Trail include being recognized nationally as a recreation destination, nationally promoted on maps and through website, increased tourism, and increased revenue for local businesses

**WHEREAS**, our region benefits from promoting nature-based recreation opportunities, especially paddling, biking, hiking, equestrian activities, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing, to increase health benefits to our local communities and encouraging youth and families to participate in outdoor activities

**WHEREAS**, the region benefits from promoting the rich culture and history contained within the watershed of the Suwannee River, drawing visitors eager to explore the historical legacy

**WHEREAS**, the Suwannee River National Water Trail offers a unique opportunity for residents and visitors to explore an unspoiled, pristine area of Florida and Georgia

**WHEREAS**, the cultural, historical and natural resources of this area are some of the most unique in the Southeast

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of County Commissioners, Dixie County, Florida, endorses the Office of Greenways & Trails application for designation of the Suwannee River in Dixie County as a National Water Trail by the United States Department of the Interior.

**RESOLVED** in regular session of the Dixie County Board of County Commissioners of the County this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

**Dixie County Board of County Commissioners**

*Dene Higginbotham*  
(Signature)

08/04/2016  
(Date)

*John Ross*  
(Signature)

08/04/2016  
(Date)

*Ronnie Edwards*  
(Signature)

08/04/2016  
(Date)

*we mill*  
(Signature)

08/04/2016  
(Date)

*[Signature]*  
(Signature)

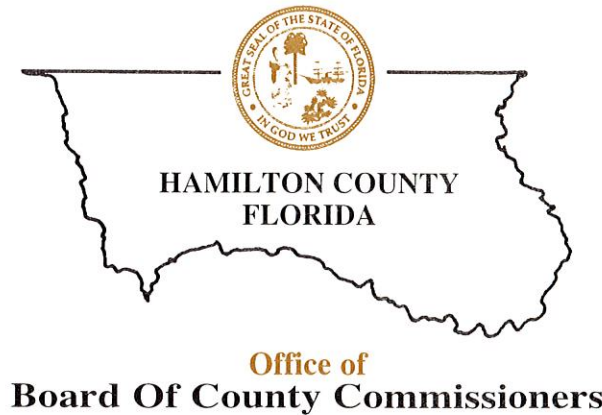
08/04/2016  
(Date)

ATTEST:

*Dana D. Johnson*  
Dana D. Johnson, Clerk



BETH BURNAM  
District 1 - Jennings  
JOSH SMITH  
District 2 - Jasper  
ROBERT E. BROWN  
District 3 - Jasper  
RANDY OGBURN  
District 4 - White Springs  
BUSTER OXENDINE  
District 5 - Jasper



GREG GODWIN  
Clerk of Courts  
JOHN H. McCORMICK  
County Attorney

207 Northeast First Street  
Room 106  
Jasper, Florida 32052  
(386) 792-1288  
FAX (386) 792-3524

Division of Recreation & Trails  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Attention: Ms. Liz Sparks  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

October 4, 2016

Dear Ms. Sparks:

This letter, including the attachments, is being read in a regular and open meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Florida (hereafter, "Board") on October 4, 2016, and is in response to the communications received from you which are attached.

This letter is to express support for the efforts of the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails application to the Department of Interior for designating the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

You have informed that the original Suwannee River Wilderness Train (SRWT) was established in 2003 and has been an exemplary alliance of private and public partners coordinating innovative management practices to protect natural, historic, and cultural resources; that the SRWT begins at the town of White Springs and flows 171 miles through eight riparian counties to end at the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf of Mexico; that creation of the Suwannee National Water Trail will extend the river's designation northward to include the headwaters of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Georgia and will increase the distance of the trail for a total of 235 miles. You have informed that Public partners in the state of Georgia are wholeheartedly supportive of this endeavor.

A rich history, and cultural heritage along with recreation opportunities make the Suwannee River an outstanding candidate for this prestigious designation which will increase awareness of the river, provide economic benefits to local communities, and provide an opportunity for public awareness as to the significance of supporting conservation of the Suwannee River.

The Suwannee River has public boat access sites in Hamilton County maintained by Hamilton County. We offer this support and approve of these sites being included in the requested designation with the understanding that they will not be restricted nor regulated in any manner by this requested designation.

The Board supports designation of the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail, but, provided however, nothing herein in any way affects, or is intended to affect, any right or obligation of Hamilton County or its Board of County Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Randy Ogburn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Randy Ogburn  
Chairman, Board of  
County Commissioners





**LAFAYETTE COUNTY**  
*Board of County Commissioners*

**P.O. BOX 88 • MAYO, FL 32066**  
**(386) 294-1600**  
**FAX (386) 294-4231**



*Lance Lamb – Dist. 1*  
*Thomas E. Pridgeon, Jr. – Dist. 2*  
*Donnie Hamlin – Dist. 3*

*Anthony Adams – Dist. 4*  
*Ernest Jones – Dist. 5*

September 12, 2016

Ms. Liz Sparks  
Paddling Trail Coordinator  
Office of Greenways & Trails  
Division of Recreation & Parks  
Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: Letter of Support and Consent for Public Access

Dear Ms. Sparks,

I am contacting you as Chairman on behalf of the Lafayette County Board of County Commissioners to enthusiastically support the efforts of the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails application to the Department of the Interior for designating the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

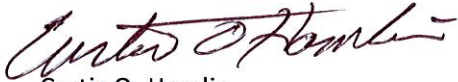
The original Suwannee River Wilderness Trail (SRWT) was established in 2003 and has been an exemplary alliance of private and public partners coordinating innovative management practices to protect natural, historic and cultural resources. The SRWT begins at the town of White Springs and flows 171 miles through eight riparian counties to end at the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf of Mexico. Creation of the Suwannee National Water Trail will extend the river's designation northward to include the headwaters of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Georgia and will increase the distance of the trail for a total of 235 miles. Public partners in the state of Georgia are wholeheartedly supportive of this endeavor.

Abundant natural resources, rich history, and cultural heritage combined with endless recreation opportunities make the Suwannee River an outstanding candidate for this prestigious designation. National Water Trail designation will increase awareness of the river, provide economic benefits to local communities and provide an opportunity to educate the public about the significance of supporting conservation of natural resources.

The Suwannee River has multiple public boat access sites in Lafayette County that are encompassed by the scope of the project maintained by the Lafayette County Board of County Commissioners. We offer this support and approve of these public access sites being included in the requested designation with the understanding that they will not be restricted nor regulated in any manner by this requested designation.

We strongly support designation of the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis O. Hamlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "C".

Curtis O. Hamlin

Chairman

Lafayette County Board of County Commissioners

Resolution 2016-10-12A

**Support of National Water Trail Designation of The Suwannee River in Madison County**

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of designation of the Suwannee River in Madison County as a National Water Trail include being recognized nationally as a recreation destination, nationally promoted on maps and through website, increased tourism, and increased revenue for local businesses

**WHEREAS**, our region benefits from promoting nature-based recreation opportunities, especially paddling, biking, hiking, equestrian activities, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing, to increase health benefits to our local communities and encouraging youth and families to participate in outdoor activities

**WHEREAS**, the region benefits from promoting the rich culture and history contained within the watershed of the Suwannee River, drawing visitors eager to explore the historical legacy

**WHEREAS**, the Suwannee River National Water Trail offers a unique opportunity for residents and visitors to explore an unspoiled, pristine area of Florida and Georgia

**WHEREAS**, the cultural, historical and natural resources of this area are some of the most unique in the Southeast

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of County Commissioners, Madison County, Florida, endorses the Office of Greenways & Trails application for designation of the Suwannee River in Madison County as a National Water Trail by the United States Department of the Interior.

Alfred Martin

(Signature)

10/12/2016

(Date)

John ...

(Signature)

10/12/2016

(Date)

Ronnie L Moore

(Signature)

10/12/2016

(Date)

Roy W. Viker

(Signature)

10/12/2016

(Date)

Justin ...

(Signature)

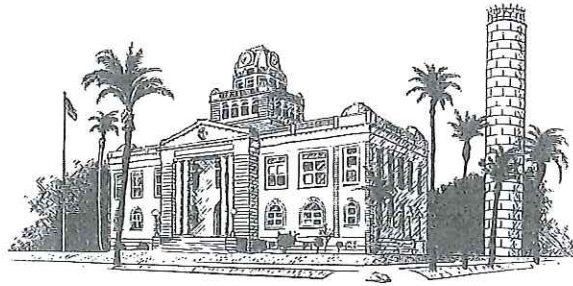
10/12/2016

(Date)

# Board of County Commissioners Madison County, Florida

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Dist. 1 **Justin Hamrick** • 850-464-0119  
PO Box 832 • Madison, FL 32341
- Dist. 2 **Wayne Vickers** • 850-929-4555  
PO Box 74 • Pinetta, FL 32350
- Dist. 3 **Ronnie Moore** • 850-948-2043  
6513 NW Lovett Rd • Greenville, FL 32331



## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Dist. 4 **Alfred Martin** • 850-464-4516  
215 SW Summerset Way • Madison, FL 32340
- Dist. 5 **Rick Davis** • 850-971-5715  
PO Box 291 • Madison, FL 32341

BOCC ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
Phone 850-973-3179 • Fax 850-973-6880  
mccoord@madisoncountyfl.com  
www.madisoncountyfl.com

Madison County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

October 12, 2016

Ms. Liz Sparks  
Paddling Trail Coordinator  
Office of Greenways & Trails  
Division of Recreation & Parks  
Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: Letter of Support and Consent for Public Access

Dear Ms. Sparks,

I am contacting you as Chairman on behalf of the Madison County Board of County Commissioners to enthusiastically support the efforts of the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails application to the Department of the Interior for designating the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

Abundant natural resources, rich history, and cultural heritage combined with endless recreation opportunities make the Suwannee River an outstanding candidate for this prestigious designation. National Water Trail designation will increase awareness of the river, provide economic benefits to local communities and provide an opportunity to educate the public about the significance of supporting conservation of natural resources.

The Suwannee River has public boat access sites in Madison County encompassed by the scope of the project maintained by Madison County. We give approval of the sites being included in the designation application.

Sincerely,

Alfred Martin, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners  
District 4 Commissioner  
Madison County, Florida