

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

WHEREAS, the benefits of designation of the Suwannee River in Clinch 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 hunting, fishing, paddling, biking, hiking, equestrian activities, 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

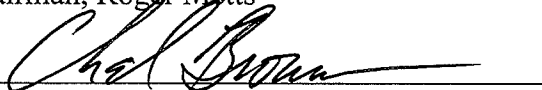
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners, Clinch County, Georgia endorses the Office of Greenways & Trails application for designation of the Suwannee River in Clinch County as a National Water Trail by the United States Department of the Interior.



Chairman, Roger Metts

10/3/16

Date



Vice Chairman, Chad Brown

10/3/16

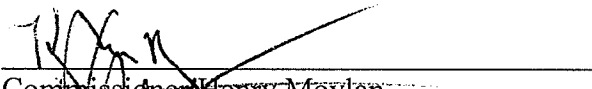
Date



Commissioner Debra Thomas

10/3/16

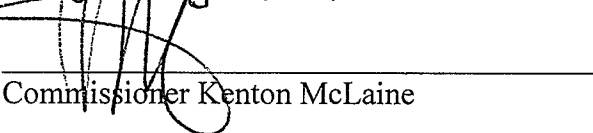
Date



Commissioner Henry Moylan

10/3/16

Date



Commissioner Kenton McLaine

10/3/16

Date

Charlton County, Georgia

Board of Commissioners

James E. Everett, Chairman
Alpha Benefield, Vice Chairman
Jesse Crews, Commissioner
Ronnie Pollock, Commissioner
Luke Gowen, Commissioner

68 Kingsland Drive, Suite B
Folkston, GA 31537-2872
(912) 496-2549 (office)
(912) 496-1156 (fax)

Shawn Boatright, County Administrator
Jenifer Nobles, County Clerk
John Adams, Attorney

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

September 16, 2016

RE: Letter of Support and Consent for Public Access

Dear Ms. Sparks,

I am contacting you as the Charlton County Administrator on behalf of the Charlton County Board of 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 public boat access sites in Charlton County encompassed by the scope of the project maintained by Charlton County Board of Commissioners. We give approval of the sites being included in the designation application.

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

Sincerely,



Shawn Boatright

Charlton County, Georgia

Board of Commissioners

James E. Everett, Chairman
Alpha Benefield, Vice Chairman
Jesse Crews, Commissioner
Ronnie Pollock, Commissioner
Luke Gowen, Commissioner

Shawn Boatright, Administrator
Jenifer Nobles, County Clerk
John B. Adams, County Attorney

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(Signature)

(Date)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Signature)

(Date)

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(Date)