

**RESOLUTION
2022-23**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION AND FUNDING TO IMPROVE THE LAKE ROUSSEAU CONTAINMENT STRUCTURES AND RESTORE THE LOWER WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER; PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE COUNTY COORDINATOR OR DESIGNEE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee River defines a portion of Levy County's border and discharges into State Preserve waters located within the Gulf of Mexico along the western border of the County; and

WHEREAS, the State has classified the Lower Withlacoochee River as an Outstanding Florida Waterbody and designated it a Special Water of exceptional recreational or ecological significance and worthy of the highest level of protection, and

WHEREAS, Special Waters of the State are a significant contributor to state and local economies; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Withlacoochee River has seen significant degradation and impairment due in large part to inadequate design and function of the Lake Rousseau containment structures - as documented in a multi-year water quality monitoring and environmental assessment study and final report dated July 2021 prepared by the environmental consulting and engineering firm of Wetland Solutions, Inc. for the non-profit organization W.A.R., Inc. d/b/a Withlacoochee Aquatic Restoration, which report is available at <https://www.warinonline.com/index.php> ; and

WHEREAS, as documented in the report, much of the impairment can be remedied with modifications to the Lake Rousseau containment structures and other projects; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal action and funding is needed to implement these projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida, that:

1. The County requests Federal and State Legislative action to direct and fund improvements to the Lake Rousseau containment structures and other projects necessary to restore the Lower Withlacoochee River.
2. The County Coordinator is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida Senator Jennifer Bradley, Florida Representative Joe Harding, U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, U.S. Representative Neal Dunn, Executive Director of the SWFWMD Brian Armstrong, FDEP Secretary Shawn Hamilton, Inglis Mayor Michael White, Yankeetown Mayor Eric Erkel and Citrus County Administrator Randy Oliver.
3. This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption by the Board.

DULY ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA

Russell Meeks Jr., Chairman

ATTEST: Clerk of the Circuit Court
and Ex Officio to the Board

Danny J. Shipp

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency

Nicolle M. Shalley, County Attorney