

**WAKULLA COUNTY**  
**RESOLUTION** 09-52

**A RESOLUTION OF THE WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CREATION OF NEW DESIGNATED USES FOR FLORIDA WATERS BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (FDEP).**

**WHEREAS**, healthy waters, beaches and canals provide the unique quality of life that draws visitors and residents alike to Wakulla County to enjoy swimming, fishing and boating; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida law states that its public policy is to “conserve the waters of the state and to protect, maintain, and improve the quality thereof for public water supplies, for the propagation of wildlife and fish and other aquatic life, and for domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational, and other beneficial uses...”; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. law states that revised or new water quality standards must include designated uses of water bodies and must “protect the public health or welfare” and “enhance the quality of water”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Water Act requires that any change to water quality standards must at least “maintain the existing quality of each waterbody, preventing any further ‘degradation’ of the waterbody’s integrity”; and

**WHEREAS**, federal regulations state that a water body that is currently meeting or has met a designated use since 1975 cannot have that use taken away;

**WHEREAS**, the state of Florida already allows for reclassification of individual waterbodies that historically have not and cannot meet their designated uses, to lower use classifications through a Use Attainability Analysis and to lower water quality standards through a Site Specific Alternative Criteria analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, if designated uses are lowered for canals or other water bodies close to pollution sources, there will be less implementation of pollutant source control measures, as well as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) for the natural rivers, streams, and estuaries that they eventually flow into; and

**WHEREAS**, FDEP has proposed the addition of two new designated uses that fall below the current fishable/swimmable standard and would allow for the re-designation of some water bodies other than urban concrete-lined ditches to the proposed lower splashable/fishable or unswimmable/fishable standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wakulla County believes that FDEP should use available resources to uphold the current uses of local water bodies through preventative measures, such as the use of stormwater Best Management Practices to stop pollution at its sources, as well as through the implementation of TMDLs and BMAPs;


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

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners hereby opposes the creation of new lower human designated uses and recommends instead that the current designated use classifications be retained, with existing Class IV amended to include "urban concrete-lined ditches" such that Wakulla County and the rest of the state can continue to enjoy healthy swimmable/fishable waters that are so central to the state's economy and the Florida way of life.

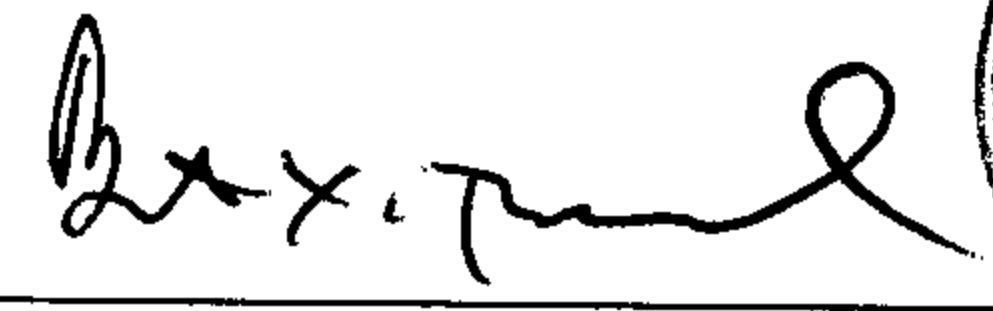
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be recorded in the Minutes of this Board and filed with the Wakulla County Clerk's Office.

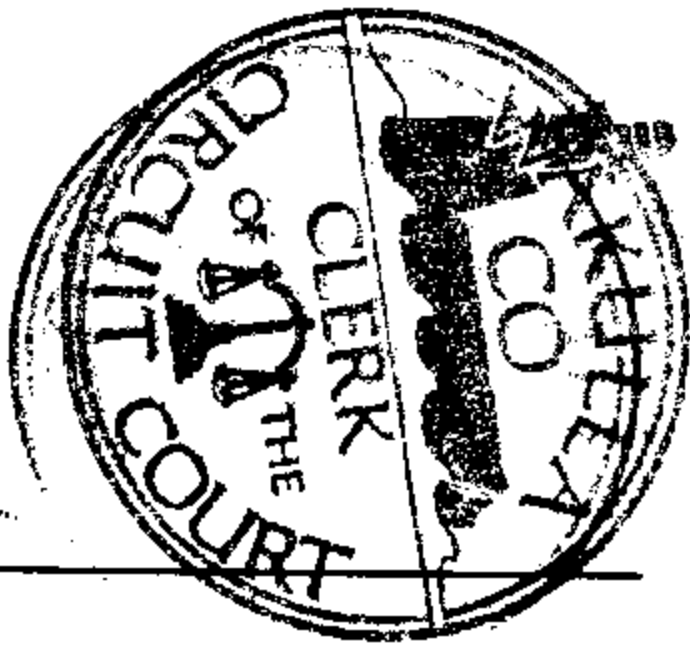
**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, ON OCTOBER 20, 2009.**

WAKULLA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

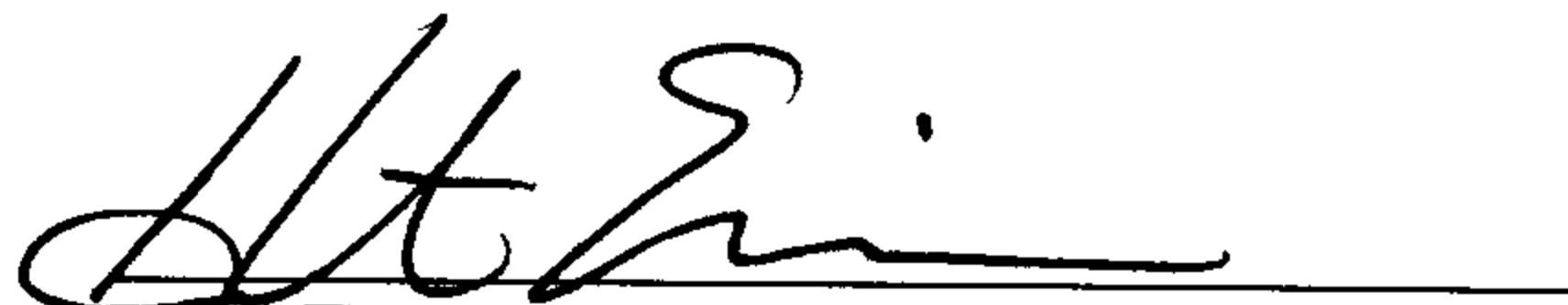
  
HOWARD KESSLER, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
BRENT X. THURMOND,  
Clerk of Court



APPROVE AS TO FORM:

  
HEATHER ENCINOSA, Esq.  
County Attorney