

R E S O L U T I O N  
NUMBER 2020-

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A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE PILOT  
PROJECTS OF EXTRACTION OF NUTRIENT-RICH SEDIMENTS  
MECHANICAL HARVESTING OF INVASIVE PLANT TECHNOLOGIES  
TO REDUCE NUTRIENT MASS-LOADING THAT CONTRIBUTES TO  
NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS INCLUDING HARMFUL  
ALGAL BLOOMS.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the health of Lake Okeechobee is intricately connected to the well-being of our State, its residents, wildlife, and our economy; and

WHEREAS, nutrient loads in Lake Okeechobee and the downstream estuaries annually exceed allowable levels; and

WHEREAS, legacy nutrients derived from chemical spraying of vegetation, and unconsolidated sludge, contribute to harmful algal blooms and damaging releases to the coastal estuaries; and

WHEREAS, reducing chemical spraying and removing legacy nutrients will help combat algal blooms; and

WHEREAS, unless a concerted effort is made to remove nutrients from Lake Okeechobee and its surrounding water bodies, the benefit of billions of dollars spent in an effort to restore the Everglades and protect our estuaries will never be realized; and

WHEREAS, innovative pilot projects involving extraction of nutrient-rich sediments/muck and mechanical harvesting technologies have been shown to remove unconsolidated sludge, blue-green algae, and invasive aquatic vegetation mechanically and create a re-used and recycled soil amendment to grow crops that will then be

harvested, thereby permanently removing thousands of pounds of phosphorus and other nutrients from water bodies; and

WHEREAS, such pilot projects are scalable, versatile, cost effective, and have the potential to be utilized statewide; and

WHEREAS, innovative pilot projects involving extraction of nutrient-rich sediments and mechanical harvesting technologies need to be identified by Charlotte County in the interest of our environment and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte County must also look to partner with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Water Management Districts, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to avail ourselves of those agencies' resources and experience in realizing this innovative technology for the benefit of our County and our region.

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

1. Lake Okeechobee is worth protecting for the benefit of all, and nutrient reduction is the primary method by which the goal of protecting our waters will be achieved.
2. Reducing chemical spraying and removing legacy nutrients will help combat algal blooms.
3. Solutions must be implemented that support the billions of dollars Floridians have invested in restoration of the Everglades, saving the Ten Thousand Islands, and protecting our estuaries/bays.

4. Innovative pilot projects involving extraction of nutrient-rich matter and mechanical harvesting technologies have demonstrated success in significantly reducing the amount of undesirable nutrients in Florida's waters.

5. Such pilot projects show promise for future use for water bodies in our own County.

6. We, the undersigned, join the State and Federal agencies named herein in supporting the implementation of these types of pilot projects in applicable areas of Lake Okeechobee and its surround water bodies.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 8th day of December, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
William G. Truex, Chairman

ATTEST:

Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of the Circuit  
Court and Ex-officio Clerk of the  
Board of County Commissioners

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Janette S. Knowlton, County Attorney  
LR20-0796 / CA