

RESOLUTION 2011 - 046

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF THE BROWARD COUNTY WATER PRESERVE AREA (WPA) PROJECT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN, AND URGING THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO EXPEDITIOUSLY FINALIZE THE BROWARD COUNTY WPA PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT TO MEET THE DEADLINES NECESSARY FOR CONSIDERATION FOR FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2000, the United States Congress approved the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Title VI of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000, authorizing the CERP as the framework for restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida eco system, while providing for other water-related needs of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Southwest Ranches supports the CERP, the largest ecosystem restoration initiative in the world, and recognizes the CERP as important to the future well-being of the region's environment, water supply, and economy; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of Broward County is located within the Everglades, and projects to restore the Everglades ecosystem located in Broward County are key to successful restoration of the Greater Everglades; and

WHEREAS, the Water Preserve Area (WPA) Project was approved as one of the initially authorized projects considered by Congress as part of CERP; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County Water Preserve Area Project is a key component of CERP and was configured to include significant projects located within Broward County such as the 3A/3B Seepage Management Area, the C-11 Impoundment, the C-9 Impoundment; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County 3A/3B Seepage Management Area Project includes 4,633 acres of short hydro period wetlands that will reduce seepage from the Everglades and increase the spatial extent of wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County C-11 Impoundment Project includes, 1,068 acres for surface water storage and will serve to receive storm water from the County's western C-11 Basin, diverted from the S-9 pump station; and

WHEREAS, the operation of the Broward C-11 Impoundment will substantially reduce the frequency with which urban storm water runoff is pumped to the Everglades through the S-9 pump station, while also increasing ground water recharge to the Biscayne aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County C-9 Impoundment Project includes 1,641 acres for surface water storage and will receive storm water from the County's western C-9 Basin diverted from the S-9 pump station, and will also increase ground water recharge to the Biscayne aquifer; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the environmental, economic and water supply benefits, the WPA also provides passive recreational benefits for the public to enjoy such as canoeing, bird watching, and many miles of multi-use trails that will enhance the quality of life and tourism industry in Broward County; and

WHEREAS, to move the Broward County WPA forward for Congressional action and funding consideration, the completion of a Project Implementation Report (PIR) and inclusion of the Broward WPA in the US Army Corps of Engineers Chiefs Report are necessary; and

WHEREAS, deliberations between the US Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District to develop a final PIR have not been finalized; and

WHEREAS, the current schedule shows plans to complete the PIR in May 2011 for consideration by the SFWMD Governing Board in June 2011; and

WHEREAS, this schedule already represents a departure of several months from the planned PIR completion date of March 2011 presented by the Corps in December 2010; and

WHEREAS, failure to complete the project PIR in time for inclusion in the upcoming Chiefs Report (planned for July 2011), may jeopardize funding and consideration for implementation by the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, execution of this Resolution and implementation of the Broward County WPA, which is considered a federal/state project, has no fiscal impact to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Southwest Ranches is committed to working with other governments to ensure the restoration of the Everglades through the timely implementation of the Broward County WPA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida:

Section 1. The recitals above are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The governing body of the Town of Southwest Ranches recognizes the significant value of the Broward County Water Preserve Area Project of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

Section 3. The Town of Southwest Ranches urges the US Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District to expeditiously finalize the Broward County Water Preserve Area Project Implementation Report to ensure the inclusion of the Broward County Water Preserve Area project in the Chiefs Report to meet deadlines necessary for consideration of the project's funding and approval by the United States Congress.

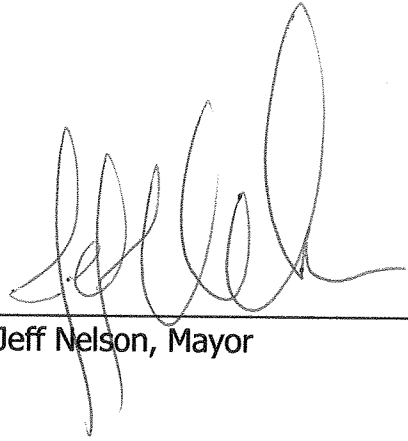
Section 4. A certified copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Mayor of the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, the Broward County Congressional Delegation, the South Florida Water Management District's Governing Board, District Commander of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, and the Assistant Secretary of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida, this 31st day of March 2011, on a motion by Council Member Doug McKay and seconded by Council Member Steve Breitkreuz.

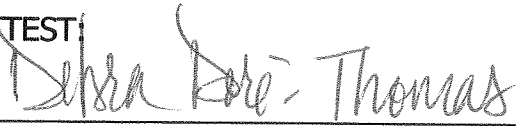
Nelson	<u>Absent</u>	Ayes	<u>4</u>
Fisikelli	<u>Y</u>	Nays	<u>0</u>
Breitkreuz	<u>Y</u>	Absent	<u>1</u>
Jablonski	<u>Y</u>	Abstaining	<u>0</u>
McKay	<u>Y</u>		

[Signatures on following page]



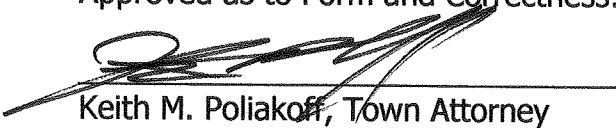
Jeff Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Debra Doré-Thomas, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:



Keith M. Poliakoff, Town Attorney

ACTIVE: 3270895_1