

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(20)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

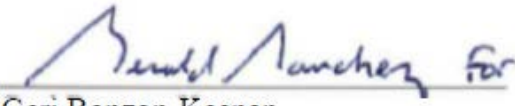
DATE: April 20, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting the Florida
Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission's sponsorship of the
nutrient reduction project on Lake
Okeechobee; and supporting the
Florida Department of
Environmental Protection's
award of funding for said project

Resolution No. R-370-21

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 20, 2021

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(20)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(20)
4-20-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-370-21

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA FISH AND
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S
SPONSORSHIP OF THE NUTRIENT REDUCTION PROJECT
ON LAKE OKEECHOBEE; AND SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S
AWARD OF FUNDING FOR SAID PROJECT

WHEREAS, Lake Okeechobee is a critical natural resource that significantly impacts Florida's environment, economy, and water quality; and

WHEREAS, decades of over-fertilizing the surrounding land have resulted in excessive flows of phosphorous and other nutrients in Lake Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, nutrient pollution, chemical spraying, and unconsolidated sludge have spawned harmful algal blooms; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWCC") and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP") are exploring innovative techniques to reduce nutrients and remove invasive aquatic vegetation from the lake; and

WHEREAS, Aguaculture, LLC ("Aguaculture") has developed a process whereby unconsolidated sludge and invasive aquatic vegetation are mechanically removed to create a recycled soil amendment to grow crops, which will then be harvested; and

WHEREAS, Aguaculture has proposed a pilot project on Lake Okeechobee to demonstrate the efficacy of this process, which is expected to remove a minimum of 2,000 pounds of phosphorous daily; and

WHEREAS, with FWCC as its sponsor, Aguaculture applied to FDEP for an Innovative Technology grant to fund the Lake Okeechobee nutrient reduction project; and

WHEREAS, FDEP has awarded \$500,000.00 in funding for the project, and Aguaculture continues to pursue other funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the South Florida Water Management District have also contributed resources to this project; and

WHEREAS, the health of Lake Okeechobee influences ecological conditions in the Everglades, and a healthy Everglades is critical to Miami-Dade County's economy and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, this Board has previously supported initiatives to protect the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, for example, on February 20, 2019, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-213-19, which supported Governor Ron DeSantis's \$625 million environmental budget proposal for Everglades restoration and the protection of water resources; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to support innovative solutions for the reduction of excess nutrients in Lake Okeechobee,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Supports the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's sponsorship of the nutrient reduction project on Lake Okeechobee.

Section 2. Supports the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's award of funding for the project identified in section 1.

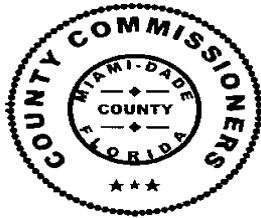
Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Commissioners of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the governmental actions set forth in sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2021 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Eileen Higgins** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman	aye	
	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	aye	
Sen. René García	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Joe A. Martinez	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Jean Monestime	aye
Raquel A. Regalado	aye	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of April, 2021. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Melissa Adames

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "CMR", written over a horizontal line.

Cristina M. Rabionet