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ALACHUA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 2017 - 31

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THE STATE LEGISLATURE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION LANDS AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN THE 2017-2018 BUDGET; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, there are environmentally sensitive natural areas and conservation lands necessary to protect our water resources, fish and wildlife, and recreational access throughout Alachua County and Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida's remarkable biological diversity and its natural systems are the fundamental basis of its quality of life and economy; and

WHEREAS, population and development impacts are expected to grow over the next two decades and land conservation is an accepted way to buffer the impacts of growth on natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection states: "Florida Forever is Florida's premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving natural resources and renewing Florida's commitment to conserve the state's natural and cultural heritage"; and

WHEREAS, 72% of Alachua County voters and 75% of Florida voters (4.2 million citizens) voted on November 4, 2014 to approve an Amendment to Article X, Section 28 of the Florida Constitution to acquire and manage environmentally sensitive lands; and

1 **WHEREAS**, it is the request of Alachua County that the legislature fulfill its obligation
2 to the people to provide significant funding for conservation land acquisition as called for in the
3 2014 Amendment; and

4 **WHEREAS**, these lands need to be acquired and preserved by fee simple acquisition,
5 conservation easement, or purchase of development rights to protect our future prosperity.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY**
7 **COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

8 1. ALACHUA County respectfully requests that the Florida state legislature
9 significantly increase funding for the acquisition of conservation lands and conservation
10 easements in the 2017-2018 budget.

11 2. Alachua County considers the acquisition, protection and management of
12 environmentally sensitive lands to be a crucial public benefit to the future of this County and the
13 State of Florida.

14
15 PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of March, 2017
16

17 **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
18 **OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

20
21 By: Ken Cornell
22 Ken Cornell, Chair
23 Board of County Commissioners

21 ATTEST:
22
23
24 Jesse K. Irby, II
25 Jesse K. Irby, II
26 Clerk of Court

27
28 (SEAL)

29
30 APPROVED AS TO FORM
J. V. [Signature]
Alachua County Attorney