

RESOLUTION #17-020R

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THE STATE LEGISLATURE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION LANDS AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN THE 2017/2018 BUDGET.

WHEREAS, there are environmentally sensitive natural areas and conservation lands necessary to protect our water resources, fish and wildlife, and recreational access throughout Osceola 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, on November 4, 2014 an Amendment to Article X, Section 28 of the Florida Constitution was approved for the purpose of acquiring and managing environmentally sensitive lands; and

WHEREAS, it is the request of Osceola County that the Legislature implement the 2014 Amendment in a manner that provides significant funding opportunities for acquiring conservation lands; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA THAT:

Osceola County respectfully requests that the Florida state legislature significantly increase funding for the acquisition of conservation lands and conservation easements in the 2017/2018 budget;

And be it resolved that Osceola County considers the acquisition, protection and management of environmentally sensitive lands to be a crucial public benefit to the future of this County and the State of Florida.

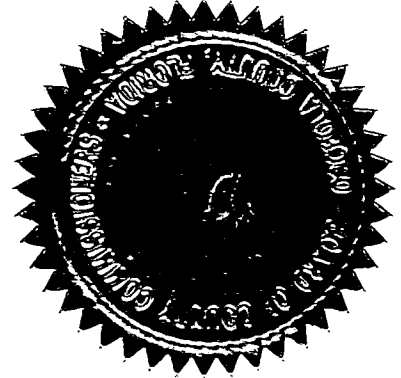
THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED after motion, second and majority vote favoring the same,
this 20th day of February 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Chair/Vice-Chair

ATTEST:
OSCEOLA COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Diana McWallis
Clerk/Deputy Clerk to the Board



As authorized for execution at the Board of
County Commissioners meeting of:

February 20, 2017
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