



Department of Public Works
SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA
Milton, Florida 32583

Glenn Bailey
Asst. Public Works Director
6075 Old Bagdad Hwy.

Thad Allen
Superintendent
Building Maintenance/Parks
P.O. Box 864
623-1569 • 939-1877

Stephen L. Furman P.E.
Director of Public Works
6075 Old Bagdad Hwy.
(850) 626-0191
Fax 623-1331

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tony Gomillion, County Administrator
FROM: Stephen Furman, Public Works Director
DATE: July 19, 2016
SUBJECT: Wildflower Resolution

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S.F.", is written over the "FROM:" line.

RECOMMENDATION

Discussion of approval of a Wildflower Resolution for Santa Rosa County.

BACKGROUND

Ms. Suzanne Spencer, a Florida Master Gardener, has presented a request from the Santa Rosa County Master Gardeners, the Santa Rosa County Master Naturalists, the Azalea Garden Club, the Milton Garden Club, and Florida Native Plant Society for the Board of County Commissioners to adopt a "Wildflower Resolution". Upon approval of the resolution, the Santa Rosa Master Gardeners would take the lead in working with the Public Works Department to identify several areas along county rights of way that will be suitable candidates for wildflower preservation.

The establishment of protection areas for native wildflowers is seen as a means of roadside beautification, and enhancement to tourism, and enhancement of natural corridors for migrating fauna and a means to increase pollinator species. The Public Works Department would provide signage identifying the areas, and we would modify our mowing of these specific areas to accommodate the natural propagation of the flowers. Other than the minimal cost of the signage, we anticipate no increase to our workload as a result of having the wildflower areas.

As noted in the backup material, Okaloosa County recently approved a similar resolution, and thus became the tenth of sixteen counties in DOT District 3 to approve this resolution. If approved, Santa Rosa County would become the eleventh county in District 3 to adopt this type of resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - ____

WHEREAS, the natural beauty of native wildflowers in Santa Rosa County can be enjoyed by everyone, can attract guests, and benefit commerce, environmental health and public well-being; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of native wildflowers is an occasion for all County and community leaders to unite for the benefit of everyone; and

WHEREAS, many naturally beautiful species of native wildflowers, including Coreopsis, the state wildflower, as depicted upon the State Wildflower license tag, are already prominently displayed along Santa Rosa County's state and county roadways; and

WHEREAS, increasing the visibility of native wildflowers in Santa Rosa County is consistent with the vision of the Comprehensive Plan, and goals of many individuals, businesses, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, the presence of native wildflowers is essential to the fitness of native pollinator species necessary for productive and profitable farms and forests; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon named this beautiful place La Florida, Land of Flowers, because of the wealth of native wildflowers; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and attainable to experience the beauty of many more native wildflowers by reducing the frequency and extent of roadside mowing; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County, Florida, do hereby commit and encourage others to commit to the conservation of roadside native wildflowers on state and county roadways, and do hereby instruct County staff to partner with the Florida Department of Transportation and adjoining property owners to plan and implement roadside management practices that will increase the visibility and enjoyment of Florida native wildflowers.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a vote of __ yeas, __ nays, and __ absent of the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County, Florida this ____ day of July, 2016.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

By: _____
Lane Lynchard, Chairman

Donald C. Spencer, Clerk of Court



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA REQUEST

DATE: April 5, 2016
TO: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board
FROM: Rick Owen
SUBJECT: Resolution supporting wildflowers
DEPARTMENT: County Administrator
BCC DISTRICT: All

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: Staff requests Board approval of a resolution encouraging conservation of wildflowers and exploration of other activities to promote roadside wildflower growth.

BACKGROUND: The purpose of the resolution is to create a partnership between Okaloosa County and the Florida Department of Transportation to maintain and enhance existing roadside populations of native wildflowers and to implement and maintain future plantings.

Funding for this program is provided by proceeds from the sale of the Florida Wildflower License Plate.

Okaloosa County is part of FDOT District Three. Of the sixteen counties in the district, nine have already adopted a County Wildflower Resolution by approval of their County Commissioners. These counties include: Walton, Washington, Calhoun, Leon, Franklin, Gadsden, Wakulla, Holmes and Jefferson.

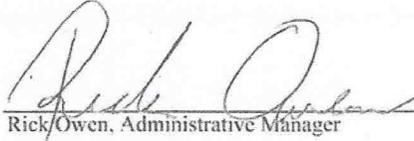
Okaloosa County citizens would work with FDOT to identify existing roadway populations of wildflowers for reduced mowing regimens, and would select other roadways for new plantings and enrichment. The following is a link to the website for the Florida Wildflowers Foundation which contains information on the project with FDOT: www.flawildflowers.org
<<http://www.flawildflowers.org>>

Agreements from local Garden Clubs, Master Gardeners, Civic Organizations and private citizens that using native plants on roadways would be beneficial in many ways including, but not limited to:

- Beautification
- Reduced mowing and manpower costs
- Tourism
- Enhancement of natural corridors for migrating fauna
- Increase in native pollinator species

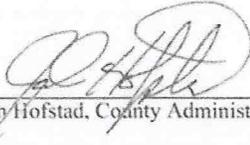
A county resolution would support H.R.2738 - Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment Pollinator Protection Act (better known as the "The Bee Act")

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of a resolution encouraging conservation of wildflowers and exploration of other activities to promote roadside wildflower growth.



Rick Owen, Administrative Manager 3/28/2016

RECOMMENDED BY:



John Hofstad, County Administrator 3/30/2016

APPROVED BY:

John Hofstad, County Administrator

Escambia/Santa Rosa Wildflower Resolution and Wildflower Areas Meeting
June 17, 2016, Tyron Branch Library, Pensacola FL
Report by Eleanor Dietrich, Florida Wildflower Foundation and Panhandle Wildflower Alliance

This meeting was hosted by the Longleaf Pine Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Chapter President Cheryl Jones distributed the meeting announcement to contacts in both Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Garden clubs in the area were also invited, courtesy of a list from Gail Hill, FFGC Highway Beautification committee chair. Thanks to all of this communication support, there was a very good turnout for this meeting, 19 people attended from both counties representing the native plant chapter, garden clubs, people interested in wildflowers, as well as FDOT and Santa Rosa Public Works. Some people who were not able to attend also expressed their interest in this project.



The meeting began with introductions, followed by a description of the purpose of the meeting, which was to describe the process for obtaining wildflower resolutions and wildflower areas. Bob Farley, FDOT District 3 Vegetation Manager, and Jamie Nicholson, Project Engineer for Broadspectrum in Escambia County (they perform the road maintenance duties through a contract with FDOT) told the group more about how FDOT works with local counties to manage specified roadside areas for wildflowers.

Stephen Furman, Director of Public Works for Santa Rosa County spoke to the group about how to work with his office to suggest good wildflower areas. He is very interested in working with this project, he considers reduced mowing to be a win-win situation. He also said that he would help get the wildflower resolution on the Santa Rosa county commission agenda.

There was considerable discussion among the group about this process. At the conclusion of the meeting, one person from each county agreed to be the "point person" for this project. I will work with them as needed during the process, and they will be in communication with other project supporters in their respective counties. Tina Tuttle will take the lead in Escambia County, and Suzanne Spencer will work with IFAS Residential Horticultural Agent Mary Derrick, who has expressed an interest in this program for Santa Rosa County. Stephen Furman will work closely with them in Santa Rosa County.

Meeting attendees:

Name	Email	County	Group
Brady, Scott	Scottbrady@mac.com	Esc	Native plant society
Bremmer, Kimberly	Kimee@mchsi.com	SR	BFA, NPS
Crawford, Ann	rcrawford2@panhandle.rr.com	Esc	Honeysuckle garden club
Dietrich, Eleanor	Eleanor43@aol.com	na	Fla Wildflower Foundation/PWA
Farley, Bob	bfarley@mtnresources.com	na	FDOT District 3
Friedman, Mary Ann	marsabones@hotmail.com	na	Okaloosa
Furman, Stephen	StephenF@santarosa.fl.gov	SR	SR Dir of Public Works
Hedrick, Vaughn	vaughnhedrick@bellsouth.net	Esc	likes wildflowers
Houck, Deborah	ewhouch@bellsouth.net	SR	Milton garden club
Jones, Cheryl	cheryls21660@gmail.com	Esc	Native plant society
Mascara, Ellie	emascara@hotmail.com	SR	master gardener
Moreland, Marcy	morelandmarcia@gmail.com	Esc	
Nicholson, Jamie	jamie.nicholson@broadpectrum.com	Esc	Broadpectrum
Peterson, Emily	gopherapple@gmail.com	SR	
Ray, Donald		Esc	Native plant society
Spencer, Suzanne	spencersc@bellsouth.net	SR	IFAS master gardener
Tebay, Carole	tebay@bellouth.net	Esc	Native plant society
Tuttle, Tina	Ttuttle1954@gmail.com	Esc	FFGC horticultural chair
Wallace, Jean	hyerpointehouse@cof.net	Esc	Scenic byway foundation

Other contacts:

Mary Derrick, IFAS Residential Horticultural Agent, Santa Rosa Maryd@santarosa.fl.gov

Sandra Sherman, President, Alazlea Garden Club of Pace, shermanacs@aol.com