

RESOLUTION NO. 2011- 41

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING NATIVE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES; RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF REMOVAL OF NON-NATIVE PLANTS; AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK, FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 3, 2011.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the St. Johns County Board of Commissioners recognizes the value of preserving St. Johns County's unique native plant species; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County Board of Commissioners encourages the use and preservation of native plants and plant communities as provided in the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County coordinates with local partner agencies to restore publicly owned degraded natural areas through various means including the removal of non-native plants; and

WHEREAS, invasive non-native plants negatively impact native plants, animals, and ecotourism industries by displacing native plant communities, altering hydrologic regimes, altering the natural function of wetlands and waterways, degrading native habitat for native wildlife and negatively affecting the appearance and enjoyment of natural landscapes; and

WHEREAS, the annual negative impact of invasive non-native plant species to the United States economy is an estimated cost of \$120 billion; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County is a participating member of the First Coast Invasive Working Group, an organization working across political boundaries to address the threat of invasive plant species in Northeast Florida.

WHEREAS, National Invasive Species Awareness week, a week of activities, briefings, and events to highlight what is being done across the nation and around the world to stop and slow the spread of invasive species, will occur February 28 – March 3, 2011 and members of the Environmental Division staff will participate in several activities throughout the week; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County's participation in National Invasive Species Awareness Week will serve the interests of the County and public-at-large.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, as follows:

Section 1. The above Recitals are incorporated by reference into the body of this Resolution and such Recitals are adopted as findings of fact.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County hereby supports staff and partner agencies in their continued efforts to minimize the negative impacts of invasive plant species by reducing the further spread of invasive plants and by the removal of invasive plants in St. Johns County.

Section 3. The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County hereby supports staff and partner agencies in their continued efforts to protect native plant species and restore native habitats in St. Johns County.

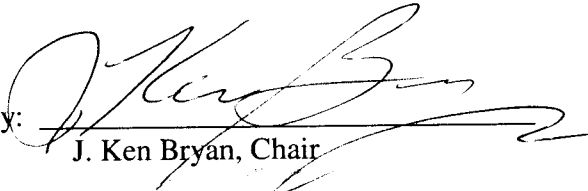
Section 4. The Board of County Commissioners hereby supports National Invasive Species Awareness Week, February 28 – March 3, 2011.

Section 5. To the extent that there are typographical errors or omissions that do not change the tone, tenor, or context of this Resolution, then this Resolution may be revised without subsequent approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

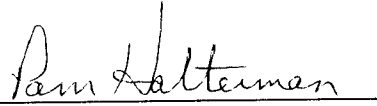
Section 6. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 15th day of February 2011.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
J. Ken Bryan, Chair

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

By: 
Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE 2/16/11

