

RESOLUTION NO. 2013- 157

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ISSUE A LETTER, ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY, TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICE OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS, IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATING THE ENTIRE ST. JOHNS RIVER AS A STATE PADDLING TRAIL OR BLUEWAY**

**WHEREAS**, the St. Johns River Alliance (“SJRA”) seeks to petition the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (“FDEP”) Office of Greenways and Trails to designate the entire St. Johns River as a State Designated paddling trail or blueway; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Johns County has already designated the St. Johns River as a paddling trail and blueway in its St. Johns County Blueways, Greenways and Trails Masterplan; and

**WHEREAS**, the River Alliance has requested that all counties adjacent to the St. Johns River issue a letter to the FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails, supporting State designation of the St. Johns River as a paddling trail or blueway; and

**WHEREAS**, such State designation would impose no additional funding requirements at County owned boat ramps, launching facilities, or parks along the St. Johns River, but would strengthen the County’s position in future efforts to secure grant funding; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the collective best interests of the citizens of St. Johns County to provide a letter to the FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails in support of designating the entire St. Johns River as a State paddling trail or blueway.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The above Recitals are hereby incorporated into the body of this Resolution, and are adopted as Findings of Fact.

**Section 2.** The Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes the Chair to issue a letter on behalf of St. Johns County to the FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails, supporting efforts to designate the entire St. Johns River as a State paddling trail or blueway.

**Section 3.** To the extent that there are typographical and/or administrative errors contained herein that do not change the tone, tenor or concept of this Resolutions, then such errors may be corrected and this Resolution revised without subsequent approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida the 16 day of July, 2013.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Morris, Chair

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk



RENDITION DATE 7/18/13



## St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

County Commission Office

July 16, 2013

Mark Middlebrook, Executive Director  
St. Johns River Alliance  
2029 North 3rd Street  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

Dear Mr. Middlebrook,

St. Johns County is pleased to provide this letter of support for the St. Johns River Alliance as they apply to Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails in an effort to designate the St. Johns River as a State paddling or blueway trail. There is good reason to support your efforts as Trout Creek, Julington Creek and the Durbin Creek Canoe Trail are valuable assets to St. Johns County and are widely utilized by boaters and paddlers. We believe the designation for the St. Johns River will certainly enhance the visibility of this incredible natural resource at the local, State and national levels and promote private investment in ecotourism and recreation.

It is St. Johns County's intent to continue, at current levels, the maintenance of its existing public canoe and paddling facilities along the St. Johns River and its tributaries. Our understanding is that this designation would be non-regulatory, therefore the County makes no commitment to future regulation or enhancement to facilities; however, we believe the net effect would create greater use and appreciation of the St. Johns River thereby promoting future economic returns that could provide for enhancements should the opportunity arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Morris", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Jay Morris  
Chairman  
St. Johns County