

RESOLUTION R-10-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA APPROVING OF THE SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, water resources, including lakes and water supply for future growth, are an integral part of Winter Haven's character and economic future; and

WHEREAS, because of its unique location and geology, the Winter Haven area and the Peace Creek Watershed receive water only from rainfall; and

WHEREAS, conserving stormwater and floodwaters in the natural landscape for use during dry periods is much more beneficial than treating this resource as a waste product; and

WHEREAS, in the past century the Peace Creek Watershed has been drained, lakes have been lowered, and aquifers have declined, resulting in long-term impairments; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of water resources in the Peace Creek watershed will benefit downstream water users, including the Peace River, Charlotte Harbor, and users of the Floridan Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the area in and around Winter Haven is poised for significant economic growth that could help restore water resources if planned properly; and

WHEREAS, making decisions today to properly plan for water restoration can save money for future generations and improve the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, State and regional policies are not always adequate for managing water resources on a local scale; and

WHEREAS, City staff, with the help of qualified consultants and significant public input, has written the Sustainable Water Resources Management Plan for Winter Haven and the Peace Creek Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Plan indicates that the local approach to water resources management can be strengthened, with much to gain from integrating land planning and water management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA:

1. Approves of the Sustainable Water Resources Management Plan for Winter Haven and the Peace Creek Watershed as direction for managing water in the future, including, but not limited to the following:

- a. Storing water in the natural system, including lakes, aquifers and wetlands, creates benefits for all aspects of water, including public supply, water quality, lake levels, habitat, and flooding;
- b. Restoring lost wetlands, lake storage and aquifer recharge can be consistent with and even encourage future growth if planned properly;
- c. The City of Winter Haven should provide leadership and coordination within the Peace Creek Watershed since improvements to the watershed will result in significant benefits to local water resources;
- d. The Plan should be used to encourage economic growth by facilitating environmental permitting for wetland mitigation, stormwater treatment, floodwater management and creating water frontage for new development;
- e. Partnerships with Polk County, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the State of Florida and the private sector should be sought to help implement the Plan; and
- f. The concept of using nature parks, raingardens, and swales in appropriate locations is recommended to manage water resources as well as provide amenities for future generations.

2. The Sustainable Water Resources Management Plan for Winter Haven and the Peace Creek Watershed should be used to provide direction for city documents related to water resources, including the comprehensive plan, water quality management plans, water supply plans, and other plans in the future.

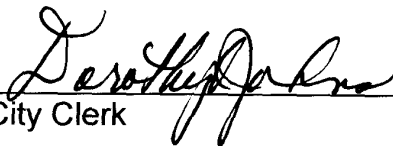
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED by the City Commission of the City of Winter Haven, Florida in regular session on this 13th day of December 2010.



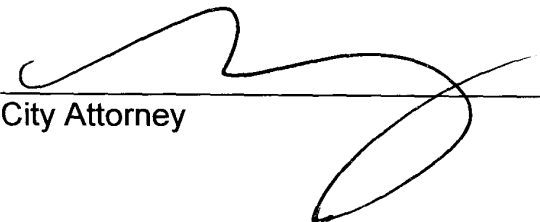
Mayor-Commissioner

ATTEST:



City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney