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## MEETING NOTICE

# MIDDLE AND LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER TASK FORCE

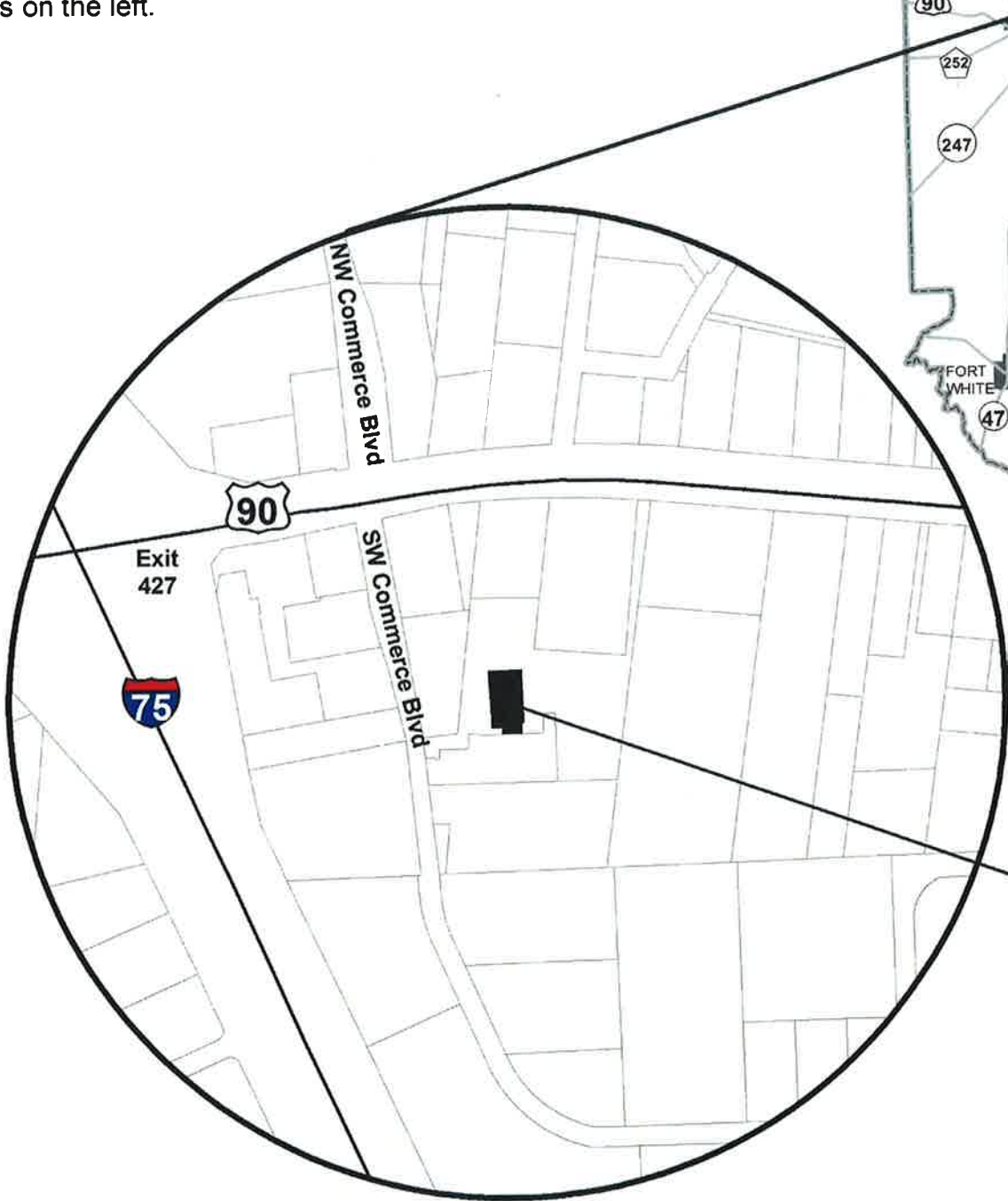
There will be a meeting of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force on **February 28, 2019**. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida, at 4:00 p.m.

(Location Map on Back)

# Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd  
Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn, East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.



1 inch = 500 feet

Holiday Inn  
Hotel & Suites





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## AGENDA

### MIDDLE AND LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER TASK FORCE

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard  
Lake City, Florida

February 28, 2019  
4:00 p.m.

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\* See Attachments

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## IV.

### MIDDLE AND LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER TASK FORCE MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

January 24, 2019  
4:00 p.m.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Beth Burnam, Hamilton County, Vice-Chair  
Rick Davis, Madison County, Chair  
Thomas Demps, Taylor County  
Don Hale, Suwannee County  
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County  
John Meeks, Levy County  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County  
Ronald Williams, Columbia County

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County  
Ken Cornell, Alachua County  
James Tallman, Union County

#### STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Nick Brown, Citizen  
Sandra Buck-Camp, Citizen  
Ben Glass, Suwannee River  
Water Management District  
Louie Goodin, Hamilton County Coordinator  
Dan Hartley, State Representative - Chuck Brannan  
David Hurst, Citizen  
Brian Kauffman, Madison County Coordinator  
John Koch, United Press International  
Garrett McCray, Suwannee County  
Soil and Water Conservation District  
Thomas Mirti, Suwannee River  
Water Management District  
Jimmy Norris, Suwannee County  
Economic Development/Tourism  
Savannah Reams, Greene Publishing, Inc.  
Larry Sessions, Suwannee County  
Soil and Water Conservation District  
Jim Tatum, Our Santa Fe River  
Paula Vann, Columbia County  
Tourist Development Council  
Kerry Waldron, Florida Department of Health  
Suwannee and Lafayette Counties  
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua Commissioner  
Chris Wynn, Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission

#### I. INVOCATION

Chair Rick Davis called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Burnam.

#### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Task Force members and guests pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

#### III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Davis stated there was a quorum of the Task Force. The Task Force members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 12, 2018

Chair Davis requested approval of the December 12, 2018 minutes.

**ACTION: Commissioner Thomas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2018 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. CITY OF VALDOSTA SEWAGE SPILLS

The Task Force received a presentation from Council staff concerning the history of raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta into the Withlacoochee River, the consent order between the City and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and ongoing raw sewage spills.

VI. CITY OF VALDOSTA PUBLIC OFFICIALS MEETING

Chair Davis reported that he, Madison County staff and Council staff met with the City of Valdosta Mayor, City Manager, Utilities Director and Public Information Officer on December 21, 2018 at City Hall in Valdosta, Georgia.

VII. NEXT STEPS

The Task Force agreed that the next steps should be to request a meeting with the Governor and Commissioner of Agriculture.

Chair Davis informed the Task Force that the next meeting will be held on February 28, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. prior to the next Council meeting at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Lake City.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Davis, Chair

2/28/19

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date




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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

February 21, 2019

TO: Task Force Members  
 FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director   
 SUBJECT: Resolution Concerning the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River

RECOMMENDATION:

**Adopt the attached resolution finding the continuing and repetitive spills of raw sewage into the Withlacoochee River and Mud Creek by the City of Valdosta, Georgia to be unacceptable and intolerable and requesting the support of the State of Florida, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Suwannee River Water Management District and other interested agencies in addressing the issue of raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta, Georgia.**

BACKGROUND:

Since January 1, 2008, the City of Valdosta, Georgia has reported to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division multiple raw sewage discharges from its Withlacoochee Water Pollution Control Plant and Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, which both are located within the Suwannee River Basin.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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RESOLUTION 2019-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE AND LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER TASK FORCE FINDING THE CONTINUING AND REPETITIVE SPILLS OF RAW SEWAGE INTO THE WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER AND MUD CREEK BY THE CITY OF VALDOSTA, GEORGIA TO BE UNACCEPTABLE AND INTOLERABLE; REQUESTING MEANINGFUL ENFORCEMENT ACTION BY THE STATE OF GEORGIA AND FLORIDA STATE AGENCIES AND PERSONNEL IN POSITION TO BRING SUCH ACTIONS; AND REQUESTING THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF RAW SEWAGE SPILLS BY THE CITY OF VALDOSTA, GEORGIA.

WHEREAS, since January 1, 2008, the City of Valdosta, Georgia has reported to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division multiple raw sewage discharges from its Withlacoochee Water Pollution Control Plant and Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, both of which are located within the Suwannee River Basin;

WHEREAS, pursuant to permits issued to the City of Valdosta by the Director of Georgia Environmental Protection Division, the City of Valdosta water pollution control plants are permitted to discharge treated wastewater into with Withlacoochee River and Mud Creek so long as the wastewater is within certain regulatory limits set by Georgia Environmental Protection Division;

WHEREAS, the permits do not permit the discharge or spillage of raw sewage into any waterway;

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee River and Mud Creek both flow into and contribute to the flow of the Suwannee River, which is both an important ecological and environmental asset and a vital tourism feature of the north central Florida region;

WHEREAS, pollution of the Suwannee River is a matter of great public interest as such pollution negatively impacts the quality of life for our citizens and visitors and threatens both the economic vitality and tourism appeal;

WHEREAS, in 2013, the City of Valdosta and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division entered into a Consent Order whereby the City of Valdosta acknowledged in detail the raw sewage spills that had occurred to that point, and the Consent Order imposed upon the City of Valdosta certain obligations under a five-year plan approved by the City of Valdosta City Council in April 2013 to prevent spills from occurring;

WHEREAS, in spite of the Consent Order, spills of raw sewage into the Withlacoochee River and Mud Creek have occurred since April 2018, more than five years after the date the City of Valdosta approved its five-year plan;

WHEREAS, it is evident that the Consent Order and the City of Valdosta Five-Year Plan have failed to alleviate the cause or causes of spills of raw sewage into the Suwannee River Basin;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has appointed the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force, hereinafter referred to as the Task Force, whose membership is comprised of a county commissioner from each of the 12 counties within the north central Florida region, to address the issue of raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta into the Withlacoochee River and Mud Creek; and

WHEREAS, it appears to the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force that more immediate and decisive action is necessary to protect north central Florida region natural resources and the Task Force's interest in maintaining a high quality of life for its citizens and enjoyment of the area for residents and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, BE IT RESOLVED by the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force that:

1. The Task Force finds unacceptable and intolerable the repeated raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta from its Withlacoochee and Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plants.
2. The Task Force finds that the implementation of the Consent Order has not corrected this persistent problem.
3. The Task Force requests the State of Florida, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Suwannee River Water Management District, and all other similarly situated agencies and entities with the authority to act, to join the Task Force in addressing raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta into the Withlacoochee River and Mud Creek.
4. The Task Force requests that the State of Florida, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Suwannee River Water Management District, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency carefully examine the conduct of the City of Valdosta, the State of Georgia, and any other parties to the operation of the City of Valdosta Withlacoochee and Mud Creek Pollution Control Plants and to take any and all necessary and proper actions to ensure spills of raw sewage into these waterways come to a lasting end.

RESOLVED this 28th day of February 2019, by the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force in special session.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Davis, Chair

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Ken Cornell

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Williams

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Kendrick Thomas

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA

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John Meeks

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Thomas Demps

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Beth Burnam, Vice-Chair

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Daniel Riddick

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Gene Higginbotham

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Anthony Adams

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Don Hale

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Tallman

Attest:

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Scott R. Koons, Executive Director