



NEWS RELEASE

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Wakulla County Celebrates Opening of Old Fort Road Boat Ramp

Crawfordville, Florida – On Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 11:30a.m. Wakulla County and the City of St. Marks will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the expansion of the boat ramp at Old Fort Road Boat Ramp in St. Marks.

The County signed a contract agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission/Florida Boating Improvement Program (FWC/FBIP) back in April 2003 in the amount of \$445,000 for the improvements to the Old Fort Boating Facility. The grant was awarded for the purpose of providing restroom, parking improvement, holding pond, boat ramp and a dock at this facility.

The permitting process, design and other mitigating factors originally resulted in a slow progress on this project. However, in early October 2007 the project was placed under the direct management of the County, in which the project made major strides. On June 23, 2008 the Board approved an Amendment to the grant agreement in order to complete the project. The new boating facilities will provide facilities for boating activities and will be available to all citizens regardless of their residency on a first come-first serve basis. “This is a great improvement and I encourage the public to come visit this facility and observe the upgrades, said Chairman Ed Brimmer. “This has been a very productive multi-agency and multi-year project. Its great evidence of what good can happen when we focus the resources of many governments toward improving one shared community asset. I'm very grateful to all who played a role in making this a success”, commented Benjamin Pingree, County Administrator.

The Florida Boating Improvement Program is a Florida grant program that provides funding for projects designed to serve the needs of recreational boating on waters within the State of Florida. This effort is a partnership amongst the City of St. Marks, the County and the State – FWC/Florida Boating Improvement Program through an Inter-Local Agreement.

Please join Wakulla County, the City of St. Marks and FWC on Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 11:30a.m. to celebrate the completion of this project.

