

# **Board of County Commissioners**

## **Agenda Request**

Date of Meeting: March 3, 2009

Date Submitted: February 13, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Commissioner Kessler

Subject: Request Board Approval to Establish by Resolution a Committee to Formulate a "Roads Clean Action Plan" (RCAP) for Wakulla Public Roads

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### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item requests that the Board establish by resolution a Committee to formulate a "Roads Clean Action Plan" (RCAP) for Wakulla Public Roads and that this Committee be known as the RCAP Committee.

### **Background:**

Extremely important segments of Wakulla County's present and future economy are (1) ecotourism (fishing, hunting, bird watching, canoeing, boating, hiking, nature exploring and viewing, etc. by non-Wakulla residents) and (2) restaurants and eateries serving locally produced seafood attracting non-Wakulla residents. In addition, these non-residents contribute to our economy by frequenting our County's fuel service stations, shops, eateries, and businesses of many varied types while in our County. The invocations at the start of the Board's regular meetings often speak to Wakulla County's natural beauty and sometimes refer to it as being the most beautiful County in Florida. And, it is true that Wakulla County is extremely beautiful with its natural springs, longleaf pine forests, bottomland hardwood stands, marshes, scenic waterways, disappearing streams, wetlands, wild animals and plants, rare and endangered species, wildlife refuges, nature preserves, hiking trails, scenic roadways, etc. However, there is a condition that is seriously detracting from this natural beauty, *i.e.* the tremendous quantity of litter ever present on our roadways. If one takes a random tour of almost any Wakulla County public roadway, one will be greeted with masses of litter along the roadway's shoulders and right-of-way on almost any day. In fact, it is often the most prominent feature that will be seen by the viewer, almost totally obliterating the inherent natural beauty present. This is a serious deterrent to the health of that part of our economy that depends on non-Wakulla residents and to our citizen's quality of life.

### **Analysis:**

#### **Areas to Consider:**

The problem can be broken down into four areas that a RCAP Committee should examine. These are:

(1) Enforcement: In formulating an action plan a Committee needs to determine: (1) Are the County's ordinances sufficient to enforce anti littering? (2) Are the penalties for violating anti-littering ordinances sufficient to deter littering? (3) Is enforcement sufficient to deter littering?

Agenda Request: Request Board Approval to Establish by Resolution a Committee to Formulate a "Roads Clean Action Plan" (RCAP) for Wakulla Public Roads

March 3, 2009

Page 2

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(2) Education: A Committee needs to formulate what educational activities and campaigns are necessary and helpful to deter littering by our citizens and visitors to our County. Such actions as seminars in our schools, anti-littering sign along our roadways and billboards warning of the penalties for littering should be considered.

(3) Citizens' Actions: Non-government citizens and organizations can have a positive effect on reducing litter along our roadways. Such actions as adopt a road campaigns, forming neighborhood cleanup committees, roadway cleanup days, citizen anti-littering campaigns, etc. should be reviewed and considered in developing an action plan.

(4) Coordination: Coordination between and among the various government entities that have responsibility for maintaining our roads are vital. I have witnessed on numerous occasions roadway's shoulders being mowed with large quantities of litter present and several days' later work crews from the Wakulla Sheriff's picking up shredded litter, an almost impossible chore. Obviously, reversing the order of the two actions would be much more efficient. Coordination between civic organization, homeowners associations, and government entities relative to keeping our roadways clean are vital. An action plan should recommend what coordination mechanism should be developed and implemented.

Committee Makeup:

It is recommended that a RCAP Committee be chaired by a senior County employee and at the minimum members be included from the following Wakulla County entities: Wakulla Sheriff's Department, Wakulla Planning and Community Development Department, Wakulla Cooperative Extension and Agriculture Department, Wakulla Parks and Recreation and Facilities Management Department, and Wakulla County School Board. Also, pertinent Wakulla citizen's organizations should be invited to nominate representatives to the Committee. Two or three non-government citizens' at large should have membership on the Committee. It is recommended that the Board's Chairman be authorized to make the appointments to the Committee after consultations with the Administrator and receiving nominations from other Board members.

Membership Terms:

It is recommended that all members be appointed for a one year term and, if for some reason a vacancy occurs on the Committee, the Board Chairman be authorized to appoint a replacement member after consultation with pertinent entities.

Sunset Provision:

It is recommended that the Committee be terminated after one year after it first official meeting.

Agenda Request: Request Board Approval to Establish by Resolution a Committee to Formulate a “Roads Clean Action Plan” (RCAP) for Wakulla Public Roads

March 3, 2009

Page 3

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Committee Charges:

Prepare and recommend a “Roads Clean Action Plan” to prevent the accumulation of litter on Wakulla County’s public roadways. Present progress reports to the Board when appropriate and at the minimum present a preliminary draft plan and progress report to the board within 7 months and a final report within 12 months after its first initial meeting. Include enforcement, education, citizens’ actions, and coordination components in the plan.

Options:

(1) Create by Resolution a RCAP Committee as detailed above.

(2) Hold a workshop instead of forming a Committee.

At this time it is believed that a workshop(s) would be much more productive after a RCAP Committee has collected and analyzed data and information and presented its preliminary and final plan to the Board.

(3) Do nothing.

If nothing is done it is believed that litter will continue to be a serious deterrent to the health of that part of our economy that depends on non-Wakulla residents and to our citizen’s quality of life.

Options:

1. Authorize by Resolution the formation of a RCAP Committee.

2. Hold a Workshop dealing with the problem of the accumulation of litter on Wakulla’s public roadways.

3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachment:

1. Resolution