

Resolution to Protect Porter Sink within Lake Jackson, Leon County

WHEREAS, Lake Jackson is a Florida Outstanding Water Body, an Aquatic Preserve, and the most renowned natural feature in Leon County; and

WHEREAS, the Native American name for Lake Jackson was “Okeeheepkee” meaning, “disappearing water;” and

WHEREAS, Lake Jackson has drained at least seven times in recorded history, has always naturally refilled; and

WHEREAS, Lake Jackson is currently at full pool (86’ NGVD); and

WHEREAS, the water level of Lake Jackson fluctuates based on rainfall, evaporation, and drainage through sinks in the lake bottom; and

WHEREAS, the cyclical fluctuation of Lake Jackson is beneficial to ecology of the system by reducing the deposition of organic matter and rejuvenating plant and animal life;

WHEREAS, there have been past efforts to stabilize the water level of Lake Jackson based on the belief the lake will never refill after each drying episode; and

WHEREAS, the focus of those efforts has been the advocacy of stopping the flow of water into Porter Sink by filling or damming this natural feature;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Leon County Citizens Advisory Water Resources Committee counsels all elected officials and resource managers facing similar arguments during future droughts that Lake Jackson’s water level will return to full pool with normal rainfall, as it always has, without human intervention.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the complete protection of Porter Sink in perpetuity is crucial to the natural and beneficial water level fluctuation of Lake Jackson and, therefore, to the health of Leon County’s most valued lake.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Leon County Citizens Advisory Water Resources Committee at its regular meeting on May 4, 2015.



Mr. Robert Scanlon, Chair

Dr. Jim Cavanagh
Dr. Jennifer Cherrier
Mr. John Folks
Mr. Eric Friall
Mr. Lee Killinger
Mr. John Labie