

RESOLUTION NO. 16-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE MARY ESTHER CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY ESTUARY; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to start up one estuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Mary Esther City Council supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefit, and

WHEREAS, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary is located both in Walton County and Okaloosa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mary Esther City Council, as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

Section 2. The Mary Esther City Council hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watershed Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management restoration and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

Section 3. The Mary Esther City Council hereby supports working with Walton County in jointly submitting a proposal to the EPA for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO DONE this 5th day of July 2016.

By: Chris Stein
Chris Stein, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dana L.S. Williams
Dana L.S. Williams, CMC
City Clerk

