



Legislation Text

File #: 18-0274, Version: 1

Resolution in Support of the Weeks Bay Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Description of Topic: (who, what, where, when, why and how much)

Request a resolution of support for the Weeks Bay Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Budgetary Impact: N/A

Non-Capital Item:

_____ Budgeted under account # _____ (discussion item)

_____ Not budgeted, requesting transfer of \$ _____ from Account # _____ to Account # _____.

_____ Not budgeted requiring increase to account # _____ in the amount of \$ _____.

Capital - Departmental

_____ Budgeted under account # _____ for \$ _____ and described in budget as _____.

_____ Additional amount needed, if any: Increase in budget of \$ _____ OR, transfer of \$ _____ from Account # _____ to Account # _____.

_____ Not Budgeted - account # _____ requires budget increase of \$ _____.

Capital Project - **THE PRE-PROJECT CHECKLIST AND BUDGET CHECKLIST MUST BE ATTACHED TO THIS FILE**

In current year Capital Projects Plan:

_____ Yes, planned amount \$ _____, requesting \$ _____ as total project estimate, including contingencies, under account # _____.

_____ No, requesting \$ _____ as total project estimate, including contingencies, under account # _____.

Whereas, the Weeks Bay Watershed, draining western portions of the City of Foley and adjacent, unincorporated areas of Baldwin County, Alabama, encompasses 130,000 acres and contributes to the health and vitality of its receiving waters of Mobile Bay, and

Whereas the landscape of this watershed ranges from gently rolling terrain in headwaters downstream to low coastal plains, tidal marshes, and historic wooded wetlands, and

Whereas Baldwin County is the fastest growing county in Alabama and population within the Watershed is projected to increase 99% by 2040 with increasing conversion of agricultural and forest lands to developed land area resulting in additional impervious surface cover, and

Whereas conversion of the natural landscape to impervious cover has caused increases in volume and velocity of stormwater runoff in this watershed, resulting in increased flooding; non-point source pollution impacts that include trash

and litter, pathogens, and nutrients; channel erosion; degraded habitats and infrastructure; and deteriorated water quality in its tributaries and creeks that ultimately transport non-point source pollution and sediment into Mobile Bay, and

Whereas one tributary in this Watershed - Baker Branch- is listed on the 2018 Alabama 303(d) list for impairment by organic enrichment, and a Total Maximum Daily Load for pathogens has been approved by U.S. EPA for Fish River, and

Whereas two waterbodies- Magnolia River and Weeks Bay- carry special-use designations of Outstanding Alabama Water and Outstanding National Resource Water, respectively, applied to high quality waters to allow added protection, and

Whereas, a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Weeks Bay Watershed, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund and completed in January 2018, documented the current state of the water quality and ecological impairment in the Watershed; described major pollutants; assessed future climate change scenarios; evaluated potential improvement measures and practices; and recommended a prioritized list of watershed improvement actions, and

Whereas, recommendations to protect open space and environmentally sensitive areas stated in Foley's Comprehensive Plan include "*As a condition of rapid development, Foley's farmlands will increasingly be converted to impervious surfaces further complicating issues related to stormwater runoff, nonpoint source pollution, filtration of flood waters and other impacts on the natural habitat. Preservation of open space and natural systems should be balanced with the need for development.*", and

Now, therefore be it resolved by the legislative body of the City of Foley, Alabama that it endorses the *Weeks Bay Watershed Management Plan*, and

Be it further resolved that the City of Foley, willingly and in full support, agrees to partner with the Baldwin County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program to focus on implementation of specific measures and actions contained in the watershed management plan that coincide with goals and strategies stated in the *Foley Comprehensive Plan*.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption as required by law.