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RESOLUTION NO. 91-83

WHEREAS, the St. Marys River forms the boundary between Florida and Georgia for its twisting length of some 120 miles to 150 miles; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia realize this great waterway is a unique and environmentally sensitive area that needs to be preserved in its natural condition; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is now conducting a "St. Marys River Study" to determine if the River and a corridor along each bank should be designated "National Wild and Scenic River"; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government now owns some 179,519.99 acres in Charlton County known as the "Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area"; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has failed to appropriate full funding for payments in lieu of taxes for these federally owned lands during the last decade; and

WHEREAS, Federal acquisition of private lands along the river corridor would further erode our tax base; and

WHEREAS, such acquisition would result in increased federal control over adjoining land uses; and

WHEREAS, local access to the River would be decreased with Federal control; and

WHEREAS, local citizens fear their views will not be taken into consideration by the Federal Study team; and

WHEREAS, the love of the land that many owners have for this unspoiled area is beyond expression; and

WHEREAS, as duly elected officials, we feel an obligation to represent our citizenry and their wishes to the best of our ability; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the beautiful St. Marys River can be best protected and preserved through local studies, efforts, control and management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a "St. Marys River Management Committee" be established; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that membership of said committee shall consist of appointees/members from Baker County, Florida; Nassau County, Florida; Charlton County, Georgia; and Camden County, Georgia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this committee be charged with the responsibility of devising a plan for the preservation of the historic St. Marys River in as near a natural state as possible.

ADOPTED this 13th day of May, 1991.

BY: *Jim B. Higginbotham*
JIM B. HIGGINBOTHAM
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

T. J. Greeson
T. J. "JERRY" GREESON
EX-OFFICIO CLERK