

RESOLUTION NO. 120

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, DELEGATING TO THE COUNTY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE THE AUTHORITY TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO INITIATE THE ACQUISITION OF LANDS PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS THE TOP 15 PRIORITY PROJECTS OF THE CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT (CLAM) PROGRAM INCLUDING THE AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE REQUISITE OPTION AGREEMENTS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS AND THE PREPARATION OF REQUIRED SURVEYS AND APPRAISALS.

WHEREAS, the County's significant natural resources, productive estuaries and wetlands, remarkable biodiversity, and unique subtropical habitats harboring many species of rare and endangered flora and fauna merit conservation and protection; and

WHEREAS, in Summer 2018, County staff researched multiple Florida county conservation land programs and presented findings to the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, in February 2019, the Board of County Commissioners entered into an agreement with the Trust for Public Land to conduct a financial feasibility analysis to consider funding options for a conservation land acquisition and management program; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Conservation Lands Acquisition and Management (CLAM) Program to provide processes and procedures for the identification and acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands within the County for conservation, preservation, and to afford recreational opportunities to present and future citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners established the CLAM Committee; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution No. 2022-179, which identified the top 15 Priority Projects of land acquisition for the CLAM Program; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2022-179 also directed staff to contract with a third party to assist in the acquisition of the priority properties including the creation and administration of management plans for the acquired properties; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners placed the referendum on the November 2022 ballot asking voters to consider allowing Nassau County to issue up to \$30 million in general obligation bonds, not exceeding lawful interest rates, payable from ad valorem taxes and not to exceed 30 years for the Conservation Land Acquisition and Management Program (hereinafter “Bond Referendum”); and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2022, the Bond Referendum was approved by 68% of Nassau County voters; and

WHEREAS, County staff has partnered with a third party to assist in the acquisition of the top 15 Priority Projects of the Conservation Land Acquisition and Management (CLAM) Program and the creation and administration of management plans for the same and now seeks the Board of County Commissioner’s delegation of authority to the County Manager or designee to take the steps necessary to initiate the acquisition of the lands previously identified as the top 15 Priority Projects of the Conservation Land Acquisition and Management (CLAM) Program including the execution of the requisite option agreements and related documents and the preparation of required surveys and appraisals for the Board of County Commissioner’s ultimate consideration and determination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, that:

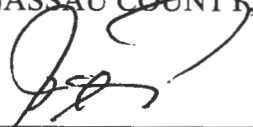
SECTION 1. RECITALS. The above findings are true and correct are hereby incorporated by this reference.

SECTION 2. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY. The Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, hereby delegates authority to the County Manager or designee to take the steps necessary to initiate the acquisition of the lands previously identified as the top 15 Priority Projects of the Conservation Land Acquisition and Management (CLAM) Program including the authorization to execute the requisite option agreements and related documents and the preparation of required surveys and appraisals for the Board of County Commissioner’s ultimate consideration and determination.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, this 12th day of June, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



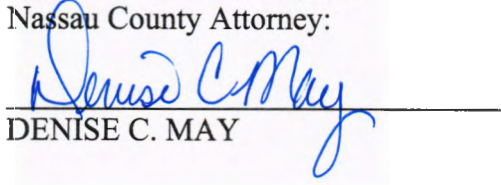
KLYNT A. FARMER
Its: Chairman

Attest as to Chairman's Signature:



JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney:



DENISE C. MAY