BEFORE THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 16-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE PILOT PROJECTS ON LAKE OKEECHOBEE TO MECHANICALLY REMOVE INVASIVE AQUATIC VEGETATION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND EFFECTIVE METHODS TO REDUCE NUTRIENT POLLUTION IN THE FUTURE.

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the health of Lake Okeechobee is intricately connected to the wellbeing of our state, its residents, wildlife, and our economy, and nutrient loads in Lake Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, legacy nutrients and other sources of excess nutrients pollute our waterways and contribute to the proliferation of harmful algal blooms; and

WHEREAS, unless a concerted effort is made to remove sources of excess nutrients from Lake Okeechobee, decades of work and billions of dollars in public and private investment towards restoring the Everglades and our estuaries will be in vain; and

WHEREAS, pilot project proposals exist, such as the AguaCulture Project, which would provide for the mechanical removal of algae and invasive aquatic vegetation from adversely effected water bodies, while creating a soil amendment beneficial to agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection should support scalable, versatile, cost effective, alternative solutions that in addition to water quality and conveyance benefits, provide a tertiary economic benefit with potential to be utilized statewide; and

WHEREAS, innovative methods of mechanical removal of aquatic vegetation that demonstrate an overall nutrient removal from the watershed should be identified as credited activities, or otherwise Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be incorporated into Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) for stakeholder nutrient reduction credits; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the City Commission of the City of Stuart that the substitution of traditional chemical treatments of invasive aquatic vegetation with innovative mechanical removal technologies will substantially mitigate further harm to Lake Okeechobee, south Florida, and estuarial ecologies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1: The foregoing precatory language is adopted as if set forth below.

SECTION 2: The City of Stuart, Florida and City Commission hereby approve and adopt this resolution supporting innovative pilot projects mechanically removing invasive aquatic vegetation from our watersheds. The City Commission also affirms that:

1. Lake Okeechobee is worth protecting for the benefit of all stakeholders including the natural environment, and nutrient reduction is a primary goal to protect our waterways.

2. Reducing nutrient loading and removing legacy nutrients will help combat the conditions which proliferate harmful algal blooms in Lake Okeechobee.

3. Innovative solutions must be implemented that support the billions of dollars in capital Floridians have invested toward restoring the Everglades and the estuaries.

4. We the undersigned join our State and Federal agencies in support of innovative pilot projects moving forward which will result in nutrient reduction within our watershed.

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

Resolution No. 16-2021
Supporting innovative pilot projects mechanically removing invasive aquatic vegetation

Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
EULA R. CLARKE, MAYOR				
MERRITT MATHESON, VICE MAYOR				
BECKY BRUNER, COMMISSIONER				
TROY MCDONALD, COMMISSIONER				
MICHAEL J. MEIER, COMMISSIONER				

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2021.

ATTEST:

_____
MARY R. KINDEL
CITY CLERK

_____
EULA R. CLARKE
MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS:

_____
MICHAEL J. MORTELL, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY