

**THE COUNTY COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF
LAKE OKEECHOBEE, THE ST. LUCIE AND CALOOSAHATCHEE
ESTUARIES, AND LAKE WORTH LAGOON BY-LAWS**

Article I. Purpose.

The County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee, the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, and Lake Worth Lagoon (hereinafter referred to as the “Coalition”) is a multiple County based advisory group organized primarily for the purpose of providing the general public, the South Florida Water Management District, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Legislature, and various groups and committees with a body which will present a variety of issues dealing with the health and welfare of the lakes, estuaries, and riverine systems consisting of Lake Okeechobee, the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, and Lake Worth Lagoon, and all of the bodies of water connected thereto.

Article II. Membership.

- A. *Generally.* The Coalition shall, whenever possible, initially consist of one representative from each of the ten (10) counties. Additional membership may be requested from interested and appropriate counties and appointed by a majority vote of the existing membership.
- B. *Voting Members Nomination and Appointment.*
1. Each of the following ten (10) initial counties shall nominate one representative from their Board of County Commissioners. The initial membership shall consist of a Commissioner from each of the following ten (10) counties:
 - a. Glades;
 - b. Hendry;
 - c. Highlands;
 - d. Lee;
 - e. Martin;
 - f. Okeechobee;
 - g. Osceola;
 - h. Palm Beach;
 - i. Polk; and,
 - j. St. Lucie.
 2. An affirmative vote of a majority of the Coalition shall be required for each nominee, set forth in Article II (B) (1), to be appointed.
 3. Additional counties may nominate a representative who may then be appointed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Coalition members.

- C. *Term.* All voting member appointments shall serve until which time they are replaced by their respective County Commissions.
- D. *Vacancies.* An appointment to fill any vacancy on the Coalition shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- E. *Member Absenteeism.* The Coalition shall recommend the replacement of any member who has two (2) consecutive unexcused absences within a twelve (12) month period.

Article III. Officers.

- A. *Election of Officers.* Annually, the Coalition shall elect officers from among its members. Officers shall serve a two (2) year term and shall include a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, and such other officers as the Coalition deems necessary. Officers may be replaced prior to the annual elections by a seventy-five percent (75%) affirmative majority of the Coalition members.
- B. *Chairperson.* The Chairperson, who shall be a member of the Coalition, shall preside at all meetings of the Coalition and at other meetings and public hearings called by the Coalition. He or she shall call special meetings of the Coalition when required, and shall transmit reports, plans, and recommendations of the Coalition to the appropriate governing authority. The Chairperson may appoint committees or subcommittees (composed of members of the Coalition, or citizens, or a combination thereof) whenever he or she feels such committees can be of value to the Coalition. The Chairperson shall act as a spokesperson for the Coalition and shall also have such other duties as are normally conferred on such officers by parliamentary procedure.
- C. *Vice-Chairperson.* The Vice-Chairperson, who shall be a member of the Coalition, shall serve as Chairperson during the temporary absence or disability of the Chairperson. In the event of the Chairperson's permanent absence, due to resignation or other causes, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform the Chairperson's duties until such time as the Coalition shall elect a new Chairperson.
- D. *Secretary.* Under the direction of the Chairperson, and with the assistance of other staff as may be available, the Secretary, who shall be a member of the Coalition, shall prepare, distribute, and maintain the minutes and records of the Coalition and assume such other duties as are normally carried out by a Secretary. In case of the temporary absence of both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson at any meeting, the Secretary shall serve as Chairperson. In case of the temporary absence of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary at any meeting, the Coalition shall elect a temporary Chairperson for such meeting.

Article IV. Meetings.

- A. *Frequency.* The regular meeting of the Coalition shall be held quarterly in Okeechobee, Florida. The Chairperson may elect to cancel scheduled meetings should there not be agenda items of “Old” or “New” business. In addition, for the convenience of the Coalition members with consideration to distances of travel required, a “floating” location for meetings may be established.
- B. *Special Meetings.* Additional special meetings may be called by the Chairperson, provided that reasonable advance notice is given to each Coalition member.
- C. *Advertising.* All meetings shall be advertised at least three (2) weeks in advance. The advertisement will be completed by the Clerk to the Board for the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners.
- D. *Order of Business.* The order of business at regular meetings shall be:
1. Roll call
 2. Approval of minutes of previous meetings
 3. Agenda/New business
 4. Unfinished business
 5. Discussion items
 6. Adjournment
- E. *Public Comments.* The Coalition may allow public comment at their discretion. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes and should fill out a public speaker’s card.
- F. *Voting.*
1. *Quorum.* A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the members of the Coalition, and every action and decision rendered by the Coalition must be approved by the quorum. All agenda items shall be discussed. A motion shall then be made to vote on the item. If a motion fails, discussion may continue.
 2. *Alternates.* Each member may, in writing, designate an alternate, either another Commissioner or a staff person representing that County, who will have voting authority for that member.
 3. *Proxies.* All voting members, or a designated alternate, must be present to vote. No absentee proxies will be permitted.
- G. *Minutes.* The minutes of all meetings and all written advisory opinions issued by the Coalition shall be kept by the Secretary of the Coalition. Copies of said minutes shall remain on file with the Clerk to the Board for the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners.

- H. *Rules of Order.* Roberts' Rules of Order, the most recent edition, shall govern the conduct of all meetings of the Coalition.
- I. *Sunshine.* All members of the Coalition are governed by the State of Florida's Sunshine regulations.

Article V. Amendments to By-Laws.

Amendments to the by-laws may be made; however, all amendments require the majority vote of the Coalition members. Written notice of the proposed amendment(s) must be provided by mail to each member at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment is scheduled for voting. A copy of the revised by-laws shall be filed with the Clerk to the Board for the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners.

SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW

The by-laws for the County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee, the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, and Lake Worth Lagoon, as stated above, are hereby approved by the Coalition.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the members of the Coalition, at its regular meeting this _____ day of _____, 2007.

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ESTUARIES, AND LAKE WORTH LAGOON**

Glades County

Hendry County

Highlands County

Lee County

Martin County

Okeechobee County

Osceola County

Palm Beach County

Polk County

St. Lucie County