

WALK ON

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20061637

1. ACTION REQUESTED/PURPOSE: Adopt resolution encouraging the swift passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

2. WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: Encourages Congress to pass WRDA before the holiday recess.

3. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution.

4. Departmental Category: <u>WO #2</u>		5. Meeting Date: December 5, 2006
6. Agenda: <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative <input type="checkbox"/> Appeals <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walk-On	7. Requirement/Purpose: (specify)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Statute	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Admin. Code	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Request Initiated:
		Commissioner _____
		Department <u>County Administration</u>
		Division _____
		By: <u>Donald D. Stilwell</u>

9. Background: At the request of the Board, this resolution will be sent to Congress immediately upon approval to encourage their passage of the Water Resources Development Act before they break for the end of the year holiday.

10. Review for Scheduling:

Department Director	Purchasing or Contracts	Human Resources	Other	County Attorney	Budget Services				County Manager/P.W. Director
					Analyst	Risk	Grants	Mgr	
<u>Mia</u>			→	<u>Andrea Fraser</u>	<u>12-5-06</u>			<u>12-05-06</u>	<u>HS 12/5/06</u>

11. Commission Action:

- Approved
- Deferred
- Denied
- Other

REC'D
by CO. ATTY.
12-5-06
9:00 Am

CO. ATTY.
FORWARDED TO:
12-5-06
9:00 Am

LEE COUNTY RESOLUTION _____

Regarding Authorization of the Indian River Lagoon South and the Picayune Strand Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Projects by Enactment of HR 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2006 or Other Legislative Means

WHEREAS, the Everglades ecosystem, spanning from the Kissimmee River Valley to Florida Bay, is a significant national resource and international treasure; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2000, Congress approved the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP); and

WHEREAS, Congress must approve each individual project in the CERP; and

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon South Project and the Picayune Strand Project are the first two CERP projects that need Congressional authorization in order to secure funding from the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon South and the Picayune Strand projects are included in the Water Resources Development Act of 2006 that has passed both the House and the Senate of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon South Project includes storage components that will provide some 130,000 acres feet of storage that will reduce environmental damage done by periodic massive releases from Lake Okeechobee that now go into the sensitive estuaries to the east and west of the lake; and

WHEREAS, the releases from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee River have damaged the economy of Lee County and surrounding areas that depend on the health of its waterways and the species that dwell there; and

WHEREAS, huge numbers of marine life in the Caloosahatchee River have been destroyed are in constant danger from water releases from Lake Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Lee County have raised up to \$43 million per year in local taxes for conservation and restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, the Picayune Strand Project will restore what was once a failed development that is located near the Big Cypress Swamp; and

WHEREAS, Picayune Strand will re-establish the natural sheet flow to the Ten Thousand Island area of the Everglades National Park and will restore the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and other sensitive areas; and

WHEREAS, together the Indian River Lagoon South and the Picayune Strand Projects will restore some 160,000 acres of wetlands that are under immediate threat of development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Lee County Board of Commisioners strongly urges the Congress of the United States and the President to secure the authorization of the Indian River Lagoon South and the Picayune Strand Projects through enactment this year of either the Water Resources Development Act of 2006 or another appropriate legislative vehicle.

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

ROBERT JANES
A. BRIAN BIGELOW
RAY JUDAH
TAMMARA HALL
FRANK MANN

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2006.

ATTEST:
CHARLIE GREEN, CLERK

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

By: _____
Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
Office of the County Attorney