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## MEETING NOTICE

# MIDDLE AND LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER TASK FORCE

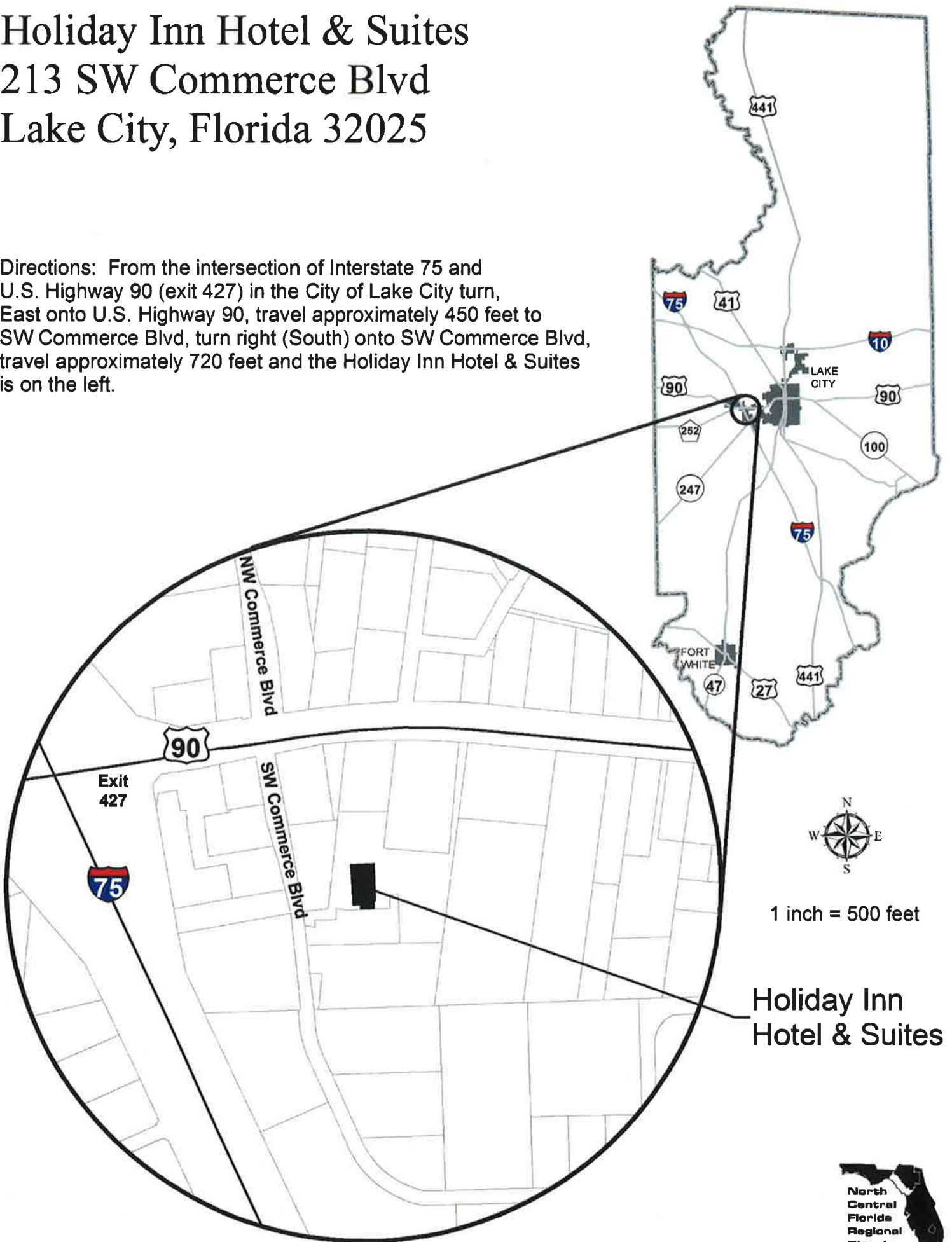
There will be a meeting of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force on **June 27, 2019**. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida, at 4:00 p.m.

(Location Map on Back)

# Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd  
Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn, East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.



Holiday Inn  
Hotel & Suites





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## AGENDA

### MIDDLE AND LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER TASK FORCE

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard  
Lake City, Florida

June 27, 2019  
4:00 p.m.

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- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
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- \* IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 28, 2019 5
- V. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES
  - A. Sewage Spill Notification Email List
  - B. Letter to United States Environmental Protection Agency
  - C. Joint Task Force and City of Valdosta City Council Workshop
  - \* D. Florida Small County Coalition Outstanding Service Award - 7  
Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlatchoochee River Task Force
- VI. NEXT STEPS

\* See Attachments

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MIDDLE AND LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER TASK FORCE  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

February 28, 2019  
4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Beth Burnam, Hamilton County, Vice-Chair  
Ken Cornell, Alachua County  
Rick Davis, Madison County. Chair  
Thomas Demps, Taylor County  
Don Hale, Suwannee County  
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County  
John Meeks, Levy County  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County  
James Tallman, Union County  
Ronald Williams, Columbia County

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons

OTHERS PRESENT

Ashley Cook, Senator Rubio’s Office  
Christian Doolin, Legislative Consultant  
Small County Coalition of Florida  
Joshua Gabel, Senator Rubio’s Office  
Dan Hartley, Representative Chuck Brannan’s Office  
Dave Hertz, WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.  
Brian Kauffman, Madison County Coordinator  
Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer  
Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River  
Thomas Mirti, Suwannee River  
Water Management District  
Thomas Moffses, Florida Department of Health  
Jimmy Norris, Suwannee County  
Economic Development/Tourism  
John S. Quarterman, Suwannee Riverkeeper,  
WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.  
Savannah Reams, Greene Publishing, Inc.  
Kristin Rubin, Our Santa Fe River  
Darlene Velez, Suwannee River  
Water Management District  
Bob Vincent, Florida Department of Health  
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua Commissioner

I. INVOCATION

Chair Rick Davis called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Burnam.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Task Force members and guests pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Davis stated there was a quorum of the Task Force. The Task Force members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 24, 2019

Chair Davis requested approval of the January 24, 2019 minutes.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Meeks made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Cornell, to approve the minutes as amended with Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer was in attendance, noting that of the February 28, 2019 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

V. RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE MIDDLE AND LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER  
AND WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER

Scott Koons, Executive Director, reviewed a proposed resolution expressing the concerns of the Task Force in regards to multiple raw sewage discharges from the City of Valdosta, Georgia from the Withlacoochee Water Pollution Control Plant and Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, which are both located within the Suwannee River Basin.

**ACTION: Commissioner Meeks made the motion with a second by Commissioner Demps, to adopt a resolution expressing the concerns of the Task Force in regards to multiple raw sewage discharges from the City of Valdosta, Georgia from the Withlacoochee Water Pollution Control Plant and Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, which are both located within the Suwannee River Basin. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION: Commissioner Thomas made a motion with a second by Commissioner Higginbotham, to distribute a copy of the resolutions to counties and cities in the north central Florida region. The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. NEXT STEPS

The Task Force agreed to request Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Noah Valenstein to designate a senior level staff person to coordinate the Department's activities to address raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta, Georgia with the Task Force. The Task Force also agreed for its members to attend the March 21, 2019 City of Valdosta City Council meeting to request a workshop with the City Council to discuss the raw sewage spills issue. Finally, the Task Force also agreed to coordinate with the north central Florida regional federal delegation to support efforts by the City of Valdosta, Georgia to secure federal funding to address the raw sewage spills issue.

Mr. Koons reviewed Florida Legislature Senate Bill 1100 concerning water well testing by the Florida Department of Health.

Thomas Miriti, Deputy Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District reported that the City of Valdosta, Georgia Utilities Director made a presentation to the District Governing Board on February 12, 2019 concerning the actions being taken by the City of Valdosta, Georgia to address the raw sewage spills issue. He also announced that District staff will present water testing data to the Governing Board on March, 12, 2019.

Chair Davis informed the Task Force that the next meeting will be held on June 27, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Lake City.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Davis, Chair

6/27/19  
Date



**V.D.**


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June 20, 2019

TO: Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlatchoochee River  
Task Force Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Florida Small County Coalition Outstanding Service Award  
Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlatchoochee River Task Force

The Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlatchoochee River Task Force of the Council received a Small County Coalition Outstanding Service Award for effective leadership and advocacy in addressing the issues relating to the City of Valdosta wastewater treatment plants at the Small County Coalition Annual Meeting held on June 12, 2019 in Orlando.

The Small County Coalition is a statewide alliance of county commissions from small and rural counties. The purpose of the Coalition is to give increased visibility and support to the issues to small counties and rural communities. The Small County Coalition's primary mission is to help Florida's small and rural counties address legislative issues from a small county/rural perspective and work effectively with state agencies leadership.

The Small County Coalition believes in the importance of a state rural policy that protects the character of our small and rural areas; promotes economic development; and, maintains and promotes the viability of existing small county economies such as agriculture and eco-tourism. The Small County Coalition supports programs that improve the financial viability and fiscal capacity of Florida's local governments in small counties.

The Small County Coalition supports programs that help provide services to Floridians who reside in small counties; Floridians who visit their communities for enjoyment; and, Visitors from outside the state who travel through small counties in route to destinations in and out of Florida.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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