

APPROVED

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2017-04

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUPPORTS THE
CHASSAHOWITZKA AND HOMOSASSA RIVERS SWIM PLANS
PREPARED BY THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers in western Citrus County are significant natural resources of the region and contribute freshwater flows to the estuaries within the coastal regions of the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, both river systems are first-magnitude spring systems; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need to place additional emphasis on restoration, protection, and management of the surface water resources of the State, the Florida Legislature, through the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Act of 1987, directed the State’s water management districts to “design and implement plans and programs for the improvement and management of surface water”; and

WHEREAS, the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers were named SWIM priority water bodies in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) participated in the development of the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers SWIM plans within the framework of the Springs Coast Management Committee and appropriate representatives of its member governments participated in the Steering Committee and Technical Working Group; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of these SWIM plans is to identify and implement management actions and projects that will address the major issues the systems face and that will restore, maintain and preserve the ecological balance of the rivers; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that one entity alone cannot do it all, the most important element of these plans is the consensus and partnerships that came together to ensure these plans take a much broader approach by identifying management actions and projects from a wide variety of stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, these plans are stakeholder developed, comprehensive plans for the restoration, protection and management of the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers and are living documents with adaptive management at their core and as such, these plans will be revised periodically to assess overall progress in meeting the quantifiable objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Authority Board of Directors that the Authority hereby expresses its support for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers SWIM plans and the Authority Board of Directors commends the diverse teams of the Springs Coast Steering Committee, and Management Committee, and Technical Working Group for the development of these plan and their commitment to the preservation of this unique treasure.

ADOPTED this nineteenth day of July 2017.

Attest:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

BY _____
Michelle Stone, Vice Chair