

Add On

AGENDA

Section Resolution

Item No. I D

Meeting Date

April 11, 2017



AGENDA REPORT

BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: Proclamation: Recognition of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Community Conservation and Education Center

DEPT/OFFICE: District 1 Commission Office

Requested Action:

It is requested the Board of County Commissioners approve a Proclamation recognizing the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Community Conservation and Education Center

Summary Explanation & Background:

MINWR members to accept resolution

Staff Contact: Marcia Newell, Legislative Aide, 321-607-6901

Clerk to the Board instruction:

Exhibits Attached:

Contract /Agreement (If attached): Reviewed by County Attorney Yes [] No [] PR []

County Manager Deputy County Manager Department Director / Extension

Rita Pritchett, District 1 County Commissioner Assistant County Manager



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Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

April 12, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioner Rita Pritchett, District 1 Attn: Marcia Newell

RE: Item I.D., Resolution Recognizing the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Community Conservation and Education Center

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on April 11, 2017, adopted Resolution No. 17-058, recognizing the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Community Conservation and Education Center. Enclosed is a copy of the Resolution.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/dt

Encl. (1)

Brevard



County

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is the seventh most visited refuge of 563 refuges in the United States with 1.5 million visitors in 2015 who enjoyed watching wildlife, exploring history, hiking, fishing, hunting, birding, and biking; and

WHEREAS, the economic value of the Indian River Lagoon has been estimated at more than \$3.7 billion annually to our State and region and the protected waters of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge are essential for the long term health of the Indian River Lagoon; and

WHEREAS, the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge provides critically important habitat for over 1,500 species of animals and plants, including 10 animals that are federally listed as threatened and endangered; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service has approved over \$4 million for an exciting new Refuge Visitor Information Center to serve as the Community Conservation and Education Center; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service does not use appropriated funds for the exhibits and has requested the non-profit Merritt Island Wildlife Association raise the funds with community support; and

WHEREAS, the Community Conservation and Education Center will benefit the entire east Central Florida community as well as the growing number of national and international tourists seeking to experience the extraordinary wildlife that thrives at our nation's most historic gateway to space; and

WHEREAS, the Brevard County Commissioners and community partners support providing safe and accessible recreation and educational opportunities, with the goal of fostering conservation of our unique coastal resources, including the Indian River Lagoon; and

WHEREAS, the Brevard County Commissioners recognizes that the new Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Community Conservation and Education Center will contribute to the economic viability of Brevard County by attracting tourists who are interested in the natural Florida, including our beaches, the Indian River Lagoon, the St John's River, and our wildlife refuges.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, hereby recognizes the

MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

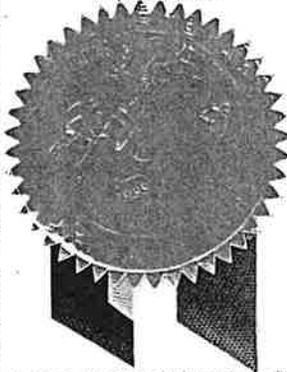
and encourages Brevard County residents to support the fundraising campaign by the Merritt Island Wildlife Association.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED, in regular session this 11th day of April, 2017.

ATTEST:

SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

CURT SMITH, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA



Proclamation
“Recognition of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
Community Conservation and Education Center”

WHEREAS, the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is the 7th most visited refuge of 563 refuges in the United States with 1.5 million visitors in 2015 who enjoyed watching wildlife, exploring history, hiking, fishing, hunting, birding and biking; and

WHEREAS, the economic value of the Indian River Lagoon has been estimated at more than \$3.7 billion annually to our State and region and the protected waters of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge are essential for the long term health of the Indian River Lagoon; and

WHEREAS, the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge provides critically important habitat for over 1500 species of animals and plants, including 10 animals that are federally listed as threatened and endangered; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service has approved over \$4 million for an exciting new Refuge Visitor Information Center to serve as the Community Conservation and Education Center; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service does not use appropriated funds for the exhibits and has requested the non-profit Merritt Island Wildlife Association raise the funds with community support; and

WHEREAS, the Community Conservation and Education Center will benefit the entire east Central Florida community as well as the growing number of national and international tourists seeking to experience the extraordinary wildlife that thrives at our nation's most historic gateway to space; and

WHEREAS, the Brevard County Commissioners and community partners support providing safe and accessible recreation and educational opportunities, with the goal of fostering conservation of our unique coastal resources, including the Indian River Lagoon; and

WHEREAS, the Brevard County Commissioners recognizes that the new Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Community Conservation and Education Center will contribute to the economic viability of Brevard County by attracting tourists who are interested in the natural Florida, including our beaches, the Indian River Lagoon, the St John's River and our wildlife refuges.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, hereby recognizes the

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Conservation and Education Center

and encourages Brevard County residents to support the fundraising campaign by the Merritt Island Wildlife Association.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of April, 2017.