



HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA



Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Hernando County Building Division Training Facility
789 Providence Boulevard, Brooksville, FL 34601

Advertised: Friday, June 3, 2022, The Hernando Sun (CLK22-103)

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Tina Duenninger, Hernando County Department of Public Works, 1525 East Jefferson Street, Brooksville, FL 34601, telephone (352) 754-4060, no later than three (3) days prior to the proceedings. If hearing impaired, please call 1-800-676-3777 for assistance.

The meeting agenda and back-up material are available online at:
<https://www.hernandocounty.us/departments/departments-n-z/public-works/aquatic-services/waterways-advisory-committee/agendas-and-minutes>

Upcoming Meeting(s):

The next regular meeting of the Waterways Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.



**HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
JUNE 15, 2022**



CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF AGENDA (Limited to Staff and Committee Only)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 16, 2022

MARINE PATROL REPORT – Steve Snell

NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on State Road Canal Dredging (County) and Weeki Wachee River Dredging (SWFWMD) <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/springs/weeki-wachee-channel-restoration-project>
2. Lake Lindsey Tussock Control
3. Overview of East Side Boat Ramps – Lakes and Withlacoochee River
4. Personal Flotation Device Zone Signage at Boat Ramps
5. Signage at Boat Ramps

OLD BUSINESS

1. Draft Letter in Support of Additional Law Enforcement for Springs Protection and Waterways
2. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Final Meeting to Review Establishment of Springs Protection Zones – July 13-14, 2022, Jacksonville, Florida
3. Hunters Lake Aquatic Plant Maintenance
4. Hunters Lake Access Canal Dredging
5. Coastal Conservation Association Donation for 2022 Artificial Reef Project
6. Coastal Conservation Association Donation for Living Shoreline Project at Jenkins Creek

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – Revisions to Proposed Ordinance on Mooring of Commercial Vessels at Boat Ramps – BOCC Public Hearing June 28, 2022

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS

1. Kathryn Birren, Chairman
2. Sarah Hill, Vice Chairman
3. Mike Fulford, Member
4. Mike Senker, Member
5. Chris Licata, Member
6. Keith Kolasa, Aquatic/Waterways Services Manager
7. Scott Herring, Department of Public Works Director/County Engineer

OTHER – Waterways Advisory Committee Agenda Requests for Future Meetings

ADJOURNMENT



**HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 16, 2022**



Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Hernando Beach Marine Group Inc. Training Center
4340 Calienta Street, Hernando Beach, FL 34607

Advertised: Friday, February 11, 2022, The Hernando Sun (CLK22-024)

The meeting agenda and back-up material are available online at:
<https://www.hernandocounty.us/departments/departments-n-z/public-works/aquatic-services/waterways-advisory-committee/agendas-and-minutes>

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Kathryn Birren called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Attendance
Kathryn Birren	Vice Chairman	Present
Mike Fulford	Member	Present
Sarah Hill	Member	Present
Mike Senker	Member	Present
Chris Licata	Member	Present
Wayne Dukes	Commissioner / Liaison	Absent
Scott Herring	Department of Public Works Director / County Engineer	Absent
Keith Kolasa	Aquatic / Waterways Services Manager	Present
Steve Kelly	Corporal / Marine Patrol Officer	Absent
Tina Duenninger	Co. Administration / DPW Executive Office Manager	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Kathryn Birren requested at this time to present Mr. Chuck Morton with a letter and certificate of appreciation scheduled under Old Business Item 5, Chuck Morton Farewell.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Chuck Morton Farewell

Vice Chairman Kathryn Birren presented Mr. Chuck Morton with a letter and certificate of appreciation from the Board of County Commissioners in recognition of his years of service as a member on the former Port Authority and now Waterways Advisory Committee. Mr. Keith Kolasa presented Mr. Morton with a reef ball.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

MOTION: Mr. Mike Fulford motioned to nominate Ms. Kathryn Birren as Chairman of the Waterways Advisory Committee for the 2022 calendar year. Mr. Mike Senker seconded. The motion carried and was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Mike Fulford motioned to nominate Ms. Sarah Hill as Vice Chairman of the Waterways Advisory Committee for the 2022 calendar year. Ms. Kathryn Birren seconded. The motion carried and was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF AGENDA (Limited to Staff and Committee Only)

Old Business Item 5, Chuck Morton Farewell, was moved up on the agenda following the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no other changes made to the agenda.

SUNSHINE LAW AND CODE OF ETHICS OVERVIEW – Presentation by Assistant County Attorney Maureen Sikora

Ms. Maureen Sikora, Assistant County Attorney, provided an overview of the Sunshine Law and Code of Ethics. Ms. Sikora reviewed Government in the Sunshine Law open meetings with the Committee. Certain requirements of Sunshine Law meetings include notice requirements, public input, recording of members' votes, instances when members can abstain from voting, and meeting minutes which must be taken and made available to the public. Ms. Sikora referenced the Sunshine Law news articles distributed to the Committee members prior to the meeting.

The Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics was reviewed. Ms. Sikora noted Form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict form, which should be made available at each meeting and is to be filled out by members when abstaining from voting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 15, 2021

MOTION: Mr. Mike Fulford motioned to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2021 Waterways Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Chris Licata seconded. The motion carried and was approved unanimously.

MARINE PATROL REPORT – Corporal Steve Kelly

Mr. Steve Snell advised Corporal Steve Kelly was on vacation and had requested he attend the meeting on his behalf. Upon query by Mr. Mike Fulford, Mr. Snell responded there were two full time marine deputies on vessels for the county at this time. He advised he was retired and presently served as a volunteer. The Committee thanked him for his service.

In response to Mr. Steve Barton, Mr. Steve Snell indicated the marine deputies try to work different shifts in their approach to be proactive and noted there were no speeding violations on a recent shrimp boat observed at 3:00 a.m. recently.

Mr. Chris Licata queried the county's Code Enforcement and Sheriff's Office coordination regarding waterways. Mr. Steve Snell responded the deputies rely on Code Enforcement for rules and anything the deputies need to tackle a case, Code Enforcement is onboard to assist. Mr. Mike Fulford clarified there were five Code Enforcement officers and one supervisor for the whole county. He noted the county Ordinances were enforced by Code Enforcement, and the Sheriff's Office, along with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), was responsible for enforcing the criminal code.

Ms. Maureen Sikora left the meeting at this time.

NEW BUSINESS – Withlacoochee River Hazards

Mr. Keith Kolasa displayed pictures provided in the agenda packet and gave kudos to the Sheriff's Office

marine deputies for inspecting and finding debris hazards along the Withlacoochee River. It was noted most of the floating hazards in the river was from within Hernando County.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Revisions to Proposed Ordinance on Mooring of Commercial Vessels at Boat Ramps

Mr. Keith Kolasa advised a meeting was held with the County Attorney's Office and changes were made to the Proposed Ordinance on Mooring of Commercial Vessels at Boat Ramps based on discussion held at the last Committee meeting. Mr. Kolasa noted he would provide the Committee with a copy of the revised Proposed Ordinance when available and would keep the Committee apprised as to when a public hearing would be scheduled before the Board of County Commissioners.

2. Updates to Weeki Wachee River Dredge and State Road Canal Dredge Projects

Mr. Keith Kolasa announced the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) was scheduled to hold a public meeting on March 1 to discuss the Weeki Wachee River Dredge plans. Mr. Kolasa noted the contractor had begun mobilizing equipment. He further noted the Board of County Commissioners had approved the contract for the State Road Canal Dredge project and Notice to Proceed was being coordinated as the project must be completed by November 15, 2022.

It was noted that the March 1 meeting was to be held at the Hernando Beach Marine Group Inc. Training Center beginning at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Keith Kolasa advised there were no plans to shut down Rogers Park nor the river.

3. Hunters Lake Aquatic Plant Maintenance

Mr. Keith Kolasa advised quotes were received earlier in the day for the Hunters Lake Aquatic Plant Maintenance project and it was anticipated to get maintenance done by the time dry season began.

4. Coastal Conservation Association Partnership for 2022 Artificial Reef Projects

Mr. Keith Kolasa announced the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) held a fundraiser last year raising approximately \$110,000. The CCA chose to donate \$11,000 to Hernando County for reef deployments, which would need to go before the Board of County Commissioners for approval. An additional \$15,000 will be donated for a living shoreline project at Jenkins Creek for a collaborative project with Florida Sea Grant and IFAS.

MOTION: Mr. Mike Senker motioned to recommend the Board of County Commissioners accept the donation from the Coastal Conservation Association in the amount of \$11,000 for reef deployments. Mr. Chris Licata seconded. The motion carried and was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Mike Senker motioned to recommend the Board of County Commissioners accept the donation from the Coastal Conservation Association in the amount of \$15,000 for living shoreline project at Jenkins Creek. Mr. Chris Licata seconded. The motion carried and was approved unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Hunters Lake Canal Dredging

Mr. Keith Kolasa advised the permit for the Hunters Lake Canal dredging was in the process of being renewed as the project would not be completed by the Summer and he would keep the Committee apprised.

2. Weeki Wachee Springs Protection Zone

Mr. Keith Kolasa advised there was a section of the Weeki Wachee River from the early take out to Rogers Park being proposed to be approved as a protection zone. The item was scheduled to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on February 22 and would then be forwarded to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for consideration. Mr. Mike Fulford clarified the intent of the statewide Springs Protection Zone and noted enforcement would be the responsibility of FWC.

Discussion ensued regarding enforcement on the river.

Ms. Bea Shafer inquired whether additional personnel could be requested for enforcement through the BOCC at the time the item was to be discussed. Mr. Mike Fulford proposed Chairman Kathryn Birren write a letter through the Department Director to the BOCC Chairman to consider coordinating enforcement with the Sheriff's Office when FWC grants the proposed protection zone. The Committee concurred.

3. 2022 Meeting Schedule Reminder

Mr. Keith Kolasa displayed and reviewed the approved 2022 meeting schedule with the Committee. Chairman Kathryn Birren suggested having different meeting locations throughout the year. Mr. Kolasa noted he would look into it.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Ms. Bea Shafer asked for a status update on the Pine Island project and whether a project manager had been hired. Mr. Keith Kolasa responded interviews were scheduled the first week in March and anticipated having a project manager onboard. He stated the Pine Island project would be delegated to the project manager. In the interim, signage and channel markers were being replaced on Pine Island. Chairman Kathryn Birren requested a status update on the project manager be scheduled on the next agenda.

Mrs. Diane Greenwell commented there is an airboat charter in Bayport beginning operations at 7:00 a.m. and ending late at night, sometimes 2:30 a.m., which was incompatible with this area. She indicated there was a need for curfews to be implemented from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and would be speaking before the Board of County Commissioners and Planning & Zoning Commission regarding the matter. Mr. Greenwell commented that the airboats come through the Tarpon canal.

Discussion ensued regarding the Airboat and Noise Ordinances currently in place.

Mrs. Greenwell indicated she wanted to bring the issue up to start looking into it as she believed it would become a bigger issue as more people moved to the area and want to start businesses. Mr. Steve Snell advised he had recently stopped the yellow airboat and they were in compliance.

There were no other citizens' comments.

WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS

1. Kathryn Birren, Chairman
2. Sarah Hill, Vice Chairman
3. Mike Fulford, Member
4. Mike Senker, Member
5. Chris Licata, Member
6. Keith Kolasa, Aquatic/Waterways Services Manager
7. Scott Herring, Department of Public Works Director/County Engineer

Mr. Mike Fulford thanked Mr. Steve Snell for being present at the meeting on his own time and articulating on the enforcement aspects.

OTHER – Waterways Advisory Committee Agenda Requests for Future Meetings

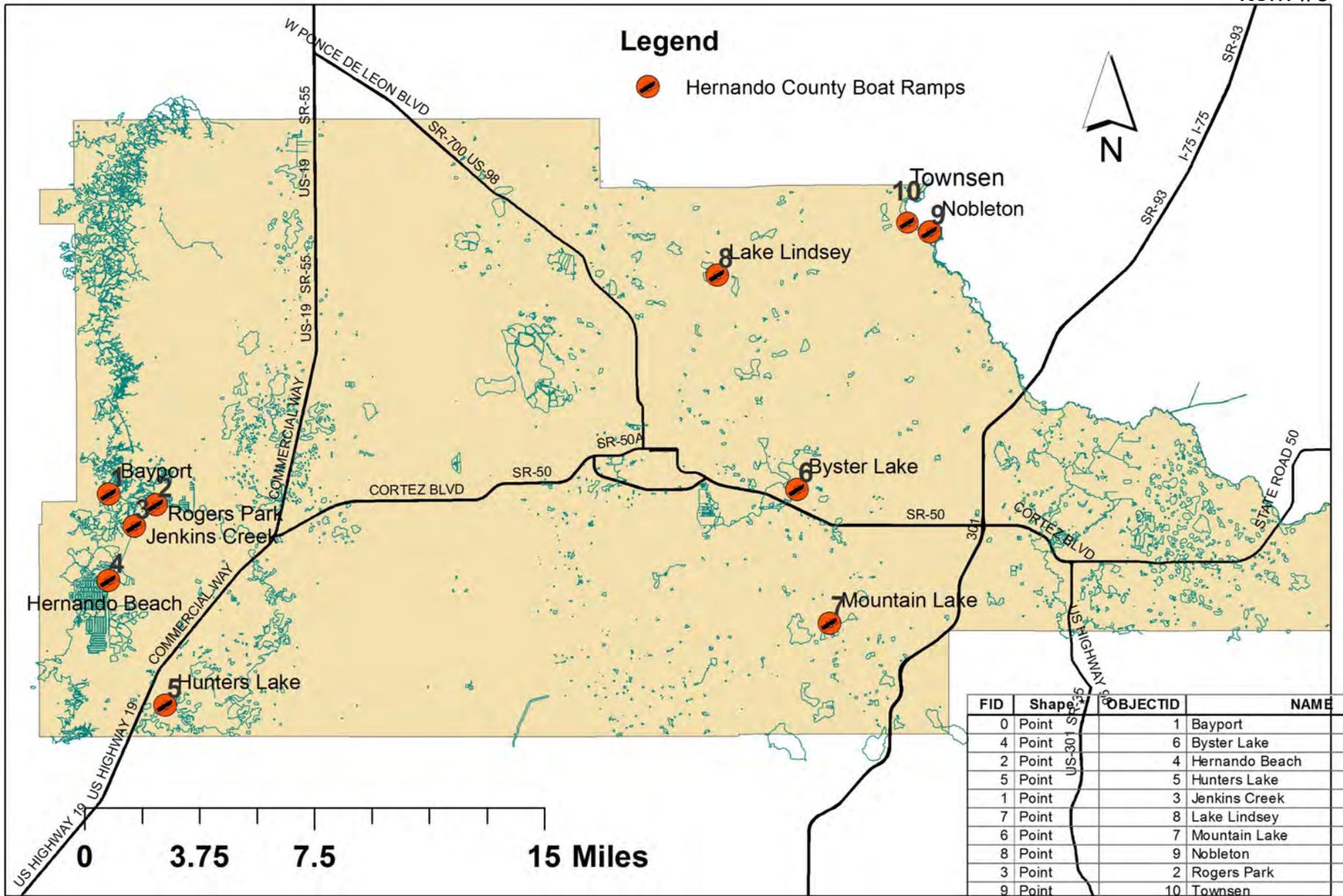
There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting(s):

The next regular meeting of the Waterways Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 7:00 P.M., in the Hernando Beach Marine Group Inc. Training Center, 4340 Calienta Street, Hernando Beach, FL 34607.



Lake Townsend



Nobleton



Lindsey – July 2021



Lindsey – August 2021



Lindsey – October 2021



Lindsey – May 2022



Lindsey – May 2022



Lindsey – June 2022





Mountain Lake



Bystre Lake

Lake Townsend





WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1525 EAST JEFFERSON STREET • BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34601
P 352.754.4060 • F 352.754.4423 • W www.HernandoCounty.us

Old Business
Item #1

March 18, 2022

J. Scott Herring P.E.
Director of Public Works/County Engineer
1525 E Jefferson St
Brooksville, FL 34601

Subject: Recommendation for additional waterways officers

Dear J. Scott Herring:

I am coming to you on behalf of Hernando County Waterways Advisory Committee. At our last meeting we received a request from the concerned citizens of Hernando County. They requested for us to speak to the public works director and ask that county consider hiring more law enforcement for the waterways of Hernando County. Due to the newly proposed Springs Protection Zone Ordinance, there will be a need for additional law enforcement staff. Additionally there is concern over increased population moving into Florida and Hernando County and the extra pressure this is putting on Weeki Wachee River and our other tourist populated water areas of Hernando County. The people feel that this area is already experiencing issues, like damage to the shores, the breaking of regulations, speeding etc. and typically there is little enforcement due to understaffing issues. There was mention at the meeting of possibly using funds from FWC Grants or factoring in an increase in the upcoming budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Birren".

Kathryn Birren
Chairman
Waterways Advisory Committee



04/13/2017











DRAFT DOCUMENT: F:\1 COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE\KJB\Legal Requests\2021-520 Ordinance for Mooring of Commercial Vehicles at Boat Ramps\Draft 2 - Ordinance for mooring of commercial vessels at boat ramps.wpd, February 16, 2022 (11:12am) NOTE: additions/~~deletions~~ = language proposed for addition/deletion to existing Code provisions.

1 marina, boat ramp, boatyard, or other public vessel launching or loading facility” is prohibited by
2 Section 327.4109 (1)(a) of the Florida Statutes; and

3 WHEREAS, the prohibition against anchoring or mooring within 150 feet of a boat ramp
4 does not apply to “a commercial fishing vessel actively engaged in commercial fishing”; and

5 WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 327.02(6) of the Florida Statutes, a “commercial fishing
6 vessel” is “a vessel primarily engaged in the taking or landing of saltwater fish or saltwater products
7 or freshwater fish or freshwater products, or a vessel licensed pursuant to s. 379.361 from which
8 commercial quantities of saltwater products are harvested, from within and without the waters of this
9 state for sale to the consumer or to a retail or wholesale dealer”; and

10 WHEREAS, Chapter 327.70 of the Florida Statutes provides that the Division of Law
11 Enforcement of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and its officers, the sheriffs of the
12 various counties and their deputies, municipal police officers, and any other law enforcement officer
13 enforce the prohibition of anchoring or mooring within 150 feet of a boat ramp and may remove
14 those vessels; and

15 WHEREAS, Section 327.4109(5) of the Florida Statutes provides that a violation is
16 punishable as a noncriminal infraction pursuant to Section 327.73(1)(bb) of the Florida Statutes; and

17 WHEREAS, Section 327.72 of the Florida Statutes provides that failure to pay the civil
18 penalty for noncriminal infractions is a misdemeanor of the second degree; and

DRAFT DOCUMENT: F:\1 COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE\KJB\Legal Requests\2021-520 Ordinance for Mooring of Commercial Vehicles at Boat Ramps\Draft 2 - Ordinance for mooring of commercial vessels at boat ramps.wpd, February 16, 2022 (11:12am) NOTE: additions/~~deletions~~ = language proposed for addition/deletion to existing Code provisions.

1 WHEREAS, it is intended to amend the Hernando County Code of Ordinances to prohibit
2 vessels from blocking or interfering with the public use of boat ramps in Hernando County by
3 anchoring or mooring within 150 feet of said boat ramps.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
5 COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY:

6 **Section 1. Modification of Chapter 7, Article II of the Hernando County Code of**
7 **Ordinances.** Chapter 7, Article II of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended
8 to add Section 7-26 as follows:

9 **7-26. - Incorporation of state law by general reference.**

10 The provisions of state law prohibiting the anchoring or mooring of vessels within 150 feet
11 of any public or private marina, boat ramp, boatyard, or other public vessel launching or loading
12 facility related to Section 327.4109 of the Florida Statutes are hereby incorporated by general
13 reference as they may exist and be amended from time to time. To the extent that the provisions of
14 this article are more stringent than those of state law, then this article shall apply.

15 **Section 2. Severability.** It is declared to be the intent of the Board of County
16 Commissioners that if any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, or provision of this
17 ordinance is for any reason held unconstitutional or invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect the
18 validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

DRAFT DOCUMENT: F:\1 COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE\KJB\Legal Requests\2021-520 Ordinance for Mooring of Commercial Vehicles at Boat Ramps\Draft 2 - Ordinance for mooring of commercial vessels at boat ramps.wpd, February 16, 2022 (11:12am) NOTE:

additions/~~deletions~~ = language proposed for addition/deletion to existing Code provisions.

1 Approved for legal form and sufficiency:
2

3 
4
5 Kyle J. Benda, Assistant County Attorney