Meeting Date: May 19, 2016

Agenda Item: 13-A

Report to Town Council

Topic: Volusia Governments Water Resources Compact.

Recommended Motion: As determined by Council.

Summary: Please see attached staff report.

Requested by: Councilmember Paritsky

Approved by: Ms. Witt, Town Manager

MEMORANDUM

TOWN OF PONCE INLET – OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

THE TOWN OF PONCE INLET STAFF SHALL BE PROFESSIONAL, CARING, AND FAIR IN DELIVERING COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE WHILE ENSURING PONCE INLET CITIZENS OBTAIN THE GREATEST VALUE FOR THEIR TAX DOLLAR.

TO: Town Council

FROM: Jeaneen Witt, CMC, Town Manager

DATE: May 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Volusia Governments Water Resources Compact

Several months ago, the Volusia League of Cities introduced a concept that is being promoted by the Florida League of Cities to establish a regional compact on an issue that all in that area could agree on as a priority, as a unification of purpose from multiple jurisdictions create a significant advantage when applying for funding assistance at the federal level. In continuing along this path, the Volusia League of Cities held a Summit at Stetson University on April 30th to discuss the protection of our water resources as the proposed priority. Councilmember Lois Paritsky and Public Works Manager Keith Gunter attended this summit to represent the Town. Councilmember Paritsky provided the following information from this Summit:

> I would like to summarize what occurred this morning at the Volusia League of Cities Water Compact Summit. After opening remarks, the Director of the Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience presented an outline of the water issues in our county, Stetson University professors presented data involving the water issues, and representatives of the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection made presentations about available programs, education and funding. The specific water issues related to, among other things, septic tank replacements, wastewater, potable water supply, water quality and quantity, and protection of the Indian River Lagoon, the Halifax River, the St. Johns River, and Florida Springs (Blue, DeLeon, and Gemini).
>
> The theme of the Summit was for the municipalities to recognize that we have common issues, and recognize if we work in harmony when possible and support cooperation among the municipalities for the common good, we will be more effective having our concerns heard at the

proper levels of government and be in a stronger position for aid and funding. The hope is that there will be recognition that on issues of common concerns, the municipalities are stronger as a Compact, rather than individually attempting to resolve the issue. On issues where we can cooperate and are in agreement, we are stronger as one voice. On areas of disagreement, we do not forge forward together. Disagreement on one issue does not preclude working together on issues of commonality.

In this instance the common issue is water and the threats posed by problems involving water.

I am attaching a copy of the "Volusia Governments Water Resources Compact " that was provided to each of the municipal representatives. There were Mayors, Commissioners and representatives of Public Works and other departments, from all Volusia County municipalities, and a representative of the County. There were also members of the public. One representative from each municipality was asked to sign the attachment as a commitment by the person signing it to bring it to their Town Council, for approval or disapproval. There is no assumption that all municipalities will be desirous of committing to be a member of the Compact, nor is there an expectation that all the municipalities will agree upon the initial language. Right now, the issue is whether we want to have this Compact, and if so, what do we want it to say. The attached is proposed language - a starting point.

Fourteen of the seventeen representatives, whether staff or an elected official, signed the compact - the commitment for the representative to bring back the Compact to Council. My understanding is that the municipalities that did not sign had left early from the Summit. I signed, agreeing that I will ask that the review of this Compact, is placed on the Agenda in the near future.

During the discussion today, there was a concern among some of the municipal leaders that they did not believe this was something constituents may want - the concern would be the negative impact on a town when it comes to resources - perhaps due to the issue itself or due to the size of the Town or City. What was emphasized by Representative Jacobs was that the Compact is saying "come to the table," not "bring money." With joint efforts, we would be seeking funding on projects we consider priorities and with the joint efforts, bring the money into the project, find resources, and there would be no boundaries to the project - it would include all municipalities. It would be a regional resolution. However, if something were not a particular Town's priority, the Town could take a back seat and not participate - but it would not hinder the

project. It could be supportive as a voice, but not need the service. As a Compact, there will be prioritizing but the municipalities would never lose their autonomy.

At this time, we should simply see if the Town Council is amenable to Ponce Inlet being a part of a Compact and, if the Council is comfortable with the idea, prior to any vote, we may then want to ask our Town Attorney to review the proposed language within the Compact Resolution and propose modifications, additions, and deletions. It is important to keep in mind that unless and until ALL of the municipalities who seek to be a part of this Compact ALL agree on the language, there are no commitments. Representative Jacobs said it took two years for the Southeast Compact to have the language agreed upon.

In addition to this, Councilmember Paritsky attended the Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials on May 9th and there was discussion about how to address a growing concern that once formed, the Compact may languish and we will miss opportunities for funding and exploring avenues to help resolve water quality problems unless someone takes responsibility for moving the Compact forward and ensuring that any issues involved in the language of the Compact are resolved. The Roundtable discussion led to the suggestion that the water subcommittee, currently headed by the mayor of Port Orange, may be well suited for this along with the full Roundtable of Elected Officials.

Attachments: A. Volusia Governments Water Resources Compact Proposal
B. Stetson University informational sheet on the Institute for water and environmental resilience

VOLUSIA GOVERNMENTS WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

WHEREAS, each of the municipalities in Volusia County and unincorporated Volusia County have numerous water issues that are key to the sustainability and growth of Volusia County and each of its municipalities (hereinafter "Volusia Governments"); and

WHEREAS, the Volusia Governments face pressing water issues, including, but not limited to those relating to septic tank replacements through sewer treatment expansion, wastewater and re-use water, potable water supply, water quality projects to protect the Indian River Lagoon, the Halifax River, the St. Johns River, and the Outstanding Florida Springs (Blue, DeLeon, Gemini) ; and

WHEREAS, the Volusia Governments can most effectively address water issues together and with a united front to address the myriad common concerns shared by the Volusia Governments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARDS OF EACH OF THE VOLUSIA GOVERNMENTS:

SECTION 1: "The Compact" shall refer to this document, and the collective efforts undertaken in furtherance of the aims of each of the Volusia Governments.

SECTION 2: The Volusia Governments commit to support the following activities:

- Development of and advocacy for joint positions on federal and state legislation, regulations, and administrative policies pertaining to water issues, including, but not limited to, those relating to septic tank replacements through sewer treatment expansion, wastewater and re-use water, potable water supply, water quality projects to protect the Indian River Lagoon, the Halifax River, the St. Johns River, and the Outstanding Florida Springs (Blue, DeLeon, Gemini).
- Creation of common regional baseline information, relating to all relevant water issues.
- Convocation of an annual Volusia Governments Water Summit.
- Development of a Regional Water Action Plan, including strategies to accomplish the common goals of the Volusia County Governments relating to water issues, to be revised every five years from the date of publication of the first Action Plan.
- Solicitation of external funding and resources to support Compact initiatives.
- Establishment of an enduring organizational structure for the Compact, subject to the approval of each of the Volusia Governments to facilitate Compact work, enhance the strong relationships among the Compact governments, and improve the Compact's competitiveness in seeking external funding and resources.

SECTION 3. The Volusia Governments will continue to support and foster expanded public, private, and nonprofit engagement in Compact initiatives at the local, regional, state, national, and international levels, with an emphasis on communications, partnerships, and capacity building.

SECTION 4. In pursuit of the common aims of the Volusia Governments under the Compact, each such government pledges not to work at cross-purposes with the other governments. However, nothing in this document shall be deemed to limit the power of each governmental entity to govern its respective jurisdictional area.

SECTION 5. The commitments contained herein shall not be effective until approved through the required procedures of each respective member of the Compact.

Signatories:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

STETSON UNIVERSITY

BEYOND SUCCESS -
SIGNIFICANCE CAMPAIGN

The Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience

A Statewide and Nationwide Leader

Stetson University is poised to emerge as a leader in statewide and nationwide efforts to address the challenges of our strained water resources and associated environmental concerns. Stetson's Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience will focus on cross-disciplinary, collaborative solutions to complex environmental issues.

The university's four locations along the I-4 corridor place our faculty and students in the middle of some of the nation's most complex water and environmental challenges. They span three of Florida's major freshwater basins: the St. John's River, which passes through DeLand; the Everglades headwaters at Reedy Creek near the Stetson Center at Celebration; and Tampa Bay, home to Stetson's Tampa Law Center and College of Law in Gulfport. This Central Florida region is also home to several first magnitude springs, the Indian River Lagoon, more than a million acres of conservation land, and miles of Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico shorelines.

Rapid population growth, urban development, agricultural migration from more drought-stressed states, and sea level rise all threaten Florida's freshwater supplies and quality.

A Unique Niche: Innovation, Undergraduate Work, Outreach

While many other universities in Florida are coordinating efforts to tackle environmental issues, none is focused primarily on innovative solutions to protect freshwater resources, with an emphasis on undergraduate education and community outreach.

Already, Stetson faculty and students regularly experience and investigate the valuable natural resources close to each of the campuses. They pursue creative activities and research questions that address the specific concerns of the region and inform policy development. They partner with numerous government and not-for-profit organizations as well as businesses for internships, public education events, and continuing education, through which they are leading the reshaping of the region's priorities for sustainable growth in the context of environmental preservation.

Taking advantage of vibrant and blossoming opportunities for collaborative research, policy development and outreach, Stetson will streamline all of these efforts within one institute: the Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience. The Institute will facilitate synergies within and among our campuses, schools and colleges and beyond them to the communities and regions they serve. The growth of the Institute will facilitate the recruitment of excellent faculty and stimulate current faculty to advance inquiry, scholarship and creative activity. The Institute will also attract intellectually motivated students through its evolving and responsive programs that foster interdisciplinary and collaborative learning experiences and strengthen career readiness and graduate success.

The Stetson University Board of Trustees approved the Institute in May 2015 with a goal that it be self-sustaining within three years. The Institute will be entrepreneurial by seeking grants and donations to support faculty and student research, special events, and signature programs. It has the potential to be a significant revenue source for the university, both directly and via its contribution to Stetson's national visibility and recruitment potential.

Mission
Stetson's Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience promotes interdisciplinary learning and research, advances policy development, develops leadership for solving challenging environmental issues, and demonstrates environmental stewardship as a core university value.

Vision
Through the Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience, Stetson University, along with its faculty, students and alumni, will emerge as a leader in Central Florida and the Southeastern United States for education, research and policy development. It will generate innovative technical, social and political solutions for the current and future challenges of strained freshwater resources and related environmental concerns.

Goals
- Train students to become business, community and government leaders, and global citizens who dare to effect significant change in how people consume and impact freshwater and other environmental resources
- Educate the general public about freshwater and other environmental resource conservation and sustainability efforts through special events, non-credit programming, and online resources
- Impact local, state, federal and international policy related to freshwater and other environmental resource conservation and sustainability efforts

Activities
- Host special events, speakers and panels that involve faculty, students, and the community in ways that promote learning, collaboration and action that improve Florida's natural resources
- Support academic work with internships, student research and engaged-learning opportunities
- Deliver non-credit and for-credit courses for working professionals and students to become sustainability leaders
- Support individual and collaborative research projects led by faculty and students through seed grants that foster the potential for obtaining larger external grants
- Publish a newsletter and maintain a website that highlight the research and outreach activities of institute faculty and programs
- Build financial capacity that supports Stetson's commitment to environmental education and leadership in the region

Executive Director
Noted environmental leader and policy expert Clay Henderson has been named the first executive director of the Institute. The 1977 Stetson graduate, has served as President of Florida Audubon Society, Volusia County Council Chair, and honored by the Florida Bar for public service in the field of environmental law. He is the also the recipient of the George and Mary Hood Award from Stetson for his commitment and contributions to the university and its core values. Among his first duties will be to recruit both a Faculty Steering Committee and Advisory Council for the Institute.

Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center
Through a generous gift of Sandra Stetson, great-granddaughter of John B. Stetson, the Institute will soon be housed on 10 acres on Lake Beresford. This will provide an outstanding venue for a field lab, floating classroom, community meetings, and water related research.

BEYOND SUCCESS
SIGNIFICANCE