

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-07

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF YANKEETOWN, LEVY COUNTY,
FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TOWN OF YANKEETOWN SCIENCE PLAN;
PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, coastal communities throughout the State of Florida have recognized the vulnerability of Florida's coastal communities to the impacts of sea level rise, and have begun to amend their comprehensive plans to incorporate an adaptation action area for those low-lying coastal areas most vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, Yankeetown predominately lies within the 100-year floodplain and the Coastal High Hazard Area as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and therefore, the entire Town is vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, coastal communities such as Yankeetown that are vulnerable to sea level rise may experience an increase in coastal vulnerability, including increased flooding and drainage problems, destruction of natural resource habitats, higher storm surge, increased shoreline erosion, saltwater intrusion, and loss of infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Yankeetown desires to adopt a Science Plan that can be used by Yankeetown to encourage and facilitate science plan and citizen based science within the Town of Yankeetown;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YANKEETOWN, FLORIDA, as follows:

Section 1. The Town Council adopts a Rapid Ecological Assessment and Science Plan for a Natural Resource-Based Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Strategy in Yankeetown Florida ("**Science Plan**") was prepared on behalf of Yankeetown to summarize existing natural resources and provide a long-term adaptation strategy to protect and preserve these resources and which is attached as Exhibit A, and incorporated by reference herein.

The objectives of this Science Plan are to:

- 1) summarize existing baseline conditions within the Natural Resource Adaptation Action Area (NRAAA),
- 2) address sea level rise (SLR) adaptation, mitigation, and retreat strategies in the context of natural resources,
- 3) propose monitoring and management recommendations for long-term planning to promote ecological community resilience in the face of SLR, and
- 4) promote the integration of science into Yankeetown's comprehensive planning process.

Primary products of the Science Plan include:

- A 11,392-acre natural resources adaptation action area (NRAAA) that comprises 86% of Yankeetown's jurisdictional boundary, including the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve and Yankeetown's entire offshore marine/estuarine area.
- A land management philosophy to guide future environmental planning within the NRAAA, with a focus on preservation and natural resource resilience.

- An inventory of resources within the NRAAA that catalogues existing vegetation conditions, lists known occurrence of threatened or endangered flora and fauna, and summarizes predicted changes to natural communities based on projected sea-level rise through the year 2100. These results help highlight the diversity and importance of natural resources within Yankeetown and provide support for their continued protection.
- A summary of adaptation strategies specific to the Yankeetown NRAAA, including oyster reef restoration, living shoreline development, seagrass and salt marsh preservation and restoration, and the maintenance of buffers for habitat migration.
- List of scientific resources for Yankeetown resident and planners to stay aware of the most current sea-level rise and climate change predictions and adaptation planning strategies.

This Science Plan is one of two primary components that will make up an overall Adaptation Action Plan. In addition to this Science Plan, the Adaptation Action Plan will also include a companion municipal Business Plan that together will provide long-term SLR adaptation recommendations, and a science and business plan for preserving and protecting Yankeetown's natural resources and promoting a nature-based economy.

Section 2. Severability Clause. In the event a court of competent jurisdiction shall hold or determine that any part of this Resolution or Science Plan is invalid, the remainder of the Resolution or Science Plan shall not be affected thereby and it will be presumed that the Town Council for the Town of Yankeetown did not intend to enact such invalid provision. It shall further be assumed that the Town Council would have enacted the remainder of this Resolution without said invalid provision thereby causing said remainder to remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Repeal of Inconsistent Provisions. All Resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall only become effective upon approval by the Town.

Section 5. This Resolution was placed on the Agenda and adopted at a duly noticed meeting of the Town Council on the 7th Day of July, 2014.

TOWN OF YANKEETOWN

BY: 
DEBRA WEISS, Acting Mayor of the Town of Yankeetown

ATTEST:



LAURA L. COYLE, Town Clerk