



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF HYDE  
NORTH CAROLINA**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S (FWS)  
PROPOSED PLAN TO COOPERATIVELY ADDRESS LAKE MATTAMUSKEET WATER ISSUES**

**WHEREAS**, the Hyde County Board of Commissioners acknowledge that the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, including Lake Mattamuskeet, is one of the premier waterfowl wintering areas in the Eastern Flyway and an important natural, cultural and economic asset for the County and its residents; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Hyde County Board of Commissioners acknowledge that the natural resources of Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge and Lake Mattamuskeet attract thousands of people from North Carolina and surrounding states each year to enjoy outdoor recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, crabbing and waterfowl observation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Hyde County Board of Commissioners acknowledge that over time the water quality in Lake Mattamuskeet has been significantly degraded causing a significant loss of vegetation which is the foundation of the aquatic community supporting both waterfowl and the lake's recreational fisheries; and,

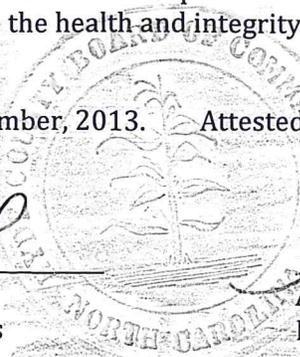
**WHEREAS**, the Hyde County Board of Commissioners acknowledge that if the water quality in Lake Mattamuskeet continues to degrade it will result in additional losses of the remaining aquatic vegetation sufficient in scope to cause waterfowl to seek other wintering grounds and the recreational fisheries to further decline resulting in a negative impact to the economy of the County and the recreational enjoyment of its residents; and,

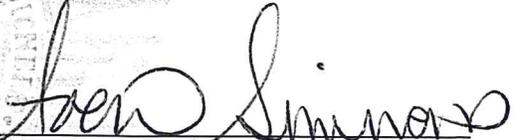
**WHEREAS**, the FWS has met with representatives from the Hyde County Board of Commissioners and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to discuss a cooperative undertaking that seeks to identify the causes of the lake's degraded water quality, which is impacting the extent of both waterfowl and fishery habitat in the lake, and to develop adaptive management strategies, based on sound science, to improve water quality and water management in the lake in concert with the mission of the Refuge for the benefit of the resource and the general public,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Hyde County Board of Commissioners endorse the FWS proposal to partner with Hyde County, appropriate federal and state agencies and other contributing entities in a cooperative venture to improve conditions in Lake Mattamuskeet and further agrees to support, through appropriate avocation, the FWS in securing the necessary resources required to fund appropriate scientific investigations and the development and implementation of a Comprehensive Water Management Plan designed to restore the health and integrity of Lake Mattamuskeet over time.

Duly adopted this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2013. Attested by:

  
Barry Swindell, Chairman  
Hyde County Board of Commissioners



  
Averi Simmons, Deputy Clerk to the Board  
Hyde County Board of Commissioners