RESOLUTION NO. R-19-084

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING FEDERAL DESIGNATION OF THE LITTLE MANATEE RIVER IN HILLSBOROUGH AND MANATEE COUNTIES AS A COMPONENT OR POTENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1271 et seq., established a Wild and Scenic Rivers System for the protection of certain selected free-flowing rivers and their immediate environments for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Little Manatee River flows freely in a natural condition for approximately fifty miles through southern Hillsborough County and northern Manatee County before discharging into Tampa Bay as a major tributary of the Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Little Manatee River contains some of the most pristine river frontage remaining in Hillsborough and Manatee Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Little Manatee River contains outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, wildlife and habitat, cultural, and water quality and quantity values, and safeguarding the special character of the Little Manatee River is a matter of significant public interest; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida and regional and local governments in Florida have to date recognized the values of the Little Manatee River and the need to protect those values through designation of portions of the Little Manatee River as an Outstanding Florida Water, through inclusion of portions in the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve and the Little Manatee River State Park, and through acquisition of land in the Little Manatee River corridor, among other measures; and

WHEREAS, designation of the Little Manatee River as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System will promote public as well as federal, state and local government participation in developing additional protections, including protection of scenic, recreational, wildlife and habitat, cultural, and water quality and quantity values and other benefits, while also recognizing the potential for appropriate use and development; and

WHEREAS, the Little Manatee River will benefit from the development of a Comprehensive Management Plan and other measures undertaken in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to help ensure perpetual protection of this unique natural resource.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Board of County Commissioners of
Manatee County, Florida, that:

1. The Board of County Commissioners supports the designation of the Little Manatee
   River, including appropriate tributaries, as a component or a potential component
   of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

2. The Board of County Commissioners requests that Congress designate the Little
   Manatee River as a component or potential component of the Wild and Scenic
   Rivers System, and authorize development of a Comprehensive River Management
   Plan, in cooperation with appropriate federal, state and local officials, to protect the
   Little Manatee River in its free-flowing condition and its outstandingly remarkable
   values for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately
upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this ___ day of ____, 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: ________________________________
    Stephen R. Jonsson, Chairman

ATTEST:  ANGELINA COLONNESO
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

By: ________________________________
    Deputy Clerk