

ALACHUA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 2012- 24

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA,
SUPPORTING THE CONSERVATION OF ROADSIDE
NATIVE WILDFLOWERS ON STATE AND COUNTY
ROADWAYS, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the natural beauty of native wildflowers in Alachua County can be enjoyed
by everyone; can enhance tourism and benefit commerce, environmental health, and public well-
being; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of native wildflowers is an occasion for all County and
community leaders to unite for the benefit of everyone; and

WHEREAS, many naturally beautiful species of native wildflowers, including
Coreopsis, the state wildflower, as depicted upon the State Wildflower license tag, are already
prominently displayed along Alachua County's state and county roadways; and

WHEREAS the County's Comprehensive Plan states that "the County shall promote and
protect the visual characteristics of wildflower areas through planting programs and maintenance
practices, in cooperation with other agencies and private landowners;" and

WHEREAS, wildflowers are part of the landscaping goals of many County rural property
owners and community-based organizations including the Old Florida Heritage Highway, a state
designated scenic byway; and

1 WHEREAS, the presence of native wildflowers is essential to the fitness of native
2 pollinator species necessary for productive and profitable farms and forests; and

3 WHEREAS, in the spring of 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon named this beautiful place La
4 Florida, Land of Flowers, because of the wealth of native wildflowers; and

5 WHEREAS, in the year 2013, native wildflowers will be a prominent icon of Florida's
6 and Alachua County's quincentennial celebration of Spain's role in Florida history; and

7 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Florida, Article II, Section 7(a) states, "It
8 shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty
9 (Adopted 1996); and

10 WHEREAS, it is desirable and attainable to experience the beauty of many more native
11 wildflowers, and Alachua County minimizes the frequency and extent of mowing to encourage
12 the growth of wildflowers; and

13 WHEREAS, along US 441 and County Road 225, part of the Old Florida Heritage
14 Highway, roadsides are presently managed for native wildflowers by FDOT, Alachua County
15 and local residents; and

16 WHEREAS, pursuant to this resolution government agencies and non-profit
17 organizations in Alachua County may consider applications to the Florida Wildflower
18 Foundation grants program.

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21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
22 ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA:

23 1. That they do hereby encourage the conservation of roadside native wildflowers on

1 state and county roadways and roadside management practices that will increase the visibility
2 and enjoyment of Florida native wildflowers.

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4 2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

5 DULY ADOPTED in regular session, this 27 day of March, 2012.

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7 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
8 OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
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11 ATTEST:

12 By: Paula M. DeLaney
13 Paula M. DeLaney, Chair

14 J. K. Irby, D.C.
15 J. K. Irby, Clerk

16
17 (SEAL)

18 APPROVED AS TO FORM

19 D. Wagner
Alachua County Attorney