

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners  
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20061579

**1. ACTION REQUESTED/PURPOSE:**

Ceremonial Resolution recognizing Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve

**2. WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES:**

**3. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION:**

**4. DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY: #3**

**CP # 1**

**5. MEETING DATE:**

**December 5, 2006**

**6. AGENDA:**

CONSENT  
 ADMINISTRATIVE  
 APPEALS

PUBLIC  
 WALK-ON

**7. REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE  
(SPECIFY)**

STATUTE  
 ORDINANCE  
 ADMIN.  
 CODE  
 OTHER

**8. REQUEST INITIATED:**

COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPARTMENT County Commission  
DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**9. BACKGROUND:**

**10. REVIEW FOR SCHEDULING**

Department Director	Purchasing or Contracts	Human Resources	Other	County Attorney	Budget Services				County Manager/P.W. Director
					Analyst	Risk	Grants	Mgr.	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**11. COMMISSION ACTION**

Approved  
 Deferred  
 Denied  
 Other



**LEE COUNTY**  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

***The Board of County Commissioners***

**RESOLUTION**

- Whereas:** Forty years ago, the communities surrounding Estero Bay raised their voices to sustain a healthy marine ecosystem and maintain the economic stability of the area, by establishing conservation efforts so future generations would be guaranteed a quality of life standard of the time; and
- Whereas:** Due to this effort, Estero Bay was designated Florida's first Aquatic Preserve in 1966 by the Outdoor Recreation Development Council under the auspices of Governor C. Farris Bryant, who saw the need to purchase public lands for future use by the state, saying that it was important to do it now, "before the need arose – or before it became critical"; and
- Whereas:** Through the Aquatic Preserve Act, passed in 1975, 41 aquatic preserves have been designated by the Legislature to be maintained in their essentially natural condition for the enjoyment of the public and future generations; and
- Whereas:** Estero Bay, the first Aquatic Preserve, encompasses 11, 000 acres of sovereign submerged lands from the Fort Myers Beach Sky Bridge to Bonita Beach Road, and serves as a cornerstone to Lee County resident's quality of life; and
- Whereas:** Estero Bay supports a diversity of plant and animal life which encourages a variety of human activity such as boating, sport fishing, commercial fishing, water skiing, wildlife viewing, and photography; and
- Whereas:** The bay, its beauty, and its critical importance has become even more evident in recent years with the development of the Great Calusa Blueway, a marked paddling trail that helps people access the bay for as little as an hour, or as long as several days; and
- Whereas:** Sea grasses and mangroves which dominate the shallow waters trap sediments, stabilize the shoreline, provide habitat, and serve as nesting or roosting areas for many species of birds; and
- Whereas:** More than 40% of the endangered or threatened species found in the state occur within southwest Florida's estuaries including the bald eagle and West Indian manatee.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Board of County Commissioners of Lee County, Florida does hereby continue to support the environmental stewardship role undertaken in the past, and commits to future support of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve with the support of the visitors and residents of Lee County.**

Duly Executed this 5th day of December, 2006.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Chairman