



CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Chatham County Board of Commissioners

A Resolution Urging State Action to Effectively Improve Jordan Lake Water Quality

WHEREAS, Jordan Lake was added to the federal list of “impaired waters” in 2002, which has required the state Division of Water Resources to prepare a plan to restore the lake’s health by reducing pollution from contributing sources; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina developed a cleanup plan for the lake, known as the Jordan Lake Rules, to address impairment, but the timeline for implementing these rules have been delayed several times by the North Carolina General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly appropriated nearly \$1.3 million to initiate a pilot program in Jordan Lake involving Solar Bee water mixers as an option to improve water quality, with an additional \$1.5 million provided in 2015 to continue the project through 2018; and

WHEREAS, a March 1, 2016 report from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality states that the Solar Bees have not resulted in any improvement in Jordan Lake water quality in impaired areas, primarily because the bees are not designed for larger bodies of water and those with substantial water flow; and

WHEREAS, the report noted that other nutrient removal technologies currently available also have not been shown to work well in large reservoirs like Jordan Lake and can be cost prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, the state report concludes the State of North Carolina should continue regulatory efforts to reduce nutrient source contamination from watersheds, because nutrient removal strategies alone will have significant impact on water quality; and

WHEREAS, approximately 300,000 residents obtain drinking water from Jordan Lake, with no feasible alternative available if it becomes dangerously impaired.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners that we urge the North Carolina General Assembly to discontinue the SolarBee pilot project and move forward immediately with the Jordan Lake Rules, currently the most efficient means of for reducing the excessive nutrients impairing Jordan Lake.

Adopted by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on May 2, 2016.

James Crawford, Chairman
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lindsay K. Ray, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners