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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. That they do hereby encourage the conservation of roadside native wildflowers on
state and county roadways and roadside management practices that will increase the visibility
and enjoyment of Florida native wildflowers.

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

DULLY ADOPTED in regular session, this 12 day of March, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

By: [Signature]
Paula M. DeLaney, Chair

J. K. Irby, Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Alachua County Attorney

3/8/2012