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**TOWNSHIP OF WATERFORD
COUNTY OF CAMDEN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #2014-255

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WATERFORD PLEDGING
SUPPORT FOR NEW JERSEY'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN**

WHEREAS, Waterford Township, being situated in the heart of the New Jersey Pine Barrens, is home to a rich diversity of wildlife and ecologically significant natural communities; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's wildlife and wild places are under threat from development, fragmentation, invasive species and the impacts of people; and

WHEREAS, the populations of mammals, birds, invertebrates, fish, reptiles and amphibians that live in and migrate through New Jersey find themselves clinging to smaller and smaller pieces of wild clean lands and aquatic habitats; and

WHEREAS, it is more cost-effective to prevent species from becoming imperiled than it is to recover them once their populations have declined; and

WHEREAS, a naturally functioning and healthy ecosystem represents a healthy environment for wildlife and our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, other state and federal agencies and many partners in conservation have worked together to develop a state Wildlife Action Plan for the benefit of all citizens on New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Wildlife Action plan is a comprehensive action agenda for the conservation of native wildlife, the restoration of important lands and water, and public education targeting the needs of rare wildlife in New Jersey; and

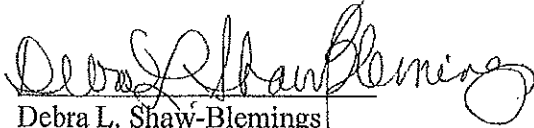
WHEREAS, the residents of, and visitors to, New Jersey also enjoy and benefit from New Jersey's wildlife and wild spaces.

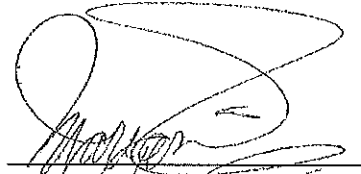
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Waterford, County of Camden, to take the following steps with regard to our municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making the Township of Waterford an ecologically sustainable community. It is our intent to include these principles in our public lands management, our environmental resources inventory and to inform the next master plan revision and update our zoning accordingly:

- The Township will identify imperiled species, critical habitat and unique ecosystems in our Environmental Resource Inventory.
- Acknowledging that it is more cost-effective to protect species than recover species, the Township will protect populations of rare and imperiled species that live and breed in, and migrate through, the municipality and the habitats they depend upon.
- Because habitat integrity is critical to healthy biodiversity, the Township will manage publicly owned lands in accordance with wildlife management actions laid out in the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan and will promote the management of all protected lands to promote biodiversity.
- The Township will protect wildlife habitats and maintain connectivity of habitat when formulating an open space acquisition strategy, open space stewardship plans and through the municipal master plan including planning and zoning ordinances.
- The Township will seek to minimize disturbance of critical wildlife populations and their habitats from human activities, subsidized predators and invasive species.
- When possible and appropriate, the Township will work with neighboring municipalities to implement the aforementioned principles across municipal boundaries.

- When possible and appropriate, the Township will strive to monitor and implement appropriate management of municipal easements to ensure native vegetation and wildlife takes precedence over invasive and/or exotic species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.


 Debra L. Shaw-Blemings
 Acting Township Clerk

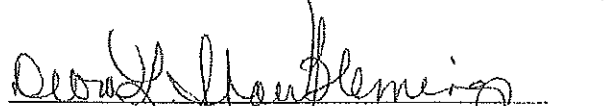

 Maryann Merlino
 Mayor

Adopted: November 12, 2014

	RICHARDSON	CRITELLI	YEATMAN	KOONS	MERLINO
YES	X	X	X	X	X
ABSTAIN					
NO					
ABSENT					

CERTIFICATION

I, Debra L. Shaw-Blemings, Acting Township Clerk of the Township of Waterford, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Mayor and Township Committee at its Regular Meeting held on November 12, 2014, at the Municipal Building, 2131 Auburn Avenue, Atco, New Jersey.


 Debra L. Shaw-Blemings, Acting Township Clerk