



George County Board of Supervisors  
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## **Lake George Drought Resiliency Project still moving forward**

Release Date: 02/01/16

### **George County Supervisor Larry McDonald, Board President**

“Let me be clear, the Lake George- Drought Resiliency Project will still move forward. Obviously, we will need to retool our original plan and that work will begin immediately.

The reality is climate change is predicted to cause more frequent, more severe and longer droughts throughout the Pascagoula River Basin. Without a proactive response, these droughts will have significant, adverse environmental, ecological and economic impacts on the Pascagoula River.

According to USGS, the Pascagoula River had a drought of record in 2000 followed by other notable droughts in 2007, 2010, 2011 and 2015.

Like Jackson County, George County’s citizens know that the Pascagoula River is critical to the region’s environment, ecology and economy. I would not support any project that would threaten the Pascagoula River’s ability to continue meeting any of those important functions.

The actions taken today by the Jackson County Board of Supervisors on a narrow 3 to 2 vote threatens to undo a very positive six year working relationship on this critical regional project with George County and the Pat Harrison Waterway District.

It’s hard to understand how two new supervisors can vote to dissolve a collaboration without reaching out to our Board, the project’s engineering team, or the Pat Harrison Waterway District. Regrettably, I expect today’s action will be seen as a disturbing precedent by other community, business and economic development partners working with the Jackson County Board of Supervisors.”

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