

March 15, 2016

Frank Mann: We Begin All Of Our Meetings With A Prayer. This Morning Paul Lodato, Welcome Back. We're So Pleased To Have You -- He Is With And Part Owner In Management Of The Ctn10 Christian Television. Paul, Thank You. And We Are Going To First Ask For A Moment Of Silence For, John, Your Friend's Name --

John Manning: Randy Hutch. He Died Very Suddenly On The 11th. He Was Very Young. He Was 64 Years Old. He Was A Great President From A Very Small County. Salani County. He Will Be Greatly Missed. If We Could Have A Moment Of Silence, Mr. Chairman, I Would Appreciate That.

Frank Mann: He Also Served As Commissioner Manning As President Of The Florida Association Of Counties. That's Where They Got To Know Each Other. Also, We Will Include In Our Thoughts This Morning General Rufus Lazelle From Punta Gorda Served With The Port Authority And Served His Nation With Distinction. Now, Paul, Back To You. [ Moment Of Silence ]

John Manning: Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

God, We Thank You For The Hutch Family And The Lazelle Family And That You Comfort Them During This Tough Time. Just As The Coins And Our Dollar Bill Say In God We Trust, We Trust You, Lord, To Continue To Lead And Guide Our County Commissioners And Our Leadership For Lee County And The Surrounding Counties Concerning Decisions Related To This Great County And Region, And We Thank You That During The Time That America Is In Transition That We Still Have Counties And Wonderful Commissioners That Put Their Trust And Their Faith In God. In Your Name We Do Pray, Amen.

Thank You Very Much. Join Me In The Pledge, Please. I Pledge Allegiance To The Flag Of The United States Of America And To The Republic For Which It Stands, One Nation, Under God, Indivisible With Liberty And Justice For All. Thank You, And You May Be Seated.

You Know What, It Says Staff. Mr. Chairman.

Frank Mann: Mr. Kiker, Yes.

Larry Kiker: Before We Start, I Would Like To Offer My Apologies. No Disrespect. This Morning I Got Up Early To Vote. It Was Dark. It Was Foggy, And So I Have A Tie Laying In The Parking Lot. I Don't Know Where It Is. Someone Got A Brand New Tie Out Of The Deal. I Hope They Enjoy It. It Was Early This Morning. 21 Referendums For The Citizens Of Fort Myers Beach. Plus, Their Regular Election. Already The Line Was Mounting, And -- But They

All Got Up, And They're All Cheery And Voting And Hope Everybody Joins Us Today In Our Elections.

Brian Hamman: Excellent.

Frank Mann: I Will Take The Liberty Of Speaking For All Of Your Colleagues And Saying That Your Apologies Are Accepted, And With Or Without A Tie, We Need Your Smile And Your Intellect.

Larry Kiker: Thank You.

Frank Mann: We Are To Receive -- Somebody Is Trying To Say Something Nice To And About The County. Mr. County Manager. Come Forward Because We Don't Get Many Of These Opportunities. Are You Kevin? Kevin Kirkwood? Take The Mike And Say Something Nice. Thank You Very Much.

Good Morning. Thank You. Thank You Very Much. My Name Is Kevin Kirkwood. The Health Motion Wellness Manager For The Florida Department Of Health In Lee County, And Thank You For This Opportunity. Currently Only 36% Of Floridians Are At A Healthy Weight. Lee County Government Plays An Important Role Of Increasing The Prevalence Of Unhealthy Weight Through Actions And Policies. The Bi-County Connector And Other Projects All Actions To Enhance The Public Infrastructure Safely Allowing Residents To Traverse Lee County In New Fun And Active Ways. You Continue To Improve The Environment Where The Healthy Choice Is The Easy Choice. It's My Privilege To Recognize The Work Of The Board Of County Commissioners And Lee County As The 2016 Florida Department Of Health, Healthy Weight Community Champion.

Frank Mann: Well, Thank You Very Much. [ Applause ]

Frank Mann: We'll Get A Picture Of This. Hope This Has To Do With Healthy Weight, And Some Of Us On The Commission Are Profoundly Grateful That He Didn't Pursue That In Any Detail, But -- What Do They Used To Call It? You're A Good Bad Example. That's What They Used To Say. A Little More In, Kevin.

Frank Mann: We Do Appreciate Your Recognizing Efforts Of The Great County Staff That Has Done So Much Here. Shake Hands With Our County Manager.

Brian Hamman: I Thought They Said Healthy Appetite.

Frank Mann: Yeah, We Can Speak To That. Okay. I Have A Recap. Our Most Recent One That Requires A Deferral -- Yes, I'm Sorry. A Deferral On Item 28. Staff Needs To Review That A Little Further.

So Moved.

Brian Hamman: Second.

Frank Mann: Is There Discussion? Is There Objection To That? Show It Adopted. And For Fyi, Staff Has Pointed Out That These Water Quality Issues Are All Related, Some Of Which We'll Be Talking About This Afternoon In Our Get-Together. There's No Other Issues That We Need To Deal With On A Recap. Therefore, Let's See If Anybody Wants To Pull An Item. Commissioner Manning?

John Manning: No, Sir.

Cecil Pendergrass: No.

Frank Mann: I Have None.

Brian Hamman: I Would Like To Pull Out 17, Mr. Chairman.

Frank Mann: Let's Let You Do That. Mr. Kiker?

Larry Kiker: None For Me, Sir.

Frank Mann: Public Comment On The Balance Of The Items? I Have Quite A Number Of Cards. Some Of Y'all -- Some Of These Come At The End Of The Meeting. Is The Library -- It's On Our Agenda. I'm Sorry. Of All The Cards I Have Up Here, None Mention A Specific Item On The Agenda. Are All The People That Have Provided These Cards Asking To Speak At The End Of The Meeting On Other Items? Thank You For That.

Larry Kiker: Mr. Chairman, I Believe Mayor Nelson Is Here.

Frank Mann: Mayor, Are You Here On -- You Are Definitely Here.

Larry Kiker: For The Library.

Frank Mann: For The Library? But That Was An Agenda Item. Yes. I'm Sorry. We Have Two Of Them. I Thought That's What It Was. This Man Deserves -- He Needs No Introduction, But He Deserves An Introduction Because They Just Had A Going Away Party For Him Because He Is Term Limited Down There. He Has Been Serving The Bonita Springs City Government Since It Was Formed, And Anybody That Lasts That Long In Politics Nowadays, Our Hat Is Off To Him. Ben, We Are Going To Miss You Terribly, But Honorable Mayor, You Have Served With Distinction, And Here You Are Still Going At It Right To --

Still Slugging Away.

Frank Mann: Talk To Us.

Commissioners, Thank You So Much, And I Just Want To Say To Your Staff And To Larry, Thank You So Much For All Your Hard Work On This Library Agreement. You Know, None Of It Was Easy, But I Got To Tell You, It Really Came Together There In The End. Thank You So Much For All Your Hard Work On This. It's Going To Be A Facility That We Can All Be Proud Of, And I'll Be Here If Anybody Has Any Questions, But If Not, Thank You So Much,

And Since This Is Probably The Last Time As Mayor I Get To Stand Up In Front Of You, Thank You For All The Other Times That You Have Received Me Up Here And That You Have Worked With Us With The City Of Bonita Springs On Behalf Of All Our Citizens. Thank You For All Your Good Work, And Thank You For Your Staff.

Frank Mann: Thank You. [ Applause ]

Thanks, Mayor.

Frank Mann: Mayor Ben, If Anybody Tries To Interfere With The Success Of That Item Between Now And Then Of The Meeting, I Shall Personally Take The Hammer They Give Me Up Here And Deal With Them. It Will Be Over. I'm Looking For A Motion To Approve The Ballots.

John Manning: So Moved.

Cecil Pendergrass: Second.

Frank Mann: Is There Discussion? Is There Objection? Show It Adopted Without Objection. Mayor, You May Go Back To Bonita Now. Thank You Very Much. Commissioner.

Brian Hamman: Thank You, Mr. Chairman. I Pulled Item 17. I Would Like To Ask The County Manager If I Could, Mr. Chairman, To Just Give A Brief Introduction Of The Item.

Frank Mann: Certainly.

To Mr. Chairman, This Is An Agenda Item That Would Carry Over. 800,000. I Recognize Carrying Over \$800,000 In Projects From Last Year's Budget To This Year's Budget For Projects That Either Have Not Yet Been Completed But Were Budgeted For Or That We Will Start Incomplete This Year. The Annual Spend Approved By The Board In This Category Is At \$1 Million, And This Would Move That Spend To \$1.8 Million To Accommodate The Project That Is Are Carried Forward From Last Year.

Brian Hamman: Thank You, Mr. Desjarlais.

Brian Hamman: This Is A One-Time Request To Increase It From \$1 Million To \$1.8 Million. They Had \$800,000 They Had To Pull Forward So They Need The Ability To Use All That Money This Year. Since This Is Only A This Year Thing, I Just Suggested An Amendment That Instead Of Action Requested, Instead Of Saying Increase The Annual Expenditures, Let's Just Increase Fiscal Year 15-16 Expenditures To \$1.8 Million So We're Only Doing The Increase Just For This Year. Want Into Perpetuity. I Would Like To Offer That As An Amended Motion.

Frank Mann: I Think That's Appropriate. For The Record, I Have Discussed This With Mr. Desjarlais. He Has No Problem With That, Has No Problem With It, Doesn't Think It

Interferes In Any Way And Doesn't -- It Keeps It From Setting Some Precedent Accidentally. I'm Okay With It.

Cecil Pendergrass: I'll Second The Amendment.

Frank Mann: Second To Amend The Item 17 To Include This Suggested Language.

Brian Hamman: And, Mr. Chairman, Just For The Record Then, Specifically We're Amending Part A Under Action Requested, So Instead Of Annual Expenditures, It Should Read Fiscal Year 15-16 Expenditures, And Then Under Part C Instead Of Annual Expenditure, It Should Read Fiscal Year 15-16 Expenditures. That Is The Amendment, And I'll Supply -- I'll Give This To The Clerk For The Minutes As Well. You Can Take Public Comment, Mr. Chairman.

Frank Mann: Any Public Comment? Anybody Out There Want To Muddy The Water Here For This Fine Commissioner Trying To Help Us? Any Further Discussion On It? Objection To It? Show It Adopted With The Amendment. Thank You Very Much.

Brian Hamman: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

Frank Mann: Now, Are We All Ready For Public Hearings?

Cecil Pendergrass: Yes, Sir.

Frank Mann: Counsellor, Come Join Us.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman. John, Assistant County Attorney. I Have The Affidavit Of Publication For Your Number One Public Hearing At 9:30 This Morning. I've Reviewed That Affidavit With Respect To Form And Content. It Is Legally Sufficient, And I'm Going To Provide It To The Board's Clerk.

Frank Mann: Are The Questions Of Our Counsel? Hearing None, Are There Members Of The Public That Would Like To Speak On This Specific Public Hearing Issue? Hearing None, Back To The Board. I'll Accept The Motion.

Cecil Pendergrass: Move The Item.

John Manning: Second.

Frank Mann: Is There Further Discussion On It? Is There Objection To It? Show It Adopted. Thank You, Counsellor. Let The Record Show It Passed Unanimously. Now, We're Moving Right Along Here, Folks. No Walk-On. No Carry-Ones. Carry-Overs. Commissioner Items. Commissioner Manning.

John Manning: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I Have One Brief Item. I Want To Thank All The Members Of The Florida Association Of Counties For A Ten-Year Effort To Deal With Djj Costs, And I Have Been On This Issue Before. We Didn't Get All That We Wanted To, Roger, But We Certainly Came A Long Way, And This Year A Savings To Lee County Taxpayers

Alone, Which Will Fluctuate From Year To Year, Is About \$576,000, And That's General Fund Dollars, So The Settlement That Was Effectuated Was A Good One For Us And The Rest Of The 64 Counties That Are Involved In This. There Are Three That Don't Participate, But This Is Good For Us, And It's Been A Very Long Struggle. I Just Want To Say Thank You To My Staff Up There In Tallahassee.

They Did A Good Job.

John Manning: Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chair.

Frank Mann: Yes.

As You'll Recall, This Djj Settlement Is Cost Share With The State Of Florida, Which Will Now Be A 50-50 Cost Share With The State, And A Direct Result Of The Counties That Had Filed Lawsuit Against The State Agreeing To Withdraw Their -- From Litigation In Order To Nail This Compromise Down. It Looked Uncertain For A Little While, But Finally Passed. We're Very Pleased.

Frank Mann: Thank You, Commissioner Manning, For Bird-Dogging That And Other Things. Thank All Of You Who Participated This Year In The Legislature And What They Were Doing On Our Behalf To Us Or For Us, But The General Impression I Got Was That It Was A Pretty Good Year.

Cecil Pendergrass: For Lee County, Yes It Was Very Much.

Frank Mann: The Water Issues And Amendment One Issues All Seemed To Come Together At The End. Good Year.

Yes, Sir. The County Attorney's Office Is In Court This Morning, But He Will Give You A Full Report When We Next Meet.

Frank Mann: At The Very Next Meeting?

Yes, Sir.

Frank Mann: Will He Be Back In Time For Our World War I Shop To Give Us Three Minutes Maybe? We'll See.

I Doubt It.

Frank Mann: I Doubt It. Okay. When It Happens, It Happens. Mr. Pendergrass.

Cecil Pendergrass: A Shout Out Congratulations To The S.E.C. Girls Team And Good Luck To Them Playing Out At State. Go Eagles. Hope It's A Good Night Tonight. Commissioner Hammans Is Our Alumni.

Brian Hamman: Got My Pin On.

Congratulations To All The Students And Faculty For The Community Here.

Brian Hamman: I'll Echo What Commissioner Pendergrass Said. Go Eagles. We're Proud To See How The Women's And Men's Basketball Team Are Doing, And It's A Great School. I Got To Tell You, We Really Have A Lot To Look Forward To Here In Lee County As That University Continues To Grow And Educate Just Some Really Fine Work Force For Us. No Other Report Than That. Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

Frank Mann: Mr. Kiker.

Larry Kiker: None From Me. Thank You.

Frank Mann: Let Me Just Throw In A Quick Report On -- I Have Just Returned From Germany To A Big Tourism Event That's Been Going On Over There For 28 Years. Our Tourist Development Council Always Sends A Group Over There From Our Staff, A Very Competent Staff, And They Usually Send The Chairman Of The Tourist Development Council, Which This Year Is Myself. I Was There Five Years Ago, Same Thing. The Reason I'm Taking This Time To Tell You A Little Bit About It Is To Reinforce What Some Of You Know, But A Lot Of Folks I Think Are Not Aware Of Is The Critical Importance Of Tourism To Lee County, And I Will Report And Repeat What Has Been Reported Earlier. All During The Recession, The Horrible Recession We Suffered Through Here And Throughout The Nation, But Few Places More Devastatingly So Than Lee County Because Of The Collapse Of The Construction Industry. Tourism Kept Us Alive And Kept Our Heads Above Water. There Are Thousands Of Jobs Being Provided By Our Tourists. The Largest Single Block Of Tourists That Visit Lee County Every Year Are From Germany. Hence, Our Focus On Germany, And We Send A Group Over, And Essentially What We're Trying To Do Is Get Some More To Come Over And Spend Their Euros Here. Each Year The Last Five Years We've Had Record Setting Numbers Of People Come Here, And That Record Applies Also To Germany, So It Was My Honor To Represent You. You'll Say You're Bragging About This, Frank, So I Will Brag A Little. I Was Able To Report To A Group Of Nearly 100 German-Speaking Tourism Folks. I Gave Them A Little 90-Second Report All In German. They Laughed At The Right Time, And They Clapped At The Right Time, So I Think They Understood It, But It Was An Honor Representing You, And I Think We Were Well Received, And One Last Final Comment. This Is For Tamara Piggot Who Runs Or Bcb And Her Crack Staff. I Watch Those People Work, And They Are Very Good At What They Do, And They Are Very Good At Communicating With Other Folks Because The People Are Talking Within -- There's 30,000 Of Them, People Involved In Tourism. The Big Tour Groups Where You Put Together 1,000 At A Time Or A Ship Load Or Busload Or Boatload. They Get Up Early, Work Late, And They Do A Fine Job, And Our Numbers Reflect That That I Was Just Talking About. That's My Report From That Trip, And We Look Forward To Another Great Year In Tourism. County Manager.

We Have Committee Appointments.

Frank Mann: I Haven't Appointed Any Committees Yet. Why Don't We Start With Mr. Manning.

John Manning: Thank You. I Have A New Appointment To The Land Code Advisory Committee. Paula Mcmichael.

Second.

Frank Mann: Is There Discussion? Objection? Show It Passed Without Objection. Commissioner Pendergrass.

Cecil Pendergrass: No Items.

Brian Hamman: I Have None.

Larry Kiker: I Have None.

Frank Mann: I Have None. Now Can I Hear From Our County Manager? Mr. Desjarlais. I Have Nothing This Morning, Mr. Chairman, Unless You Would Like --

Frank Mann: No, Great Report.

Good To See You.

Frank Mann: County Attorney.

Real Briefly, Board Members Are Reminded We'll Have A 5:00 P.M. Public Workshop This Evening On Various Land Development Code Amendments, So We'll See You At 5:00 P.M.

Frank Mann: We'll Count The Moments Until We're Together Again. 5:00. See Everybody Then. I Have A Note Here. Yes. I'm Not Certain How We're Going To Handle This, But Marilyn Herring. We Are Up To The Point Where We Will Hear From You. And I Think Everybody Has A Resolution That Was Passed Out From Her. Okay. How Did I Mispronounce Your Name?

Herring.

Frank Mann: Okay Where, That Will Do.

Thank You Very Much, Commissioners, For Allowing Me To Speak. I Am A Resident Of Lee County. I Have Lived Here For Over 30 Years, And I Do Vote, And I Am So Proud To Be Able To Cast Our Votes. Mine Was Early Voting, But Not Only Am I A Citizen Of Lee County, I'm Also A Native American. I'm A Registered Native American. Some Folks Believe With Scientific Data That My Ancestors Were Here 10,000 Years Ago. We Have Left Our Mark In Many, Many Places. My Tribe Is -- Near Tallahassee, Florida Is A Mark That The Chaqta



Nation Has Left As They Migrated Through. The Bay Is A Very Large Inlet Near Vera Pos A, Florida, Near The Tallahassee Area, Again, That's When Indian Mounds Were Built, These Were The Bones Of Our Ancestors That Were Left There, So Many Towns, Lakes, Rivers Are Named After Native Americans For A Very Good Cause. We Have Been Here A Very Long Time, And Caloosahatchee Being One Of The Local Names After Our Caloosa Tribes. I Was Outraged Upon Hearing At The Slaughtering Of Our Bears, Which Left Many Cubs In The Woods Without Mothers. What Society Does This? There Were 320 Bears Killed In Two Days. Corn Was Seen In The Mouths Of Many Of These Bears.

Frank Mann: I'm Sorry To Interrupt You, But Your Time Is About To Run Out.

Okay. Then I'll Go -- I'll Go Real --

Frank Mann: Go Forward With What You Would Like Us To Do.

Yes. I Talk Too Much, And --

Frank Mann: No, It's Interesting History, And I Want To Hear It. You Would Like For Us To -  
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Pass The Resolution Miami-Dade Has Passed A Resolution For Simply Stating We Don't Want Bear Hunts In Lee County. Theirs Was Miami-Dade. Counties That Have Passed The Resolutions Which You Do Have In Your Hand Would Be Miami-Dade. We Have Cities Across Florida That Have Passed Resolutions Similar. That's Biscayne Park, South Miami. Palmetta Bay, Cuddler Bay, Davie, Claremont. These Are Our Cities That Have Simply Said The Same Thing That They're Asking That Fwc, The Fish And Wildlife, To Police. A Resolution Is Not A Lot. It's Not An Ordinance. It's A Simple Opinion.

Frank Mann: We Know That Part Of It.

But It Makes It Easy.

Frank Mann: I Know. Let Me Ask Our Attorney Here. In Order To Get This In A Proper Perspective To Act On It, We Would Still Have To Bring This Back, Would We Not, In A Blue Sheet Format To Allow The Public An Opportunity To Speak To It?

Yes, Sir. That Would Be Consistent With The Board's Practice And Procedure As Well As Allow Appropriate Staff To Review The Text Of The Proposed Resolution.

Frank Mann: I Have No Difficulty In Exceeding To Her Request To Take It To The Next Step, But I Need At Least, What, Three Shaking Heads To Say That's Okay. Do I Have Three People That Would Not Like To Pursue This?

Brian Hamman: I Don't Necessarily Know What My Position Is On It Yet, But I Certainly Wouldn't Object To Having The Staff Research It.

Frank Mann: That's Kind Of Where I'm Headed. We're Not Committing To Doing This, But We're Committing To Giving Public Input And Staff Review Of The Language And See If It's Consistent With All The Things We Hire Big Lawyers To Do.

May I Add One Thing?

Frank Mann: No. You're Through. You Got What You Came For, And We'll See You When We Take It Up Again, And We'll Try To Do That Very Soon.

Thank You, Sir.

Frank Mann: Thank You. Thank You. Now, Dave Yurick. It's Been Two Weeks, And We've Missed You.

Larry Kiker: I Tried To Talk Him Out Of His Tie This Morning.

Brian Hamman: Well, That Tie Would Have Gone Good.

Larry Kiker: He Wouldn't Give It Up.

Frank Mann: He Would Want To Fight For That Tie. Yep. Do A Complete 180, So Everybody Can See Your Tie That We're Bragging About. No, For The Audience. There You Go. I Won't Take That From Your Three Minutes. Start Talking.

Don't Start The Three Minutes Yet. I Have An Apology -- I Have An Apology For The Last Time I Was Here. Two 80-Year-Old Guys In The Back Were Commiserating About The Lack Of Time That They Had, And I Did Not Realize That It Was A Noise And An Inconvenience. I Apologize For When I Was Retrieving My Chart. I Made What I Didn't Realize Was A Commotion, And I Apologize For That.

Frank Mann: Apology Accepted. The Clock Is Running Now.

Thank You. I Always Believe If I Have Given You In Writing What I Think I'm Going To Say That I Don't Need To Say Much Of It. I Always Trust You To Do A Good Job Of Keeping Up With It. Yesterday I Was Called At The Last Minute To Bring My Charts To The Indigo Hotel Across The Street, And There Were Two Of Us Standing There. I Was In One Side With These Two Charts, And I -- A Lady Came Out And Asked Me To Disburse, Which I Found A Little Difficult To Do Being A One Person, But At That Point She Left, But On All These Charts, There's Not A Word About Back Pumping. I'm Not Interested In That Issue. I Am Interested In Getting Us Into Position Of Buying Land, Roughly 50,000 Acres, I'm Told, To Go Ahead And Restore As Much Of The Southern Flow As We Can. We Can't Tear Down Miami. We Can't Do Some Of The Other Things, But Even If We Exercise The Current Contract That's Current, It's The Old Contract For 2015 That Buys Out U.S. Sugar, It Doesn't Even Buy The Right Land. All We Do Is Put Them Out Of Business. I Don't Think That's The Answer. I Think We Need To Get Going With A New Contract. I Think We Need

To Have You Guys Join In With The Mayors And Senator Nelson Representative Clawson And Ask Them To Buy The Land. The Land We Need. Some Of It Is U.S. Sugar. Some Of It Is Florida Crystals. All Of It Is Needed. We Need A Filter Marsh That Will Create The Treatment Necessary To Send Good Water Down To The Everglades, That Will Send It On To Florida Bay, And Anything Else Is Just Not An Answer. I Just Plead With You To Join In To Ask The Government To Start A New Negotiation, A New Purchase Of Land That Will Solve Our Problem, And I'm Not Going To -- I Just Do Hope That This Will Be What You Can Do. Thank You Very Much.

Frank Mann: David Yurick, Let Me Just Say, And I Will Say It Probably Reflects The Thoughts Of The Entire Commission, We Are Grateful For All The Effort That You Put Into This. You Never Sleep, I Don't Think, And You Continue To Worry About Your Community Whether It's Transportation Issues Or Whether It's Water Issues, And I Wish We Had 50,000 More Citizens As Active As You. Thank You For Being With Us This Morning. We'll Be Taking Up Your Very Issues This Afternoon At A Workshop. I'm Sure You Will Like To Sit In On That. I Hope You Get The Opportunity. We're Going To Workshop, And We're Going To Talk About Nothing But Water. Across The Street. Love To Have You. Lot Of To Have Anybody. 1:30.

Brian Hamman: Across The Street. 1:30.

Frank Mann: Madeline Doran.

I Don't Need To Speak. I Just Wanted To Ask You To Move Forward --

Frank Mann: Okay. You're In Favor Of Bears. Nice To Have You Back With Us This Morning, Ms. Doran. Thank You. Okay. I Think That Will Cover That. Yes. Whoop. Got Another One. Steve Gafford. Good To Have You, Mr. Gafford.

Good Morning. Thank You Very Much For Doing Me A Few Minutes To Speak My Peace. I Also Am In Favor Of The Bears. I Would Like To Thank You For Going Ahead And Moving Forward With Only One Speaker To Take It To The Next Level. Very Grateful For That. I Would Still Like To Say A Couple Of Things About It. I'm Requesting Today That The Board Consider This Resolution To Take Local Controls Of The Protection Of All Of Our Large Mammals. Dolphins, Manatees, Panthers, And Most Urgently, The Bears. These Are All Tourist Attractions. I'm A Country Boy. I've Lived In The Country. I Was Born In Lee County. I'm Not Opposed To Hunting. But These Animals That I Have Just Mentioned Do Not Fit Well Into The Harvesting As Well As They Fit Into The Tourist Attracting. I Believe That Living With These Animals And Protecting These Animals Should Be Brought Into A Local Control. I Think Right Now The State Is Making Decisions As To What Animals Get Killed, And I Think That You Guys Have Enough Authority That You Can Stop That Killing In Lee County. That's What I'm Asking You To Do When You Consider This Resolution That Kay Has Presented You With, And When You Try To Take This To The Next Step. I'm Asking You To Consider Those Things. Thank You.

Frank Mann: Mr. Gafford, Thank You For Being With Us This Morning. I Will Tell You Based On My So-Called Legal Knowledge, And I'll Ask Our County Attorney To Confirm This, The Florida Constitution Gives The Authority For Game Management To The Wildlife Department. The Counties Cannot Make Individual Decisions On That. We Can Make -- We Can Pass Resolutions To Them Suggesting Certain Things. Am I Pretty Well Right?

Yes, Sir. Coupled With Many Of The Mammals That Are -- Have Been Spoken About Are Also Protected Under Federal Law, And There's Federal Preemption Against Local Regulation As Well.

Frank Mann: We're Not Able To Do Your Specific Request, But I Think You Can Tell We're Willing To Listen To The Issues And Speak To Them -- To The Extent We Can.

My Thinking Is The Publicity That Will Be Generated By Passing Resolutions In Each County Or Each Town, And There Are Many That Already Have, My Feeling Is That That Publicity Will Be A Larger Voice To Fwc Than Just A Bunch Of Individual Protesters. We're Asking For Your Help In That Respect To Make Our Voices Heard.

Frank Mann: We Got You. Thank You Very Much. We'll See You At The Bear Hearing When We Have It. Jean Jane. Are You A Bear Lady Too? Well, Help Yourself To Three Minutes.

Good Morning, And Thank You For The Opportunity To Speak Today. The Fwc Is Ignoring The Will Of The Majority Of Floridians Who Oppose The Killing Of Our Black Bear. 75% Of Over 40,000 Floridians Have Sent Comments To The Fwc Oppose The Bear Hunt. It Was Also Evident By The Plethora Of On-Line Petitions Against The Hunt And At The Protests Across The State Of Florida. Local Dozens Of Citizens Stood In The Rain The Day Before The Hunt To Protest The Approval Of The Bear Hunt And To Implore Governor Rick Scott To Call Off The Hunt. Regretfully, Governor Rick Scott Turned Down Our Plea To Halt The Hunt. The Bears Killed In The 2015 Hunt Were Not The Bears People Were Finding In Their Garage Or Ones Rummaging Through Unsecured Trash Bins. They Were The Innocent, Timid Ones, Minding Their Own Business In The Forest. Granted, The Majority Of Ethical Hunters Followed The Rules. However, Many Hunters Did Not. The Ones That Blatantly Violated The Rules Have Just Been Given A Slap On The Wrist. There Are 67 Counties In Florida. Although Low On Fwc List Lee County Is One With The Most Human Conflict Bear Calls. We Have To Learn To Live With The Bears And Not Be Brainwashed Into Thinking We Should Live Without Them. This From Audubon, Florida, Executive Director Eric Draper. "Everybody Agrees That The Source Of Problems With Bears Is The Source Of Food. If You Remove The Food, The Bears Don't Have A Conflict With People. This Is Not A Problem With Too Many Bears. It's Too Many People Feeding Bears." A Statewide Survey Released In February 2015 Florida Voters Strongly Oppose The Hunting Of Black Bears In Florida With Strong Majorities In Every Demographic Group And Political Affiliation Support Continued Protection For Our Florida Black Bears. Nearly Two-Thirds Of Florida Voters, 61%, Said They Oppose A Bear Hunting Season While Only 25% Support It. By More Than A 7-1

Margin, Florida Voters Also Oppose Allowing Hunters To Use Packs Of Dogs To Chase Bears. In Addition, 78% Oppose The Use Of Bait To Lure Bears. Both Of These Practices Are Used In Other States. Fwc Commissioners Said Earlier This Year They Will Consider Allowing Baiting, Piling Up Food To Attract A Bear, Or Chasing A Bear With Hunting Dogs For Future Hunts. The Poll Was Commissioned By The Humane Society Of The United States And Was Conducted By Remington Research Group. The Margin Of Error Is Plus Or Minus 2.4%. We Would Like Lee County To Be Added To The Growing Number Of Areas Adopting A Resolution Opposing The Bear Hunt. Miami-Dade County And Nine Other Cities In The State Of Florida Have Adopted A Resolution. In Addition, Just This Past Week The City Of Safety Harbor And Pinellas County And Seminole County Have Agreed To Pass A Similar Resolution. We Respectfully Request Commission Chairman Mann And The Lee County Commissioners To Adopt The Same Or Similar Resolution As Miami-Dade County At Your Earliest Convenience. Thank You.

Frank Mann: Perfect Timing. Thank You Very Much.

Cecil Pendergrass: Chairman, If I Could.

Frank Mann: We Don't Do The Clap Thing Here. Thank You Very Much.

Cecil Pendergrass: We'll Comment On The Last Topic. It Might Be Easier In The Future For Your Efforts To Instead Of Going To Each City And County Throughout The State. We Currently Have State Representatives, Actually One In This Building, That Works With The State And Fwc. It Might Be Better In The Long Run. I Know You Probably -- To Work With The State Leaders For The Whole State Instead Of Going Individual Counties And Cities. Just Want To Throw That Out There, And Like I Said, We Currently Have A State Representative In This Building Today. In The Future You May Want To Contact Them Too And Do That First. Thank You.

Frank Mann: That's A Good Suggestion. I'm Sure Y'all Are Going To Make The Rounds With All The People, But The Legislature Is The Closest You Get To The Decision Makers Up There In A Direct Fashion. Good Suggestion. Thank You. Nicole Williams. Nicole Williams. Hello, Nicole Williams From North River Road. I'm Familiar With That.

It's Pretty Much Where I Was Raised, But I'm A Member Of The Original Mikasuki Seminole Indigenous Aboriginal Council Here In Florida, And I'm Also The Leader Of The Florida Environmental Clean-Up Coalition, And One Of The Founding Members Of Save Our Creeks, Which Save Our Creeks In My Family Are Personally Responsible For Florida's Water Quality Laws. I Am Up Here To Address A Couple Of Things With Water Quality. I'm Hoping You Guys Can Help Us With Them. That Would Be Obviously Our Lake Discharge Issues. Instead Of Just Gripping And Complaining, I've Been Trying To Think Of A Solution To The Problem. Yes, Of Course, We Need To Buy The Land That Goes South, And, Yes, The -- Like David Said, This Original Deal Includes A Lot Of Land We Don't Need. I Know It's A Far Stretch, But Eminent Domain Would Be Great To Me Because It Would Be Cheaper For All Of Us. It

Would Be Cheaper To Purchase The Lands Actually Absolutely Necessary. . . That's A Suggestion I'm Throwing Out To You Guys. Do With As You Wish. I Think It Would Be Beneficial To Everyone. I Definitely Think The Current Agreement Needs To Be Revised. Or The Current Deal Needs To Be Revised. On The Other Hand Working With The Sugar Industry, We Have To Be Logical And Realistic. They're Not Going Anywhere. America On So Many Levels Has To Have Their Sugar, So I Suggest That Maybe Lee County Can Approach Hendry County And Insist On The Sugar Companies Changing How They -- How They Take Down And Process Their Crops. As Of Now Before They Cut It To Process It, Before They Transport It, They're Burning It, And It's Thousands And Thousands Of Acres Of Carcinogens And There's Countless Documented Cases Of Young Children, People My Age And Older All In The Surrounding Areas On Breathing Treatment And Have Had Health -- Court Cases Dealing With Big Sugar. I Think We Should Definitely Insist That Hendry County Insist That The Sugar Plants Over There Stop Burning Their Crops To Start Because It Does Dump An Unsurmountable That Does Go To The Problems We're Trying To Deal With. I Hope You Can Help Us With That.

Thank You For Being With Us, Ms. Williams, And Thank You For All Your Previous Efforts On Behalf Of Our Environment. John Heim.

Good Morning. Thank You For Your Time Today. My Name Is John G.Heim. I'm A Leader Of The Group Called The Southwest Florida Clean Water Movement. Locally Here In Lee County We Have 10,000 Members Strong. Statewide We're In The Hundreds Of Thousands Members Strong When It Comes To Standing Up Against The Harmful Effects Of The Lake Okeechobee Discharges. We Are Also Here Standing Today As A Group Of Not Activists But Community Members And Residents Of Lee County And Florida In General To Mimic Dave Yurick's Statement. The Reason We're Here Today Wearing Black, Dave Has Asked Us To Wear Black Basically To Signify The Death Of Our River. The Caloosahatchee River. This Young Lady That Spoke About The Bears Signified That Many Of Our Rivers And Towns Are Named After, You Know, Great Heritage Here. It's A Real Shame To All Of Us That Our Caloosahatchee River Has Been Deemed The C-43 Canal. We Are Here Today Basically Showing Up In Force To Ask Of Our Local Leadership To One Of Two Things As A Question. One, Hold A Press Conference And Speak Publicly To The Community To Actually Say We As County Commissioners Agree That There Is Only One Solution, And That Is To Buy The Land And Send The Water South Clean Naturally To Restore The River Of Grass. Two We As Part Of The Clean Water Movement Ask Of Our County Commissioners To Fully Disclose To The Public Each One Of Your Records Of Intake When It Comes To The Sugar Industry Itself, When It Comes To Your Political Campaigns That Have Got You In The Seats That You Sit Presently. We Thank You For Your Time, Your Service. We Ask For Nothing Other Than Political Transparency. We, Again, Look At It Like The More Truth That Is Being Dispensed To Our Public, The More We Will Have A System Built On Trust And Transparency, So, Again, We're Asking For You As The Leaders Of Our County Here To Come Through With Your Own Transparency By, A, Calling For Buying The Land South Of

Lake Okeechobee, And, B, Making It Into Public Record All Of Your, You Know, Contributions From The Sugar Industry Itself Individually. Thank You.

Thank You, Mr. Heim, For Being Here, And Just For The Record, All Of Our Contributions Are, In Fact, Public Record And Can Be Accessed Any Time, Any Day, 24-7 On-Line. Robert Schwander. Fine Looking Hat. Good To Have You With Us.

I Would Like To Say Thank You For Listening To The Clean Water Movement Here This Morning. It Started Out With A Prayer This Morning, This Meeting --S And I Would Like To Start There Also. I Pray That We Can Get This Water Straightened Out That We Have Here. I Live On The Water. I Fish On The Water. I Sail On The Water. I See The Grass Beds Dying. I See The Oyster Beds Dying. Soon It's Going To Be To The Tourists Dying. You Spoke Of The Euros, The Dollar Bills People Spend Here. If We Don't Clean This Up, It's -- We're Going To Lose That Other Commodity That We Have Here In Florida, Which Is Tourism. That's What I See. If We Can't Get The Flow Of This River Back To The Area That Is Starved In The Shark River Where It Is Hypersalinity. Remove The Water From Our Own Caloosahatchee River, The Estuary. We All Live Downstream, So I Think We Need To Look At It All The Way To Where It Begins. I Know We Pay Tacks Here In Lee County To Maintain These Areas. Let's Stop Pointing Fingers At Who Is Really At Fault Because We're All At Fault. That's What I See. Let's Move The Water To Where We Need It. Any Help You All Could Give Us In That, We Would Certainly Be Appreciated For That. Again, Let's Stop Pointing Fingers At Who Is At Fault And Get A Resolution To This. Thank You.

Thank You. Thank You For Your Caring. Thank You For Your Appearance Here This Morning, And Thank You For Your Prayer. Tommy Mcintire. And I Don't Have Any Other Cards. Are There Others In The Audience That Would Like To Speak On Any Of These -- Any Subject Dear To Your Heart? Mr. Mcintire, You're Batting Cleanup. Good To Have You.

I'm President Of The Pine Ridge Condo Association, And This Is -- You Have Borrowed Several Points Of Tourism And Building In Our Community And So Forth, So We Have A Little Strip Of Land Going Into Our Community. I Think Mr. Mann Has Received Some Of Our E-Mails On This. There Is A -- Just A Deplorable Fence Situation, And There Is A -- Two Hotels On The Path To Go Into There, And One Of Them Charges \$180 A Night To Look At This Deplorable Fence. Every Time We Enter And Leave Our Community, We See This. It Looks Like, As Someone Pointed Out, There's Nothing Else In Fort Myers Or In Lee County As Far As I Know That Is Just Deplorable. We Would Like To See Whoever It Takes To Get The Road Commission Or Code Division Or Whoever, But You Are Our Hope To Rectify This And Make It More Enjoyable To Drive Up And Down Our Streets. Thank You.

Thank You For Being Here This Morning. Yes, My Staff Has Been Meeting With Your Folks, And What I Have Learned So Far Is That Part Of The Land That Look So Deplorable Is Under A Right-Of-Way That The County Controls, But We Have A Bigger Issue Here Apparently With The Adjacent Private Property Owner. Let Me Assure You, We Are At Work

On This, And We're Going To Do Everything We Can To Help You In Your Situation. Thank You For Being Here This Morning.

Thank You.

Frank Mann: You're A Fine Clean-Up Batter. We Just About Run Out Of Work. There Are No More Folks To Speak Today. We Have Announced That We Will Recess. We're Not Adjourning. We Recess Until 5:00 This Afternoon For Another Public Hearing. Thank You All For Bringing Your Concerns To Us. Any Of You Folks That Want To Talk About Water Some More, This Afternoon's Workshop Right Across In The Big Other Building, First Floor, It Would Be A Great Opportunity. Part Of What We're Going To Be Doing -- And This Sounds Like Whining Or Making Up Excuses. The Fact Is -- And We're Going To Be Presenting Those Facts This Afternoon -- The County Has Done Quite A Number Of Things About The Water. To The Extent The County Has The Authority To Do Things. It's An Impressive List. If You Look Back 20 Years To See All Of The Steps We've Taken And The Millions, Millions Of Dollars That We Have Committed To Doing Everything We Can As A County To Improve The Whole Water Situation Here. There's Going To Be A Review Of That This Morning And A Review Of Options Available To Us, Similar To What Mr. Yurick And Others Have Pointed Out. That Would Be A Good Time To Come. Happy We're Having This Particular Workshop, And We'll See Some Of You There, And We'll See Maybe Some Of You At 5:00.  
Commissioner Pendergrass.

Cecil Pendergrass: You May Want To Announce In The Public Comment There, This Is --

Frank Mann: I'm Not Inviting You To Come To Chat, Chat, Chat. This Is A Workshop Where We Listen To Our Staff, And We Ask Them Questions, And We Beat Up On Each Other, But The Public Can Come And Observe. Then Come Back Here A Week Or Two -- A Week From Next Tuesday And Have Another Go At Us. We Are Adjourned Until 5:00.