

Lee County Board Of County Commissioners

Agenda Item Summary

Blue Sheet No. 20030522

REQUESTED MOTION:

ACTION REQUESTED:

The Horizon Council recommends that the BOCC (1) oppose the proposed rule published in the Federal Register for additional manatee protection areas for the Caloosahatchee River and San Carlos Bay Federal Refuge; and (2) encourage local law enforcement agencies not to sign Memorandums of Understandings (MOU's) with U.S. Fish and Wildlife to enforce proposed speed zone changes until the final outcome of the rule is known.

WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY:

Once the new proposed rule is enacted, the potential impact could be catastrophic to our economy. Not only will direct boating industries be impacted, but commercial and residential real estate, certain tourist activities and many other industries reliant on access to, and enjoyment of our water enriched lifestyle.

WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES:

Provides board consideration of Horizon Council recommendation.

2. **DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY:** 01
COMMISSION DISTRICT
 #: Countywide

AIA

3. **MEETING DATE:**

05-13-2003

4. **AGENDA:**

CONSENT ADMINISTRATIVE

APPEALS PUBLIC WALK ON

TIME REQUIRED:

5. **REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:**
(Specify)

STATUTE ORDINANCE

ADMIN. CODE OTHER

6. **REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:**

A. **COMMISSIONER**

B. **DEPARTMENT** Economic Development

C. **DIVISION**

BY: Regina Smith, Director

Regina Smith

7. **BACKGROUND:**

See attached letter from the Horizon Council.

8. **MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Approve Horizon Council recommendations.

9. **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:**

A Department Director	B Purchasing or Contracts	C Human Resources	D Other	E County Attorney	F Budget Services <i>Apr 5/1/03</i>				G County Manager
					OA	OM	Risk	GC	
<i>Exp</i>				<i>John F. Schaefer</i>	<i>CA 4/30/03</i>	<i>MS 4/30/03</i>	<i>CR 4/10/03</i>	<i>KG 5/1/02</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

10. **COMMISSION ACTION:**

- APPROVED
- DENIED
- DEFERRED
- OTHER

Rec. by CoAtty
 Date: *4/29/03*
 Time: *2:55 pm*
 Forwarded To:
 cc: mhr.
4/30/03

RECEIVED BY
 COUNTY ADMIN. *CA*
4-30-03
10:45
 COUNTY ADMIN.
 FORWARDED TO: *BH*
5/1/03



April 25, 2003

To the Lee County Board of County Commissioners,

Understanding that economic diversification, quality of life and respect for our natural resources are all critical factors in the long-term viability of our community, the Horizon Council of Lee County, a 57-member public-private partnership that serves as an advisory board on economic development issues to the Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and represents five cities, 10 chambers of commerce, 12 economic development and trade organizations and 10 community, education and business organizations in Southwest Florida, does hereby unanimously agree the manatee protection issue has escalated to the point of having a significant negative effect on our county's economy.

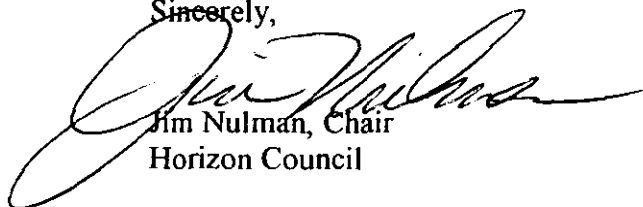
To this end, as a body, we resolve to urge and support the BOCC to adamantly refuse to support the proposed rule for the Caloosahatchee River and San Carlos Bay Federal Refuge contained in the Stipulated Federal Settlement Agreement between the Save the Manatee Club and the USFWS and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition, we request the BOCC place all means at its disposal to fight this settlement and its far-reaching impact on our economy, and specifically request the BOCC work with local law enforcement agencies and urge them not to sign Memorandums of Understandings (MOU's) with U.S. Fish and Wildlife to enforce proposed speed zone changes until the final outcome of the rule is known.

Our community is already experiencing the impact of dock moratoriums and changes in speed zones along our waterways. Once new federally mandated speed zones are enacted, the potential impact could be catastrophic to our economy. Not only will direct boating industries be impacted, but commercial and residential real estate, the restaurant industry, certain tourist activities and many other industries reliant on access to, and enjoyment of our water enriched lifestyle.

As an organization of concerned business, civic and community leaders, we cannot emphasize enough the need for the BOCC to stand against this rule and work aggressively to preserve our economy and quality of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Nulman".

Jim Nulman, Chair
Horizon Council

Economic Development Office • Horizon Council • Industrial Development Authority

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2180 West First Street, Suite 306 • Ft Myers, FL 33901

MEMORANDUM
FROM THE OFFICE OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To: Scott Covert
Lee County Attorney's Office

From: Regina Smith
Executive Director

Date: April 29, 2003

RE: BOCC Blue Sheet No. 20030522

03 APR 29 PM 2:43
LEE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attached please find Blue Sheet No. 20030522. The Horizon Council, at its meeting on April 25, 2003 approved the attached letter and recommendation to the BOCC. Please call me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.