



October 20, 2011

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commissioner Nora Patterson, Chair
Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners
Administration Center
1660 Ringling Boulevard
Sarasota, Florida 34232

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Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

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Dear Chairwoman Patterson:

Thank you for submitting the updated and revised Sarasota County Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) that was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on July 27, 2011. The county approved plan was transmitted for our review and approval on August 23rd. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is pleased to approve the 2011 MPP.

The revisions to the MPP incorporate updated data and analysis, language clarifications, and improvements in the boat facility siting recommendations. These revisions increase the usefulness of the Sarasota MPP for stakeholders and governmental entities when planning and permitting projects.

We would like to express our thanks to Sarasota County's Natural Resources staff for their efforts in coordinating with us throughout this process. In particular, we would like to recognize Ms. Rachel Herman of Sarasota County and Mr. Jay Gorzelany of the Sea to Shore Alliance whose hard work is evident in the revised plan. We were particularly impressed with the level of public outreach that was done by county staff to engage stakeholders, affected parties, and the public in consideration of these revisions. We commend Sarasota County for finalizing the revisions to your MPP and look forward to working cooperatively with you and your staff in the future. Do not hesitate to call either Ms. Carol Knox or Ms. Mary Duncan at (850) 922-4330 if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Nick Wiley
Executive Director

NW/cak

cc: Ms. Amy Meese, General Manager, Natural Resources, Sarasota County
Mr. Kalani Cairns, U.S. FWS, Vero Beach
Mr. Eric Sutton, Director, FWC Division of Habitat and Species Conservation