



July 3, 2017

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and Wildlife  
Conservation  
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Mr. Tommy Scott  
Community Services Director  
Charlotte County  
2300 El Jobean Road  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Subject: FWC Approval of the Charlotte County Manatee Protection Plan

Dear Ms. Powell:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) received the Charlotte County Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) that was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on February 14, 2017, and provided to FWC on May 2, 2017. I understand that the County's adoption of this MPP is the result of a concerted multi-agency effort between the County, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and our agency. This partnership has led to a plan that has the consensus of all three agencies. Knowing this MPP will serve as a useful planning document and help balance the need for manatee protection and watercraft access to Charlotte County's waterways, I am pleased to provide FWC approval of your MPP via this letter. We will begin implementing its recommendations at the state level. It is our understanding the USFWS will also be sending their concurrence letter for the plan and will begin implementing it at the federal level.

This MPP represents a significant accomplishment for manatee protection in Charlotte County. The success of this effort resulted from the cooperation and hard work of many people and agencies. We recognize that the County invested a great deal of time into producing the MPP and I appreciate the effort by all County staff. I would like to express our thanks especially to you and your division for all the hard work and time dedicated to this plan.

We look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with the County to implement the provisions outlined in the MPP. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ron Mezich or Ms. Mary Duncan of my staff at (850) 922-4330.

Sincerely,

Nick Wiley  
Executive Director

nw/ky

cc: Ms. Ashleigh Blackford, USFWS, Vero Beach