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PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING SHELL KEY MANAGEMENT

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PLAN REVISION

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PROCEEDINGS: Public Hearing

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DATE: August 29, 2007

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REPORTED BY: Patricia Edwards,
Registered Professional Reporter

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PLACE: Co-op Extension Service
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APPEARANCES:

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COMMISSIONER RONNIE DUNCAN

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COMMISSIONER JOHN MORRONI

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DR. BRUCE RINKER

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DR. STEVE HARPER

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SHELL KEY ADVISORY BOARD

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MR. ALVA SHOLTY

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MR. RICHARD JOHNSON

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MR. AL GENTLESS

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MR. BILL KNEPPER

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MS. MONIQUE ABRAMS

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MR. DAVE RAGANO

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MR. MIKE HEPBURN

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OFFICER JIM WILSON

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OFFICER GLEN WILSON

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1 MR. DUNCAN: We're going to get right into the
2 program. Before we do, though. I need to do a
3 couple of housekeeping things.
4 For those of you who have not been here before,
5 the restrooms are out here, just outside the door.
6 You know, we're going to be here for a while
7 tonight, so make your way out and in as you see fit.
8 I would ask you, just so everyone can hear,
9 that if you are going to have a conversation to take
10 it outside, so that we are not interfering with your
11 conversation.
12 I'd also ask you, if you will, to put your cell
13 phones on at least the vibrate mode, if not turn
14 them off. That way, again, we can keep the meeting
15 going and listen too.
16 Because we're here to listen to you, it's not
17 the other way around. And I want to make sure that
18 we have every opportunity to hear you and your
19 comments tonight as they are recorded as they are
20 discussed.
21 I also want to take an opportunity to recognize
22 John Marroni.
23 Mr. Marroni, please stand up, sir.
24 He is the former chairman of the board, and a
25 long-time supporter of Shell Key and the

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1 environmental stewardship programs of this county.
2 So, John, thank you for being here tonight.
3 At this point, we are going to get right into
4 our agenda. Because, again, the most important part
5 tonight is hearing from you tonight. There is not
6 going to be any vote taken. There is not going to
7 be anything other than listening.
8 And we have someone that is going to take all
9 of your comments down. And the advisory board up
10 here is going to, at the end of the evening, give
11 you some of their thoughts as well.
12 And then you'll hear at a later point tonight
13 where we go from here, what the next steps are, as
14 we move forward toward putting this plan into final
15 form and getting it adopted so that we can begin a
16 simplification.
17 So at this point, let me, if I can --
18 Sergeant, let me start with you. I'm going to
19 give you this microphone, and we'll just work our
20 way around here. If you'll introduce yourself, and
21 then tell us who you are representing, because I
22 know we have some stand-ins for some of the people
23 tonight on our board.
24 SERGEANT GLEN WILSON: Hi. I'm Sergeant Glen

25 Wilson, and I'm representing the Pinellas County
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1 Sheriff's Office.
2 OFFICER JIM WILSON: Hi. I'm Jim Wilson,
3 representing Robert Browning. I'm his assistant in
4 the Fort DeSoto Park. No relation.
5 OFFICER HANNAWAY: Officer Wayne Hannaway
6 (phonetic) FWC, Florida Fish and Wildlife
7 conservation. Standing in for Lieutenant Ed Prouty.
8 MR. HEPBURN: Mike Hepburn, Soil and Water
9 Conservation District.
10 MR. BERNARD: Dave Bernard, and I'm here
11 representing the recreational boaters.
12 MS. INGRAMS: I'm Wendy Ingrams (phonetic) and
13 I'm here to represent the St. Petersburg Audubon
14 Society instead of David Kats.
15 MR. COLLETTI: Hello. I'm Jack Coletti, and
16 I'm representing the signers of ShellKey.org.
17 MS. PAUL: I'm Ann Paul, and I represent
18 Audubon of Florida, Florida Coastal Island
19 Sanctuary.
20 MR. KNEPPER: Hi. I'm Bill Knepper, and I'm a
21 recreational boater.
22 MR. GENTLESS: Hi. I'm Al Gentless, and I
23 represent one of the two boats who go out to the
24 island.
25 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Richard Johnson representing
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1 Dolphin Landings Charter Boat Service.
2 MR. SHOLTY: Alva Sholty representing Shell Key
3 Shuttle.
4 MR. DUNCAN: Well, thank you. And thank you to
5 each of you as advisory board members here tonight.
6 It's terribly important.
7 We've got a diverse group of people, a diverse
8 group of perspectives, so this will also keep us on
9 tact and on topic tonight. So we look forward to
10 your comments later on, after we've heard from the
11 public.
12 Will you go down the line and introduce staff.
13 MS. WARREN: Good evening. I'm Liz Warren
14 Assistant County Administrator. Thank you all for
15 coming this evening.
16 MR. DAVIS: Good evening. I'm Will Davis
17 Director of the Pinellas County's Environmental
18 Management Department.
19 MS. COLE: Jewel White Cole with the County
20 Attorney's Office.
21 MR. HARPER: I'm Steve Harper, a researcher
22 director with the Environmental Lands Division.
23 MS. GLAZIER: I'm Tina Glazier with
24 Environmental Lands Division. I'm the one
25 everybody's been e-mailing.
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1 MR. RINKER: Bruce Rinker, the division
2 director for Pinellas County's Department of Lands
3 Division.

4 MR. DUNCAN: Okay. Thank you, very much.
5 And the staff is here tonight. They're going
6 to -- as I said, we're going to listen to comments.
7 We're going keep track of recommendations and
8 comments.

9 At the end of the evening, we'll kind of put
10 them up on the screen, and the advisory board is
11 going to share some thoughts with us. Staff is
12 here. They are going to be able to answer any
13 specific questions during our time together tonight.

14 So the whole idea here tonight is to talk about
15 the proposed management plan as it currently exists,
16 and to get your feedback. And to see how we can
17 take a document, make it better, and make a plan
18 better, again, for the future of what is one of the
19 jewels in this county, one of the environmental
20 jewels in this county.

21 So, again, on the behalf of the Board of County
22 Commissioners and staff, I want to welcome you all
23 here.

24 At this point, Dr. Rinker, we'll turn it all
25 over to you. And I think you have a short

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1 presentation for us before we get started.

2 MR. RINKER: Thank you, Commissioner.

3 Kathy, I'll nod at you when I'll ready to turn
4 things.

5 Good evening everyone. I'm the Division
6 Director for the Pinellas County's Environmental
7 Lands Division and staff from the Department of
8 Environmental Management, under which the division
9 sits.

10 We prepared a slide presentation tonight that
11 will act in two-fold measure. The first thing is to
12 provide an anchor point for the discussion by the
13 Shell Key Advisory Group, and then the second
14 objective of tonight is to provide an overview for
15 those members of the public who have not yet
16 attended any of the public presentations that we've
17 made to today.

18 In the Environmental Land's Division we oversee
19 four preserves in Pinellas County, along with 11
20 management areas. The four preserves have what are
21 called "management plans." And these management
22 plans are approved by the Board of County
23 Commissioners.

24 And there are four preserves, of which one of
25 them is Shell Key Preserve.

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1 And they provide us a road map from where we
2 are at the moment to where we want to go in the not
3 too distance future.

4 And with regard to the Shell Key Preserve
5 Management Plan, there are a number of important
6 components. And you can see these online, and I'll
7 refer to the website in just a moment.

8 But the key components are listed at the bottom

9 there. We set out the objectives. We set out a
10 kind of inventory of the natural resources. We also
11 provide staff recommendations for changes in the
12 current plan. And we provide a schedule of
13 activity, along with a lot of supplemental material.

14 Shell Key Preserve is a rare costal ecosystem.
15 And I'll keep coming back to that, and you'll hear
16 that referred to again and again in tonight's
17 presentation and beyond.

18 Shell Key Preserve is a rare costal system that
19 sits here in Pinellas County, and it is critical for
20 a number of species of special conservation concern.

21 Prior to the year 2000, Shell Key Preserve did
22 not exist, per se. In 2000 we came up with -- we
23 devised a management plan that was approved by the
24 County Commissioners and the Florida Department of
25 Environmental Protection.

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1 A couple of years later, we revised it and
2 updated it. So every five years we are returning to
3 the management plan and making sure that it's
4 current.

5 So here we are in the year 2007. So the past
6 six or seven years have been a very interesting
7 period of compromise and even experimentation as we
8 try to figure out just which direction -- what is
9 the best direction for us to go.

10 From 2007 forward, that's what we're working on
11 now, the new management plan, trying to figure out
12 exactly what are the important objectives for us.

13 Shell Key Preserve, as many of you already
14 know, is partly owned by the state of Florida, and
15 we are managers. And the State of Florida mandates
16 this as our guiding principal, if you will, our
17 guiding objective.

18 "Managed only for the conservation and
19 protection of natural and historical resources and
20 for resource based public outdoor activities and
21 education, which are compatible with the
22 conservation and protection of these public lands."

23 Now, this is a requirement of our lease with
24 the State. We also have a number of documents that
25 compliment this, including the preserve ordinance

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1 for Pinellas County. We have a comprehensive plan,
2 and we also have the BOCC strategic planning.

3 And in those documents you will find reference
4 to taking care of coastal resources, taking care of
5 natural resources, and also providing for public
6 recreational use.

7 About 45% of Shell Key Preserve is owned by
8 Pinellas County. About 53% of it is owned by the
9 State. And can you see that outlined here.

10 Shell Key Preserve, when we say that, we mean
11 not only the island of Shell Key, but we also mean
12 the waterways, including all of those mangrove
13 islands and also the sea grass beds that are there.

14 All of that constitutes Shell Key Preserve.

15 As I mentioned before, we have a number of
16 species of special conservation concerns. Some of
17 them are given here.

18 Shell Key preserve is an integral part of a
19 local rare costal ecosystem. But these species that
20 we're managing have global connections. And some of
21 them are given here. These are species of special
22 conservation concern.

23 So our decisions today, preparing for the next
24 five years, these decisions today will have
25 long-range affects, and will have affects on species

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1 that are of great concerns to all of us.

2 In a sense, Shell Key Preserve is a kind of
3 microcosm of global conservation, as exemplified by
4 all the multiple human-cause influences that are
5 there in the preserve. But also, Shell Key Preserve
6 is a popular destination for many, many kinds of
7 activities. In addition to scientific research,
8 birders, boaters, fishermen, swimmers,
9 photographers, and so forth. All of these folks
10 want access to Shell Key Preserve.

11 What are some of the elements of the existing
12 management plan?

13 What we have done here is we've divided them up
14 into two groups. The first group deals with
15 resource management goals, and the second one deals
16 with public use goals.

17 And under the preserve resource management
18 goals, there are a number of them listed here for
19 you.

20 The first one, to protect sensitive natural
21 resources, and preserve wildlife resources.

22 To protect the sea grass beds.

23 To continue to pursue appropriate land
24 acquisitions wherever that opportunity arises, in
25 order to enhance the preserve.

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1 To provide public education about the natural
2 resources of Shell Key Preserve, the importance of
3 our management actions. And then to improve, the
4 best we can, the effectiveness of that plan, and
5 continue with the public use goals.

6 Support passive recreational uses that do not
7 conflict with the natural resource objectives of our
8 plan. And then to balance the public use with the
9 conservation of these significant natural resources.

10 The island is just a part of the Shell Key
11 Preserve. We have certain kind of uses that are
12 allowed in the preserve.

13 If you look about, oh, maybe a third of the way
14 down, you see, just there, a public use area that's
15 currently designated. But because the waterways are
16 filling in there, you'll see in the new plan
17 proposal we are removing that from public access.

18 Nonetheless, you'll see public access at the

19 top and public access at the bottom, with other
20 kinds of uses that are allowed or not allowed,
21 depending on the season and what kinds of activities
22 birds and other wildlife are having out there.

23 In addition to the land, we have certain uses
24 that are designated for the waters; areas where you
25 can use combustion engines, and areas where you

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1 cannot. And all of this is provided online so you
2 can get your own copies of this, and we'd be happy
3 to provide them as well.

4 Okay. What are those recommendations that the
5 staff are making? I'm going to give you a list.
6 And by the way, this list is available to you in the
7 back, with details excerpted from the management
8 plan.

9 Up here I've highlighted certain areas that
10 probably constitute the biggest changes. If they're
11 not highlighted, it probably means -- it means that
12 we're going to stay pretty much with the kind of
13 direction that we've already taken.

14 The first one: Pets and other domestic
15 animals. We are recommending no pets at Shell Key
16 Preserve for all sorts of reasons that we can get
17 into this evening, including the impact on wildlife.

18 We will continue to deal with problematic nest
19 predators and will continue to deal with invasive
20 exotic species, including the Australian pines that
21 are down on the southern portion of the island.

22 We'll continue our scientific research.

23 And, of course, we have law enforcement. And
24 there has been a lot of discussion lately about our
25 LIMA team. And I want to say publicly here how much

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1 we appreciate the law enforcement officers of our
2 LIMA team for the service they provide us.

3 We are trying as best we can to get the highest
4 number of officers on duty with the LIMA team in the
5 new budget, so stay tuned for more information about
6 that. And we have some other information about that
7 that's in the back on the handout that we provided.

8 And then, continuing with natural resource
9 management, we recognize that we have some issues
10 with signage that we're going to be taking care of,
11 again, as provided in the handout in the back.

12 And we'll continue our habitat mapping and
13 protection.

14 Education is a big one. And we need to really
15 put a lot of emphasis on education. Not only the
16 interpretative, but also the long-term educational
17 stuff. So we want to work with our partners better
18 than what we ever have in the past.

19 And I'd like to take this opportunity to
20 acknowledge all of those partners who have helped
21 us, our volunteers as well, who have helped us get
22 the message across. We still have some work to do,
23 but I think we are on target for revamping our

24 education program and upgrading it.

25 And then, of course, land acquisition. As

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1 these properties might become available, we'll take
2 them under advisement and see if we can get those.

3 Now, with regard to public use, we are
4 proposing -- as staff, we are proposing no
5 possession or consumption of alcohol inside of Shell
6 Key Preserve. None at all.

7 We are also taking a look at camping activities
8 on the island. And there has been a rumor that
9 we're trying to ban camping. Not at all. We just
10 want to make sure that the camping is taking place
11 in a compatible way with the natural resources.

12 So we'll be working with some of our partners,
13 and making that as best of an opportunity as we can
14 for those families and those conservation groups and
15 others who go out to Shell Key to enjoy the natural
16 beauty.

17 We'll continue to look at public use areas and
18 live-aboard vessels. We'll continue to monitor
19 noise standards and address those as opportunities
20 arise.

21 Commercial activities. We're proposing no
22 commercial activities out there without some kind of
23 a special permit or license in order to go in and
24 provide business.

25 Large groups. We'll continue to look at large

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1 groups. And then, of course, optimum carrying
2 capacity, how many people can be supported by a
3 limited natural resource like Shell Key Preserve.

4 And we're trying to address that by way of
5 setting up camping in a healthy and sustainable way,
6 and looking at other human influences out at Shell
7 Key. Again, trying to come up with a definition for
8 this optimum carrying capacity.

9 Where are we in the timeline. We've
10 accomplished a lot so far. And in the few weeks and
11 a month or so that remain, we still have a lot of
12 work to do.

13 We are down here, at this point, of course,
14 with the Shell Key Advisory Group. We still have
15 some other things to do. We hope to take the
16 messages and the suggestions, recommendations, the
17 comments from today's meeting, take those under
18 advisement, and, again, revise the plan as best we
19 can.

20 And then we will have that completed in just a
21 few days. And then there is a public BOCC workshop
22 on the 11th of September. And the plan hopefully
23 will be adopted on the 2nd of October, so we can get
24 the final draft to the Florida Department of
25 Environmental Protection in mid October.

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1 So that's our timetable.

2 And, Kathy, if you'll turn to the next slide.

3 We've had a number of opportunities thus far,
4 and will continue to do so, to have public
5 participation.

6 The stakeholders meetings, we've had three of
7 them. The third one was especially a great success
8 over at Tampa Bay Watch.

9 We've had a number of environmental science
10 forum meetings; this meeting tonight, the Shell Key
11 Advisory Group; the workshop, and the adoption
12 meeting from the Board of County Commissioners.

13 And then, if you haven't already done so,
14 please go to this Web site, and can you find a lot
15 of the documents that we'll refer to this evening
16 online and available for you to print out.

17 And then if you'd care to continue to drop us
18 comments, as many of you have, you can go to that
19 particular -- send us your messages at this
20 particular address.

21 What does the website look like? Go here. Go
22 to www.PinellasCounty.Org/environment. You'll pick
23 this site up. And right at the very top is the
24 Shell Key information.

25 And then if you click on that, you'll get this
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1 page, with all of the listings of material,
2 handouts, everything there, details about our
3 meetings.

4 And then, as you have already met the members
5 of the Shell Key Advisory Group, I don't need to go
6 through that list.

7 Shell Key Preserve is truly a microcosm of all
8 sorts of human and natural world elements on this
9 little bitty preserve, waterways, and islands, that
10 in many ways reflect what's going on on a global
11 level. There are definitely global connections.

12 And what we're trying to do right now is
13 working very hard to try to find a way of balancing
14 the impact of a million people in Pinellas County,
15 plus all of our tourists, visitors, and college
16 students, and so forth; with the long-term needs of
17 this system, in order to make it as healthy and as
18 integrated as we possibly can.

19 That's the challenge before us, to try to come
20 up with decisions today that we will be very proud
21 of five years from now, and our children's children
22 will be very proud of as well.

23 So if you do need information, you can write us
24 at this address. And contact us. We'd be happy to
25 help you with your comments and questions.

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1 Commissioner.

2 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Dr. Rinker. And I
3 appreciate that overview. That hopefully will give
4 us all sort of a level playing field for where we're
5 starting our discussion tonight.

6 Again, this is an opportunity to listen to you,
7 hear your thoughts, comments, and questions. And

8 we'll try to get those questions answered here as we
9 are here tonight.

10 I just have to say up here in the second row up
11 here there is one of our youth. And it's because of
12 the young lady -- or she was there. She used to be.
13 She's obviously of school age. Or was.

14 You've got the monkey. Okay. So that's proof
15 she was there. I just want to make sure I'm not
16 missing something.

17 But, you know, it's really for her and for
18 that generation that we're doing what we're doing,
19 and what you all are interested in and we're all
20 trying to accomplish here tonight.

21 So, again, thank you for your passion and
22 commitment and for your interest.

23 Okay. At this point, let me just sort of jump
24 into the public comment. What I'll do is we're
25 asking that you try to keep your comments to three

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1 minutes, if you will, just simply because we have
2 such a volume of people to get through tonight.

3 Staff will be here after the meeting is over.
4 They're going stay here until they've answered all
5 your questions. So don't feel like if you get cut
6 short that you won't have another opportunity,
7 because you certainly will.

8 Our first speaker is Bill Stokes (phonetic).
9 Mr. Stokes.

10 MR. STOKES: Thank you. I'm in support of the
11 new Shell Key Management Plan. I volunteered for
12 the past few years on various conservation projects,
13 and have been eyewitness to numerous abuses to this
14 preserve, namely: Out-of-control dogs invading
15 habitat, out-of-control humans ignoring restricted
16 during nesting season, inexcusable human and animal
17 excrement left behind. This has contributed to
18 numerous nesting colony failures.

19 I'm a life-long boater, and realize that the
20 bulk of these problems are a witless minority. But
21 that is not relevant, because the damage is to an
22 unacceptable extent, due to these few miscreants.
23 The fast few has turned into the present many, with
24 hundreds on the weekends. The danger to Shell Key
25 necessitates stricter controls to preserve the

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1 preserve.

2 Many of you observed the film shown at Tampa
3 Bay Watch a few months ago, which illustrated the
4 international importance of Shell Key for protection
5 of endangered migratory birds.

6 A film was also shown that clearly illustrates
7 why the weekend conduct has gotten to the point of
8 requiring the prohibition of alcohol on this island,
9 as on other state-owned property.

10 The designated mission of this rare undeveloped
11 barrier island is to conserve wildlife, and offer a
12 natural experience to the family who appreciates

13 passive recreation untainted by the alcohol induced
14 mischief and free-ranging dogs encountered on the
15 mainland.

16 Recent public comments by a spokesman for
17 boaters clearly demonstrates that the central
18 mission of partying to excess is the norm of the
19 aforementioned minority that spoils the party for
20 the majority of people of moderation. This is why
21 most citations issued in the area of alcohol
22 related, as two-thirds of boating accidents are.

23 The County has declared the island is out of
24 control in relation to drinking, partying,
25 disruption of nesting birds, and excessive trash and

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1 litter.

2 This is one of the last refuges for wildlife,
3 and the present plan is not compatible for
4 conservation. The only way to protect the preserve
5 is to support this new plan, and give serious
6 consideration to the cutbacks on law enforcement.
7 Otherwise, many components of the new plan will be
8 moot without law enforcement, and Shell Key will be
9 spoiled for humans, as well as wildlife.

10 Self policing has failed. If enforcement goes
11 away, we will be trading a preserve for an amusement
12 park. It will be a sad day for all the people of
13 Pinellas County if this occurs.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mr. Stokes.

16 Our next speaker is Rebecca Falconbury
17 (phonetic). Good evening.

18 MS. FALCONBURY: Good evening. First of all,
19 I'd like to say that I'm a boater, if you count my
20 kayak, my canoe, the fact that I use the Shell Key
21 Shuttle, and the fact that I have many, many friends
22 who have power boats. Unfortunately, I can't afford
23 to have a power boat right now, but I do consider
24 myself a boater in the true sense.

25 I'd also like to say that in the recent press

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1 there has been some statements about environmental
2 extremists for anybody who supports the new proposed
3 plan.

4 Well, I slipped through the County system.
5 Because I've been fingerprinted, I've had my
6 background checked, I've had my references checked,
7 I am an official county volunteer, and I support the
8 new plan. So those two go together with me. And I
9 don't have any problems with being called that, if I
10 can make it through the County system.

11 I would like to thank the County staff. You've
12 done a fabulous job of putting together this new
13 plan. You've looked at all sides. You've gathered
14 lots of information. And I support it entirely.

15 No dogs; no alcohol; no fires; camping
16 restricted by permit; a much better and clearer
17 signage, so that it's easier for the people who use

18 Shell Key to know what the rules are. It's much
19 easier for LIMA to enforce them.
20 And I also think that this island certainly
21 lends itself to being used for eco tourism, for
22 service outings, for educational outings, and
23 certainly for research. But all of those have still
24 got to be significantly supervised, so that they
25 don't get out of control.

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1 Shell Key is a preserve. We've said that
2 several times. That's name of the island. So let's
3 keep it that way.

4 And I'd like it say one last thing about LIMA.
5 If we don't maintain it or increase it, the County
6 has several things they've got to be worried about;
7 public safety, protecting the island as your
8 investment, because it is part of the County's
9 financial investment. And also, the plan is worth
10 that (indicating) if LIMA is not enforced,
11 increased, and kept doing their job.

12 Thank you very much.

13 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mrs. Falconbury.

14 Richard Granger is our next speaker.

15 And while he is coming up, me acknowledge the
16 more than 3,000 hours of volunteer hours that have
17 been put into Shell Key Preserve over the last
18 several years. Without our volunteers out there,
19 what we are doing wouldn't get done. So I want to
20 thank those people that do volunteer their time.

21 Good evening.

22 MR. GRANGER: Good evening. My wife and I have
23 been going out to Shell Key for about 20 years, and
24 we've seen lot of the developments. A lot of things
25 have changed.

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1 It used to be party central along the western
2 Gulf Coast, where boats were being backed up by the
3 dozens. And a lot of those areas have been closed,
4 and so people are being forced into a smaller and
5 smaller area.

6 The plan states in the document -- pets, for
7 example. We go and we take a very dangerous cocker
8 spaniel with us.

9 And the plans states that the documented
10 average number of dog intrusions is approximately
11 one intrusion a day. What's not provided in the
12 plan is anything that says documented by whom,
13 what's the data, how is it compiled, how was it
14 verified.

15 We do know that the weekends are busy. There
16 is no question about it. The week days are dead.
17 We have the ability to go there on some week days,
18 and see very few boats. A lot of them say "rent
19 me," which, you know, scares me to death.

20 But it seems very contradictory that three --
21 that would mean 365 incursions a year. But there
22 are only 180 total ordinance citations listed. That

23 includes a statement later that in the frame of 183
24 citations listed -- excuse me. Out of 193, 183 are
25 listed for alcohol. So that would only mean ten for

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1 dog incursions, or power boat checks, or any other
2 administrative problem.

3 I do notice that the felonies are almost
4 nonexistent. The misdemeanors have been steadily
5 dropping for three years. So I'm not sure alcohol
6 is an issue.

7 I do notice in the plan that they only list
8 four dates that is very heavy-use days; Memorial
9 Day, Fathers Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day, which
10 is 21, 28, 19, and 18 dogs counted per day. That
11 seems like an awfully small crisis.

12 Additionally, you know, we have had -- with
13 non-holiday weekends, you know, how many are out
14 there? It's got to be less. And what about October
15 through March. You go out there in that weather,
16 and nobody is there.

17 So, you know, I just don't think this anti-dog
18 ordinance is supported. There is a leash law on the
19 books now. It should be enforced. And if people
20 are up there with a dog running loose, they should
21 be ticketed. If these are documented, they are
22 seen. They know.

23 If one of the dogs is on their boat or
24 swimming, you know, around their boat below the mean
25 high tide line, as evidenced by the refuse line, I

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1 can't see how that harms anything on Shell Key.

2 But the dogs are part of your family unit. And
3 people, if they can't take their dogs there, they
4 won't go. And I don't know if that's an intent or
5 not. But it certainly seems Draconian under the
6 number of dogs that are being cited.

7 So the answer for, I think, both is clear. And
8 that is: Enforce the laws that is on the books now,
9 the leash law.

10 Enforce the alcohol law. I mean BUI, that's a
11 tough law. And if -- I'm sure the professionals
12 here can identify those boats. Let them start their
13 motors, arrest them and taking their sorry butt to
14 jail and impound their boats. And that problem is
15 solved.

16 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mr. Granger.

17 We're taking notes on these questions, because
18 I'd like for us to come back at the end of the
19 public hearing portion and begin to answer some of
20 the -- respond to some of these. Move through these
21 first, and then come back and answer them.

22 Maureen Peterson (phonetic), please. And
23 behind Ms. Peterson is Peter Papas (phonetic).

24 Good evening.

25 MAUREEN PETERSON: My name is Maureen Peterson,

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1 president of St. Petersburg Audubon Society. I'm a

2 resident of Pinellas County, and I have been a
3 volunteer out at Shell Key since 1992.

4 I support the proposed changes to Shell Key
5 Management Plan. Shell Key, first and foremost, is
6 a preserve, not a party island. By definition, a
7 preserve is, "An area restricted for the protection
8 and preservation of animals, trees, or other natural
9 resources."

10 Therefore, it is for the birds, and not for us
11 humans that this island is managed.

12 The first management plan took into account
13 the human factor in addition to its primary
14 objective of preservation. Unfortunately, it has
15 become clear that some of these activities have
16 proved detrimental to the animals that the plan was
17 designed to protect.

18 So once again, the new plan will try to
19 compromise by still allowing human activities on the
20 island, but in a more restricted capacity.

21 I don't recall that leaving the family dog at
22 home will keep, quote, many people from enjoying a
23 resource that they have every right to enjoy,
24 unquote.

25 It is unfortunate that the boating community is
0030 seeing less and less access to beaches and barrier
1 islands. One need only stand on the beach and look
2 north and south; nothing but hotels, condos,
3 restaurants, bars, and shopping plazas.

4 Human disturbance is everywhere. However, the
5 boaters are not the only ones that are seeing the
6 reduction of beach access. There are only a few
7 barrier islands and beaches left where weary
8 migrating birds can find solitude, nourishment, and
9 a place to nest and raise their young.

10 We are not anti-boater, anti-alcohol, anti-dog
11 or anti-campers. We simply seek a compromise
12 between a free-for-all party island or completely
13 banning all human activity.

14 With this new plan, people should still be able
15 to enjoy the island while maintaining the integrity
16 of a preserve. It works at Weedon Island, Brooker
17 Creek, and Egmont Key. It can work on Shell Key.

18 So leave the alcohol at home, and take the dog
19 to the dog park. Then, by all means, come to Shell
20 Key. Enjoy the island and all of it's natural
21 preserved wildlife.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you.

24 Mr. Papas. Behind Mr. Papas is Alva Sholty.

0031 MR. SHOLTY: I'm going to wait to make my
1 comments at the end.

2 MR. DUNCAN: Okay. Yes, sir.

3 MR. PAPAS. Good evening, and thank you very
4 much.

5 My name is Peter Papas, and I am against this
6

7 proposal. There are some very responsible boaters,
8 as has been alluded to by our first speaker.

9 We walk the island. We collect garbage. We
10 pick up glass by the bucketfuls. We've rescued a
11 number of birds over the last few years. We are
12 pro-law enforcement. We've called law enforcement
13 when we see irresponsible behavior. We are bird
14 watchers. On my boat you'll find two books by the
15 Audubon.

16 I think you're throwing out the good -- those
17 of us that really care and spend lots of time on
18 that island, along with the irresponsible boaters.

19 If we could only enforce the laws that are
20 already on the books. I think you would be going a
21 long way toward creating the environment that you
22 are trying to.

23 So thank you very much.

24 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, sir, for being here
25 tonight.

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1 Marlene Longo (phonetic). And behind
2 Ms. Longo, Lewis Longo.

3 MS. LONGO: Hello. I'm against the proposal,
4 new proposal. In fact, seven years ago my husband
5 said, "They are going slowly close the whole area.
6 If they do it all at once, the people will rise up."

7 I didn't believe him. I had more faith in
8 government then. Not any more. Now, I believe over
9 the next seven years this area will be designated a
10 sanctuary where no one is allowed.

11 There have been a few problems at Shell on
12 holiday weekends, but this is not the norm. The
13 video and stories have been spun to make the public
14 believe there a mini crime wave. I haven't
15 witnessed that. And from what I've seen, the
16 numbers don't add up.

17 Law enforcement spends more time monitoring
18 drinking, instead of protecting the birds. If the
19 alcohol ban passes, there will be even less time
20 spent protecting the birds, thus making the argument
21 to make Shell a sanctuary seven years from now.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mrs. Longo.

24 Now, Mr. Longo.

25 And behind Mr. Longo is Bill Knepper. And

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1 you're up here, so we'll get you later.

2 MR. LONGO: Good afternoon. About eight years
3 I was standing on a dock. And a gentleman walked up
4 to me and said, "Boy, what a wonderful thing you
5 have going on out there." He told me, "You need to
6 organize, otherwise they are going to try to take it
7 away."

8 We are here, seven years later, and basically
9 that's what's happening. Slowly, more and more
10 things are being taken away from us. The simple
11 thing of having a beer on a boat, even in a cooler,

12 it's going to be illegal. That's wrong.
13 Come out there is people out there on big boats
14 that have bottles of wine in their coolers. I mean,
15 are those now law-breakers? Is this what we're
16 about to do; make more law-breakers?
17 I'm totally against this whole plan. And I
18 hope you guys can see through, you know, the special
19 interests that are involved in trying to create
20 this, basically what my wife called it, a preserve
21 soon-to-be a bird sanctuary.
22 Thank you.
23 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mr. Longo.
24 Sherry Bart (phonetic).
25 SHERRY BART: Good evening. I live in

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1 Gulfport, and I use the preserve area go out there
2 boating and go birding. And I am for the plan, and
3 I would like to see some enforcement. Thank you.
4 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, ma'am.
5 Barbara Howard. And behind Ms. Howard is Dave
6 Howard.
7 Good evening.
8 BARBARA HOWARD: We're boaters, and we're also
9 conservationists. They are not mutually exclusive.
10 You can be both.
11 I support the proposed management plan for
12 Shell Key. I think it has some very valuable
13 suggestions in it.
14 The safety and health issues are definitely
15 caused by the alcohol use. It's not a
16 family-friendly destination where you've got people
17 who are drunk and out-of-control.
18 The pets and domestic animals being banned from
19 the island, I have personally seen somebody bring a
20 dog off of a boat onto the island. And an oyster
21 catcher, who was about a football field away,
22 immediately got up off her eggs, leaving it
23 available for predators or to bake in the sun,
24 because it saw this dog as a predator.
25 So dogs, even if they are on leashes and far

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1 away, are definitely a problem.
2 Camping by permit only is a really good idea.
3 You can monitor if anybody is leaving trash, and if
4 they are leaving waste.
5 Shell Key is a preserve first. Its uses should
6 be compatible with conservation and protection of
7 the preserve. If things are not compatible with it,
8 like the alcohol use getting out of control and the
9 pets, then they should be banned.
10 I also think that the LIMA unit should be kept
11 at full force, if not increased. Because without
12 the law enforcement, we can't enforce the rules.
13 Thank you.
14 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Ms. Howard.
15 Dave Howard. And behind Mr. Howard is Jane
16 Williams.

17 MR. HOWARD: I'm Dave Howard. I'm a
18 recreational boater, a Pinellas County volunteer,
19 and enjoy all the preserves we have here. Over the
20 years my family has especially enjoyed Shell Key
21 Preserve, walking the beach, enjoying the wildlife,
22 and swimming there.

23 Unlike many of the other, I have witnessed many
24 visitors treating this preserve with great
25 disrespect. For example, letting pets run free into

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1 protected areas, and leaving debris behind,
2 including broken glass, as was mentioned, for others
3 like myself to clean up.

4 This abuse has led to the need for a new
5 management plan. I have reviewed and now fully
6 support the new proposed plan, which will better
7 protect Shell Key Preserve for future generations.

8 The plan is consistent with other preserve
9 rules and regulations, like Weedon and Brooker
10 Creek; no pets, no alcohol. It is a designated
11 preserve.

12 Finally, with the news that our county
13 sheriff's patrol LIMA group may be drastically
14 reduced, I'm concerned about necessary enforcement
15 of any established management plan will be a
16 problem, and our County preserves will become unsafe
17 for visitors and destroyed by those who do not
18 respect the treasure we have here.

19 Surely the county should be able to manage
20 budget cuts without jeopardizing the safety of our
21 citizens.

22 Thanks.

23 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mr. Howard.
24 Behind Ms. Williams is Ann Crook (phonetic).

25 JANE WILLIAMS: Good evening. I am Jane

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1 Williams, and I'm here tonight representing
2 Clearwater Audubon. And I'm rather surprised they
3 let me out without a leash on, but they did.

4 This is short and sweet, only to say that
5 Clearwater Audubon and its membership does support
6 the Shell Key Management Plan modifications as
7 they've been outlined, in order to protect this
8 vital habitat that is becoming -- it just cannot
9 ever be replaced.

10 And that Clearwater Audubon also supports the
11 retention of the LIMA Unit officers. Without having
12 them, we lose our investments and all of the
13 preserve lands that we already have.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Ms. Williams.
16 Ann Crook. Behind Ms. Crook is Pat
17 Edmond (phonetic).

18 ANN CROOK: Hello. I am very glad that we are
19 having this meeting, and I appreciate the
20 opportunity to be able to speak.

21 And I find it very interesting, the comments

22 that have been made. I would like to say that I am
23 in favor of this plan. And I'd also like to say
24 that -- remind everyone in this room that we were
25 not here first. The wildlife and our environment is

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1 our responsibility. And if we don't take care of
2 it, then we're not being good stewards.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you very much.

5 Pat Edmund, and then Roger Scofield (phonetic).

6 MS. EDMUND: Hi. I'm Pat Edmund. And I want
7 to say I do not envy you the task of trying to
8 balance human activity with a fragile ecosystem.

9 I can tell you that the experiment has failed,
10 as we now know it. I can tell you this, because I'm
11 one of the volunteers that is charged with
12 monitoring and recording the success or failure of
13 what's going on with the wildlife on Shell Key.

14 It was, at best, very disappointing this year
15 for the nesting season.

16 I can also tell you that people who come out
17 there by boat are good people. They don't come out
18 there with bad intentions. The problem is that
19 booze is a very good lubricant. And when people get
20 "lubricated," all kinds of nasty things shake loose.

21 MR. DUNCAN: This is a family show here.

22 MS. EDMUND: (Inaudible) their pets, and very
23 often, human excrement. And I know this because I'm
24 one of the volunteers who goes out to Shell Key on a
25 regular basis, trash bag in hand, to clean up after

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1 them.

2 It's not working. It's time for a change.
3 Eliminate the booze, and don't allow pets.

4 And for those good people in this room who
5 absolutely cannot envision a day on Shell Key
6 without booze, I have a recommendation. Find
7 yourself a good rehab program pretty soon, because
8 you're headed in that direction anyway.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Ms. Edmond.

11 Roger, good evening.

12 MR. SCHOFIELD: My name is Roger Schofield.

13 I'm recreational boater, and I've attended a couple
14 of these meetings. The original one was all humans
15 were -- there was this barricade put up at both ends
16 of the island, and there was no one even on the
17 water anymore.

18 As a recreational boater, I've enjoyed the
19 island for 30 years, and I hope to continue to enjoy
20 it. I'm not sure -- there is some things that I do
21 support, but I really believe that the island is
22 being to be handed down to be totally for the bird.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mr. Schofield.

25 Ed Silverberg. Mr. Silverberg.

0040

1 MR. SILVERBERG: Good afternoon.
2 MR. DUNCAN: Is that you, Mr. Silverberg?
3 MR. SILVERBERG: Well, I didn't know if I was
4 next.
5 MR. DUNCAN: You're next, absolutely.
6 MR. SILVERBERG: This plan is anti-public use.
7 It's strictly for the environmentalists and I don't
8 think, as reasonable people that make decisions, you
9 should take an extreme position. I do not support
10 this at all.
11 Like this gentleman said, my name is Ed
12 Silverberg. I was born here in St. Petersburg, and
13 I've grownup here my whole life. My mother, Jane,
14 was also born here in St. Petersburg.
15 I love the outdoors. Since I was a child, I
16 have camped at Shell Island many times. I am
17 married now, and I have five children. As a family,
18 we have camped many times at Shell Island.
19 We are responsible campers. We clean up our
20 mess. We pack everything out that we take in.
21 These are lessons that I have taught my children, to
22 love and respect nature. You cannot learn this from
23 a textbook.
24 It would be a terrible shame to take this
25 opportunity away from people, families and children,
0041
1 by overregulating it, by making it too difficult and
2 cumbersome for the average family to be able to say,
3 "Honey, let's take the kids this weekend and go
4 camping."
5 "Didn't get a permit there is only ten of them
6 allowed in a 60 day period. Forget that. We'll go
7 to Disney World."
8 That's good for the environment. Those are
9 good lessons.
10 There is no other place like Shell Island that
11 you can go camping by boat. It's a very cool
12 experience. If you truly love nature, you should
13 encourage, not discourage this experience to teach
14 our children.
15 I am an animal lover too. I have a dog, and we
16 enjoy taking him to Shell Island to run and to swim
17 in the water. He needs exercise too. And to get
18 outdoors, because my wife and I work, and my
19 children are in school all day.
20 We cherish our weekends at Shell Island with
21 our pet. It's part of our family. Dogs need to get
22 outdoors just like humans do. If he goes to the
23 bathroom on the beach, we pick it up in a bag, just
24 like when we take our dog for walks in our
25 neighborhood. We're responsible citizens.
0042
1 In the many times that I've been to Shell
2 Island with or without my dog over the years, I've
3 not seen problems where dogs are attacking people or
4 hurting other animals. They're usually restricted
5 to a very small part of the entire island. And,

6 frankly, boaters and humans are too.
7 Please let me finish, I'm begging you.
8 MR. DUNCAN: Very quickly, please.
9 MR. SILVERBERG: I am not a big drinker of
10 alcohol, but I like a beer every now and then. It's
11 not illegal to have alcohol or beer on a boat. It's
12 not illegal. We are not in the old days of
13 prohibition. Don't push your values on others.
14 I do not see how you have the right to prohibit
15 alcohol on Shell Island or the surrounding waters.
16 It makes no sense for the environment. It's really
17 an ideological issue by pushing your values on
18 others.
19 If you are 21 years old, you're legally allowed
20 to drink as long as you're not drunk. In our
21 surrounding bay waters, you can, by law, have
22 alcohol in a boat. Why not at Shell Island?
23 The last thing. This summer I took my family
24 for 14 days hiking, camping, and rafting in the
25 Grand Canyon National Park. FYI, you can have
0043 alcohol in any part of the Grand Canyon National
1 Park.
2
3 MR. DUNCAN: Wrap it up.
4 MR. SILVERBERG: It's not prohibited. And I
5 must confess it was nice after hiking all day to
6 have a cold beer. Thanks.
7 MR. DUNCAN: David Hopkins. And behind
8 Mr. Hopkins is Mimi Surrel (phonetic).
9 Good evening.
10 MR. HOPKINS: I'm a resident of Pinellas
11 County. I have been a resident for 13 years. I'm a
12 boater. I also volunteer at Honeymoon State Park
13 helping protect the birds and other wildlife up
14 there.
15 Pinellas County is a dense county. It's the
16 most densely populated county in the state of
17 Florida. But there is a few places left that are
18 undeveloped, like Shell Key is an undeveloped in the
19 middle of a most thickly developed area.
20 Unfortunately, you have to have some rules to
21 protect that area if you are going to keep it.
22 Those places will disappear if we don't protect it.
23 It's -- there are lots of people who use Shell
24 Key that use it responsibly and act responsibly and
25 use beer or alcohol responsibly. But,
0044
1 unfortunately, there are a few people who do not do
2 it responsibly. And it's the people who do use it
3 responsibly that have to suffer for the people who
4 don't.
5 We don't allow alcohol on our highways. Why
6 should we allow it on our waterways? We don't allow
7 it in schools. Why should we allow it in preserves?
8 I think I support this -- I support this plan.
9 Thank you.
10 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you.

11 Mimi Surrel. And behind Ms. Surrel -- well, go
12 ahead.

13 MS. SURREL: Good evening. I'm here as a
14 volunteer of Shell Key. Now, I heard these people
15 talk that have never seen anything go wrong. When I
16 go to Shell Key, I go as twiner and as a
17 cleaner-upper.

18 Now, I'm sorry to say that I do see people
19 bring their dogs and look me in the eye and say, "My
20 dog doesn't leave my arms." Or, "My dog behaves,
21 and I keep it on a leash." And 20 feet away, the
22 dog is not on a leash, and it goes down on the
23 ground.

24 I also clean up -- and I think that they're
25 using Shell Key as a big ashtray. Have you ever

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1 tried to pick up cigarette butts? Well, I have.
2 Right near fire ants too. So that's no fun.

3 Now, I think that the people that are good on
4 Shell Key, they never see anything wrong. I don't
5 understand that, because when I go I see this.

6 And if they're nice people and they are good
7 boaters and good cleaner-uppers, if they see their
8 neighbors do things like that, they should tell
9 them. They should say, "This is not an ashtray.
10 This is not a toilet. Keep your dog on a leash."

11 I have even seen the twine being used as a
12 clothes line.

13 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

14 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mrs. Surrel.

15 Okay, I'll apologize in advance. Jacobs
16 McCauley. I can't read the first couple of words.
17 I'm sorry.

18 MS. MCCAULEY: That's okay. I just wanted to
19 say I'm very much in favor of and supportive of the
20 new changes and your new plan. My only reservation
21 would be enforcement. Because no matter how good
22 your plan might be, without enforcement, I don't
23 think it will succeed. So I hope you've made
24 provision for long-term enforcement. Thank you

25 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, ma'am.

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1 Frank McCauley and then Jack Coletti.

2 MR. MCCAULEY: I'd like to tell you a little
3 story, if I may, about the last time that I went out
4 to Shell Key.

5 Normally, when I have visitors from up north or
6 from other countries I take them on a little tour
7 that starts at Madeira Beach, down the intracoastal
8 waterway. We go around the islands down near the
9 Skyway, Tarpon Key, through the pass and then over
10 to Shell Key for lunch.

11 The last time I went there, I had a couple from
12 England, newly married. We go to Shell Key, and I
13 couldn't believe what I saw. The place was a
14 disgrace. It was disgusting. There was human
15 excrement, dog excrement or animal excrement. There

16 was glass, cans. It was just horrible.
17 We carry -- my wife and I always carries
18 plastic bags in our canoe, in the boat, in our
19 automobile. While that young couple took a swim, in
20 a ten yard square area we picked up three full
21 garbage bags -- and that's all the garbage bags I
22 had was three -- full of trash. We didn't touch God
23 knows how many condoms that were there.

24 But it was just one terrible situation. I've
25 never been back to Shell Key since. I've never

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1 taken anybody back to Shell Key since. I take them
2 out of the county. And I'm sure this is not the
3 image that the county is trying to project to its
4 citizens or to our visitors.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you. Mr. McCauley.

7 Ms. Barbara Esias (phonetic).

8 MS. ESIAS: Hi, I'm Barb Esias. As a resident
9 of Pinellas County and a shareholder of the Shell
10 Key Preserve, I support the new management plan in
11 its entirety.

12 If the lease agreement that BOCC signed in 2000
13 requires that the property be managed only for the
14 conservation and protection of natural and
15 historical recourses and for resource-based public
16 outdoor activities and education, which are
17 compatible with conservation and protection of the
18 public lands, then it seems to me that the
19 management plan must comply with the lease
20 agreement.

21 Pinellas County is surrounded by water on three
22 sides. There are plenty of places for boaters to
23 go. There are also plenty of places for dogs to run
24 free and be kept on a leash. But where else in
25 Pinellas County, the most densely populated county

0048

1 in the state, can we put a preserve?

2 There are also plenty of places to drink. If
3 the only way to access Shell Key is by boat, and
4 boats are vehicles, is it really wise for the county
5 to condone alcohol on Shell Key? What is the
6 county's liability here?

7 Let's not argue semantics. One definition of
8 preserve is: "A place to keep up an reserve for
9 personal use. Something regarded as reserved for
10 certainly persons."

11 I don't believe that is the intention of Shell
12 Key Preserve.

13 The other definition of preserve is: "To keep
14 safe from injury harm or destruction. To protect.
15 To keep alive, intact, or free from decay. To
16 maintain. It's an area restricted for the
17 protection and preservation of natural resources, as
18 animals and trees."

19 I support the new management plan for Shell
20 Key. Thank you very much.

21 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you.
22 Joe Terry (Phonetic). And behind Mr. Terry is
23 Ray Oakley (phonetic).
24 Good evening.
25 MR. TERRY: Good evening. Thank you for this
0049 opportunity to express my enjoyment of that
1 beautiful area.
2
3 And I do support the existing laws, and I think
4 the existing laws should be enforced. That's what
5 has to happened to so much of our county, is we
6 don't enforce the existing laws. We keep clamoring
7 for more and more laws because the existing laws are
8 not being enforced.
9 I would like to point out also about the
10 public's attitude toward the natural life in the
11 area. If you go to the other islands around Shell
12 Key, the ones that have the signs, "Keep out. Bird
13 preserve. Do not enter," you'll not even see a
14 little path where people go in there. People stay
15 off those islands. They leave them for the
16 wildlife. So people do care about the wildlife
17 conservation. And they have set a good example in
18 caring for that.
19 It is quite ludicrous to complain about dogs on
20 Shell Key, if you think about the number of racoons.
21 Racoons love bird eggs. They love birds, too. I
22 don't see how anyone can complain about the racoons
23 chasing -- or rather the dogs chasing birds when you
24 see the birds chase the birds. Birds chase birds
25 all the time. They just get up and fly to another
0050 spot.
1
2 And please be advised that the policy advocates
3 here are not the only people that clean up on Shell
4 Key. The other people -- many of us others clean up
5 after the few people who are disrespectful of the
6 public.
7 I do not support any plan that advocates
8 limiting the public use of this wonderful island.
9 There are not enough of them around.
10 And I think it would be environmentally
11 irresponsible to prevent boaters from going there,
12 because then they would crank up their motors and go
13 looking for other places, which don't exist, and
14 pollute the environment with all that petroleum fuel
15 they'll be burning.
16 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Terry.
17 Ray Oakley. Behind Mr. Oakley is Richard Robb.
18 RAY OAKLEY: Hi. I'm Ray Oakley. I'm a
19 resident of Pinellas County. I'm retired. I was in
20 law enforcement. I happen to be in the Coast Guard
21 Auxiliary. I'm a boater.
22 I love Shell Key. And I go through often. And
23 to be restricted doesn't sit well with me.
24 I go out there, and I read all the rules on
25 them signs. And we talk about our law enforcement.

0051

1 Well, I'm sorry, but these young guys come in with
2 an attitude. And they've got to straighten that
3 out. The first thing you're taught is how to deal
4 with people, not how to beat them over the head.

5 As far as the drinking, Pinellas County, the
6 State of Florida, the federal government taxes that
7 booze. And when they take the tax off, they can
8 tell me where I can drink it. And when they take
9 the gasoline tax off me, they can tell me where I
10 can run my boat. In the meantime, I'm going to go as
11 I please. You can't stop us from doing this with a
12 clear conscience.

13 As far as the laws on dogs, it says they must
14 be kept intact or on a leash. I have never seen a
15 dog on a leash on that island. And I have seen
16 police officers walking, as the dogs run by them,
17 and they don't do nothing. They're just looking to
18 give somebody an alcohol ticket.

19 As far as the laws, I see boats come in there
20 with 8, 10, 12, 14 people in them 18 feet long, and
21 I've never seen a water craft division pull them
22 over saying "Have you got enough life jackets?"

23 Did you ever look at the sticker on their boat
24 that says "seven people on board maximum"? Has
25 there ever been any tickets for that? I'll bet not.

0052

1 They do not enforce the present laws. Why do
2 we need more laws? Thank you.

3 MR. DUNCAN: Mr. Robb. Then behind Mr. Robb is
4 Barbara Hovan (phonetic).

5 MR. ROBB: Good evening. Thanks for this
6 opportunity to talk.

7 I wasn't aware of any of the problems. I did
8 see the dogs running without leashes and stuff, and
9 I'm sure that they defecate in places. And I really
10 didn't see too many rubbers around, but I usually
11 keep my boat out there. And I'm usually in about
12 three to four feet of water, and have a little
13 floaty there.

14 And about two weeks ago we went out with about
15 eight -- no, nine people on the boat. It was good
16 for ten. I had ten life jackets on. I saw a couple
17 police officers go by. And they waived, and I had
18 my little cooler out there with a couple wine
19 coolers in the little ceramic thing.

20 We had, like I said, nine people. I think I
21 went to through a 12 pack of beer, a bottle of wine,
22 a lot of soda. I drink, but it's like two or three
23 drinks.

24 I don't know what the damage is. I mean, I've
25 picked up a couple bottle that were floating by.

0053

1 Actually, it was a can, one can. So if there is
2 stuff, I'm sure that the people that help clean up
3 the place see this stuff, and they're aware of it.

4 But I don't see too much because, like I said

5 I'm about -- well, I'm on the other side in that
6 little shallow spot, kind of by myself, and watch
7 all the crazies.
8 And they have a great time. I have seen some
9 people that are drunk. But the police are there,
10 and I'm sure they're doing a good job keeping them
11 from drinking too much.
12 But I think I read in the St. Pete Times there
13 was 98 people arrested in a whole year of drinking.
14 So what is that; like two a weekend? Or let's knock
15 it down to four a weekend. So that weekend that's
16 four, that is two people a weekend a day. Because
17 usually I said like the weekend, and then there is
18 holidays.
19 I just don't see why you should curb it. I
20 mean, you know, you should arrest the people that
21 are drunk. I'm for that as a safe boater.
22 That day I had two wine coolers, and we were
23 there from 10:00 until around 3:30. So, you know, I
24 don't think I could pass that, you know, blow test
25 or whatever you get. What is it; .06 or something?

0054

1 But the think the cops are doing a great job.
2 And I have seen dogs running around in the water on
3 the beach.
4 So I'm kind of -- if it's for the ecology --
5 I'm looking at that time, guys. How am I doing?
6 But I think everything is good. But, like I
7 said, I've walked down the beach before and I've
8 seen campers. I don't even know if they have
9 port-o-johns there. Do they? No?
10 If they're camping, why shouldn't they have
11 port-o-johns there for the people. If there is
12 200 people. If there was facilities, and it is a
13 park -- excuse me. It's preserve. Like I said, I'm
14 not too familiar with it. I just saw the thing in
15 St. Pete.
16 Well, he's getting ready to pick that sign up.
17 I'll just saying it's great place to go. I've
18 had a good time there. I'm not looking to change
19 any laws.
20 Sorry. I can't talk anymore. Bye. But thanks
21 for the opportunity to talk.
22 MR. DUNCAN: Barbara Hovan (Phonetic). Behind
23 Barbara is Steve Brady (phonetic).
24 Good evening.
25 BARBARA HOVAN: Thank you.

0055

1 I want to say I support the changes. And I
2 think that predators and natural forces are enough
3 of a challenge for Shell Key without adding careless
4 humans and dogs.
5 And I think education here is the real issue, I
6 think the lack of, you know, people really
7 understanding what's in jeopardy here.
8 I know that alcohol is really important to a
9 lot of people. But is it really that important? I

10 hear a lot of people trying to justify, you know,
11 their drinking. And I've seek it destroy a lot of
12 things throughout my life. You know, just people's
13 jobs, families. You know, faith, money, and things
14 like that. It's just not the place for alcohol to
15 be, on a preserve.

16 And it's a shame that it does take the careless
17 people to ruin it for the responsible ones. So, you
18 know, that's a shame, but that's just how it is.

19 I also want to say that I want to reiterate the
20 importance of preserving nature on the preserve.
21 Because most of you could agree with me that some of
22 my -- or my best childhood memories include being in
23 nature. And I just want to know, like, will our
24 children be able to say the same thing.

25 We really have to do some education here,

0056

1 especially with the children, because that's the
2 generation that's really going to make the profound
3 changes. Because some people in this room will just
4 not ever want to make the changes, even though they
5 know that it's the right way to go.

6 And that's pretty much all I have to say.

7 Thank you very much.

8 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Ms. Hovan.

9 Steve Brady. Behind Mr. Brady, Beth Forest.

10 Good evening.

11 STEVE BRADY: Good evening. And thanks to
12 everyone that's here.

13 I, too, grew up in this county. I was born and
14 raised here. I've been swimming in the Gulf of
15 Mexico since I was 6. I clock about 200 miles a
16 year. I range on the beaches as runner, a
17 naturalist, a bird watcher, and a photographer.

18 And as a taxpayer and a lover of nature and a
19 lover of good public conduct, as a person who's been
20 hit by a jet ski, who's constantly threatened by
21 boaters and jet skiers, and by unleashed dogs
22 operating on Clearwater Beach, Caladesi, Honeymoon
23 Island, et cetera; I can say that there is a moral
24 issue and conscience issue that's not being
25 addressed here tonight by those who a oppose this

0057

1 strict management plan.

2 The fact is that before Florida was developed,
3 there was hundreds of thousands of birds of all
4 types that call Florida home. Some of these birds
5 call Shell Key home. For example, peregrine falcons
6 stop here. Other birds stop here, some of which are
7 making eight-, nine-, ten thousand mile journeys.

8 But as they come back year after year they find
9 less and less of the good old sweet, kind, gentle,
10 quiet, peaceful Florida left. What they find is
11 it's been paved over, it's been bulldozed, it's been
12 chain-sawed, it's been chopped, it's been poisoned,
13 it's been developed, and it's almost all gone.

14 And many of the birds that need Shell Key are

15 dying out and in danger of disappearing off the face
16 of the earth forever. And that is a direct insult
17 to the creator of this planet.

18 And for people to insist on their so-called
19 rights to booze up; use internal combustion engines
20 for so-called recreation; to let non-native
21 destructive predatory species, such as dogs, run
22 free on one of the last few places that these
23 dwindling numbers of birds have to nest and raise
24 their young, it's a moral issue. It's a conscience
25 issue. Dare I say it, it's a religious issue.

0058

1 If you love the United States, if you love your
2 neighbors, and especially your children and your
3 grandchildren and your neighbor's children and their
4 grandchildren, if you love peregrine falcons, if you
5 love pine trees and oak trees, and fresh water
6 springs and open places, and peace and quiet and
7 sanity, and a place where you can bring your family
8 and not have to listen to profanity and see public
9 sexual acts, drinking, and law breaking; then you
10 will support this strict management plan and stop
11 opposing it now for the sake of God.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, sir.

14 Beth Cory (phonetic).

15 BETH CORY: Hi. I'm Beth Cory.

16 MR. DUNCAN: Okay. Let's let her speak,
17 please.

18 BETH CORY: I'm a professor of biology at
19 Eckerd College. I'm also a resident of Pinellas
20 county, I'm dog owner and a boat owner.

21 I'm here to speak in favor of the entire plan,
22 but I want to specifically address the issue of
23 banning dogs, even good dogs that are on leashes.

24 As you've heard and probably know, Shell Key is
25 one of the last undisturbed barrier islands left for

0059

1 our beach nesting birds to nest on in Pinellas
2 County, and even the Gulf of Mexico. Many of the
3 species that next there are in danger of extinction.

4 My students and I have been studying the
5 effects of disturbance on beach nesting bird for the
6 past six years, and Shell Key is one of our field
7 sites.

8 We have spent hundreds of hours, nearly a
9 thousand hours monitoring least terns and black
10 skimmer colonies. And we record any potential
11 disturbance that comes within 100 feet of the
12 colony, and we observe the birds and see what the
13 birds do, how they react.

14 Unfortunately, even well-behaved dogs on
15 leashes that walk by the bird colony cause the birds
16 to fly up off their nest. We believe they perceive
17 the dogs to be a horrible predator, maybe similar to
18 a coyote. So the disturbance rate for dogs on
19 leashes is 100%.

20 In comparison, the birds only flew off their
21 nest 19% of the time a person walked by the colony.
22 And if a heron or an egret walked up to the colony,
23 they only flew on off their nests 5% of the time.

24 When birds fly off their nest, their eggs and
25 young are vulnerable to predation from crimson

0060

1 gulls, which we have observed. Their eggs or young
2 can be killed due to heat exposure. We've also
3 seen -- we've document the entire colony abandoning
4 the area because of disturbances.

5 So for the sake of bird and the residents and
6 tourists who like to watch them, I'm asking to you
7 keep the proposed dog ban intact. Thank you

8 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you very much.

9 Alison Hormsby (phonetic).

10 ALISON HORMSBY: Good evening. My Alison
11 Hormsby. I teach environmental studies at Eckerd
12 College.

13 One of the courses I teach, I teach, actually,
14 two. One is on tourism, and the other one is on
15 park management. So I want to make a few points
16 that relate to those course topics.

17 One is the issue of carrying capacity, and one
18 of the proposed changes to the plan would be to more
19 carefully study of the carrying capacity of the
20 preserve. I would support that. I would venture
21 that the carrying capacity has already been
22 exceeded, particularly on holidays.

23 Another point I'd like to make for the record
24 and for this audience is that there is a strong
25 difference of -- a legal and a definition difference

0061

1 between a park and preserve. A preserve is much
2 more strongly protected than a park, which is why
3 you might be able to drink in a national park, but
4 you don't wouldn't able to drink alcohol in a
5 preserve.

6 Another thing that I do as part of my research
7 is attitudinal surveys of beach users in Pinellas
8 County. And spent this past summer interviewing 400
9 beach users with student help.

10 What we found is that people generally are
11 supportive of birds, wildlife tourism, watching
12 birds, but aren't too knowledgeable about the
13 species that nest on our beaches and their behavior
14 and their needs.

15 One thing is that, as Dr. Forrest (phonetic)
16 just said, birds do perceive dogs as predators,
17 similar to other predators. So, yes, raccoons are
18 predators too, gulls are, but dogs are also strong
19 predators.

20 I think it's great if we enforce the existing
21 laws. But with two LIMA officers we can't really
22 enforce that much. It's not enough coverage.

23 So I'm for maintaining or increasing the number
24 of officers. And I strongly support the management

25 plan, in particular the ban on dogs and alcohol.

0062

1 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Ms. Hormsby.

2 Sherry Marguson (phonetic).

3 SHERRY MARGUSON: Hey. Shell Key is a state
4 land leased to the county. Protection of nesting
5 and migrating shore birds, NC birds, is in the terms
6 of the lease.

7 The State did not lease Shell Key to the county
8 to produce a venue for the ultimate party zone.
9 That's fact that Mr. Reynard (phonetic) and his
10 supporters he claims to represent consistently
11 ignore.

12 Alcohol consumption contributes to many
13 behavioral problems, from lewd behavior to fights,
14 leading to intervention of law enforcement and
15 tying up deputies who should be focused on
16 protecting bird areas.

17 In a recent article in the St. Pete Times,
18 Mr. Reynard was quoted as saying, "Nobody in my
19 group ever gets sloppy dunk. And if they do, they
20 just fall down and pass out, they don't obnoxious,"
21 he said.

22 That is a ludicrous argument to justify the
23 party zone -- excuse me -- to justify the party zone
24 especially in light of another quote by Mr. Reynard
25 in a different article that appeared in the Tampa

0063

1 Tribune May 6, 2006. "I have a lot of friend that
2 go out on boats," he explained in the article.
3 "Most of them are nudists. Some nights we're just
4 stupid and crazy, and out come the toys."

5 Together, these statements discredit the
6 assertion at prior public meetings that the
7 recreational boating folks who party at Shell Key
8 want to preserve a family atmosphere there.

9 Here's the real debate tonight. Because
10 everyone who actually cares about the habitat and
11 environment directives as assigned to the county by
12 the State knows that the party atmosphere has not
13 only severely hurt the nesting of threatened species
14 at Shell Key, but has driven many family oriented
15 folks and responsible recreational boaters from
16 going out there anymore because of the craziness at
17 the north end.

18 Mr. Reynard and his supporters, there are many
19 places to go to get drunk, be nude and get crazy;
20 like home, for instance. But there are very few
21 places left to host the breeding possibilities of
22 threatened nesting shore birds. It's that simple.
23 End of story.

24 I support the new Shell Key the plan as
25 written, obviously. It will provide a welcoming to

0064

1 responsible boaters, families, and environmental
2 advocates. Thanks for listening.

3 MR. DUNCAN: Don Margusen (phonetic) and then

4 Jim Scile, S-C-I-L-E?
5 Good evening.
6 MR. MARGUSEN: Good evening. Thanks for the
7 opportunity to address the board.
8 The grand experiment has failed miserably.
9 While I commend the participants who worked hard to
10 formulate the original management plan, it hasn't
11 worked, plain and simple.
12 The current management plan has forced the LIMA
13 patrol to utilize crowd control and criminal
14 enforcement, when their job is supposed to protect
15 the natural resources of the preserve.
16 The proposed plan includes several provisions,
17 which could help swing the balance back to where
18 wildlife would have a chance of utilizing Shell Key.
19 Please keep in mind the primary reason the
20 State lease of these lands is to protect the natural
21 resources of the Shell Key preserve. And the
22 secondary reason is public enjoyment, compatible
23 with protecting the natural resources of the land.
24 I support the preserve and the management plan
25 to protect it. The strengthened plan, the banning
0065 of alcohol, the banning of dogs. I've personally
1 seen dogs many times there running straight through
2 the nesting area. So it's no wonder most of the
3 time there is no nesting birds.
4 I support primitive camping -- permitted
5 camping, excuse me, as they suggested with, you
6 know, with a licensing system as long as the campers
7 can carry out their waste and behave responsibly.
8 I think that the new plan would make this more
9 of a family destination again. Most of my people,
10 friends I know don't go out from on the weekends
11 anymore because it's so out of control. So they go
12 during the week.
13 Thanks for the opportunity.
14 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you Mr. Marguson.
15 Jim, I'll apologize. I probably didn't
16 pronounce you name correctly. It's Scalor, just
17 like the Navy.
18 MR. DUNCAN: Sorry.
19 MR. SCALOR: That's okay.
20 I want to thank everybody for their time here
21 tonight.
22 And I am against the ordinance. My wife is
23 here with me. We live in unincorporated Pinellas
24 out by south Pasadena. We have a small house that
0066 has a span of water. Because of that we pay five
1 figures in taxes, along with everything else. We're
2 not rich people, but we make it work because we love
3 being outdoors, we love being on a boat.
4 I fish. I dive. We go to Shell Key a lot.
5 And I want to say specifically about Shell Key, we
6 go to Bunce's. I don't really go to the north side.
7 We go to the south side out there.
8

9 We do bring our dog. We have a 14 pound Jack
10 Russel. He has a blast. He digs holes, and we fill
11 them in. It keeps him busy all day, but he's right
12 there with us.

13 And I guess I'm against it because I think that
14 things could be tweaked. I don't see a lot of
15 things people are seeing. I mean, I'm there a lot.
16 I've been boating for 15 years, and we go there all
17 the time. On the south end I don't see as much
18 craziness. But some things might need to be
19 addressed.

20 If the bird population is declining, I know in
21 the last six years, that time frame that was used,
22 we've had horrific hurricanes, horrific red tide,
23 and we have rampant development.

24 In today's paper, I have it. I'm sure
25 everybody saw Billy Moore (phonetic) is being 140

0067

1 more units right across from Shell Key. Near to
2 that screen there is going to 150 more units. That
3 has to have more impact on the bird nests that
4 they're dozing over than boaters going out there, a
5 couple on the week days, and maybe slightly crowded
6 on the weekends.

7 So I just think this is taking a chain saw to a
8 hangnail. It doesn't make sense. You're just going
9 to eliminate every boater from going out there.
10 Don't bring a dog, alcohol, whatever. And then no
11 camping and just restricting it more and more. It
12 is a few hurting it for the many.

13 And I've heard a lot of people say, well,
14 alcohol is illegal and this and that. Well, if
15 somebody can go to a restaurant and have a glass of
16 wine with dinner and that's allowed -- the problem
17 is that some people over do it. And that seems to
18 be the problem, particularly, it sounds like, at the
19 north end of Shell Key.

20 I wish the laws and rules that were in place
21 were enforced more. And if they do need anything,
22 it might need to be tweaked. But I think it's very
23 Draconian, what's being considered.

24 And I'm here supposed to speak for my
25 neighbors. We all live on the water, we boat there

0068

1 all the time, and we pay a lot for that privilege.
2 Thanks.

3 MR. DUNCAN: Thanks.

4 Wade Cullock (phonetic). Good evening.

5 WADE CULLOCK: Good evening.

6 I think it will be a very sad day if this plan
7 gets enacted the way it's proposed. I think it will
8 be a very sad, because we're going to let a certain
9 element ruin it for the rest of us.

10 That element is out there maybe 25 or 30 days
11 out of the year. That's going to ruin it for the
12 rest of us that go out there the other 340 days of
13 the year. The other 340 days of the year when we're

14 out there we are abiding by the laws. We like
15 nature. It's just a shame to see that element ruin
16 it for the rest of us.

17 That element goes to other venues around the
18 county, and we take care of it. They go to football
19 games and we take care of them. They go to baseball
20 games, they gun to concerts, they go to Rib Fest and
21 we don't allow it. We don't allow that behavior to
22 ruin it for the rest of us that like to go to those
23 things and enjoy them.

24 What I find lacking in this plan is an effort
25 to find a middle ground to address the problems that

0069

1 are out there, that are clearly out there, without
2 going from one extreme to the other.

3 And there has got to be some middle ground
4 there. There has got to be some things that we can
5 do to try and see if we can't fix the problem
6 without going from one extreme to the other.

7 We could put up some fences. We could have a
8 boat license that says U"here is 50 bucks for the
9 privilege of going out there," and we use that fee
10 to improve some things out there. Put up more
11 signs, put up fences. I'd like to see an effort
12 made to find that middle ground to address the
13 problem without going from one extreme to another.

14 I think it will be a sad day in Pinellas County
15 when a guy and his dog can't go out to the beach and
16 take a swim. There aren't bad dogs, there are only
17 bad owners.

18 I think we if we solve the drinking problem and
19 the element problem out there, I think we'll solve
20 the majority of our dog problem.

21 So let's not make it a sad day let's find some
22 middle ground, solve the problem, and everybody will
23 enjoy it. Thank you.

24 MR. DUNCAN: Dennis O'Hern (phonetic). Good
25 evening.

0070

1 DENNIS O'HERN: Good evening, everyone. I'm
2 Dennis O'Hern. I'd like to thank you for taking the
3 time to be here tonight and hearing the public
4 comments from both sides. That's what government is
5 all about.

6 You can put a mark right next to against this
7 entire plan under my name.

8 I'd like to tell you briefly about myself. I'm
9 a boat owner, I'm an angler, a driver, a spear
10 fisherman. I'm also -- I sit out in the Gulf
11 Council, Reef Fish Advisory Panel, I do underwater
12 research. I'm no stranger to science or
13 conservation.

14 What I'm hearing here tonight, some people
15 carrying an agenda around. I'm surprised they're
16 not going to need back surgery with all the weight
17 of that agenda.

18 I read in the plan something that said there is

19 no real species of concern. And, again, I'm for the
20 conservation. We've got those little spoil islands
21 inside nobody can get to. Great. Make them off
22 limits.

23 We've got Passage Key. You've closed it down.
24 You've closed down the lower third of Egmont Key.
25 You've closed down parts of Shell Island. These are

0071

1 places I first set foot on in 1968. The stuff that
2 childhood memories brought me to come here right out
3 of college and make my life here and raise my family
4 here.

5 My daughter is 20 years old. She loves Shell
6 Island. Does it get a little out of control
7 sometimes? Yeah. These guys have got a tough job.

8 Sometimes, though, I wish these guys would go
9 right over to some the people I see, and it's just a
10 few, "Hey, guy. Let's do a sobriety test here."
11 It's so obvious. A few out of control people out of
12 the thousands.

13 This is the only place left in Pinellas County
14 to pull your boat up to a beach area. The only
15 place. Fort DeSoto, you can't do it. Fort DeSoto
16 has no alcohol. It's a park. That's fine.

17 I'd like to get to the bottom of how this all
18 slipped into being a preserve in the first place.
19 I'm stunned. It's right in the middle of Pinellas
20 County.

21 The preserve on Egmont, I was a little against
22 that, but I'm fine. Lots of nesting birds. That's
23 great.

24 But right here on Shell Island, to further
25 restrict this is absolutely insane. It's just an

0072

1 egregious usurpation of our civil rights and our
2 right to pursue happiness.

3 And I looked at the video. And I'd really like
4 to know who's responsible for that sheriff's video.
5 Because you know what? If I got to do it, I'd say
6 I'd take all my memories of the fast three years,
7 the worst times I've seen it on a holiday weekend,
8 when I've gone, "Where are the police and why aren't
9 they arresting these guys?" They're taking video of
10 them.

11 I'm sorry, guys, but I would really -- I don't
12 understand law enforcement well enough to make it a
13 point of whether you're doing your job right or not.
14 But I really don't understand why we can't enforce
15 public intoxication laws more. That's the big thing
16 I hear about it.

17 Litter enforcement, that's education and
18 outreach. You make the people stewards of the
19 environment. You tell them, "let's clean Shell up."

20 We've heard a lot of testimony here from people
21 who take out more than they take in. According to
22 some of the volunteers here, man, it sounds like
23 it's Pinellas County's landfill.

24 Thank you for your time, people.
25 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mr. O'Hern.

0073

1 Rochelle Simino (phonetic). And behind Ms.
2 Simino is Nancy Ogden.

3 ROCHELLE SIMINO: Hi. Thank you for your time
4 tonight. I'm Rochelle Simino. I'm one of the
5 directors of the Suncoast Sea Bird Sanctuary. And I
6 want to thank you for opening this up to a public
7 forum.

8 I do want to put on record that the Suncoast
9 Sea Bird Sanctuary supports the new proposal and the
10 efforts to enforce -- to better enforce the laws on
11 this preserve.

12 We're not here tonight to decide whether this
13 is a park or a preserve. It already has been
14 mandated a preserve.

15 And we know firsthand -- at the Suncoast Sea
16 Bird Sanctuary we have the largest wildlife hospital
17 not only in Pinellas County, but in the nation. So
18 we see firsthand, we see some these injuries. We
19 see the affects of the human contact on the sea
20 birds on this island and around in that area.

21 I also personally have been a boater in this
22 area for over 20 years and I have enjoyed -- years
23 ago I enjoyed a lot of time on Shell Key, but I no
24 longer take my family out there on the weekends.
25 I'll about on the week, but on the weekends it's

0074

1 just too rowdy.

2 I think eliminating the alcohol and the dogs on
3 the island would greatly help to protect that
4 preserve. It is one of the very few preserves left
5 that we have in Pinellas County, and I think it's
6 extremely, extremely import to us.

7 I also -- I see a lot of volunteers here that
8 go out on Shell Island. And a lot of them come to
9 the sanctuary and help too. So I just want to put
10 on record that we not only see and feel, but we also
11 hear about what's going on out there and how it is
12 affecting the environment out there.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you.

15 Nancy Ogden (phonetic). And behind Ms. Ogden
16 is John Ogden.

17 NANCY OGDEN: Thank you. I'm Nancy Ogden. I
18 study biology and I volunteer on Shell Key. I've
19 been doing it for years.

20 I support the suggested revisions. I only
21 recently became aware of the effect of dogs. Birds
22 nest on islands to avoid four-legged predators. And
23 bird don't distinguish between a pet and a coyote or
24 some other kind of predator.

25 And in July I saw this effect. I was looking

0075

1 for nesting birds on Caladesi Island. And as I was
2 traveling south on the beach I was seeing -- I was

3 only seeing Willets in one -- they were scattered.
4 One here, one there. At the most, in groups of
5 eight.
6 When I got to the end of the island and
7 continued on to Clearwater Beach, all of a sudden
8 about a flock of 40 Willets came fleeing north. And
9 I was surprised to see that many.
10 And then I saw more fleeing. And a few minutes
11 later I saw two women walking with a dog, well
12 healed, right close to them. And it made me realize
13 that this one dog was flushing the entire beach for
14 a mile. And I'm sure they weren't even aware that
15 this was happening, because the birds would see the
16 dog from such a distance that they didn't even
17 notice that the birds were all fleeing north.
18 We pick up garbage every time we go out to
19 count. And on Shell Key there is always more beer
20 bottles than we can carry out. We never have enough
21 bags, and it's too heavy a load to carry when you're
22 traveling the island.
23 There's never enough money to protect -- to put
24 out for protecting wildlife. It all goes to things
25 that make money.

0076

1 And you can see by the traffic and the
2 high rises we're taking over every bit of land
3 possible. And somebody mentioned Passage Key.
4 Passage Key is no more it. It has been washed over.
5 So there is less and less land or islands for birds
6 to nest on. Thank you.

7 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you.
8 Mr. Ogden, and behind Mr. Ogden is Al Davis.
9 Good evening.

10 MR. OGDEN: Thank you for listening to us this
11 evening.

12 I support the management plan. I'd like to
13 congratulate all the people in this room for the
14 democratic process that's going on here and the
15 striking of an admittedly difficult compromise.

16 I just want to make two quick points. One is
17 that if we in this county over-built,
18 over-developed, crowded, let the last remaining
19 places go where you can have a contemplative
20 afternoon, a quiet afternoon on the beach with
21 children in a natural setting.

22 We are going to essentially destroy the goose
23 that laid the golden egg in this county. And I
24 think everybody in this room would agree with that
25 statement. They don't agree on the principle of all

0077

1 you get there, but that is the truth. We are
2 watching it go away.

3 And this isn't the last stand that we're going
4 to be making in the county. But this is a
5 compromise. A difficult one, as has been mentioned
6 by several people. But a necessary one in order for
7 us to have a reasonable quality of life and to

8 sustain that into the future.

9 My second point is that this plan, as
10 complicated and difficult as it is, requires
11 enforcement, and we need a LIMA Team. But
12 enforcement is part of the game. And I agree with
13 everyone who said if the alcohol ban can be
14 maintained, that our officers, who are stretched
15 thin as it is, can spend their time on the necessary
16 job of trying to protect wildlife.

17 So let's move forward from this. Let's craft a
18 plan that will work. Let's try it out. Let's
19 exercise the democratic process. Tune it as we go
20 along, but let's preserve that area.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mr. Ogden.
23 Al Davis. And behind Mr. Davis is Cindy Davis.
24 Good evening.

25 AL DAVIS: Al Davis. I live in Gulfport. And
0078

1 we're very concerned with water issues. And we're
2 very close to the Clam Bayou situation, and we're
3 very concerned about Shell Key as well.

4 I'm conflicted on this, as I was when the plan
5 first came up. I pick up this morning's paper, and
6 I see the Shell Key Initiative, which I essentially
7 agree with, but I see in the same paper the Billings
8 conversion to 130 condos, and more large single-unit
9 houses, with federal concern for that does to
10 displace wildlife.

11 I look at the expansion at Hubbard's from
12 10,000 to 40,000 square feet. And in the same paper
13 I see an article that promotes take a kid boating
14 for underprivileged kids. Take them out. What a
15 great thing that is for families.

16 And I wondered when I look at the Shell Key
17 thing, "Are we taking them out someplace that they
18 are going to be denied access to when they grow up."

19 I would submit to you that there aren't many
20 places left for boaters to go. And I also would
21 submit that the film that we saw and one of these
22 previous meetings that was put forth by the
23 enforcement agency was extremely negatively biased.

24 And that has been my experience on the water
25 over the years. That over time the police agencies
0079

1 have developed adversarial relationship with
2 boaters. And there is a very strong tendency to
3 simply exclude people, rather than do the work of
4 enforcement. And we see that with some of the other
5 unelected appointed agencies that have impact on the
6 policies affects the water.

7 Shell Key is a place that needs to be saved.
8 But I think we need to look upstream. We need to
9 look at storm water, we need to look at the
10 development process.

11 And I would caution you to look at the new My
12 One Bay proposal, which was put forth by a serious

13 developer. It looks at 3.2 million more people, an
14 84% increase. And after we've been built out, we're
15 being asked to build up. And that would not serve
16 the environment as well. There is bigger game
17 afoot.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

20 Cindy Davis.

21 CINDY DAVIS: Hi. Cindy Davis, from Gulfport.

22 I just have one thing. I look around the room.

23 There is a bunch of people here that really care
24 about Shell Key, that care about the environment. I
25 find it very sad that we aren't working together,

0080

1 because we are facing a much bigger issue than this
2 one precious little island. We're facing the threat
3 of development.

4 And I would really -- I really think that all
5 these people should be working together, rather than
6 fighting over this island. I'm sure we'll find some
7 sort of compromise, but I think there still will be
8 huge divisions.

9 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

10 Margo Dravkovic, and then Don McNeil.

11 Good evening.

12 MARGO DRAVKOVIC: Thank you. My name is Margo
13 Dravkovic, National Audubon Society's Coastal
14 Conservation Program.

15 I want to say that I support the new management
16 plan. It's grounded in solid science. Protection
17 of this preserve is in the terms of the lease of
18 this state-owned land.

19 Isn't it time for us to take responsibility for
20 our actions? This is not an us-against-them issue.
21 There is no one to rebel against. Ultimately,
22 aren't we all responsible for the care of our own?

23 I applaud this new plan and all the hard work
24 that's gone into it, and all the staff that has
25 spent many hours making what it is.

0081

1 Thank you.

2 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you for your comments.

3 Don McNeil (phonetic). And behind Mr. McNeil
4 is Tony Baker (phonetic).

5 Good evening.

6 DON MCNEIL: Good evening. I appreciate this
7 chance to make a few comments.

8 I'm a member of the Audubon Society and the
9 Nature Conservancy and the Sierra Club and any
10 number of other organizations. So you might think
11 that I automatically support this plan, and that's
12 not exactly the case.

13 I appreciate all the work that obviously went
14 into it. It's a difficult issue. But, see, I'm
15 also a boater. I've been going to Shell Key for 40
16 years as of this summer.

17 And there is one big misconception that needs

18 to be clear up right away. In the early and mid 70s
19 there were no birds nesting on Shell Key, because
20 the entire northern part of Shell Key as we know it
21 today wasn't that. It just simply wasn't there.

22 It has built up since then. And over time,
23 birds found it. And that's great, and I'm glad that
24 they are nesting there, and I want to protect that.

25 Over the next couple hundred years Shell Key

0082

1 will probably come and go several times. Someone
2 mentioned that Passage Key is gone. I wasn't even
3 aware of that. That's a place I used to go as well
4 way back when.

5 But my problem with all of this is that if --
6 this is neat a little brochure. I haven't seen this
7 before. Somebody did a lot of good work on this.

8 But if you look at this, and you look at the
9 southern end of the county here, and Boca Ciega Bay
10 and the southern end of Tampa Bay and so forth,
11 everything you see is a preserve. There is
12 virtually no place for somebody with a boat and
13 their family and kids to go anymore.

14 And, you know, Egmont Key, a good portion of
15 Egmont Key is closed off. And an awful lot of Shell
16 Key is closed off. I'm just real concerned about
17 the trend, the direction we're headed. And I'm
18 wondering 10 or 20 years from now if we'll be
19 debating, like it's been said many times tonight,
20 you know, closing everything and no people anywhere
21 on any of these islands.

22 And, you know, that Shell Key is has been a
23 very important part of the recreation for my whole
24 family. I practically raised my kids out there.
25 And I'm wondering if my grand kids are going to be

0083

1 able to go there. I'm kind of nervous about that.

2 So, yeah, there is some good things in your
3 plan. Some of it maybe goes too far. There has
4 been a lot of comments made about that. I don't
5 need to repeat all of that.

6 I'm just real concerned about the trend here.
7 I just see us moving in a direction that ultimately
8 is going to take people completely out of the
9 picture everywhere.

10 Thanks.

11 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you. Mr. McNeil.

12 Tony Baker.

13 TONY BAKER: Yes. My name is Tony Baker. I'm
14 a boater. I've boating and going to Shell Key for
15 seven or eight years now.

16 And we're dog lovers. We take our dogs all the
17 time. We go boating with our dogs. And it's real
18 sad that we can't go anymore to Egmont Key, and we
19 can't go, from what it sounds like now, to Shell
20 Key. There's not a lot of places we can go with our
21 dogs and with the boats.

22 As a matter of fact, we spend close to 14 days

23 a year on our boats on vacation. And we go to
24 Sanibel, we go onto Captiva, because they allow us
25 to have our dogs with us on the beach.

0084

1 And I just feel that it's -- you know, I'm a
2 taxpayer, and I spend a lot of money on my boat.
3 And I could spend it right here in Florida in the
4 St. Petersburg area, but instead I have to go 100
5 miles south to enjoy that lifestyle.

6 Thanks.

7 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mr. Baker.

8 Rob Snow (phonetic)

9 MR. SNOW: How are you guys doing?

10 MR. DUNCAN: Good.

11 MR. SNOW: I just want to say one thing. I do
12 not support this; okay? I'm a native. I'm an avid
13 boater, I'm a registered boater. I could add some
14 nice credible qualifications about my education and
15 my employment as well, but I'm not going to; okay?
16 Because I'm a human being, most importantly.

17 Humans are part of nature. Dogs are a part of
18 nature. Beer is a part of nature. Beer is a yeast;
19 okay? It's made of yeast, barley, and hops.

20 Since the beginning of recorded history, humans
21 have prepared, incited fermentation, and consumed
22 alcoholic beverages. There is more historic
23 significance in the human/beer relationship than
24 just about anything else.

25 Dogs, they've been our constant companions

0085

1 since the beginning of history. Dogs came about
2 from wolves. Human beings domesticated the K-9
3 species during the time of cave man. Okay?

4 Let's preserve our history here. Let's
5 preserve our humanity. If it's an issue of
6 clean-up, outlaw glass bottles. Employ a
7 wage-earner. I'm a taxpayer. I'll pay for it. Or
8 employ a volunteer to clean up a few times a week.
9 Perhaps some idiot who has violated the no glass
10 statute.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. DUNCAN: Where were you when I was
13 explaining to my dad about beer? I needed you then.

14 John Check (phonetic). And behind Mr. Check is
15 Bob Cooley (phonetic).

16 Top that one; huh?

17 JOHN CHECK: I'll start with jeez, that's
18 right.

19 I'm a tax payer and a registered voter. And
20 I'd like to say, can't we all get along; okay?

21 You know, Shakespeare said let's kill all the
22 lawyers first. Okay? And I think the Audubon
23 Society is probably going to have a mug that says
24 "Kill all the dogs first," the way some of these
25 people talk.

0086

1 You have all of these other preserves that I've

2 been hearing about tonight that I wasn't aware of.
3 So you're squeezing the boaters out, and there is a
4 lot of responsible people out there.
5 It's kind of like if you ever saw that
6 everybody loves Raymond one where they were getting
7 married. And then Raymond does a speech and says,
8 "Let's edit it and take the good parts."
9 You're always going to find bad seeds. As far
10 as who was here first, as the one lady said, well I
11 think we all need to go home and raze our homes and
12 plant palm trees and get out of the state.
13 We're paying more taxes. We have Penny For
14 Pinellas, and we have, it seems like, less rights.
15 When I do go there, we take bag. We take all of our
16 refuse with us.
17 As far as the condoms, that's disgusting. But
18 at least they're having safe sex.
19 I have a ten pound Shih Tsu/Maltese that's a
20 killer. No doubt about it. I am not against the
21 bird sanctuary at all. I want to enforce what's
22 there. I'm not a tree hugger either. But I want
23 the birds to have an area to be in, but I don't want
24 to see it go overboard.
25 You're always going to have a few jerks, and a
0087 little lube never hurt anybody.
1 Anyways. There needs to be a middle ground. I
2 also stay out of marked areas. I've never seen
3 anybody go in there. Because if you ever try to go
4 in there, it's nasty. Just nasty.
5 As far as combustion engines, yeah, I think
6 there is areas that should not have them. But I
7 wonder how the guy got here today, unless you rode a
8 bike.
9 God even drank wine, by the way. I'm glad God
10 was brought into the whole mix.
11 And I'm against feces just like anybody else.
12 But as long as I've been around, to look at two
13 lumps and know which is dog and which is racoon and
14 which is human, I'm not there yet.
15 And Pinellas County, as everyone keeps saying,
16 is so populated. And it is. So this is -- you
17 know, where do we have to go. I work hard all week.
18 And then I'm going to go out on a boat and have a
19 soda. I'm not going to get stupid drunk.
20 People are responsible, but you're always
21 going to find those people that are just way
22 overboard, and it's going ruin it for everybody.
23 And I just don't think -- I think this is just a
24 little too much of a -- it's just going too far, in
25
0088 my opinion.
1 And I don't know if I topped the other guy.
2 BOB COOLEY: My name is Bob Cooley. I live in
3 Gulfport. I've been going to Shell Island for 20
4 years. I've been going to these meeting for years.
5 And the only reason I do it because of what
6

7 somebody said a while ago. Every year -- every few
8 years they keep coming back and whittling it away
9 and whittling it away. Pretty soon nobody will be
10 allowed to go to Shell Island.

11 And they talk about taking their kids. Well,
12 after Shell Island is closed, they won't be able to
13 take their kids either.

14 The things that I've heard about going on Shell
15 Island, I must be blind because I don't see this
16 stuff. And I'm there a lot. Been there for years.

17 You know, it's just a case of, again, you've
18 got the few wanting to tell the majority what to do.
19 And I'm totally against that.

20 And I agree with a couple of the comments I've
21 had about the videos that I saw on TV. I'm like,
22 "What did they do? Film that on the 4th of July on
23 Sunday?" I mean, it's not representative of Shell
24 Island at all. It's so out of bounds it's
25 unbelievable.

0089

1 Shell preserve is a huge place. And we have a
2 very infinitesimal part of it to use our boats. I
3 think these rules are overkill.

4 We're talking about we are only going to have
5 two sheriffs. Well, all the governments now are
6 saying, oh, we're not going to have any money, you
7 won't have this. And it's scare tactic.

8 We've got five or six different police units
9 that come out there every day from St. Pete Beach to
10 Treasure Island to environmental. There's cops out
11 there all the time. And I'm glad they're there. So
12 if something does happen, that's good.

13 But to say that there is not going to be any
14 presence out there is baloney. And I'm totally
15 against this.

16 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, sir.

17 Okay. That concludes the entertainment portion
18 of our meeting tonight. No, I'm just kidding.

19 Thank you all. I don't have anymore forms.
20 That's all the forms that I have.

21 Well, come on up.

22 JOHN HOOD: Last and probably the least

23 MR. DUNCAN: No, not at all.

24 JOHN HOOD: John Hood. I've been a resident of
25 Pinellas County for 64 years. I've been out to

0090

1 Shell Key a number of times. I'm not old enough to
2 remember Deadwood or Tombstone, but I think the
3 north end of Shell Key probably resembles those
4 places in their hey day.

5 I've also heard a lot about boaters being
6 squeezed out. I've read all 77 pages of the
7 management plan, and I don't see anything in there
8 that says we're going to restrict boaters. All
9 we're going to do is keep alcohol beyond the boundaries
10 of the preserve, just the way we do at Weedon, just
11 the way we do at Brooker. We can have alcohol up to

12 the boundary. Once you hit the boundary, no
13 alcohol. Same as all the other preserves.

14 The Shell Key shuffle, where you stand in two
15 inches of water with a beer in each hand while the
16 cop goes by, and as soon as his back is to you, you
17 get onto dry land again is not appropriate for a
18 family-oriented place.

19 The State gave part of this land to us to
20 manage. If we don't manage it properly, the state
21 is going to take it back. And the state can do what
22 it does to Tarpon Key, Little Bird Key, it is off
23 limits. No boats, no people, no nothing.

24 So if we don't adopt this plan and manage the
25 island appropriately, it may well disappear for

0091

1 boaters in the future.

2 So I am in agreement with the plan as written.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it
5 very much.

6 And, again, thanks to each and every one of you
7 that stayed here and spoke and gave us your comments
8 and thoughts.

9 I'm going to turn this over to Will Davis now,
10 before we get our advisory group of comments. He's
11 going to try to address some of the questions that
12 were asked, I think. And hopefully he can answer
13 your questions.

14 WILL DAVIS: Thank you. I really appreciate
15 yacht your honesty and you time tonight. If there
16 is one thing you-all are, it's certainly you're
17 passionate about Shell Key.

18 We wanted to answer some questions. I'm not up
19 here to make a statement or position, staff's
20 position as to what's in the plan.

21 But first, one of the questions that was asked
22 by one of the earlier speakers was the documentation
23 of the dog intrusion. We'd like to answer that
24 question for you, and point you in the direction
25 where that information is, so I'm going to ask

0092

1 Dr. Harper to address that.

2 STEVE HARPER: Thank you. Steve Harper, the
3 research director with the Environmental Land
4 Division.

5 The issue came up with the dogs and the
6 question of how do we document the dogs and how do
7 the numbers compare with the LIMA unit citations.

8 First of all, let me clarify that the dogs that
9 we're documenting are independently documented from
10 what the LIMA Unit is doing, in terms of their
11 issuing citations. So this is from the research
12 staff.

13 As we are out surveying the bird species, we
14 records the presence or direct observation -- either
15 sign or direct observation of -- somebody mentioned
16 racoons. Of course, we're concerned with raccoons

17 as well. So we document and implement management
18 strategies to try to control raccoons on the island.
19 But we do document these, and we've done so for
20 the last few years. We don't have the 2007 results.
21 We just finished the nesting season right now. So
22 these numbers are during the months that we monitor
23 for the nesting birds, so March until about now.
24 And each year we do this. We record the size
25 and type of tracks that we see; human tracks, dog

0093

1 tracks, racoon tracks. And we make a note where
2 they are on the island. And then we come back the
3 next week.

4 We're doing surveys regularly, at least once a
5 week, usually twice a week. And we make a note
6 where we've seen those tracks before, so we're
7 making an effort not to double count. Usually we're
8 not worried about double counting as much as these
9 being a really ephemeral picture, a really short
10 snapshot in time. Because the tide obviously washes
11 over a lot of the tracks that are in the intertidal
12 zone.

13 What we do is we document these and we record
14 them on a map, and we make a note of the date, time,
15 and location. So we do that for racoons, dogs, and
16 people. And you can see the numbers here.

17 One thing that you can't directly compare
18 numbers from one year to the next and say it's going
19 up or going down, because we don't run the same
20 number of routes each year. We are we might run
21 more surveys one year than the next.

22 If you would go to the next slide, Kathy.

23 This is a graph where we standardize this.
24 These are occurrences per survey route. So we run
25 typically three routes on the island, each survey

0094

1 that we go there. And we do it usually twice a
2 week, like I said.

3 So that's where, if you see, the dogs in the
4 red line are just about one. That's where the
5 one -- six occurrences a week. But it's only during
6 the nesting season.

7 Somebody pointed out, "Well, this doesn't make
8 sense. There should be 365." Well, again, it needs
9 to be clarified in the plan, the data. And this
10 data will be -- I'm pretty confident -- will be
11 included in the appendix, so if anybody has any
12 questions. So it will be a lot clearer.

13 You can see for humans and racoons it's pretty
14 variable. And somebody mentioned storms. I think
15 some of that is storm driven with the intrusions.

16 These are intrusions into twined-off areas.
17 Areas that are not meant to be accessed by people or
18 dogs. These are not on the south end of the island.
19 The people that have their dogs digging their holes
20 on the south end of the island, these don't count.

21 As long as you are not that two-month window

22 when dogs are prohibited from the entire island, we
23 don't record those tracks. These are just dogs that
24 are intruding into the posted areas where they are
25 not supposed to be.

0095

1 The next slide. Somebody brought up, well,
2 what impacts do the dogs or humans have to nesting
3 birds. These are the data summarized over the
4 last -- from 2001. This does include the 2007 data.

5 And black skimmer, one of the colonial species
6 that form large groups there, I have looked at the
7 impact. So as we monitor these. We document the
8 fate and location of these nesting attempts.

9 We can look at it in two ways for these
10 species, because they form these large colonies. Of
11 the 25 colonies that they've attempted in the last
12 six years, nine of those have been failed because of
13 humans or dogs. So 36%. You can do it by pairs as
14 well. Very similar number.

15 Similar for Least Terns. 22 to 29% of the
16 birds are directly attributed to dogs or humans.

17 And then, finally, American Oyster Catchers.
18 These are solitary nesters, so I don't have the
19 number of colonies. But 71 nesting attempts over
20 the years, 14 of which have been documented failures
21 because of humans or dogs, or about 20%.

22 So that's where the numbers are coming from.
23 I'd be happy to explain the survey methods or
24 anything else in more detail, if anybody else has
25 any additions questions. Thank you.

0096

1 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Steve.

2 One of the other questions that was raised was
3 concern over camping. And I think one gentlemen
4 said, you know, you're going to limit camping to 10
5 campers.

6 We have haven't established a number. We are
7 asking to limit camping to the south end. He we do
8 envision some kind of a license or permitting
9 system. That we think that will create more
10 accountability to the campers who are there.

11 Do I think that's going to result often in you
12 asking for a camping permit and we say, "Sorry, it's
13 full?" I think if that does occur, it may occur on
14 a holiday weekends.

15 But for the most part, it is not our intent on
16 the south end. You know, we don't have as much
17 problem as we do on the north end. But we don't
18 envision limiting camping to the point to where a
19 lot of people are turned down often. But we haven't
20 worked that system out yet.

21 And has lot of comments were made over the
22 concern over the direction of the plan. Some people
23 said the trend. Some people, as the last gentleman
24 who spoke to you, "squeezing the boaters out,"
25 "after Shell Key is closed," statements like that.

0097

1 I'll tell from you a staff perspective we are not
2 trying to close this key down.
3 We have not reduced the public areas to the
4 north or the south. This is not the battle we had
5 in 2000. We have reduced those areas. We are
6 eliminating one small public use area in the center
7 of the island, which frankly isn't used anyway any
8 more, because of the channel reconfiguration from
9 the hurricanes.
10 We're not asking the boaters -- we're not
11 shutting down more of the beach to boaters. We're
12 not in away limiting you from visiting Shell Key.
13 That is not our direction. You saw the state, which
14 is our legal obligation, the secondary use of that
15 island is for passive recreational uses that are
16 compatible with the resources. That's all we're
17 trying to establish here. We
18 Have had five or over seven years, now, of
19 research, and we see some problems on the island.
20 I, frankly, from a personal standpoint, don't think
21 the use of the island is going to decrease at all.
22 I think people will still come to Shell Key. It
23 will become a more popular place.
24 But don't let me get on my soapbox here. I'll
25 stop there.

0098

1 One of the most important things I learned
2 tonight -- I didn't want to go by without saying
3 this -- My favorite quote, "beer is part of nature."
4 I will take that back. I appreciate that.
5 And to the gentleman in the back of the room,
6 who can't identify feces. I think I'm proud to tell
7 you have I biologists that can do that. And if you
8 would like to get with us after the meeting, we'll
9 help you out.
10 MR. DUNCAN: Okay. Thank you.
11 At this point I'm going to start with
12 Mr. Sholty here and give you the microphone.
13 The hour is upon us here, but I don't want to
14 cut the advisory/work group comments short.
15 So if you can kind of give us your thoughts.
16 You heard public comments tonight. Many of them are
17 up on the board. We are obviously putting this
18 together and trying to learn from that, as we look
19 at the next phase of this plan. But if you will,
20 give us your thoughts.
21 MR. SHOLTY: Thank you.
22 In 2000 -- talking about using a sledge
23 hammer -- I thought that the management plan that we
24 are now reviewing was an elegant compromise. And I
25 used that phrase quite a bit seven years ago.

0099

1 And I think that this should be viewed as
2 tweaking, and not as a hammer, as some of you have
3 talked about.
4 The alcohol issue I think has been well
5 discussed. I will say that I go out there every

6 day. I've got a unique perspective -- almost every
7 day.

8 And I used to land on the northeast tip, and I
9 had to move. I used to land there in part, because
10 I wanted to stay away from the bird nesting area.
11 And I had to stop that because it got too crowded
12 and to hectic on the northeast tip. So alcohol, I
13 think, has been pretty well covered.

14 Most days I make four trips out to Shell Key.
15 And I drop off volunteers during nesting season and
16 migratory season about every ten days. And I take
17 locals and tourist out every day.

18 What I see is something that no one else in
19 this room sees. And that is that during nesting
20 season and migratory season on the west end of the
21 island, where there are never supposed to be any
22 dogs, there are dogs there almost every day. Every
23 day.

24 I take volunteers out there to count birds to
25 check the fence line. And as we drop them off,
0100

1 there are dogs running around in the area where dogs
2 are never supposed to be. It drives me up the wall.

3 I have passengers and tourists that I ask to
4 bring back all their trash, plus a piece or two.
5 This is on the west side of the island, where
6 camping is not allowed.

7 We've got tourists that are bringing back
8 camping gear from the previous weekend. And that's
9 why I support the camping on the south end. It's
10 just -- I thought originally it was an elegant
11 compromise, and it has turned out not to be so.

12 We've got too many dogs and too many people
13 that are running through that nesting area. And the
14 current plan and the current level of enforcement
15 just hasn't been able to stop it. And we've got to
16 do what we're talking about tonight. And I do
17 support the plan.

18 Thanks.

19 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mr. Sholty.

20 Mr. Johnson.

21 MR. JOHNSON: Given the hour, I'm going to pass
22 this along.

23 MR. GENTLESS: I'm Al Gentless, and I've been
24 going out there for nine years now. I took a year
25 off. Somebody else was doing it. But I've always
0101

1 thought, "Why couldn't we put some portable toilets
2 out there." Or I have a boat. I can put them on
3 the boat and take them out there. But I don't know
4 who I have to see or what I have to do, but I think
5 that's what is really necessary.

6 As far as the dogs and the beer, somebody else
7 will have to work that one out.

8 MR. DUNCAN: With regard to toilets, Mr. Davis
9 handles toilets. We'll get him to answer that
10 question in a minute.

11 Bill.
12 MR. KNEPPER: Hi. I'm Bill Knepper. I'm a St.
13 Pete Beach resident, kayaker, boater, camper,
14 walker, boater, taxpayer.

15 I'm sort of disappointed in the plan, because I
16 do think they used a hammer instead of tweaking the
17 existing plan. I think by making additional rules
18 it's going to make enforcement even tougher. And
19 when you make the enforcement even tougher, it's
20 going break down more.

21 So I think if we took the existing plan, made
22 some minor tweakings -- rather than banning dogs,
23 there is a lot of middle solutions. You don't have
24 to go from one extreme all the way to the other.
25 Take the dogs, put them down on the south end of the

0102

1 island. They'll be over a mile away from the bird
2 sanctuary. Okay? There's nothing wrong with that.

3 I am a little discouraged with taking the
4 little piece of land on the east side of the island.
5 Because when they I attended the Fort DeSoto
6 meeting, it clearly stated, and it was stated
7 tonight, that the intention was not to take more
8 land. So I think it's a principal.

9 The reason that was given was that the boating
10 channels have changed. And we all know that they
11 come and they go. The other part of it is it's a
12 great place for kayakers. So why not make it into
13 something that the public can use?

14 The alcohol I'm going to pass on.

15 I've been going out there 12 years. And this
16 whole feces thing just drives me crazy. I'm out
17 there at least once a week, and I have yet to see
18 it.

19 Second of all, I have a dog that does a real
20 fine job on my backyard. And I know the life
21 expectancy of that is about four days; okay? So
22 it's not like it builds up all the time.

23 Second of all, if feces is such a big deal, I'm
24 tired of walking where the birds just leave it right
25 out in the open. I mean, give us a break.

0103

1 A lot of what I hear tonight has to do with man
2 creating this problem for the birds aren't coming
3 there, okay, or they are not nesting there. But I
4 think there is a lot of bigger problems; global
5 climatization, changes in the weather, the red tide,
6 the water quality. What does that do to the food
7 supply?

8 The hurricanes. Just a couple months ago the
9 whole island was washed by a storm. Okay, that had
10 to wipe everything out. Nothing related to man.
11 Okay? But how does that show up in the counts?

12 That's all I have to say. I just hope we can
13 find a middle ground.

14 ANN PAUL: Hi. My name is Ann Paul, and I work
15 for the Audubon Society and I support the plan.

16 And I would like to say that I agree with Alva.
17 I think that seven years ago when those of us who
18 worked on the plan then really -- we came a long way
19 when we put together the original plan.

20 And it was absolutely our hope that the birds
21 would be able to do their business on the island
22 while we came out and had our recreational uses out
23 there. And I think that the plan, the current plan
24 and the past plan have allowed the island to be used
25 by the wildlife as well as people.

0104

1 The problems have been the irresponsible
2 folks, the people who have not controlled their dogs
3 and let their dogs run through the bird nesting
4 areas; the people who have not controlled their own
5 behaviors, whether they are weekend partiers or just
6 walkers through the posted areas.

7 And so we're going have to step up a little bit
8 more somehow in order to protect the wildlife and
9 the natural areas and the important portions of
10 Shell Key.

11 We're also going to, I think, need to consider
12 the fact that it is a barrier island. And sometimes
13 we need to tweak where the use is and where the
14 human use is and where the wildlife use is.

15 Seven years ago we used a lot of studies where
16 of birds were nesting, where the birds were spending
17 the winter, and during migration. And we were able
18 to set aside wildlife areas where the people weren't
19 using. So there were no -- there really wasn't any
20 conflict because the people used areas, and the bird
21 areas were in different places.

22 As we move forward in time, this island will
23 move. And we could possibly end up with true
24 overlap of where the people would like to be and
25 where the birds would like to be. And we're going

0105

1 have to evolve our decision and management at Shell
2 Key, I think, in relation to the future changes.

3 But our responsibility here is to work with the
4 State lease and the conditions of the state lease,
5 and find a way to have a real compromise between
6 the needs of the wildlife out at Shell Key and the
7 uses -- the compatible uses by people.

8 So thank you very much.

9 MR. COLETTI: Hi, there. I'm Jack Coletti.

10 We've heard a lot of stories -- some colorful
11 stories, in fact -- about picking up trash on the
12 island. It made me think about last Memorial Day
13 when my family went out over there. And my daughter
14 did the little disappearing act at the beginning of
15 the meeting.

16 MR. DUNCAN: I'm glad she's here.

17 MR. COLETTI: But we're a camping advocacy
18 group, and we went out on what was to be one of the
19 most busy camping days of the year. And we went
20 with garbage bags in hand, in an effort to hopefully

21 shame people into cleaning up after themselves.
22 But the reason I'm mentioning it is because we
23 went up and Bunce's Pass, which admittedly on that
24 day was just about wall-to-wall tents, and we barely
25 filled up one tiny little corner of our garbage bag.

0106

1 Now, I have to say -- you know the applause is
2 nice. But what my story is is an anecdote. And I'm
3 now going to read from my notes to talk about why
4 anecdotal stories are a terrible way to decide on
5 things.

6 As many of you know, I and the contributors of
7 Shellkey.org have been working for a compromise that
8 will allow us to continue responsible camping on
9 Shell Key, while meeting the preservation
10 requirements of the state lease.

11 We have tried to situation ourselves somewhere
12 in the middle of this argument, or debate hopefully
13 it is better characterized as, in an effort to find
14 solutions that are at least tolerable for people on
15 all sides of the issue.

16 The point I would like it make today is this:
17 We are voluntarily accepting additional restrictions
18 on camping activity, and we would like to know that
19 the success or failure of this concession will be
20 fairly evaluated in five or seven years from now
21 when, you know, we're reviewing how it has gone.
22 And to that end, we would like to carefully define
23 what "success" or "failure" means.

24 We've heard from many different interested
25 parties during this process. And if there is one

0107

1 thing that everyone seems to agree on, it's that we
2 should assure the well-being of the wildlife in our
3 area while retaining reasonable resources for public
4 use.

5 The problem is that not everyone agrees on how
6 to do that. And it is the unenviable task of the
7 county staff to make recommendations, which are
8 scientifically defensible and are at least tolerable
9 to the greatest number of people.

10 And while you all and the commission may need
11 to take cumulative public opinion into account, most
12 of us are more immediately concerned with what will
13 or will not produce long-lasting harmony between
14 public use and preservation.

15 So, we campers have been willing to take a leap
16 of faith that our concessions with regard to the new
17 restrictions will be a useful contribution, you
18 know, toward this goal of harmony. But we're also
19 saying that we want to make our concessions be
20 accountable to some objective criteria.

21 In seven years we'll all be here again talking
22 about the successes and failures on Shell Key. What
23 we would like to avoid is finding ourselves with
24 anecdotal or erroneous measures to gauge the success
25 of that contribution.

0108

1 You know, police videos of Labor Day weekend
2 are disturbing, but they can't tell us anything,
3 really, about the overall effect of camping on Shell
4 Key. It's not that the whole video is meaningless.
5 You might very reasonably conclude that we need more
6 enforcement on holiday weekends. But you can't
7 conclude much more than that. We know that these
8 scenes are the exception rather than the norm.

9 So let's be methodical and clear about drawing
10 our conclusion.

11 Declining nest numbers are alarming, but let's
12 be careful where we place the blame for a complex
13 problem that is influenced by a myriad of
14 conditions, both locally and globally.

15 You know, if a two-month dog ban is not working
16 because it's too confusing and doesn't cover the
17 full six month nesting period, the next logical step
18 would seem to be to extend it to the full six month
19 nesting period, rather than going right to the zero
20 tolerance. It seems fairly simple.

21 You know, I get why two months is confusing.
22 But it's half a year, summer, no dogs. Winter, when
23 there is far fewer people there, dogs are allowed.
24 That seems like a fairly reasonable middle ground,
25 to me, at least.

0109

1 What I'm saying is this: Let's take deliberate
2 steps and state exactly what we hope to accomplish
3 with these new restrictions, and base our
4 conclusions on those things which can be empirically
5 evaluated seven years from now.

6 What we have so far in the draft plan are some
7 rather loosely defined intentions with regard to
8 camping, as you mentioned. And we know it's not
9 easy to define every step in the process until
10 you've dug into the whole nuts and bolts of, you
11 know, the process and figured out what's going to
12 happen.

13 We've already communicated some of our concerns
14 about some of the items that need to be specified
15 before we can go forward with the plan. And we are
16 grateful to have been invited informally to be a
17 part of this process when the time comes.

18 We've asked for clarification on several
19 issues, including the distinction between permits
20 and licensing, and how that distinction affects the
21 notion of a first-come-first-serve policy.

22 We've asked about the viability of defining
23 individual permanent campsites, when the location of
24 campsites are almost always determined by wind and
25 weather conditions. So there are some things that

0110

1 still need to be worked out and defined, and we are
2 looking forward to being a part of that process.
3 And you all are invited to our website at
4 ShellKey.org to read our suggestions in more detail.

5 So I'll conclude by saying that we campers are
6 ready and willing to do our part to contribute to
7 the goal or harmony between conservation and public
8 use, but we want to know that our success or failure
9 will be measured fairly and objectively when we are
10 all here again next time.

11 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Mr. Coletti.

12 Ms. Abrams.

13 MONIQUE ABRAMS: I'm Monique Abrams. I'm
14 representing the St. Petersburg Audubon Society.

15 The thing I would like to say is the
16 St. Petersburg Audubon Society has never been in
17 support of closing the island. And I've noticed a
18 lot of people came up here against the management
19 plan with such fear that the island was going to be
20 closed to the boaters. And that is not something
21 that I have read in the proposed new management
22 plan, and it is definitely not something that
23 St. Petersburg Audubon society is supporting.

24 The one thing I would like to point out also is
25 that Shell Key, like many have said, is the last

0111

1 undeveloped barrier island in the southern part of
2 the county. And to me it's really, really
3 important, because it is a native ecosystem of this
4 area of Florida.

5 And let's remember that all the beaches from
6 St. Pete Beach all the way up to Clearwater Beach
7 used to be like that barrier island. This is the
8 only place, if you live in the southern part of the
9 county, that you can go and experience what a
10 barrier island that is not being developed looks
11 like. And, frankly, it is fascinating.

12 Every time I have been going out there, and
13 I've been going out there as a volunteer for ten
14 years, it has changed. And it's amazing to see how
15 the island builds up, you have different vegetation.
16 It's always different. It's very humbling. It's
17 just amazing to see the erosion of nature.

18 And I would like to point out that it is an
19 island that is reachable for people who don't have a
20 boat, because there are some regular shuttles going
21 out there. And this is place where school kids can
22 go. And where people who don't have the means to
23 own their own boats can go to visit and experience
24 this really magic place.

25 The other thing I'd just like to point out, I

0112

1 feel really sorry there was a lot of argument that
2 I've seen against -- being concerned about the dogs.
3 And I do have two dogs, and I agree it's very
4 emotional. They just love running in the sand.

5 Knowing what I know now, about beach nesting
6 birds, I can never go out and say that I am an
7 animal lover and bring my dog on a barrier island.

8 This is exposing birds -- this has been very
9 well explained, that they perceive dogs as predators

10 and fly up. This is an agonizing death. We are
11 baking chicks and eggs to their death. It's a long
12 torturous death. We cannot allow that and call
13 ourselves animal lovers.

14 I've also traveled a lot with my dog. And I
15 have been in states up north where you can let your
16 dogs on the beach during the winter, because they
17 have no birds there.

18 Here in Florida we have real snow birds. We
19 have bird snow birds. We have some very esoteric
20 species of birds who come here and spend the winter.
21 We have birds like Rednaughts (phonetic), 70% in
22 decline. They are predicted to go extinct in the
23 next ten years, if we don't find a better way to
24 manage them.

25 So I would like to do a everything I can to

0113

1 prevent them to get extinct. And not taking my dog
2 on a barrier island -- by taking my dog to the Fort
3 DeSoto dog park is what I can do, and what I can ask
4 a lot of people to do too, if they want to be
5 responsible.

6 And very frankly, tonight I think it is very
7 encouraging because it looks like so many people are
8 agreeing on so many things. We all want to share
9 the island, and we all want to be responsible.

10 And I think that can be reached. And I think
11 if we can reach that we can be a real model for the
12 whole state of Florida.

13 The whole state of Florida is looking at us. I
14 also sit on the board of directors of Audubon of
15 Florida, because we have the most densely populated
16 county in the State. And they are predicting a lot
17 of other counties to become like here.

18 So if we can be a model of coexistence, this
19 model, to say that we can be taken all around the
20 state to manage barriers islands, which is not to
21 close them to the public and can be fun for
22 recreation but also protect the wildlife that we
23 absolutely have a morality to protect.

24 I would like to really commend the staff that
25 came up with that management plan. I was also

0114

1 chair. We have a meeting three times a year where
2 all the managers of plans that have beach nesting
3 birds meet. And we kind of try to have a more
4 balanced view to protect beach nesting birds in the
5 whole county.

6 We have people from national wildlife refuge,
7 we have state parks, we have county parks, county
8 preserves, Vision Wildlife. We have some
9 municipalities, some volunteer agencies, like
10 Audubon of Florida join us.

11 And Shell Key, I have to tell you, has always
12 been a model. They come up with data. They come
13 up -- they do very sound science. The monitoring is
14 done often. They really organize it well. And they

15 really inspire the other people to do it properly.
16 They try to restrict that management to really
17 accommodate the wildlife, but also people. And I
18 would like to commend them. And I can guarantee
19 everybody here that when they come up with data, it
20 is really backed by sound science.
21 So I'd just like to keep on going in that
22 direction, that it's not birds versus boaters, but
23 all of us trying to have responsible use of this
24 island.
25 That's it.

0115

1 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you.
2 DAVE RAGANO: Okay. Here it goes.
3 This is just a reminder of what Shell Key is.
4 I put this video together over the years so that I
5 would remember it. And you get to enjoy it, and it
6 goes back ten years.
7 (A VIDEO WAS PLAYED.)
8 Another one of the reasons that we go to Shell
9 Key.
10 By the way, I inspected this grounds after the
11 party left. It was not county sanctioned. They
12 left nothing.
13 This is fun. I know some of you may not
14 recognize it, but this is fun.
15 By the way, Lorrain, no more free drinks.
16 Boating is dangerous.
17 Always a smiling face.
18 The people who will be supporting us in the
19 future after we retire.
20 There are a lot of things that are not friendly
21 on Shell Key.
22 That's one of our regulars out at Shell Key.
23 And the one on the right is Deputy Bob Barrett, who
24 passed away several years ago. Bob was very
25 instrumental in coming out on a regular basis and
0116
1 saving the birds. And there he goes.
2 This is a royal tern who is actually coming up
3 and looking for help. We rescued this bird and
4 turned it over to the Sea Bird Sanctuary. This is
5 what we do as good recreational boaters.
6 Two kids carrying away a dead body.
7 Thank you. I wanted to show you that to offset
8 the video that was done by law enforcement that
9 basically only reflected a very few bad days that
10 happened out at Shell Key.
11 All the statistics that you've seen are
12 interesting, but they are very confusing. Let me
13 simplify it for you. 99% of the violations out
14 there are parking tickets, speeding, improper marine
15 equipment, alcohol on the island, and other offenses
16 like that.
17 Felonies are almost non-existent. You cannot
18 find 1,800 acres of property in Pinellas County that
19 are as safe to go out to as Shell Key.

20 Now, here's where I get real unpopular. I
21 don't support this plan for a very unique reason
22 that nobody has brought up here. How many people
23 think that environmentalists and conservationists
24 are the same thing?
25 They're not. They are basically very
0117 different.
1 The environmentalists believe that the areas
2 that are being saved need to be left alone and that
3 they need to stay away and we need to stay away from
4 them.
5 It's already been admitted by everybody in this
6 room that the plan has been a horrible failure for
7 the last seven years. None of us are happy about
8 that. The few successes are only related to
9 possibly coincidental occurrence of maybe some bird
10 coming back.
11 They believe they can change undesirable
12 behaviors. And who determines that; the morality
13 police? I don't think so.
14 I mean, the environmentalists well in what they
15 intend to do, but it's not going happen. We see
16 this trend. Honestly, I think it's the only
17 organization within the county who's failed
18 significantly and we still give them another
19 contract to keep doing it. And we have to ask
20 ourself why, and is this time to stop.
21 The conversationalists have a whole different
22 approach. They believe in rehabilitating the
23 environment, something the environmentalists don't
24 want to do. Environmentalists want to put a fence
0118 around everything. And there will be a fence all
1 around Shell Key, I guarantee you. And all you have
2 to do is look up Tampa Bay and all the other islands
3 that exist up there, and go look at the thousands of
4 no trespassing signs.
5 The conservationists have a totally different
6 approach to this, and they want the same thing.
7 They believe that rehabilitating the habitats, the
8 areas that these birds live in is paramount to the
9 success of the animals for which they're taking care
10 of.
11 They will go in, and in some cases make sure
12 that the feeding stock in rivers, lakes, and streams
13 are replenished. They actually have caused -- and
14 I'm going to bring up one group here, and I'm not
15 going to say that this is the group that maybe we
16 ought to align ourselves with -- but there is an
17 organization out there called Ducks Unlimited.
18 Anybody heard of them?
19 Okay. You were the ones that told me about
20 them. I have done some research into Ducks
21 Unlimited. And in the last 20 years they have
22 successfully revived the migratory waterfowl
23 population by leaps and bounds. Ducks are
24

25 everywhere.

0119

1 Now, you may think this is kind of a bad
2 organization because they raise these ducks for the
3 hunters to shoot them.

4 Now, you talk about dogs and evil people. I've
5 got news for you. Shotguns are worse. And these
6 ducks come back every year.

7 Now, if we were to, as a county, adopt the
8 conversationalist way of doing this, we would have
9 birds all over that island. If a dog came into a
10 nesting area, I think it would probably get killed
11 by the birds. And I'm serious about that. Instead
12 of having a few birds around, we would be mobbed by
13 them.

14 And there is nobody in this room that wouldn't
15 like to see the birds come back. And this is a way
16 that has historically worked for the last 20 years,
17 and we're not adopting it. We are working a plan
18 that has failed miserably, and we are consider going
19 on with it another seven years. I'm not sure I know
20 whose idea that was.

21 And we don't allow hunting of shore birds, so
22 there is no reason why this population couldn't
23 actually flourish and come back in the next two to
24 three years.

25 You should also know that conversationalists

0120

1 have never asked for laws against alcohol or dogs.
2 It doesn't sound right, does it. 20 years of
3 success in bringing bird back.

4 I spoke with the southeast regional
5 representative for Ducks Unlimited, and he sees no
6 reason, with some modification, why this plan
7 couldn't bring our birds back. It can be done.

8 What we're arguing here is small stuff. You
9 want to get serious about this, you take the
10 conversationalist approach, and we'll be knee deep
11 in bird poop out at Shell Key. That is if we're not
12 already.

13 Now, there are some people in here whose real
14 intention is not the birds. And I think we just saw
15 that earlier. Some of them are more concerned about
16 what people do in their bedroom onboard their own
17 boat. They are just in the wrong place.

18 We are not at war with anyone. We only have
19 been asking to be left alone. Us in the boating
20 community, or the recreational boating community.
21 We don't like to see the idiots out there either.
22 And by the way, from looking around, I don't see any
23 of the idiots here.

24 However, we cannot allow a narrow based special
25 interest group to coerce the majority of visitors at

0121

1 Shell Key. The vast majority of boaters in this
2 area represent enormous amounts of wealth, taxes,
3 and votes. We will not be intimidated by this arrow

4 interest group that has failed in this mission, and
5 refuses to follow successful methodologies.

6 MR. HEPBURN: I'm Mike Hepburn, Soil and Water
7 Conservation District. I'll try to be brief.

8 I'm supportive of the plan.

9 MR. WILSON: Hi. I'm Jim Wilson. I'm
10 representing Mr. Browning. And I will be bringing
11 back to Fort DeSoto Park some information of -- the
12 park system is balancing recreation and natural
13 property. It's a precarious task. And this group
14 as done a real good job, from what I've seen.

15 This is coming back, also, from a third
16 generation Pinellas County resident 50 years here
17 in Pinellas County. I started my career at Fort
18 DeSoto. But I'm has boater. I'm also a dog owner.
19 And I've also been balancing you know this -- the
20 park aspect of this. This is a precarious task and
21 you've got to have rules and regulations in order to
22 hang all sides work.

23 Thank you.

24 GLENN WILSON: Hi. I'm Glenn Wilson with the
25 Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Finally we get a
0122

1 group we've been waiting for. We've been having
2 several of these meetings. The numbers haven't been
3 great. We've finally got a group that's hopefully
4 representative of both sides -- or not both sides,
5 but everybody's opinion.

6 Those that go to Shell Key, I don't think there
7 is any doubt that enforcement is a problem. I can
8 drink here, I can't drink here. I can bring my dog
9 here. I can't bring them here except for this time
10 of the year, which no dogs are allowed.

11 I think it's confusing to all the visitors that
12 go to Shell Key as to what the real rules and what
13 the real management plan is.

14 I think this management plan will clarify a lot
15 of these, and will allow law enforcement to get back
16 to the task at hand, which will be two, actually;
17 patrol some these areas that are designated for the
18 wildlife so they can do what they do unmolested, and
19 carry on without human interaction.

20 Thank you all for coming.

21 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Sergeant, for being
22 here.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, we are kind of past our
24 time here. But let me bring one issue -- or address
25 one issue that's been brought up numerous times.
0123

1 And I think it's in a state of change, but change in
2 the right direction, and that's with regard to the
3 LIMA Unit.

4 The Board of County Commissioners had another
5 workshop last -- well, last week sometime. I
6 forget. Days run together.

7 And we, the board, instructed or asked staff to
8 go back to find some for money for LIMA. And

9 tomorrow late in the day, or Friday, we will see a
10 plan that will be discussed at the budget meeting
11 next Tuesday. Which it's my hope and intent that we
12 will see significant increases above what we already
13 set for this year in the number of LIMA officers for
14 our preserves.

15 You know, it's matter of balancing priorities,
16 and I think this board -- well, I know this board,
17 if any of you watched that meeting, it was a
18 unanimous vote that they move in that direction.
19 And so I think we're going -- I know we're going to
20 see an increase in the number of LIMA units out
21 there.

22 Whether we get to ten, I'm not sure. But we're
23 certainly going to do our darnedest to get pretty
24 close to it, if not there. So there is some hope on
25 the horizon. There is some good news for all of us.

0124

1 Let me thanks each and every one of you for
2 coming out tonight. This is important. This is not
3 an easy decision.

4 Balance is very difficult. Because you all
5 have heard, just like I have tonight, the various
6 issues and the various concerns and the various
7 perspectives.

8 But the bottom line we still come back to is
9 whatever we do, we need to do it for the young lady
10 that's up here in the second row. Because we'll be
11 here. We'll take care of ourselves, folks, as
12 adults. That's what we're here to do.

13 But it's for her and other generations, our
14 grandchildren and other people that will be coming
15 to this area long after we're gone, if we're doing
16 what we are doing here tonight and having this kind
17 discussion.

18 So I appreciate that. Let me thank each and
19 every one of the advisory board members. I
20 appreciate all of your comments, as diverse as they
21 were.

22 Well, two things. One, I want to thank our
23 staff for their efforts in putting this together,
24 making this work so we all had an opportunity to
25 share our views.

0125

1 But at the end of the day, it's because we're
2 all in this together. Regardless of our perspective
3 or opinion, it's because we are all in this
4 together. This is not we versus them, or me versus
5 you, it's about us.

6 So as we leave here tonight, let's leave in
7 that spirit. And let's continue to work. We're
8 continuing to take comments. The comments you see
9 here are going to be discussed by staff and will be
10 brought to the board as we begin to workshop this.

11 The workshop date, again, is September 11th.
12 It's a 9:30 start that day. But believe me, we get
13 your E-mails. Trust me, we get your E-mails. Then

14 we get Lorrain's E-mails.
15 But we get your E-mails, and we do take them to
16 heart, and we listen to them. And we look forward
17 in continuing to work with you as we forge a
18 partnership for Shell Key in the future. So thanks
19 very much. Have safe trip home.
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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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State of Florida)
County of Pinellas)

I, Patricia Edwards, certify that I was
authorized to and did stenographically report the
foregoing proceedings, and that the transcript is a
true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am not a relative,
employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the
parties, nor am I financially interested in the
action.

Dated this 3rd of October, 2007.

Patricia Edwards, RPR