

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO ACQUIRE THE RUTLAND RANCH PROPERTIES APPROVED FOR ACQUISITION UNDER THE SAVE OUR RIVERS LAKE MANATEE LOWER WATERSHED PROJECT.

WHEREAS, Section 373.59, Florida Statutes provides that monies from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund shall be used for acquiring the fee or other interest in lands necessary for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida Water Management District administers the Water Management Lands Trust Fund Save Our Rivers and Preservation 2000 Program in the District; and,

WHEREAS, on November 3, 1987, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County submitted an application to the Southwest Florida Water Management District for Save Our Rivers acquisition of lands in Lake Manatee Lower Watershed; and,

WHEREAS, in 1991 the District completed the Lake Manatee Lower Watershed Resource Evaluation and approved 24,700 acres for acquisition in the Lake Manatee Lower Watershed; and

WHEREAS, in 1991 the Rutland Ranch offered all of its Lake Manatee Watershed lands totalling approximately 14,000 acres for District Acquisition; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 1991 the Board of County Commissioners authorized staff to negotiate with the District on a cooperative Save Our Rivers/Manatee County acquisition of the Rutland Ranch Properties; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 1996 the Board of County Commissioners submitted an application to the Florida Communities Trust for a Preservation 2000 grant for acquisition of portions of the Rutland Ranch in the Lake Manatee Lower Watershed in cooperation with Florida Game and Freshwater Fish, and Manatee County; these lands to be acquired in cooperation with the District Save Our Rivers acquisition; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Communities Trust approved the grant request; and

WHEREAS, Rutland Ranch began aggressively marketing its properties in 1996 selling approximately 1200 acres of the originally proposed 1991 Joint Save Our Rivers/Manatee County acquisition in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Rutland Ranch sold approximately 1300 acres of the lands approved by Florida Communities Trust and the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission in July 1997, leaving approximately 6400 acres available for cooperative acquisition; and

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WHEREAS, Rutland Ranch has clearly established the intent to sell this property and such sale will result in either development, intensified agricultural operations, additional ownership, and/or escalation in land value making future acquisition difficult or impractical; and

WHEREAS, the County is becoming increasingly concerned that the selling off of the property by Rutland Ranch will make acquisition cost prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of Rutland Ranch lands in the Lake Manatee Lower Watershed will further the goals of the Save Our Rivers program by conserving and protecting an important regional water supply and true water resource; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of Rutland Ranch land within the Lake Manatee Watershed will be beneficial to the residents of Manatee County and further the goals and objectives of the Manatee County Comprehensive Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that:

1. The acquisition of the remaining lands of the Rutland Ranch in the Lake Manatee Lower Watershed Project Area as shown in Attachment A are in the best interest of the County and the State and will conserve and protect a critical water resource at Lake Manatee.
2. The Southwest Florida Water Management District is encouraged to act decisively to secure these remaining lands from the current owner prior to sale to other interest.
3. Manatee County is interested in cooperatively acquiring lands as shown in Attachment A and will continue to seek financial aid from Florida Communities Trust for the unsold lands remaining in the Boggy Creek Mitigation Park Project Site.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 21st day of October 1997.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Patricia M. Glass
Patricia M. Glass
Chairman

ATTEST: R.B. SHORE
Clerk of the Circuit Court

BY: R. B. Shore

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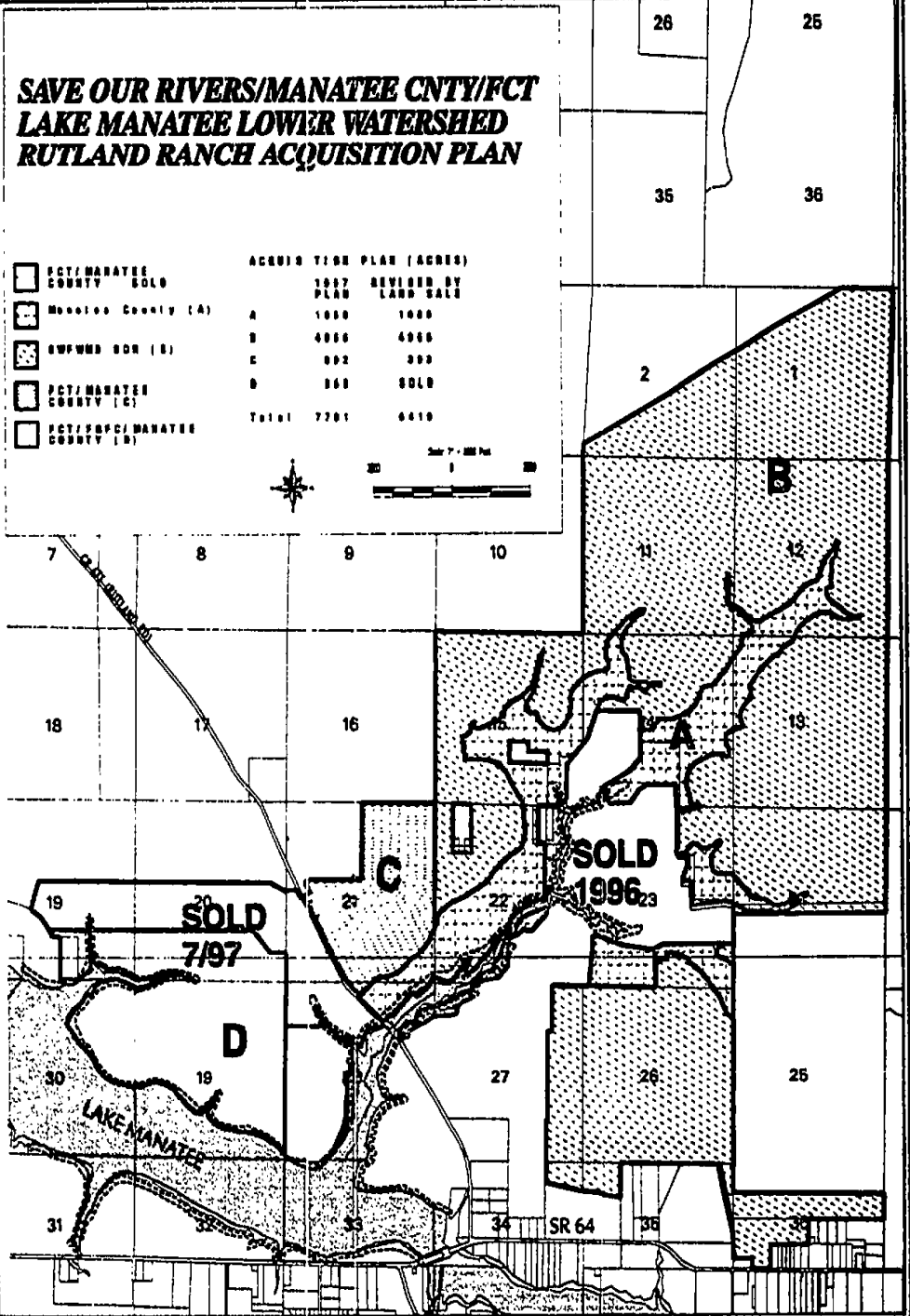
Copied to
C. V. Petty
Claire - P. Parks
10/22/97 J

SAVE OUR RIVERS/MANATEE CNTY/FCT LAKE MANATEE LOWER WATERSHED RUTLAND RANCH ACQUISITION PLAN

ACQUISITION PLAN (ACRES)

	1997 PLAN	REVISED BY LAND SALE
Manatee County (A)	1000	1000
SWFWMD BOR (B)	4000	4000
PCT/Manatee County (C)	800	800
PCT/SWFWMD Manatee County (D)	800	800
Total	7200	6400

PCT/MANATEE COUNTY SOLD
 Manatee County (A)
 SWFWMD BOR (B)
 PCT/MANATEE COUNTY (C)
 PCT/SWFWMD MANATEE COUNTY (D)



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ATTACHMENT A

*Copies to
Ernie Plu -
Clay - 10/22/97*