

RESOLUTION R-03-134

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING A TASK FORCE OF THE TAMPA BAY MANATEE AWARENESS COALITION (MAC) TO SERVE AS THE LOCAL RULE REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR MANATEE COUNTY AS REQUIRED BY REVISIONS TO THE FLORIDA MANATEE SANCTUARY ACT.

WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is responsible for manatee protection zones in State waters; and

WHEREAS, the FWC settled a federal lawsuit in 2001 by agreeing to a number of manatee protection initiatives around the State; and

WHEREAS, after the settlement agreement was entered into, the Florida Legislature adopted changes to the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act requiring FWC to notify counties for which a rule to regulate the speed and operation of motorboats for the protection of manatees is proposed, and requiring the county commission of a county so notified to establish a local rule review committee to provide comment, or allowing several affected counties to form a combined local rule review committee to provide comment; and

WHEREAS, the voting membership of a rule review committee established under the regulatory requirements shall be comprised in an equal proportion of waterway users such as fishers, boaters, and water skiers, to manatee and environmental advocates; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act provides that county commissions in affected counties may designate an existing advisory group to fulfill the role of rule review committee; and

WHEREAS, the Manatee County Commission is represented on the Policy Board of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), a regional body established to protect and preserve the natural resources of the Tampa Bay System; and

WHEREAS, under the authority of the TBEP, a regional Manatee Awareness Coalition (MAC) was formed several years ago to address issues related to the protection of manatees in the Tampa Bay System; and

WHEREAS, the MAC is an active group of citizens representing manatee advocates and other environmental groups, waterway users, and representatives from federal, state and local government agencies, and was formed to address issues related to the protection of manatees in the Tampa Bay System; and

WHEREAS, the interest groups that, according to the Florida Marine Sanctuary Act, must be represented on a local rule review committee are already represented on the MAC; and

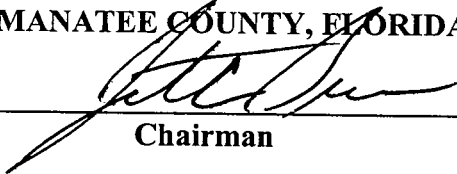
WHEREAS, the Board has discussed and agreed to designate the MAC to fulfill the role of rule review committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, on this the 3rd day of June, 2003, as follows:

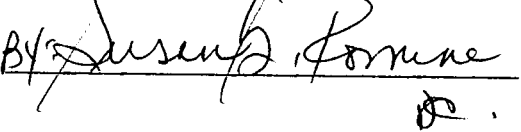
1. That the Manatee Awareness Coalition is hereby requested to form a task force from its membership to serve Manatee County as its local rule review committee for purposes of reviewing and commenting on rules proposed by FWC for the protection of manatees in the Tampa Bay System. The task force membership shall consist of equal numbers of waterway users and manatee/environmental advocates.
2. That this Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

3rd PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED, by a quorum present and voting this, the June day of June, 2003.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA


Chairman

ATTEST: R.B. SHORE
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT


R.B. Shore



**MANATEE AWARENESS COALITION (MAC)
Task Force for Local Review Committee**

Manatee Advocates

1. Friends of the Braden River (M)
2. The Ocean Conservancy (P)
3. Hillsborough Community College (H)
4. Save the Manatee Club (TB)
5. Tampa BayWatch (TB)
6. TECO (H)
7. Lowry Park Zoo (TB)
8. Alternates: Florida Aquarium, (TB)Sierra Club (TB),Defenders of Wildlife (TB)

Waterway User Groups

1. US Coast Guard Auxiliary (TB)
2. Florida Guides Association (TB)
3. Marine Industries Association (TB)
4. Dock Builder (TB)
5. Cockroach Bay Users Group BUG (H)
6. Waterfront Development -- Development Consultant (TB)
7. Coastal Conservation Association (TB) *ask both H & P county to designate a single representative for both
8. Alternates: Power Squadron (if Auxiliary declines to participate)