

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 - 45

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING CONTINUED PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF THE CONSERVATION TRACT KNOWN AS THE SAND LAKES TRACT, A PART OF THE ORIGINAL BERRY GROVES LAND TRACT, KEEPING THIS PARCEL OF LAND THAT WAS ACQUIRED IN 1999 FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES IN CONSERVATION FOREVER; SUPPORTING THE APPEALS BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, THE PELICAN ISLAND AUDOBON SOCIETY, FRIENDS OF SAINT SEBASTIAN RIVER, AND DAVID COX OF THE FINAL ORDER TO EXCHANGE THE SAND LAKES TRACT WITH CERTAIN CORRIGAN PROPERTY; URGING THE FLORIDA LAND AND WATER ADJUDICATORY COMMISSION TO RESCIND THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 FINAL ORDER OF THE ST. JOHN'S RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD APPROVING THE LAND EXCHANGE OF THE SAND LAKES TRACT.**

**WHEREAS**, since 1999 a 1,265 acre eastern portion of a parcel of land known as the Sand Lakes Tract, a part of the original Berry Groves in Indian River County, has been under public ownership for purposes of conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, this property was purchased by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) utilizing the Preservation 2000 Conservation Lands program; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to its purchase by the SJRWMD, the Sand Lakes Tract had been identified by Indian River County for its environmental significance and had been listed as a priority purchase under the County's land acquisition program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sand Lakes Tract has significant environmental attributes including abundant wetlands, native uplands and scrub jay habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sand Lakes Tract has been identified at the state level for its importance as a wildlife corridor connecting the Upper St. Johns River Basin Project with the St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed land exchange between the SJRWMD and the Corrigan's of approximately 1,265 acres of mostly upland lands land known as the Sand Lakes Tract, intended to be protected forever as conservation land under the Preservation 2000 Conservation Lands

Program, for 460 acres of wetlands land owned by the Corrigan is not in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Vero Beach, Indian River County or the State of Florida,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:**

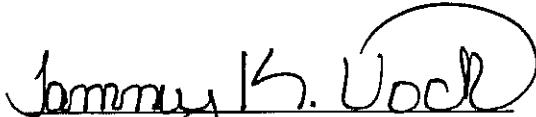
- 1. The City Council of the City of Vero Beach, Florida supports keeping the parcel of land known as the Sand Lakes Tract in public ownership for purposes of land conservation as intended by the Preservation 2000 Conservation Lands Program.**
- 2. The City Council of the City of Vero Beach opposes the proposed land exchange between the SJRWMD and the Corrigan, and urges the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission made up of Governor Charlie Crist, Agricultural Commissioner of Agriculture Bill McCollum, Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, and State Attorney General Bill McCollum, to rescind the September 12, 2007 Final Order of the St. John's River Water Management District Governing Board approving the exchange of the Sand Lakes Tract.**
- 3. The Clerk of the City of Vero Beach is hereby directed to send certified copies of this Resolution to the Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District; to Charlie Crist, the Governor of the State of Florida; to Charles Bronson, the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture; to Alex Sink, the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida; to Bill McCollum, the Florida State Attorney General; and to the members of the local Legislative Delegation representing Indian River County: Senator Mike Haridopolos; Senator Ken Pruitt; Representative Stan Mayfield; and Representative Ralph Poppell.**

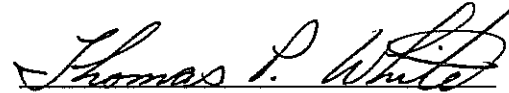
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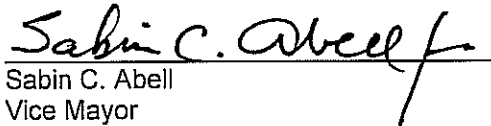
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City of Vero Beach, Florida, and signed by the Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers of the City of Vero Beach on October 16, 2007.

ATTEST:

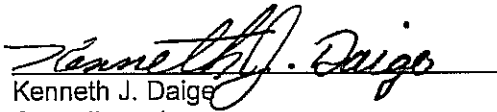
CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

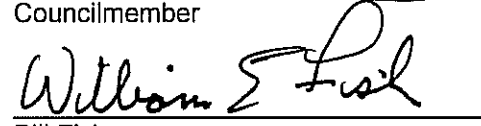
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy K. Vock  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas P. White  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sabin C. Abell  
Vice Mayor


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Fromang  
Councilmember

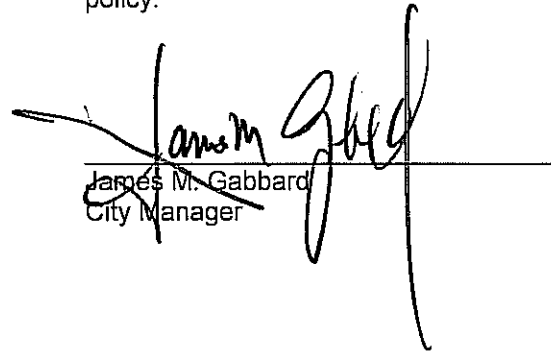
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth J. Daigo  
Councilmember

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William E. Fish  
Bill Fish  
Councilmember

Approved as to form and  
legal sufficiency:

Approved as conforming to municipal  
policy:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles P. Vitunac  
City Attorney

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James M. Gabbard  
City Manager

This instrument prepared by the  
Office of the City Attorney  
City of Vero Beach  
PO Box 1389  
Vero Beach, FL 32961-1389