



April 22, 2014

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Pinellas County Local Rule Review Committee

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Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Local Rule Review Committee (LRRC) for Pinellas County. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is required to initiate the LRRC process before proposing new or amended rules that would regulate the speed and operation of motorboats for the purpose of manatee protection. The letter we sent on January 8, 2014, to notify Pinellas County of our intent to consider rule making (copy attached) provides additional information about the LRRC process and other background information.

As stated in the letter, the FWC is reviewing western Pinellas County to determine if new manatee protection zones may be warranted. A summary and discussion of information related to this review is attached (*Manatee Data Review and Summary for Western Pinellas County*). Based on our preliminary staff review, a number of areas have been identified as potentially needing zones. The areas and a discussion of the rationale for the potential zones are detailed in a second attached document (*Preliminary Identification of Areas for LRRC Review*). It is important to stress that the potential zones are not final staff recommendations. Before we finalize the staff recommendations, we want to fully evaluate the perspectives and issues raised during the LRRC process. We therefore request that the LRRC review the identified areas and provide recommendations as to what zones, if any, should be proposed. If the LRRC identifies any other areas where it feels zones are needed, we would like to know about these as well.

We have provided County staff with the documents mentioned above as well as other documents that may be of interest. All of these documents are included on the attached CD. Geographic information system (GIS) data used in the analyses, which can be displayed, queried, and analyzed in ArcGIS<sup>®</sup>, are available if desired.

In closing, I want to again thank you for agreeing to serve on the Pinellas County LRRC. The FWC greatly appreciates the work that you will perform. I can assure you that FWC staff and the Commissioners will give very careful and deliberate consideration to the recommendations that the LRRC provides. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol A. Knox".

Carol A. Knox, Section Leader  
Imperiled Species Management Section

Enclosures