RESOLUTION 2002 - 060

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ATTEMPT BY THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LANDS TO OBTAIN GRANT FUNDING IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE MARTINS ISLAND.

WHEREAS, Martins Island is a beautiful 105-acre coastal barrier island located in Nassau County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Island is surrounded completely by brackish tidal marshes and oak trees that are the home to several threatened and endangered species of wildlife including the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and wood stork; and

WHEREAS, as one of the northern-most barrier islands in the State of Florida, Martins Island represents one of the "missing links" in a continuous network of National and State Parks and Preserves, that stretch from St. Andrews Sound in Georgia to the St. Johns River in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Trust for Public Lands, founded in 1972, is the only National non-profit organization working exclusively to protect land for human enjoyment and well-being by pioneering new ways to finance parks and open space, accomplishing this by generating federal, state, and local conservation funding; and

WHEREAS, the Trust is using its conservation real estate expertise to negotiate a contract and, potentially, purchase the Martins Island property; and

WHEREAS, the Trust is, in addition, working to secure Federal dollars through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Zone Management Program, as well as from State funds through the Florida Forever State Grant Program to acquire the Martins Island property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 25th day of March, 2002, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, as follows:

The Board of County Commissioners unanimously supports the Trust for Public Lands' attempt to obtain grant funding from the Federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Zone Management Program as well as to secure State funds through the Florida Forever State Grant Program to acquire Martins Island, off the coast of Nassau County, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

NICK D. DEONAS

Its: Chairman

ATTEST:

J. M. "CHIP OXIZY, JR.
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the Nassau County Attorney

MICHAEL S. MULLIN

h/anne/res/martins-island-trust-for-public-lands