

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 20, 2002**

At 1:00 p.m. Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, announced that Vice-Chair Cheryl Sanders and Commissioner Clarence Williams were the only Commissioners present at this time. He said he had telephoned Chairman Creamer and could not reach him. He stated maybe he is on his way. The County Attorney, Alfred Shuler, suggested the Commissioners and audience wait until 1:15 p.m. before anyone left. He said another Commissioner doesn't come to the meeting then the meeting would have to be rescheduled.

(Tape 1-23) Vice-Chair Sanders called the meeting to order. Commissioner Mosconis and Commissioner Williams were present. Mr. Pierce, Mr. Shuler, and Amelia Varnes, Deputy Clerk was also present. Vice-Chair Sanders announced this Special Meeting was scheduled to discuss the problem with the new installed boat ramp the County had installed at the Old Luau Site on SGI.

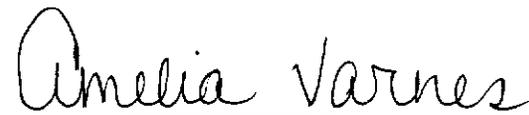
(Tape 1-27) Mr. Pierce said the County closed the Porter Street Boat Ramp on SGI. He stated the Commissioners directed the Road Department to place dirt to close the ramp and place signs around the area announcing the ramp was closed. He said the County then moved the boat ramp to the Old Luau Site. He stated he called Tom Franklin, DEP, and was informed by him he didn't think the County could get a boat ramp permit for the Old Luau Site. He said Mr. Franklin said the water depth was to low, etc. He stated after speaking to Mr. Franklin the Road Department put oyster shells at the ramp, admittedly the Road Department put them in the water, and then they had to scoop them out of the water. He said when this was done they also scooped some bottom sand. He stated he thought the County had done a good job and nothing had been left in the water. He said Tammy Summers, Aquatic Reserve Manager, was present this morning. He stated she contacted him and informed him she was concerned that this is a boat ramp and does need a permit. He explained she feels the boat propellers are scarring the sea grass beds in front of the ramp. He said Ms. Summers feels this would prohibit the County from ever receiving authorization or a permit from DEP for the boat ramp. He said it probably could be opened for canoes and kayaks since they don't have props. He said Ms. Summers sent a letter to him advising the Board they need to move the boat ramp back to it's original site on Porter Street, which is on a canal. Tammy Summers presented a copy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Law Enforcement Offense/Incident Report, the Offence/Incident Report Narrative, a copy of Section 161.041 Permits Required of Florida Law, and a copy of the Memorandum she sent to Mr. Pierce accompanied by photographs she had taken of the Old Luau Site. After Larry Troy, Steve Atkins, and Pamela Dodd spoke Michael Allen reminded the Board they closed the Porter Street Ramp because of a zoning problem in that the area is not zoned for a public facility like a boat ramp. He said the ramp was not closed for the parking problem. Mason Bean, SGI, said he did appreciate the Board's efforts this morning. He said SGI has always had a problem with water access. He said he would like to propose an alternate site. He presented some photographs and a map of the area he is proposing

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to the Board. He said he is proposing to go out on Island Drive in front of the boat basin at Harry A's and reclaim seven-acres of State Submerged Lands. He stated the area is three hundred feet by one thousand feet in a high boating traffic area, which wouldn't hurt the Aquatic Preserve since it is so deep there. He said FDOT has dumped truckload after truckload of dirt trying to re enforce the washout in the area. He explained he is not sure where the private property ends, but this ramp would be placed in front of the private property. He said the County would need the same State Permit to fill the State Submerged Land as the County received for the previous project called "Bird Island". Ms. Summers informed the Board that was a "Dredge and Fill Permit". Ms. Summers said this would still be in the Aquatic Preserve and the County would still have to go through the permit process and have to be deemed in the public interest. Mr. Bean said he had talked to Ms. Helen Spohrer, the owner of this private property, and she has assured him she would cooperate with this plan. He said the oyster workers could also use this new boat ramp instead of having to use the old site FDOT owns. Commissioner Mosconis said he wanted to ask Mr. Pierce to work with Mr. Shuler to seek a boat ramp permit for the Old Luau Site and in the meantime re open the Porter Street Boat Ramp. He stated his **motion would be to direct the County Attorney to research the Statutes and Laws presented by Ms. Summers and determine if the County can legally pursue a boat ramp permit from DEP for the Old Luau Site and if so then direct Mr. Pierce to pursue the application for a permit from DEP for the boat ramp.** Commissioner Sanders said he would also direct the Road Department to remove the sand or blockage from the Porter Street Boat Ramp and open it back up for use by the public. He said the signs needed to be removed too and this needed to be done today. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis suggested Ms. Summers place informational signs where this sea grass is located because the public doesn't know they need to be careful and not disturb the grass. He said there needed to be some public education regarding the sea grass. Commissioner Mosconis said he would like to make another **motion to direct Mr. Pierce, Mr. Bean and Ms. Summers to pursue, as a County sponsored request, a State Permit to reclaim seven-acres of State Submerged Land in front of Harry A's on SGI, a "Dredge and Fill Permit" for this area.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis asked Ms. Summers to please look around SGI and see if there was any place the County could lace a boat ramp for better water access. Mr. Shuler said he would like to tell Ms. Summers he appreciated her notifying the Board about this matter before the problem became worse.



**CHERYL SANDERS, VICE-CHAIR**



**AMELIA VARNES, DEPUTY CLERK**