

## **RESOLUTION 2005-04**

### **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PURCHASE OF THE BABCOCK RANCH**

**Whereas**, the Everglades Restoration has recognized that the recovery of the water based ecology of South Florida is dependent upon certain lands being managed for their habitat and water supply purposes, and

**Whereas**, the Caloosahatchee River watershed is an area that still has significant wildlife populations that are listed for their degree of endangerment, and

**Whereas**, the Caloosahatchee River watershed still has significant tracts of land that have maintained their ability to naturally store the water needed for habitat, and

**Whereas**, these same lands still provide in their drainage a natural hydroperiod that helps sustain the Caloosahatchee estuary, and

**Whereas**, these same lands also contribute to more dependable groundwater recharge and surface water flow that helps supply water to domestic users and utilities, and

**Whereas**, these same lands have not been identified as being necessary to urbanize for the region to achieve its economic goals, and

**Whereas**, development pressures are becoming evident as land owners face the tough choices of economic survival when current land uses do not enable owners to achieve their personal goals, and

**Whereas**, the Babcock Ranch, located in Lee and Charlotte Counties, is the largest single remaining ownership that contains the water and habitat values so important to the region and South Florida's ecological recovery, and

**Whereas**, the Town of Fort Myers Beach Council will attest that the public acquisition of the Ranch in whole or in ownership of development options will assist the Region as a whole in achieving its desirable economic future, and

**Whereas**, the State of Florida has land acquisition programs with diverse missions for which the Babcock Ranch is more than suitable in fulfilling.

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF FORT MYERS BEACH THAT:**

1. The Town of Fort Myers Beach Council supports the acquisition of the Babcock Ranch for the many public benefits it currently provides.
2. The Town of Fort Myers Beach Council requests the Governor and Cabinet to support the acquisition of the Babcock Ranch through the various programs that the Governor and Cabinet oversee.

3. The Town of Fort Myers Beach Council requests the Governor to support the acquisition of the Babcock Ranch through the various programs he singularly oversees.
4. The Town of Fort Myers Beach Council requests the Governor and Cabinet to promote the acquisition of the Babcock Ranch by other public and private entities with which the Governor and Cabinet have influence.
5. The Town of Fort Myers Beach Council commits to assist in the acquisition of the Babcock Ranch with the means it is capable of providing.

**ADOPTED THIS 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2005.**

**TOWN COUNCIL OF FORT MYERS BEACH**

*Bill Thomas*

**Bill Thomas, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

*Marsha Segal-George*

**Marsha Segal-George, Town Manager**