

RESOLUTION NO. 98-175

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE LEASE OF  
THE GREATER SHELL KEY STATE LANDS  
FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND  
TO PINELLAS COUNTY

WHEREAS, both Shell Key and the unnamed island immediately to the south have become a critical shorebird habitat; and

WHEREAS, since 1992 St. Petersburg Audubon has been monitoring the site and has documented 88 bird species using the island including 14 species which are listed as either Endangered, Threatened, or Species of a Special Concern by the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission; and

WHEREAS, several of these species are beach nesters whose nesting habitat requires protection; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission has ranked Shell Key as the second most important winter shorebird site in the State and also the site at most risk and in need of "conservation actions"; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County is desirous of working with the community to provide the necessary protection of this vital bird habitat; and

WHEREAS, the island has historically been used for public recreation; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County is desirous of managing the island so that we can ensure a blend of public recreation with environmental and wildlife protections; and

WHEREAS, the St. Petersburg Audubon Society and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Aquatic Preserve staff have requested that Pinellas County take the lead in managing this land with other local agencies and volunteers as partners.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, in regular session duly assembled this 15th day of September, 1998:

1. Request that the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund lease the upland and submerged lands lying within the greater Shell Key area which are under the jurisdiction of the State of Florida to Pinellas County for management.

2. Authorize the Real Estate Management Division of the General Services Department to make the appropriate application to the State in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Management and the Planning Department.

3. Direct that once the lease is in place that the Real Estate Management Division budget each year for the appropriate fees associated with the land lease from the State.

Commissioner Parks offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Seibert; and upon roll call the vote was:

Ayes: Todd, Seibert, Parks, Stewart and Harris.

Nays: None.

Absent and Not Voting: None.

*Lease/resshell.key*