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Working Draft of Statement between Sawmill Slough Conservation Club and University of North Florida

Curtis Bullock

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Office of Administration and Planning

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

Date: 10/10/90 No. of Pages Including Cover Sheet: 4

To: Michael Woodward

Telecopier Number: () 

Sender: Curtis D. Bullock
UNF

Message/Note: Dr. Herbert and I have reviewed the draft and made some changes.
We left spaces in which you may wish to make statements. Please
review and give me a call. (904/646-2710)

Sender Campus Address: UNF

Sender Telephone No.: 904/646-2710

Confirmation of Receipt Requested: YES NO (Circle One)

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In an effort to resolve differences surrounding the University of North Florida's planned campus road system, meetings are now being held between representatives of the University administration (President Adam Herbert and Vice President Curtis Bullock) and the UNF-based Sawmill Slough Conservation Club (President Michael Woodward, Executive Vice President Richard Eckler and Denise Hok, Vice President for Campus Relations).

Both parties share the belief that the University is experiencing growing traffic problems which must be addressed as soon as possible, while remaining sensitive to the impact which road improvement projects have on the campus environment. Sawmill Slough ~~has~~ agreed to drop its opposition to the widening of the existing UNF Drive and to withdraw its legal appeal of the permit authorizing the road widening project. As a result, an administrative hearing related to the permit for the project has been cancelled. Simultaneously, the UNF administration has agreed to take several actions to ensure that the road widening project is strictly confined to the construction area, and that its impact on wildlife and wildlife habitat is minimized.

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As part of
~~Consistent with~~ this agreement, the University ^{*Will agreed*} ~~has committed~~ to developing a wildlife and habitat protection Plan which outlines specific measures to be taken to insure that valuable wildlife and their habitat adjacent to the construction are not adversely impacted. Sawmill Slough will work with University officials in developing this Plan and in

monitoring contractor compliance with its provisions.

In response to these important developments, President Herbert indicated that, "I am very pleased with the results of our recent discussions with representatives of Sawmill Slough. The agreement we have reached will enable the University to begin badly needed road improvements. Through cooperative efforts with Sawmill Slough, we also will assure that contractors take appropriate actions to protect the campus environment throughout the construction process."

Michael Woodward, President of Sawmill Slough, ~~said~~, "agreement reached." *is also pleased with the*
Says Woodward,

Sawmill Slough has ~~we~~ have long believed the widening of the existing campus roadway to be the least environmentally harmful aspect of the current road plan--and the part of the plan that makes the most sense as a quick and economical means of meeting UNF's legitimate traffic needs. The additional environmental safeguards that ~~we~~ *are requiring* the administration ^{has agreed} to implement should make the construction of additional traffic lanes on UNF Drive even more beneficial.

(*) *Therefore,* Both the University administration and Sawmill Slough also have agreed to continue their discussions on subsequent phases of road construction planned for the UNF campus. The agreements reached thus far have resolved only issues related specifically to the widening of the existing roadway.

The completion of the loop road around the campus and the eastern connector road remain ^{as} points of difference. The UNF administration remains convinced that the planned road configuration is the most practical and effective alternative to address both current and long-range UNF traffic circulation and life safety needs. In contrast, Sawmill Slough deems the road plan both

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FROM PRESIDENT HERBERT

TO UNF

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environmentally and logistically unacceptable.

UNF will continue to pursue applications for these remaining projects, while Sawmill Slough will continue its opposition to the granting of permits for them. Both parties agree, however, ^{to continue} ~~that further~~ discussions and exchanges of information related to these projects, ~~will result in positive benefits for the entire University community~~

In reference to these on-going discussions, Dr. Herbert stated that, "I look forward to continuing dialogue with representatives of Sawmill Slough concerning the remaining elements of UNF's current comprehensive road system plan. It is my hope that we can build greater consensus on meeting the traffic circulation needs of an environmentally sensitive campus which will enroll 15,000 students by the turn of the century."

Michael Woodward stated that,

Sawmill Slough is very pleased with the outcome of our first face-to-face negotiations with the Herbert administration. ~~Although it appears that~~ we still have a big fight ahead of us on the loop and eastern connector issue, we feel that with the ~~current~~ ^{present} agreement we have already achieved a significant victory for our campus environment and for the entire UNF community. We have established that the values and priorities of our students and faculty cannot be ignored.

We also believe that a second entrance to the campus is needed. However, we do NOT believe that the second phase of current road plan, with its closed loop and its eastern connector to a planned off-campus development park, is the best way to go about getting all of us on and off campus safely and conveniently. And of course the destruction of the wetlands and wildlife habitat adjoining our campus nature trails continues to be unacceptable to us.

We also believe that public records should be just that-- public--and that no groups or individuals should be punished or intimidated for attempting to exercise their legal rights to view such documents. As always, are willing to negotiate ways to deal with UNF's traffic needs and environmental concerns, but the civil rights of UNF students are not negotiable.