The Officers and Directors being properly convened per the By-Laws dated October 3, 2019, and thus speaking for the entire membership of the Society, states:

Francis M. Weston Audubon Society (FMWAS) commends the City of Pensacola led by the Honorable Grover C. Robinson IV, Mayor and a notable staff including Community Redevelopment Area, Executive Director, Helen Gibson, for their steadfast advancement of projects to reconnect the City to Pensacola Bay.

FMWAS further applauds the presciently planned and bond-funded resources for the Bruce Beach project for the potential that a Gulf Coastal Lowlands native plant focused Bruce Beach can yield. The Society has led a coalition including the City, Long-Leaf Pine Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society, Audubon Florida and the University of West Florida that recently won a funding award from Gulf Power Foundation for a project: “Native Plants for Native and Migratory Birds at Bruce Beach.”

FMWAS equally shares our concern about the scientifically inevitable negative environmental effects on habitat and adjacent waters of the Bruce Beach site by the proposed Community Maritime Park Day Marina. The Society urges that the potential value of the Bruce Beach site and adjacent waters not be underestimated. The thousands of ducks, geese, mergansers, loons and other waterfowl visiting Pensacola Bay and Bruce Beach are a significant eco-tourism advantage worthy of “Great Florida Birding Trail” designation. Our eco-tourism advantage is threatened by Community Maritime Park Day Marina particularly in the winter and nesting season.

Therefore let it be resolved;

FMWAS and our 600 members oppose the proposed Community Maritime Park Day Marina, as designed, because of potential negative environmental effects to Bruce Beach. However, in the spirit of community-compromise, FMWAS proposes in lieu of a redesigned Community Maritime Park Day Marina seaward entrance that the City of Pensacola petition Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to designate the entire Bruce Beach site and adjacent waters as a Florida Marine and Bird Sanctuary and that from November until April the Community Maritime Park Day Marina be limited to non-petroleum powered watercraft.

Michael R. Brower
President, Francis M. Weston Audubon Society