

**Draft Motion**  
**Mullet Pond**

The Parliament of St. Maarten, in its meeting of today, April 17, 2013

CONSIDERING:

- That the Preamble of the Constitution of Sint Maarten states: “WE, THE PEOPLE OF SINT MAARTEN”, (are) “...*DETERMINED to care for the perpetual maintenance of nature and the environment*”;
- That Article 22 of the Constitution of Sint Maarten states that: “*It shall be the constant concern of the government to keep the country habitable and to protect and improve the natural environment and the welfare of animals*”;
- That Sint Maarten’s ponds have been recommended for protection in reports such as *The Ponds of Sint-Maarten, (Ecovision, 1996), the Carrying Capacity Study, the Tourism Masterplan* other reports and studies which concluded that the ponds are of ecological and environmental importance;
- That until 1950 Dutch Sint Maarten boasted at least 19 ponds (all documented in maps available at the Cadastre’s office); by 1995 this had been reduced to 10 ponds and today 18 years later less than 5 remain intact;
- That recent surveys by the Nature Foundation and Environmental Protection In the Caribbean indicated that Mullet Pond is a relatively intact ecosystem;
- That recent research supported by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has valued mangroves forests at more than \$900.000,- or 1.620.000,- guilders per square kilometer per year;
- That a recent calculation made by the Nature Foundation based on the model for economic valuation of ecosystems as created by the World Resource Institute, estimated that the Mullet Pond ecosystems contribute an estimated \$792.000,- annually to the St. Maarten economy in goods and services.
- That our marine ecosystem relies on mangroves, whose complex root structure protects juvenile sea-life from predators and storms. Many of our reef dependent fish rely on mangrove forests as a nursery until they are able to survive in the open ocean. Countless organisms cling to these roots, serving dual roles as a food source and as filter feeders which remove pollutants from the water;
- That the Mullet Pond houses over 70 percent of the remaining mangrove trees on the Dutch side of the Simpson Bay Lagoon;
- That there is ongoing public debate and ever-growing concern about the destruction of St. Maarten’s wetlands and the overall state of St. Maarten’s natural environment;

- That it is desirable to set rules and regulations for the conservation and protection of Flora and Fauna and to establish Nature Parks on Country St. Maarten.
- That St. Maarten is signatory to various treaties concerning the conservation and protection of Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats. Including the Ramsar Convention/Convention on Wetlands, the Cartagena Convention and its Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), The Convention on Migratory Species. (CMS or Bonn Convention);
- Articles 10, 12, 13, 14 of the “*Landsverordening grondslagen natuurbeheer en –bescherming (P.B. 1998, 49)*”;
- Article 8 of the “*Landsbesluit natuurbeheer en –bescherming Sint Maarten (AB 2003, 25)*”.

**RESOLVES:**

- That the Parliament of St. Maarten is in favor of protecting Mullet Pond and establishing the entire Mullet Pond and the associated mangroves as a Nature Park as described in Article 8 of the “*Landsbesluit natuurbeheer en –bescherming Sint Maarten (AB 2003, 25)*” and Article 10 of the “*Landsverordening grondslagen natuurbeheer en- bescherming (P.B. 1998, 49)*”.
- To charge the Council of Ministers, specifically the Minister of VROMI with the task of taking the necessary measures towards establishing the entire Mullet Pond as a Nature Park and to zone the entire Mullet Pond for conservation purposes as described in the abovementioned ordinances and further provided for in the “*Landsverordening ruimtelijke ontwikkelingsplanning Sint Maarten (A.B. 1993, nr. 13)*” within 180 days of the passing of this resolution.

**And goes over to the order of the day.**

**Copies of this motion to be sent to:**

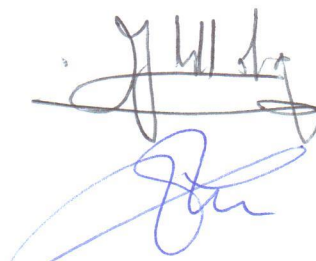
**The Governor of Sint Maarten  
The Government of Sint Maarten  
The Council of Advice of Sint Maarten**

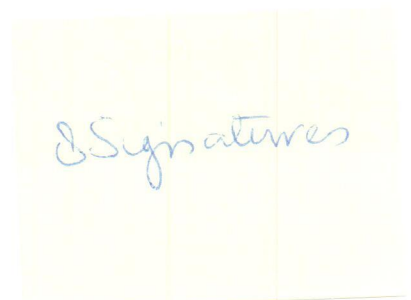
  
MP. Frans Richardson

  
MP. Louie Laveist











STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN  
Wednesday, April 17, 2013 Public Meeting no. 5  
Voting list

M11  
FGE

Mullet Pond  
Motion no. 11 date: April 2013

NO.	NAME	VOOR/FOR	TEGEN/AGAINST
1.	drs. R.E. Samuel	✓	
2.	G.C. Pantophlet	✓	
3.	Patrick G. Illidge	✓	
4.	H.L. Richardson	✓	
5.	Petrus L. de Weever	_____	
6.	F.G. Richardson	✓	
7.	Lloyd J. Richardson	✓	
8.	Romain J. Laville	✓	
9.	Roy R. Marlin	_____	
10.	Johan E. Leonard	_____	
11.	Silvia V. Meyers-Olivacce	_____	
12.	Jules C. James	_____	
13.	Louie E. Laveist	✓	
14.	Gracita R. Arrindell	_____	
15.			
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