

The monthly board meeting of the Board of Commissioners, WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT, was held June 20, 1977 in the Sarasota County Commission Hearing Room, Sarasota, Florida.

Present were: Dan P. McClure, Chairman, Manatee County
Don Jones, Vice Chairman, Pinellas County
Larry Rhodes, Treasurer, Sarasota County
R. Douglas Taylor, Secretary, Lee County
Arnold F. Schade, Charlotte County

Charles E. Furbee, Executive Director
Dewey A. Dye, Jr., Counsel

Absent was: Jerry M. Bowmer, Hillsborough County

Guest: Mr. H. Jack Woodard, Assistant Director,
Division of Resource Management, DNR, Florida

ADMINISTRATION

The meeting convened at 10:45 a.m.

Minutes of the May regular board meeting held May 16, 1977 were approved as presented.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. H. J. Woodard to the board meeting.

The Treasurer's Report for May, 1977 was approved as presented. The Director presented two vouchers for Board consideration since these were for a) annual subscription dues \$200.00 or, for b) the annual subscription plus \$50 for solicited subscribed support for the National Waterways Conference, Inc., Washington, D.C., and he recommended Board approval for the voucher with \$50 added support. The Board concurred to authorize the V-966 for \$250 and to delete the V-965 for \$200 dues only. Following this action, the vouchers #948 through #966, deleting V-965, were approved for payment.

WCIND Resolution No. 77-03: WCIND Tax millage for FY 1977-78 In accordance with the Board's approval of WCIND budget submitted in May to the State Cabinet for approval which was received here on June 7, 1977, the WCIND resolution was adopted to authorize 00.01 mill tax levy for the six Counties, WCIND. Copies of Resolution No. 77-03 are furnished to the respective Board of County Commissioners in each of the said counties of WCIND and to the State Comptroller.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Preliminary Report on IWW The Director reviewed the past request to the C.E. and its study report received August, 1976, in its general scope for disposal area requirements for the West Coast Waterway of Florida. As reported for 1971-1975, the Benefit to Cost ratio is (2) to (1); by comparison on feasibility, the Cost/Benefit usually runs (1-1/2) to (1). These are not an in-depth study but, if recreational benefits are estimated, it could run as high as (\$4) Benefit to (\$1) Cost.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS

The South Venice Civic Association members addressed WCIND: Mr. Barr, Mr. Charles Drolet, president, and Mr. Schwabe, treasurer,

stating that the north side of Manasota Key as being inaccessible. Mr. Barr spoke in reference to the local Ferry service for property owners in accordance with the past WCIND agreement and WCIND payment of \$150,000 for ferry access instead of a footbridge which was removed during IWW construction. Dredging is a necessary requirement which is estimated to be \$14,000.

Mr. Dye, Counsel, reviewed the problem during time of IWW construction and the final settlement was a Ferry system with WCIND funding \$150,000 and settlement expense as agreed in a full, final settlement and was duly accepted by the South Venice Civic Association.

Commr. Rhodes reported that he did not believe that the SVC Association has approached Sarasota County for any aid or assistance in this area. The beach is privately owned but it is connected to the County Beach. The Chairman asked: "What does the SVC Association request?"

Mr. Barr: "Help - in the form of any help for the dredging needed now."

Mr. Dye: "It was considered at one time to combine the two beaches into one beach for maintaining the facilities. The WCIND can be of help in getting permits needed.

Mr. Barr: "The original cost \$150,000 per the agreement was for the perpetuity access by Ferry. Expenses disbursed from this WCIND payment have been reported to the Ass'n members since 1964 to a current deficit."

Mr. Drolet: "There are the two beaches 800 feet between the 2600 feet for beach from the Caspersen property."

The Chairman: "The WCIND Board is extremely sympathetic to the problem but there is a legal question re the WCIND spending public funds for it."

Commr. Rhodes: "Referring to Mr. Drolet's reports of the silting in of the channel, perhaps if the silting has been caused by IWW traffic then maybe WCIND could assist in this solution."

Chairman: "How about Sarasota County participation re the County beach?"

Commr. Rhodes: "The Sarasota County Water & Navigation Control Authority could make a study and report for Sarasota County with added help from the C.E. and from the State without cost to WCIND."

Commr. Schade: "The obligation first is with Sarasota County."

Mr. Dye, Counsel, stated that he questioned any WCIND liability re the silting cause for IWW. He suggested that the SVC Association get the State DER permit; then, if the C.E. maintenance is planned, get channel dredging held while it is in the area. He recommended that the Ass'n work toward obtaining the necessary permits for dredging.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Charlotte County

Placida Bridge (SCL Railroad Bridge) - The SCL Railroad Company/WCIND agreement was reviewed for the bridge built in 1972, costing \$922,000, for the railspan over the IWW. Assurances by the SCL Company officers

stated that facilities would be used for operations to justify the WCIND commitment. Letter now recently received in nearby Counties states that SCL Railroad Company goes on record that it anticipates discontinuing phosphate loading operations three years from this notice per the State requirement. Both Lee County and Charlotte County people have declared their objections to this proposed action. This bridge will have been in operation (7) years when closed down, rather than the committed (50) years.

Mr. Dye stated that WCIND should not take for granted that the ICC will grant the SCL Railroad Company the proposed action. The SCL Railroad Company should be held responsible for the unamortized funds portion.

Commr. Taylor reported that Lee County has sent in its resolution of objection to this proposed action of the SCL Railroad Company.

Commr. Jones: "I move to send the SCL Railroad Company a resolution re the WCIND objection!" The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Dye recommended that WCIND should get its record files together in preparation for trial if this becomes necessary.

Commr. Rhodes: "I move that the WCIND Attorney follow through with the necessary legal action; the motion was seconded and carried.

Stump Pass The Director reported on efforts to get Stump Pass dredged. WCIND has pledged \$75,000 toward the C.E. dredging of this Pass. This and the need for beach nourishment as related subjects will be referred to the Corps of Engineers. Commr. Schade submitted current photos.

Regulatory Signs The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Charlotte County have sent requests to the C.E. that a study be made.

SARASOTA COUNTY

Manasota Key Lot Sale - Parcel No. 7 This sale has been completed.

Venice Canal Bank Treatment - Added work will be done on Venice Jetties which is regular maintenance work expense borne by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Hatchett Creek Dredging Report - Final inspection is to be done with WCIND cooperation for this civic project.

MANATEE COUNTY

Longboat Pass Dredging Project - June 14 advertised bids are to be opened by July 14, 1977. Beginning September, the contract's estimated time for the project is three months for the removal of 100,000 cubic yards per month.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Hillsborough County 1977 Legislation - Mr. Woodard submitted a copy of the law, Senate Bill #0845 which was passed and states..."any County can withdraw from the WCIND...to take effect July 1, 1977." It was

noted that WCIND agreed to Senate Bill (856) for only Hillsborough County limitation and this was to take effect in 1978, not 1977.

Mr. Dye reported that there had been a tremendous amount of misinformation. The WCIND LETTER dated May 16, 1977, agreeing to S.B. 856 for Hillsborough County only withdrawal from WCIND and the effective date 1978 rather than 1977, which was to be hand-delivered by Commr. Bowmer in Tallahassee on May 16, 1977, was never presented to the Committee in Tallahassee. Information was given that S.B. 845 was supported by WCIND as well as Pinellas County and the S.B. 845 was passed while the WCIND was concentrating on S.B. 856. Mr. Dye stated that no mechanics in the S.B. 845 is provided as to responsibility or obligations; also, there is a question of legality. By July 1, 1977, the WCIND must decide. Mr. Dye stated that he did not know how the law is being administered.

The Director gave a report on a study of County contributions. The Hillsborough County currently has \$155,000 obligation with the WCIND.

Mr. Dye stated that the obligation may be passed on to assessed values. Hillsborough County would have no right to future proration of assets. WCIND may explore as to an agreement with Hillsborough County as to the obligations being settled.

The Chairman referred to Commr. Bowmer's statement of May 16 regular board meeting that he would appeal to Hillsborough County to commit itself for the year 1977-1978.

Commr. Jones referred to the Hillsborough County proposed plan for its own withdrawal from WCIND on July 1, 1977, noting that point in time.

Chairman: The WCIND Counsel and the Director will follow through with the investigation of status as to the Hillsborough County plan to withdraw; they will make their report at the next meeting.

PINELLAS COUNTY

Crystal Beach Property - WCIND received correspondence recently from Pinellas County Department of Grants Development re the Water Resources Development Program Projects for FY '79; also, the plan to request an additional navigation study by the Corps of Engineers in FY '79 for two areas in Pinellas County, a) navigation channel from St. Joseph Sound to Gulf through Dunedin Pass and b) feasibility of developing an alternative disposal site for the Crystal Beach area into a prototype manmade estuarine system. A request was made that WCIND will be able to endorse these two projects. The Director reported this for future consideration.

The ACTIVITIES REPORT was accepted as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Waterways Conference, Washington, D.C. meeting June 22-24. The Director will attend this annual meeting with the Florida Ports & Water Resources Breakfast with Florida delegation.

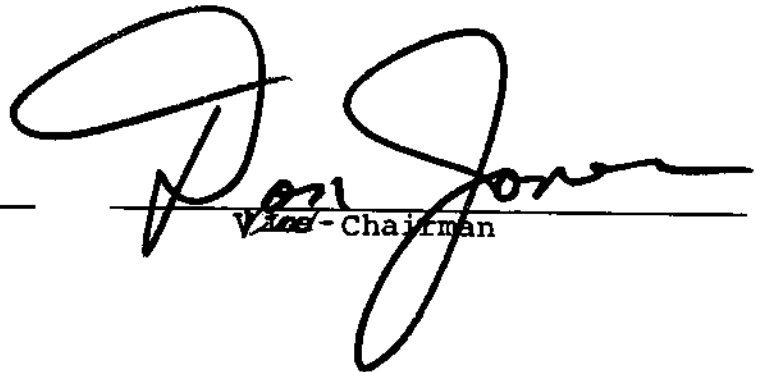
NEXT MEETING - The next monthly board meeting date is to be the third Monday, August 15, 1977. Members will be poled for any prior meeting date; if July, the third Monday, July 18, 1977.

NEW BUSINESS

Longboat Pass Project Permits And Documents - These requirements have been sent forward by Mr. Dye. The WCIND will have to monitor. Commr. Taylor moved that Attorney Dye be authorized to perform this verification; the motion was seconded and was carried. Commr. Rhodes moved that the Chairman execute for WCIND the amendments to documents necessary re the project as submitted by Mr. Dye; this motion was seconded and was carried:- see resolution No. 77-04 for June 20, 1977.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.


Assistant Secretary


Vice-Chairman