May 11, 1955

The regular meeting of the West Coast Inland Navigation District was held in the Court House in Bradenton, Florida, Wednesday, May 11th, 1955 at 2:00 p.m.

Present were

Ellsworth Simmons, Chairman	Hillsborough County
Matt Weeks, Vice Chairman	Charlotte County
Wilson Pigott, Secretary	Lee County
G. M. Nelson, Member	Sarasota County
Charles R. Fischer, Member	Pinellas County

J. E. McLeod, Treasurer, (Manatee County) was not present.
J. K. Merrin, Engineer
Dewey A. Dye, Jr., Attorney
Fred W. Ball, Executive Secretary
J. Hardin Peterson, Special Attorney

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Simmons.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read on motion by Mr. Fischer, seconded by Mr. Pigott and carried.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented on motion by Col. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Weeks and carried.

Receipt of $1,500.00 from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, to apply on expenses in connection with survey of submerged lands in the right of way of the waterway route, was acknowledged.

The request from Eastern Kentucky State College for information for academic research was referred to Attorney Peterson.

Mr. Merrin, engineer, reported that all property owners in the Venice area right of way had been contacted personally with the exception of three and that letters had been written to them, but had no commitments at this time. He also reported that he, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Ball had conferred with the Corps of Engineers in Jacksonville and certain information requested by them would be furnished as rapidly as possible.

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Upon being advised by Mr. Merrin that construction drawings could not be made until federal appropriation was made, Mr. Peterson stated that he thought it possible that the district could advance funds for the purpose of preliminary surveys, etc., outlined by the engineer and receive credit on local contribution (upon approval of Corps of Engineers chief) for reimbursement by the federal government.

Chairman Simmons reported that he had conferred with Washington delegates and that it was doubtful that an appropriation by the 83rd Congress (current) would be made. Letters from Senator Spessard L. Holland and Congressman James A. Haley were read, in which cooperation in trying to obtain federal funds was expressed as soon as the survey is completed, the fair amount of local contribution for re-location determined, and the cost of the project ascertained.

During the discussion of acquisition of right of way, Mr. Merrin stated that 90 per cent of the right of way was submerged properties under the jurisdiction of the T.I. Board and only a small portion would be necessary to be negotiated for and/or condemned.

Chairman Simmons and Attorney Dye reported on conference with the legislative delegation regarding legislation for the District. Mr. Dye read the proposed bill, revised, which was agreed upon by the delegation. Upon motion by Mr. Pigott, seconded by Mr. Nelson, the bill was approved in its revised form and wire to that effect was authorized sent to Tallahassee.

AB1050

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Motion was made by Mr. Pigott that a copy of the Minutes of the meetings of the West Coast Inland Navigation District be sent to the Boards of County Commissioners of the counties comprising the District (directed to the attention of the representative members). Motion was seconded by Mr. Fischer and carried.

Mr. Fischer asked what procedure should be taken by anyone desiring connection with the waterway (cities, developers of subdivisions, private citizens, etc.) Mr. Peterson advised that application should be made to the Corps of Engineers for permission to dredge at own expense.

Bills supported by Vouchers No. 1036 to No. 1072 were approved for payment on motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Pigott and carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Fishcer, seconded by Mr. Pigott, the Board adjourned to meet Wednesday, June 15th, 1955 at 2:00 p.m.

Wilson Pigott
Secretary

Chairman