

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2004 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Nora Patterson, Chair
Ray Judah, Vice Chair
Joe McClash, Treasurer
Tom D'Aprile, Secretary

Staff Present:

Charles W. Listowski, Executive Director
Philip E. Perrey, Counsel

Chair Nora Patterson opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL. Mr. Listowski called the roll and determined that a quorum was present.

Mr. Listowski reported to the Board on the recent passing of three important people to the WCIND: Mr. Rich Novak, Mr. Jeremy Craft, and Dr. Gustavo Antonini. Mr. Novak, the Florida Sea Grant Agent for Charlotte County, was recognized for his work on developing the County artificial reef program and he was recognized in the southeastern United States for his work on bluefin tuna research and the invention of a venting tool for catch and release fishing. Mr. Jeremy Craft was recognized for his many years of service in the State of Florida government and, most recently, as Director of the Environmental Resource Permitting process. Mr. Craft also was instrumental in the initiation of the District Notice General Permit process. Dr. Antonini was a pioneer, innovator, and worldwide authority on boating and developed the waterway management system approach with District staff. Commissioner Patterson acknowledged the accomplishments of these individuals and echoed the sense of loss to the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S COMMENTS – Mr.

Listowski reported on the current activities involving general permitting that is underway between the District and the FDEP. He also related the potential match funding available from the FDEP Erosion Control Assistance Program and will advise the Board in a more formal fashion at a subsequent meeting.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' COMMENTS - Mr. Listowski reported to the Board the difficulty in scheduling attendance by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative in light of current federal funding constraints.

CONSENT AGENDA – Commissioner Judah made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner McClash, and the motion passed unanimously.

1. FY03-04 Audit Report Review – Mr. Listowski stated that the audit report is clean and unqualified, the highest level a CPA firm can place on audited financial statements. Total liabilities and fund equity were \$6,359,675 and total revenues were \$18,450 over budget. Commissioner McClash made a motion to accept the financial audit by

Christopher, Smith, Leonard, Bristow, Stanell & Wells, P.A. for fiscal year 2003, and motion was seconded by Commissioner D'Aprile. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Report on Washington Liaison Activities – Mr. Listowski discussed the contractual arrangement with the firm, Alcalde & Fay, which represents the District in Washington, D.C. It was Commissioner Patterson's desire, with a consensus from the Board, that regular reports on this liaison activity be given.
3. Letters of Support for GIWW Improvements through Congressional Delegation Process – Mr. Listowski requested that the Board strongly suggest to their respective Boards of County Commissions and other municipalities that letters of support for the GIWW improvements initiative be sent. Mr. Listowski suggested to the Board that the agenda for liaison activities could be expanded to include other issues of importance to the Board. Commissioner Patterson indicated the need to look at the status of New Pass. Commissioner McClash indicated an area in Pinellas County, south of the Tampa shipping channel, that was shoaled in. Mr. Listowski assured the Board that he would look into including these and other pertinent subjects on the consultant's activities list, and also requested that Sarasota County's lobbyist may be approached to collaborate with the District liaison. Commissioner Patterson indicated that she would check on this potential collaboration with the County Manager. Further discussion ensued regarding the conditions at Big Pass and New Pass, both located in Sarasota County. The issue of bringing other subjects, besides the GIWW improvements initiative for \$1.014 million was discussed, and it was decided to concentrate on the GIWW this upcoming congressional budget session.
4. Charlotte County Requests for Assistance – Mr. Listowski discussed the Charlotte County request, through Commissioner Horton's office, to get federal assistance to determine means to improve conditions of navigability in Lemon Bay, especially regarding water flows since the construction of the GIWW. After some discussion, Commissioner McClash made a motion to request a USACOE's presentation of programmatic and funding options for improvements. Commissioner Judah seconded the motion, and motion passed unanimously. Commissioner D'Aprile outlined a problem of the deteriorated entrance channel in the area of Spring Lake (east and west). Commissioner Patterson suggested that proper format for request for assistance would be a motion. Commissioner D'Aprile made a motion for the Board to direct Mr. Listowski to assist Charlotte County in obtaining historical authorization information as a pre-requisite for a permit. Commissioner McClash seconded the motion, and motion passed unanimously.
5. Manatee County Projects – Report – Mr. Listowski reported to the Board that the FDEP had issued a Notice of Intent to authorize the Crosley dredging project. Mr. Listowski also reported progress on pre-construction activities for Palma Sola and San Remo Channels in Manatee County. After much discussion about the variability of dredging projects, designs, and methodologies, Commissioner McClash suggested that staff come back at a subsequent meeting with a dredge classification report,

which might include information about dredging costs per yard using different methods.

6. Sarasota County Projects – Report – Mr. Listowski reported on the current activities on the Phillippi Creek dredging project, which is tentatively scheduled for completion of the current phase in September 2004. Counsel Perrey reported on the progress regarding the use agreements for the Boys & Girls Club building project on District properties in Venice. Final submittal for USACOE consideration has been made.
7. Lee County NGP Initiative – Report – Mr. Listowski reported to the Board that there was another NGP meeting scheduled in May for the Lee County NGP initiative. So far, there are 41+ waterbodies under consideration to be included in this NGP.
8. Preliminary Budget Discussion – Mr. Listowski presented a preliminary view of anticipated budgetary needs for FY04-05. He also suggested, that for budget development purposes, it would be helpful that the Board approved a millage rate at present time to allow for budget formulation. Commissioner McClash made a motion to maintain the existing millage rate of .04 for FY04-05. This motion was seconded by Commissioner D'Aprile and passed unanimously.
9. Next Board Meeting Date – Due to schedule conflicts, the Board decided to cancel the May meeting. The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, July 30, at 10:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mr. Listowski reported that he would be attending two meetings regarding manatee rules and regulations. One meeting is sponsored by the State in Orlando on May 13, and the other will be conducted at Florida Gulf Coast University on May 14.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.