

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2010 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Ray Judah, Chair
John Chappie, Treasurer
Nora Patterson, Secretary
Robert Skidmore, Vice Chair

Staff Present:

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

Chair Ray Judah opened the meeting at 2:30 p.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, Florida.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Charlie Hunsicker, Manatee County, and Mr. Laird Wreford, Sarasota County, addressed the Board regarding a proposal to be more prepared in the event of another incident in the future, like the Deep Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Observations by County staff of the challenges associated with impacts to the Florida panhandle communities reflect the need for a protection plan for our SW Florida inlets and passes regarding these kinds of threats to our sensitive ecosystems.

Commissioner Patterson questioned funding needs to develop such a protection plan. Mr. Wreford suggested the scoping of a protection plan would address details such as implementation, and Mr. Hunsicker noted the primary responsibility of the United States Coast Guard. Commissioner Skidmore noted that such a plan should maintain a regional focus. He also noted that the BP claims office has recognized Charlotte County's request for funding to defray losses to the County's economy from the spill, and suggested that BP continue to be a potential source of funding for damages associated with the spill. After some discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Chappie for the development of a conceptual plan, coordinated through WCIND, regarding a pass and inlet protection plan focusing on emergency conditions and impacts to sensitive bay systems, estuaries, inlets, and passes within the District's jurisdiction. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Skidmore, and motion passed unanimously. Another motion was made by Commissioner Skidmore to explore funding sources, with a focus on BP, to satisfy needs of oil spill impacted communities within the District's jurisdiction. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Patterson, and motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported to the Board that the MOA between FDEP/WCIND/FSG has been fully ratified. He also announced that the FDEP Secretary, Michael Sole, has resigned his position. Ms. Mimi Drews has been named the Interim Secretary.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' COMMENTS – Mr. Millan Mora, USACOE Project Manager, introduced himself. Mr. Listowski prefaced Mr. Mora's comments with a follow-up report on MSA S-3-3. Commissioner Patterson expressed concerns about the continued discussion on the status of the Venice Sr. Friendship Center that is located on this site. Mr. Listowski and Mr. Perry explained that there is no perceived threat to the existing arrangement between the USACOE/WCIND/Sr. Friendship Centers, Inc. The USACOE recently confirmed the need to retain interest in MSA S-3-3 for GIWW operations and maintenance.

Mr. Mora outlined USACOE plans to maintain a segment of the GIWW, adjacent to the Sunshine Skyway Causeway in Pinellas County. He also described a shoaled segment further south and adjacent to the northern tip of Anna Maria Island. He explained that these two operations will be performed by the USACOE "hopper-dredge" Currituck. Another cut in Manatee County, Cut M-5 (Jewfish Key), would be contracted for maintenance dredging. Dredging could commence for Anna Maria and the Sunshine Skyway segment in January–February 2011, and Cut M-5 in August-September 2011. Permit acquisition is critical to all of the work. Commissioner Patterson inquired about the funding sources for the projects, and Mr. Mora reported that the USACOE has funding available for the work. Discussion ensued about the funded status of the New Pass federal authorization. Mr. Listowski suggested that the WCIND Board register support of Sarasota County's request to re-authorize New Pass federal funding, that has expired. Commissioner Patterson made a motion to have WCIND support efforts by Sarasota County to rejuvenate the federal funding designation through Congress for New Pass in Sarasota County. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappie, and motion passed unanimously. Mr. Listowski also reported on receipt of a letter from U.S. Senator Nelson's office regarding a favorable Senate committee approval of \$2 million for the GIWW/WCIND maintenance.

CONSENT AGENDA – A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Chappie, and motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. Preliminary Budget Discussion for FY2010-2011 – Mr. Listowski explained the process of drafting the proposed budget for fiscal year 2010/2011 in accordance with the state TRIM compliance requirements. After some discussion, Mr. Listowski reiterated the proposed millage for FY2010-11 at .0394 mil.
2. Federal/State Projects Update – Mr. Listowski reported to the Board that federal and state regulatory reviews to obtain permits or exemption authorizations have become more difficult as processes and review personnel have changed.
3. District Projects Status Report – Mr. Listowski reported that the District is performing renovations to the canal revetment through Venice. He also reported on the progress of several NGP initiatives in Manatee and Lee Counties.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS – Commissioner Skidmore reported the resignation of the Charlotte County Administrator and announced the new interim contact for District staff.

WCIND COUNSEL'S REPORT – Counsel Perrey reported on two pending litigations involving Fisherman's Wharf in Venice and the Seminole Gulf right-of-way easement.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mr. Listowski explained a photo of artificial reef materials depicted, utilizing a side scan sonar unit recently acquired by Lee County Natural Resources Department. This is another example of the new technologies that are allowing us to perform more sophisticated resource management, in a more cost efficient way.

Commissioner Judah reminded the Board of the meeting on September 10, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. followed by the first public hearing for the budget at 5:01 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Friday, September 10, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Venice City Hall.