

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2005 BOARD MEETING  
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Ray Judah, Chair  
Joe McClash, Vice Chair  
Tom Moore, Treasurer  
Nora Patterson, Secretary

Staff Present:

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

Chair Ray Judah opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – None.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Ms. Jackie Keiser, new Project Manager for the Corps, addressed the Board about the following: the FIND initiative regarding maintenance dredging of the Atlantic Intracoastal and Okeechobee Waterways; the schedule for the Venice Jetties bulkhead repairs; the potential need for a 3-line survey of ICW shoaling; the long awaited contributed funds agreement between the federal government and the WCIND; a rescheduled early spring boat inspection trip with Colonel Carpenter; and the District’s success in receiving “congressional ad” funding.

Commissioner McClash requested that the Corps consider a reconfiguration of the ICW alignment, as a means to decrease the volume of dredging required for safe navigation. His rationale is based on many years of observing temporary markers placed by the U.S. Coast Guard, adapting to shoaling conditions. If the channel has shifted and stabilized, then a new alignment standard could provide both public safety and maximize cost effectiveness. He then reviewed the District’s goal of improving severe shoal conditions, regionally, focusing on the Longboat Pass area, Venice Inlets, and two areas in Lee County.

After some discussion and comments by Commissioner McClash, Mr. Listowski and Ms. Keiser, there were assurances made by all that every effort will be made to not duplicate the surveying of shoals and “ad” funding will be utilized for prescribed purposes.

Commissioner Patterson thanked Ms. Keiser for the work and support by U.S.A.C.O.E. staff on the Sarasota County Beach Restoration Project.

Commissioner Judah asked Ms. Keiser about the tenure of Colonel Carpenter and his expected end of tour. Ms. Keiser related that even though Colonel Carpenter will be leaving the Jacksonville office in July, he would assign any work resulting from the inspection trip to his division chiefs.

There was comprehensive discussion with Ms. Keiser regarding the following: survey requirements; Okeechobee Waterway conditions and ACOE's position; the nature of additional funding that may be available for projects; Commissioner Judah's questions regarding Fort Myers Beach Project, and design for dune vegetation as part of a beach project.

The Board thanked Ms. Keiser for her comments.

Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner McClash, approved the Consent Agenda and the vote was unanimous.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. Washington Liaison Report – Congressional “Ad” Funding - Mr. Listowski advised the Board of another successful liaison effort in Washington to secure funding in the amount of \$900,000. Some discussion ensued regarding other issues, i.e., Okeechobee Waterway navigation conditions, and the remainder of the District's ICW deficiencies. Commissioner McClash made a motion for next year's request for funding the congressional delegation to be \$4.5 million for continuation of the federal projects improvements, including O.W.W. issues. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. BECF Funding Report – Mr. Listowski reported the approval of State Funding Cost Share for the Venice Inlet IMP implementation for FY06/07 at \$70,350, and a \$75,000 additional cost share for the Longboat Pass IMP visibility report.
3. Charlotte County Easement Use Request - Michael Poff of Coastal Engineering Consultants, representing Charlotte County, explained the need for continued use of WCIND's easements on Palm Island. Staff recommended approval of the continued easement use, and reported details of the upcoming Stump Pass Maintenance Project. Mr. Listowski also discussed a request through Commissioner Moore's office for a group of residents on Palm Island wishing to use the District's property for a “non-denominational” church. After some discussion, the consensus of the Board was to have Mr. Listowski and Counsel Perrey further review the request.
4. Lee County NGP Meeting Report – Mr. Listowski reported on the progress of the Lee County NGP process involving improvements to 42 water bodies in Lee County.
5. Public Water Access Mini-Workshop – Dr. Bob Swett, University of Florida – Dr. Bob Swett conducted a mini-workshop regarding regional water access, and outlined activity conducted by various entities including land acquisitions and other innovated programs. His power point presentation involved detailed analysis of House Bills 955 and 989 as the current state legislative initiative. Dr. Swett explained an opportunity involving a water access improvement program for commercial and public interests being coordinated by NOAA, including a funding program. An \$8500 match requirement by the District could result in a product that would explain and address potential solutions to the water access problem in the SW Florida region. Motion by Commissioner McClash, seconded by Patterson, to cooperatively pursue this potentially valuable program. Motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Swett also reported to the Board a collaborative effort between Florida Sea Grant (FSG) and the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), Office of Boating and Waterways, to conduct a boating and waterway management workshop later in 2006.

Dr. Charles Sidman then addressed the Board about his boating destinations study project, involving a regional analysis of boater's activities. This analysis could yield important information that would help regional planners anticipate stresses upon the natural resources and infra structure. Commissioner McClash commended the work being done by Dr. Sidman and the FSG program relative to boating destinations. He explained a project involving a potential regional boat ramp located at the Sunshine Skyway Causeway. Although this concept has been denied by FDOT, Commissioner McClash would like to revisit this concept and involve the kind of informational database being applied and presented by Dr. Sidman. He asked that Dr. Sidman make himself available sometime in early 2006 for a follow up discussion.

6. District Projects Update – Mr. Listowski introduced the subject of a socioeconomic analysis involving regional artificial reef network. Seven Counties have expressed interest in the economic values of the existing artificial reef system. Motion by Commissioner McClash to explore further the validity of this product, seconded by Commissioner Moore. Commissioner Patterson agreed to the premise pending a financial plan presentation at an upcoming meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS - None.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on February 3, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. at Venice City Hall.