

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2011 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COMMUNITY HALL
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present: Ray Judah, Chair
John Chappie, Treasurer
Nora Patterson, Secretary

Commissioners Absent: 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. in the Community Hall – Venice City Hall, Venice, Florida. Mr. Listowski reported that Commissioner Skidmore was absent due to a meeting for Charlotte County in Washington, D.C. Mr. Listowski also requested that the Board deviate from the agenda as needed to accommodate citizens who desire to address the Board, and had taken time off work to attend the meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported that Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s staff in Tallahassee are reviewing their processes and procedures for issuance of permits and other authorizations. He then read an email from Doug Fry into the record indicating that the Florida DEP is undergoing an exercise to revise and “streamline” the regulatory review process for projects that could be undertaken in the future by the District.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Milan Mora, Project Manager for the ACOE, addressed the Board about three segments of the GIWW that will be scheduled for dredging in the summer of 2011. Those segments occur adjacent to the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, just north of the Manatee County line, the tip of Anna Maria Island that is shoaled in, and Cut M-5 (Jewfish Key area) in Manatee County. He explained the schedule of the Currituck dredge vessel and equipment to be in the area, with all dredge spoils being deposited off of Egmont Key. Commissioner Patterson requested some clarification concerning placement of beach quality sand off of Egmont Key. Mr. Mora explained the cost efficiency and requirements of the Currituck vessel, in terms of disposal of materials dredged. The Currituck requires a minimum 10 foot water depth for navigability. Commissioner Chappie explained issues that preclude placement of the material locally.

At this time, public comment was taken in respect to speakers’ work schedules.

PUBLIC COMMENT –Mr. Patrick McCarthy, representing the Snake Island Republic, addressed the Board concerning conditions at Snake Island. He related that it appears there have been dramatic changes to the Island subsequent to a recent dredge maintenance project conducted by the ACOE adjacent to Snake Island. He is concerned that action should be taken to stabilize conditions and he related that the users of the Island would be cooperative in developing a plan to stabilize the Island. He then introduced Mr. Steve Koski, local archaeologist, who has much knowledge about conditions on Snake Island, and has worked on the documentation of Snake Island as an archaeological site.

After much discussion and comment from Mr. Mora, and historical background from Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Patterson made a motion to have the Board direct Mr. Listowski to collaboratively and cooperatively develop a plan of action with stakeholders including the ACOE and the primary recreational user group of Snake Island recognizing that other entities might have substantive input into a final remediation action plan, respective of recreational, archaeological, and navigational uses, including all potential funding sources. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappie and motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Listowski addressed the Board about the federal funding report received from our Washington consultant. Budget discussions in Washington for fiscal year 2011 funding are ongoing. Therefore, funding for fiscal year 2012 has not yet been addressed. Additionally, Mr. Mora related the loss of funding for ACOE projects for fiscal year 2011. However, Mr. Mora did explain that high tonnage port facilities received adequate funding, i.e., Tampa, Miami, and Jacksonville.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

Mr. Listowski reminded the Board that the agenda was amended and some items on the administrative agenda have already been addressed (item #1, Federal Funding Report).

2. WCIND Projects – Mr. Listowski related that an application for 8 dredging projects was submitted this date, and another permit was received for a dredging project in Lee County the previous week. He also reported improvements in Venice to “blowouts” along the revetment canal in Venice, and also resurfacing of the Venice jetty for safety of recreation. He also reported that there are plans for improvements to the Venetian Waterway Trail involving fortification of cracks in the walkway.
3. Memorial Resolution for Esther Happich- Mr. Listowski introduced Mr. Perrey to read a memorial resolution in the record. The resolution was for Mrs. Esther Happich, who was the first executive secretary for the WCIND, who recently passed away at the age of 98. Motion made by Commissioner Chappie, seconded by Commissioner Patterson, approving the resolution into the record.

WCIND COUNSEL’S REPORT - Counsel Perrey reported on the ongoing lawsuit involving Fisherman’s Wharf and associated bankruptcy processes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Mr. Listowski distributed an article in a Florida Gulf Coast University magazine relating to a very innovative shark research project that is being funded by the WCIND. Commissioner Judah commented on the amazing potential value for the region regarding this Lee County initiative that could be expanded region wide.

Meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Friday, April 1, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Hall at Venice City Hall.