

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2007 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present: Joe McClash, Vice Chair
Tom Moore, Treasurer
Nora Patterson, Secretary

Commissioners Absent: Ray Judah, Chair

Staff Present: Charles W. Listowski, Executive Director
Philip E. Perrey, Counsel

Vice Chair Joe McClash opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Peter Van Roekens addressed the Board regarding conditions in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, east of Jewfish Key in Manatee County, near Longboat Pass. Mr. Van Roekens also submitted to the Board 30 letters from boaters that have had dangerous mishaps navigating the GIWW east of Jewfish Key. Mr. Listowski briefed the Board of current status of a “letter permit” process, involving the Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, he described a “conditions survey” recently analyzed and other attributes of the channel, and requested Mr. Michael Poff, of Coastal Engineering Consultants, explain the current District initiative. After some discussion, Commissioner Patterson made a motion to have Mr. Listowski negotiate the various issues associated with emergency dredging improvements in, and around, the GIWW and Jewfish Key. The motion included a detailed report back to the Board at the April 6, 2007 Board meeting, or sooner, to allow for final approval by the Board of the plan and financing of these improvements. Seconded by Commissioner Moore, and the motion passed unanimously. A motion by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to write a letter to state and federal legislative delegations requesting funding assistance for the dangerous navigational conditions in the ICW, east of Jewfish Key and Longboat Pass. Motion approved unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Doug Fry, P.W.S., from the FDEP in Tallahassee, presented the administrative changes to the FDEP Tallahassee office. Namely, are the secretary, Michael Sole, and the deputy, Mimi Drews. Mr. Fry also discussed the Lee County NGP process in great detail: Aquatic Preserves rule issues, sea grasses, other resource issues, and the development of NCEZ (Non-Combustion Engine Zones). Mr. Fry concluded that rule development for the Lee County NGP will be scheduled soon, with workshops to follow. He also discussed the water quality certification process in great detail. He was able to educate the Board on the differences in securing authorizations with, or without, federal funding. Commissioner McClash requested consensuses of the Board to allow Mr. Listowski to collaborate with Mr. Fry on permitting issues and other related issues for the betterment of the Public and the relationship between the District and FDEP.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski introduced the topic of Venice Jetty encroachments, both north and south, involving structures built within 50 ft. of the shoreline. After some discussion about correspondence between the USACOE and City of Venice, City of Venice Mayor Hammett visited the meeting and was asked to comment on the issue as it relates to the City of Venice. Mayor Hammett encouraged a spirit of cooperation and looked forward to resolving all outstanding issues. Commissioner McClash requested consensus of the Board to allow cooperative dialogue to occur between the USACOE and the City of Venice, and involving WCIND. Mr. Listowski also reported a request by a Venice developer to utilize the ICW ROW for a high rise hotel entrance. ACOE have requested more detailed information on the project.

Mr. Perrey then gave a status report on the encroachment of a Manasota Key MPL easement. He also reported on the status of the Palm Island proposed community building. Commissioner Moore suggested this issue is still moving forward with Charlotte County.

CONSENT AGENDA – Mr. Listowski alerted the Board of CNIF requests by Charlotte County. Commissioner Patterson questioned available funding in CNIF accounts, in general, and was satisfied with analysis by Mr. Listowski.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. FY05-06 Annual Audit Report – Mr. Ed Leonard, C.P.A. – Mr. Ed Leonard, WCIND Auditor, presented the FY05-06 Audit Report to the Board and discussed the fiscal condition and overall compliance with State Law. The Audit Report provided a “clean” representation of the District’s financial functions. The one minor suggestion, within the report, involved the Investment Advisor to the District not providing an investment scenario that allowed for provided an equitable yield, in comparison to the SBA. Staff responded to this suggestion with acknowledgement of SBA program advantages and reported a shift of funds to the State Pool. The Board expressed appreciation of Mr. Leonard’s report.
2. Legislative Initiative Report – Counsel Phil Perrey reported on a pending bill initiated by the District. The bill is designed to allow existing permit activities to be streamlined and includes reference to Okeechobee Waterway issues.
3. Federal Funding Report – Discussed during USACOE Comments (above). Previously approved federal funding through the “add” process has been put on hold. Washington Liaisons and Staff are approaching funding in accordance with new request policy.
4. Inlet Model Project Update – Dr. Mohamed Dabees – (See attached Report Outline.) Dr. Mohamed Dabees, of Humiston and Moore, P.E., District Consulting Engineer, reported on the current status of the evolving Inlet Management Plan for Venice Inlet and Longboat Pass. His findings included the need for enhanced bathymetric surveys for the Dona Bay area of the Venice IMP and similar locations associated with the Longboat IMP. Commissioner McClash received Board consensus to review cost estimates to be presented at the April 6, 2007 Board Meeting.
5. Ongoing Project Update – Mr. Listowski will report on projects update at the next meeting, due to time constraints.

6. Annual Election of Officers – Commissioner Patterson nominated Commissioner McClash to serve as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion passed unanimously. Similar motions were made, approved and passed unanimously for Commissioner Moore as Vice Chair, Commissioner Judah as Treasurer, and Commissioner Patterson as Secretary.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS - None.

Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on April 6, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at Venice City Hall.