

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2004 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Nora Patterson, Chair
Ray Judah, Vice Chair
Joe McClash, Treasurer

Commissioner Absent:

Tom D'Aprile

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

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

FWCC COMMENTS - Mr. Listowski introduced the administrative staff from the Tallahassee Office of the FWCC Boating and Waterway Safety Program: Major Jim Brown (Director), Captain Paul Ouellette, and Ms. Dawn Griffin. They presented an overview of this newly created program, which inspired several questions from the WCIND Board regarding jurisdiction, funding, potential grant programs, and the issue of salaries for new marine patrol officers. There was a broad-based discussion on issues relating to derelict vessels, manatee protection, speed zones, and other boating safety-related concerns. Previous to this presentation, the Office of Boating and Waterway staff met with WCIND staff and county liaisons to discuss the new program and the potential ramifications on sign placement and education programs. Commissioner Patterson and the Board expressed appreciation for this visit from the FWCC office.

Counsel Perrey requested some clarification from FWCC staff regarding a Senate Bill 1404 under consideration to change designations of submerged land. This request for clarification was taken under advisement and FWCC staff will get back to Counsel Perrey with detailed information. FWCC staff also promised to get back to Board members with answers to questions regarding the number of law enforcement officers to be assigned per District member county, and also a listing of the counties considered to have higher accident rates than our District member counties.

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' COMMENTS – None.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. **Slate of Officers** – Mr. Listowski suggested that Commissioner Patterson had advised the Board that a rotation of commission officers is an appropriate means to choose a slate. Commissioner McClash suggested that he was satisfied with the current slate of officers and made a motion to keep the slate

the same. Commissioner Judah seconded, and the motion approved unanimously. The slate remains: Commissioner Patterson – Chair, Commissioner Judah – Vice Chair, Commissioner McClash – Treasurer, and Commissioner D'Aprile – Secretary. Commissioner McClash suggested that the slate of officers be included on the meeting agenda.

2. **Office of Boating and Waterways Workshop – Representatives from Tallahassee FWCC will give a presentation regarding the newly created office of Boating and Waterways – Discussed previously.**
3. **Old Business:**
 - a. District Properties in South Venice – Vandalism Report – Mr. Listowski reported to the Board on substantive vandalism occurring on a South Venice District parcel and actions taken through local and state enforcement agents.
 - b. Update on Boys & Girls Club Property Management Issues – Mr. Listowski reported that the Boys & Girls Club property reconfiguration was underway with surveying of the new property boundaries imminent.
 - c. Report on Venice Linear Park Issues – Improve Safety Conditions on District Properties – Mr. Listowski reported on improvements to drainage culverts and other like facilities along the Venice Linear Park involving District property.
 - d. Charlotte County Shell Creek Markers Update – Staff has connected with local county and neighborhood representatives.
 - e. Conditions in GIWW West of Sunshine Bridge – Mr. Listowski reported on progress involving the shoaling adjacent to the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in Pinellas County.
 - f. Comments by Counsel Perrey on Changes to Rule 18-21 – Counsel Perrey made brief comments about minor changes to Section 18-21 regarding submerged lands.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

Commissioner Patterson brought up an issue about the elevation of the new FDOT bridges spanning Shakett Creek and Dona Bay in Sarasota County. Commissioner Patterson then introduced a letter drafted by Mr. Listowski offering an opinion on the District's position regarding the height of the proposed bridges. There was a motion by Commissioner Judah to submit this letter to the FDOT, seconded by Commissioner McClash, and motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Judah introduced a request for \$12,500 by the Lee County marine agent for funding a brochure focusing on boating destinations in Lee and Charlotte counties. After some discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Judah to approve the request of \$12,500 from District operating funds. Motion was seconded by Commissioner McClash and motion approved unanimously.

Previously the Board suggested that Mr. Listowski come back with numbers associated with shoaled areas along the ICW. Mr. Listowski reported estimated volumes/costs associated with necessary dredging as follows: Miserable Mile (Lee County) – approx. 3,000 yards at \$30 yard equals \$90,000; Venice Inlet (Sarasota County) – approx. 20,000 yards at \$20 yard equals \$400,00; Longboat Pass (Manatee County) – approx. 17,500 yards at \$25 yard equals \$440,000; Boca Grande area (Lee County) – approx. 1500 yards at \$30 yard equals \$45,000; total price of \$975,000. Commissioner McClash made a motion to secure a lobbyist for not to exceed \$5,000 per month to pursue funding through congressional delegation for approximately \$1 million to improve the four constricted areas of the ICW. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Judah and motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner McClash asked Mr. Listowski to pursue the construction of projects in Manatee County for San Remo channel and Palm Sola channel per already authorized permit applications.

Commissioner Patterson introduced a shoaled area near the mouth of Curry Creek in Sarasota County, and requested District assistance to determine if there was any action that could be taken. Commissioner Patterson suggested it would be helpful for Mr. Listowski to contact the ACOE to determine the complexion of the area in terms of proposed projects, with concurrence from the Board.

Commissioner Patterson also brought up a recent suggestion by the City of Venice to change the designation of two WCIND properties located on Venice Island from "enclave" properties to city jurisdiction through an annexation process. After some discussion, it was determined that there is no substantive benefit to this reclassification of WCIND property.

Mr. Listowski reported to the Board that there is ongoing discussion by the FIND regarding the conditions in the Okeechobee Waterway, especially in Lake Okeechobee. Discussions pertaining to "draw down" of the Lake depth by three feet would make the Okeechobee Waterway and the connection between the east and west coast unnavigable. Commissioner Judah requested clarification in light of the water releases that are damaging to ecosystems downstream from the Lake. It was stated that the concern is largely involving the need to dredge the channel in the Lake three feet in order to accommodate the "draw down." Consensus by the Board was to have the lobbyist consultant, approved at this meeting, explore Lake Okeechobee navigability issues as part of the WCIND request list for the upcoming legislative session.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.