

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
APPROVED MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2015 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COMMUNITY HALL
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present

Charles Hines, Chair
Larry Kiker, Vice Chair
John Chappie, Secretary
Stephen R. Deutsch, Treasurer

Staff Present

Charles W. Listowski

Others in Attendance

Philip E. Perrey, Legal Counsel

Chair, Charles Hines, opened the meeting at 10:30 AM in Council Chambers.

Mr. Listowski noted that there are additions to the Consent Agenda; Sarasota County is requesting CNIF funding, and Charlotte County is requesting funds from District reserves for a public safety/navigation hazard in Stump Pass.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Leo Amos, Matlacha Florida, stated that he attended the final budget hearing in September 2014, and was only allowed to speak for three minutes and no one answered his questions. He also stated that the Board refused to take questions. Mr. Amos noted that an Independent Special District should figure out a point in time where they have finished the business and completed their work and be dissolved. He stated, “this is my personal opinion that we are spending more money on county pet projects than we are on the waterways”. Mr. Amos also criticized the application process for hiring a new Executive Director. Mr. Amos also criticized the Board as far as transparency.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMENTS –

Counsel Perrey noted that the tentative schedule for Charlotte County General Permit indicates the Notice of Proposed Rule will be published next month (February), and the rule will be effective in March, 2015.

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS COMMENTS -

Mr. Listowski reported on a memo from Alcalde & Fay regarding the \$1.1 trillion congressional spending package. A letter on behalf of WCIND will be sent to our congressional delegation, seeking funding for the Miserable Mile project in Lee County.

Mr. Listowski conveyed information from Lee County indicating some activity for Matanzas Pass channel, which is a federal inlet.

Mr. Listowski informed the Board that the hours of operation for Okeechobee Waterway locks, will be limited (7 am to 5 pm) starting April 1st. The ACOE is accepting comments now. Mr. Listowski suggested making a strong public statement regarding the hours of operation. Commissioner Deutsch noted that he is against this, that waterways are mandated to remain open and accessible. Commissioner Kiker asked if it is feasible to take an official position in a form of a proclamation or resolution and send it to them. Counsel Perrey noted the Board could authorize Mr. Listowski to write a letter stating our objections to the reduced operating hours of the locks and the effect it will have on the boating industry.

Commissioner Kiker motioned to approve that Mr. Listowski draft a letter of objection to the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the hours of operation.
Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion.
Motion approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Kiker motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items A through H.
Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion.
Motion approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Project Status Report

Lee County –

Mr. Listowski reported the permit application for maintenance dredging of Big Carlos Pass will be submitted by January 23rd. We continue to meet with stakeholders on a plan to preserve natural conditions of Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve.

Charlotte County

Mr. Listowski reported that the General Permit for water bodies is in final rulemaking.

Sarasota County

Mr. Listowski reported that the Englewood CRA Project for Cherokee Street fishing pier and boat dock construction is complete. The final engineer inspection was conducted and there are a few minor items that need to be addressed.

Manatee County

Mr. Listowski reported that Trailer Estates and Flamingo Cay projects are complete. Manatee River dredge is complete with final survey imminent. Lake LaVista dredge project has been contracted to C & M Dredging and should begin next week.

Transition Plan

Mr. Listowski reported that there were 141 expressions of interest and 42 applications. Staff initially determined that there are 10 qualified applicants that met minimum qualifications specified and staff made a preliminary FDLE background check on the 10. Staff is also developing a qualification matrix that could be used by the Board during the hiring process.

Commissioner Deutsch recommended to make a list of the top 10 candidates in the event one or two of the top 5 drop, we can then use the next candidate in line.

Commissioner Deutsch motioned; instruct Mr. Listowski to invite the top 5 candidates for an interview, and in the event one or more decline to interview we can take the next one or two in order to make sure we have a minimum of four people. Further, if any Board member has an individual that we feel somehow was overlooked, in the top 10 that appears to have the minimum qualifications; we can call Mr. Listowski and have him schedule an interview.

Commissioner Kiker seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Hines suggested:

- 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. each Board member meet, one-on-one with the each candidate for 10 -15 minutes
- 10:30 – 12:00 regular Board meeting
- 1:00 p.m. – until done Public interviews

Commissioner Kiker motioned to meet each candidate one-on-one starting at 9:30 a.m. for 10 or 15 minutes prior to the regular Board meeting, have our regular meeting, and conduct public interviews from 1:00 p.m. until we are done.

Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion.

Motioned passed unanimously

Voting process:

Commissioner Kiker motioned that we allow Commissioner Chappie to provide the ranking criteria used by Manatee County for recent hiring's of senior staff, and have staff distribute to WCIND Board members to discuss at the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Chappie seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

Negotiation process:

Commissioner Kiker motioned to have the Chair and the WCIND attorney enter into negotiations with the candidate that is chosen for the Executive Director.

Commissioner Chappie seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Hines suggested the following time frame for interviews:

5 minutes to make an opening statement.

20 minutes for questions

5 minutes to close

Each commissioner will provide their own questions.

Slate of Officers

Commissioner Kiker, Chair

Commissioner Deutsch, Vice Chair

Commissioner Chappie, Treasurer

Commissioner Hines, Secretary

Commissioner Kiker motioned to approve the Slate of Officers.

Commissioner Chappie seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Listowski discussed a proposal to build the Challenger baseball field at 1101 Gulf Coast blvd. Venice. Approximately 7.5+/- acres. Mr. Listowski plans on clearing the land.

Commissioner Chappie motioned to approve the land clearing at the Boys and Girls Club for the Challenger baseball field.

Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Listowski reported that there has been some criminal activity, an old meth lab, on lands in the vicinity of the Senior Friendship Center property.

Commissioner Deutsch motioned to approve, not to exceed \$20,000.00, the clearing of vegetation from the Senior Friendship Center property to help alleviate the criminal activity.

Commissioner Chappie seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Hines commented that he is in favor of ending government bureaucracy when it is no longer needed. However, he believes that this entity (WCIND) hasn't reached the end of its useful life. The Intracoastal is still there, it's still operating. Having the four member counties together and understanding the community in the way that we do, he thinks this Board functions very well, and it is not interested in dissolving this entity, because this Board has a major function in the activities of Southwest Florida. Commission Kiker added that there are two necessary projects in Lee County that would not be done without the leadership of Mr. Listowski and this Board. Commissioner Hines added that this entity going forward has incredible knowledge and ability to get things done much more efficiently than we (Sarasota County) could as an individual county.

WCIND COUNSEL'S REPORT

Counsel Perrey reported on the law suit in Federal Court regarding the Legacy Trail has been certified to the Florida Supreme Court over a question of Florida Railroad Law, whether the railroad owned fee simple title to railroad right-of-way, or if they had an easement for the strip of land where the railroad tracks were located.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME: February 27, 2015 at 9:30 AM.