

WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 1999
SOUTH COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, VENICE, FLORIDA

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COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Joe McClash, Chairman
Adam Cummings – Vice-Chairman
Ray Judah, Treasurer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Nora Patterson, Sarasota County

STAFF PRESENT: Charles W. Listowski, Executive Director
Philip E. Perrey, Counsel

Chairman McClash opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Listowski called the roll. Commissioner Patterson was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Lou Fusilli and Mr. Lew Lawrence, representing the Sun Coast Yacht Club, (about 50 sail boats) spoke about the navigation of New Pass and the rumor going around that Big Pass would become the federally-designated pass in the Sarasota area. New Pass would be allowed to die a slow death. Commissioner McClash said that New Pass was dredged a little over a year ago and is shoaling in quite fast. The reality is that this is probably the last time the Corps of Engineers will spend money to dredge New Pass. We have been working with the Corps on this problem and the goal now is to evaluate Big Pass to see if this should be the channel the Corps relies upon. Mr. Listowski said that ideally we should be advocating that all passes have a certain level of minimum standard that would accommodate navigation. He feels that the Corps has been dredging New Pass in the wrong place. There is a new funding source through the Florida Legislature that allows for \$30 million per year to be spent on coastal initiatives that can include inlets/passes/erosion of beaches, etc. We are making a concerted effort to access that money for the counties in our District. Mr. Listowski said we aren't giving up on the Corps yet. He was directed to give some information on the dredging of New Pass to the speakers or have them come in to the District office.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – no comments

U. S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS – Mr. Don Fore, although unable to attend our meeting, provided an update on the new ACOE setback requirements through Mr. Listowski. Chairman McClash said we must ask the Corps about its dredging plan for the ICW as we all took the inspection tour in the fall. The Corps also has surveys available and is supposed to give us information on shoaling and the issue of money to address the shoaling. He also spoke about Phillippi Creek in Sarasota County and said it was one of the shallowest areas along the ICW.

WCIND is applying for a permit to dredge near the mouth of this creek. The chairman feels that the shoaling in the ICW in this area is probably the result of Phillippi Creek, and he directed Mr. Listowski to incorporate that area into the permit we are applying for. Mr. Listowski will try to work with the Corps on this area also. We are in the process of applying for a master permit for other areas, and this area can be included in our survey.

CONSENT AGENDA – Commissioner Judah moved and Commissioner Cummings seconded to approve the eight items listed. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. Election of a Secretary for this meeting only – Commissioner Judah moved and Commissioner Cummings seconded that Commissioner Cummings be elected secretary for this meeting only. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Election of officers for the coming year – The Commissioner discussed the positions among themselves and decided upon the slate of officers to take effect the day following the meeting: Chairman: Ray Judah, Lee County; Vice-Chairman: Joe McClash, Manatee County, Secretary: Donald Coppola, Charlotte County; and Treasurer: Nora Patterson, Sarasota County. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the slate of officers.
3. Annual Audit Report by Mr. Ed Leonard – Copies of the report were passed out. We received the highest level of opinion that an independent auditor can give. The District is in very good financial shape with general assets of \$3,274,763, fixed assets of \$739,566, and no long-term debt except accruals for long-term sick and annual leave in the amount of \$16,746. Expenditures exceeded revenue by \$642,322, but that is a positive fact since it means that more work was done this year than in the past. Carryovers and budgeted funds were sufficient to fund these projects. Total revenues exceeded budget and expenditures were under budget. There were no instances of noncompliance that were required to be reported and no material weaknesses involving the internal control over financial reporting. Upon the auditor's suggestion, an annual and sick leave policy was memorialized for District employees. Commissioner Judah moved and Commissioner Cummings seconded to approve and accept the audit report. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Listowski was complimented on the smooth running of the District.
4. Report on the Status of Shakett Creek – Mr. Listowski said the DEP permit has been signed and will be given to us this afternoon and delivered to the C.O.E. in Tampa for final approval. We hope to get approval from the Corps within a week. Within 45 days we hope to have a contractor ready to do the job. Gottfried Creek is being dredged, and we will need an extension to mid-February. We will take aerial photos of this project. We have one out of four Phillippi Creek permits approved that we have applied for. We hope to be able to start on that project within 60-90 days. With permits in hand, we can schedule our work. We would like to start on the mouth of the creek first. It would be more cost-effective to have one contractor for all the work. We hope to have some assistance from the Corps on the mouth of the creek. Commissioner McClash stressed the importance of dredging the hot

spots in the ICW. By the next meeting we should have some sort of plan coming back from the Corps, showing where these hot spots are and the approximate dollars it would take to remove this material. It's too important an asset to allow the ICW to shoal in. We might get some state money if the removed material is beach-compatible and can be used for beach renourishment projects.

5. Report and Discussion on 1999 Legislative Amendment – Mr. Perrey reported that Lewis, Longman & Walker have drafted a proposal for some amendatory language. It would amend the statute to make the state lands authorization part and parcel of the exemption determination. Once you receive the exemption, then you also get the state lands authorization, upon request, automatically. It also says that the type of authorization you would get is a “consent of use” which is an easier to obtain authorization. Commissioner Judah moved and Commissioner Cummings seconded to approve the amendatory language. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Charlotte County Funding Requests – Mr. Listowski thought the District could find the funds for these modest project proposals which total \$31,665. Since the District raised taxes this year, the rate of payback for the funds advanced by the District to Charlotte County for dredging Stump Pass will be repaid quicker. Commissioner Judah moved and Commissioner Cummings seconded to approve the requests. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Report on Economic Analysis of Fishing Fleet Impacts on San Carlos Island – Mr. Listowski just received copies of this report on a project that we approved last year. He will give copies to Board members. The shrimp processing facility on San Carlos Island is probably in the top five in the state as far as shrimp processing of this type.
8. Update on FSG/NOAA Cooperative Projects with WCIND – Dr. Antonini reported on four projects. He met yesterday with Manatee County staff to provide them with the raw data. He hopes to provide the county with an analysis and a report by April. He is beginning similar work in Lee County – collecting data in Estero Bay and training new hirees. He will be at Moss Marine for about a month. This waterway project began with a pilot study in Sarasota Bay. The Town of Longboat Key has contacted him and wants him to begin a canal-dredging project town-wide. Dr. Antonini is providing the town with additional information. They may be coming to WCIND with a funding proposal. Sea Grant and B.A.I.L. are producing the second edition to the anchorage guidebook, and it will be ready in February. It will have the photomaps included. He has been working with the NOAA marine chart division to develop a prototype photochart #11425. That map is being printed and will be made available to a select number of volunteer boaters for a two-three month test period. He is working with the Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Program and Sarasota Bay NEP to publish two documents which include information WCIND has sponsored, and he has received a coastal zone grant for \$50,000 for this program. This year is the final year of a major grant that has helped underwrite the work of Florida Sea Grant. Mr. Listowski said Sea Grant is going to go to the Florida Legislature to try to develop core funding for a program in biotechnology and waterway management. He recommends drafting a resolution supporting the waterway management portion which can be signed and sent on to Dr. Cato who can use it as a tool to secure funding from the legislature. Commissioner Judah moved

and Commissioner Cummings seconded to approve the drafting of this resolution. Motion passed unanimously. Dr. Antonini was commended for his useful work.

9. Intracoastal Marine Park Boat Ramp Project Update – Mr. Perrey reported on a meeting with Sarasota County and City of Venice officials on getting the \$50,000 that we were promised to help fund the building of the marine park. He thinks it will be worked out eventually. He hopes to use the Suncoast Foundation agreement for Bypass Park as a template for a marine park agreement, attaching to it the details of operation and maintenance for the marine park. It might make it easier to get the agreement approved by the Sarasota County.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS – Commissioner Cummings raised the issue of dredging in Pirate Harbor and the concerns that DEP has with this project. They want an analysis of increased property values as a result of dredging and pay that amount to DEP.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY REPORT – Counsel Perrey had a meeting in Bartow with the Dept. of Transportation staff about the proposed regional marine law enforcement facility next to the Hatchett Creek Bridge in Venice. This bridge will have to be rebuilt, and the Department wants from WCIND a perpetual easement to four parcels of submerged land. They want us to donate that easement so that the bridge can be widened from one to two spans. We have been talking to the department for over a year trying to arrange for access across the right of way to a small triangular piece of land where we are going to put the law enforcement facility. We need storage and parking facilities for vehicles, boats, and trailers. The proposal is to swap the two easements. This would be a “win-win” situation. Counsel recommends approval to sign the documents for the easement swap. Commissioner Judah moved and Commissioner Cummings seconded to approve the signing of documents. Motion approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – A staff member, Evan Brown, information specialist, has resigned to work for Sarasota County. Mr. Listowski, upon the recommendation of Mr. Leonard, wants to move approximately \$10,000 or slightly more, from the contingency line item in the budget to the line item that was Mr. Brown’s position, in order to attract qualified applicants and reclassify that position as Project Coordinator. Commissioner Cummings moved and Commissioner Judah seconded the motion to approve the move. Motion approved unanimously. Commissioner McClash cautioned Mr. Listowski to keep track of project job costing as it relates to a new employee.

Chairman McClash thanked everyone for their cooperation during his tenure as Chairman.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME: - Friday, March 26, 1999 in Venice, Florida at 10:30 a.m.

