

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF JANUARY 30, 2009 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present: Ray Judah, Chair
Joe McClash, Treasurer
Nora Patterson, Secretary

Commissioner Absent: Robert Skidmore, Vice Chair

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

Chair Ray Judah opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski and Counsel Perrey reported on Lee County NGP Public Hearing, conducted in Ft. Myers. There is potential for review of this process by the Governor and Cabinet. Mr. Perrey provided his input, and review of the other comments made by the public, and reported a generally positive hearing. He and Mr. Listowski expressed positive comments about the potential approval of this process by March-April 2009. Commissioner Patterson requested clarification of the outstanding permit issues. Mr. Listowski explained various features of the general permit, including the NICMZs issue and other aquatic preserve concerns.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported on the Matanzas Pass Emergency Dredge initiative in a chronological manner. He reported the current status of this initiative, and the various milestones accomplished. Mr. Listowski expressed positive comments about the timing of the construction, as imminent. He also reported on the current status of the Longboat Pass area of the GIWW.

After some discussions regarding existing federal processes that appear dysfunctional, Commissioner McClash made a motion to send a letter to Congressional Representatives indicating a need for better administration of federal programs effecting navigation infrastructure in WCIND member counties, thus increasing the potential for streamlining permit authorizations and construction management. Mr. Listowski also reported on the Venice inlet area of the GIWW. Commissioner Patterson questioned the potential for definitive analysis of Big Sarasota Pass and New Pass. Commissioner McClash suggested that Mr. Listowski request available economic stimulus funding from state and federal sources. After some discussion regarding cost estimates for pass/inlet surveys and conditions at Big Sarasota Pass and New Pass, Commissioner McClash made a motion to allow Mr. Listowski to work with Sarasota County staff to develop a cooperative strategy for pass management, seconded by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. FY2007-2008 Audit Report – Mr. Ed Leonard, C.P.A. – Mr. Ed Leonard, C.P.A., of Christopher, Smith, Leonard, Bristow & Stanell, P.A., presented the FY2007-2008 Audit

Report. The Audit Report provided a “clean” representation of the District financial functions. After explaining the District audit mechanics, Mr. Leonard went into some detail on the projects/programs expenditures/balance and revenue issues. He also reported on a district investment policy anomaly, noticed at the beginning of the current fiscal year, but still required comment. Due to the failure of the District’s Qualified Public Depository (QPD), funds were reinvested in several bank negotiable certificates of deposit, at a higher yield. These instruments were completely insured by the FDIC, but not in compliance with Florida Statutes. Sale of these instruments yielded revenue to the District and compliance with statutes. After some discussion and a suggestion by Mr. Leonard that a possible remedy to the District investment policy restrictions on specific instruments, Commissioner McClash made a motion to have District’s counsel explore a legal avenue to allow purchase of higher yield negotiable certificates of deposit, as an amendment to District’s investment policy, seconded by Commissioner Patterson, and motion passed unanimously.

2. Federal/State Projects Update – Mr. Listowski – Mr. Listowski reported on the state co-funded projects involving inlet modeling at Longboat Pass and Venice inlet. He stated that these models will serve a valuable purpose in the upcoming dredging improvements to these federal waterways.
3. District Project Status Report – Mr. Listowski reported on the status of:
 - Regional Socioeconomic Report on Artificial Reefs is nearly complete for Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee Counties.
 - Charlotte County RWMS is also nearing completion for the study of 95 waterbodies.
 - Bowlees Creek/Bryn Mawr – an extension to the project will be reviewed by BCC Board meeting on Feb. 4, 2009, with anticipated approval of a \$40,000 CNIF request.
 - Venice Canal, blowouts – the District has begun repair of erosion collapses found along the upland cut through the Venice area.

After some discussion of reimbursement of work done around Jewfish Key and other costs assumed by the District for federal projects, Commissioner McClash suggested preparing a request for assistance and/or delegation project management authority, when the District holds a permit for federal project work.

4. Annual Election of Officers – After some discussion, Commissioner McClash made a motion to keep the same slate of officers for the upcoming year, except for Commissioner Skidmore as Vice Chair; seconded by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS’ ITEMS – Commissioner McClash requested a report of the status of shoaling of the GIWW in Pinellas County, immediately north of the Skyway Bridge. Improvement to this area has received funding support from Congressman Young.

WCIND COUNSEL’S REPORT – Counsel Perrey reported on the “Air Space Agreement” near the Hatchett Creek Bridge in Venice. He also reported on the lawsuit involving the conversion of the railroad line between Sarasota and Venice.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Next meeting will be held on March 30, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. at Venice City Hall.