

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
APPROVED MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2014 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 A.M in the Community Hall. Item 7 B was added to the agenda concerning the Englewood CRA project discussed below.

PUBLIC COMMENT Rich Schineller, a representative of Save Our Siesta Sands 2, commented on a new report issued by the Corps of Engineers concerning the possible dredging of Big Sarasota Pass in Sarasota County. (The same report is discussed in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Comments in the next paragraph.)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMENTS Mr. Listowski read an email from Brett Moore (WCIND consultant) dated June 26, 2014. Since application deadlines sometimes fall due between WCIND board meetings, Mr. Moore recommended that the Board authorize the Chair to execute Resolutions in support of funding requests to DEP which are similar in scope to projects previously approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chappie to adopt Mr. Moore's recommendation and authorizing the Chair to sign Resolutions in support of funding requests to DEP for work projects previously approved by the Board

Seconded by Commissioner Kiker.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Listowski read an email from Nicole Bonine (NOAA staff) dated June 25, 2014 about arranging a meeting to work on a statewide Federal permit similar to the State of Florida general permits utilized by WCIND.

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS COMMENTS Mr. Milan Mora, Project Manager, advised the Board that the new report issued by the Corps of Engineers concerning the possible dredging of Big Sarasota Pass in Sarasota County is a draft report open for review and comment by all interested parties. Mr. Mora stated that the draft report proposes a 5 year renourishment schedule (not a 10 year schedule as stated by Mr. Schineller in his comments). Mr. Mora also advised the Board of a public notice released on or about June 20, 2014 of a NEPA scoping

meeting scheduled on July 23, 2014 about the project. Commissioner Hines indicated the importance of open dialogue with the general public as the project moves forward.

Mr. Mora also commented on the recent passage of a Federal energy and water appropriations bill. Among other things, Section 1030 increases the maximum funding for an individual Section 107 project to \$10 Million, and increases the total aggregate cap for such projects to \$50 million. Additionally, the bill includes \$25.4 million for navigation projects, \$45 million for inland waterway projects, and \$42.5 million for small, remote or subsistence navigation projects. Sections 2101, 2102 and 2104 also deal with funding details, and may mean that more funding is available for smaller harbors and waterways. Mr. Mora advised that reconnaissance studies for new Federal projects are no longer required. Instead, prospective new projects go straight to a feasibility report.

After some discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Kiker for the WCIND Executive Director to collaborate with Mr. Mora and submit requests by WCIND for Corps funding of suitable projects based on the newly passed appropriations bill. Seconded by Commissioner Chappie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Next, Mr. Mora discussed the Miserable Mile project in Lee County (where the IWW connects with the Caloosahatchee River). Based on testing, the dredge material is too silty for beach placement and will require an upland disposal area. Mr. Listowski proposed a collaborative effort (involving Corps staff and Lee County staff) to initiate a dialogue with the staff of the Ding Darling Refuge about the possible use of a WCIND owned spoil island near the Refuge as an upland disposal area for the dredging project. There was an informal consensus of the Board that the Executive Director consult with Mr. Mora about the matter and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

Commissioner Chappie asked Mr. Mora about the status of the permit application filed by the Town of Longboat Key for dredging and other improvements at Longboat Pass. Mr. Mora advised that since Longboat Pass is an authorized Federal project, it appears that a Section 408 permit is required (since the proposed project would be a modification of an existing Federal project). Mr. Mora also indicated that there are two different kinds of Section 408 permits – one kind requiring only local approval by Corps staff in the Jacksonville District Office; and the other kind requiring approval by Corps headquarters staff in Washington, D.C. (with the latter approval requiring an additional 6 to 8 months of time).

After discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Chappie, that the Executive Director prepare a Resolution for signing by the Board Chair to be forwarded to the Colonel in command of the Jacksonville District Office supporting the Section 408 Permit requiring only local approval by Corps staff in the Jacksonville District Office.

Seconded by Commissioner Deutsch

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kiker made a motion to approve the Minutes of WCIND Board Meeting on May 23, 2014, and Invoices paid for May, 2014.

Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA Mr. Listowski reported on the following matters:

Lee County – Normandy Channel Project is nearing completion. Strategy meetings for Big Carlos Pass are underway.

Charlotte County – The general permit rule development process is moving forward and public input is being received by DEP staff.

Sarasota County – There was discussion about the recent approval of Englewood CRA / Cherokee dock project.

After discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Kiker , to approve the expenditure of up to \$100,000 of CNIF funds for this project.

Seconded by Commissioner Deutsch.

The motion passed unanimously.

Manatee County – There was discussion about the fact that bids received for dredging of Trailer Estates East Channel and the Flamingo Cay channel required additional funds to complete both projects in an estimated amount of \$40,000 to \$60,000. There was an informal consensus that WCIND staff and Manatee County staff would collaborate on a submittal to the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners recommending that CNIF funds be utilized to provide the additional funding to complete both projects.

Preliminary Budget – Mr. Listowski reported that preliminary valuations from member counties seem to indicate an aggregate increase of approximately 10% over the current year's valuations. Based on these preliminary valuations, the estimated rolled back rate will be .0359 mills, compared to the current year's actual rate of .0394 mills.

Commissioner Kiker recommended that using the current millage rate as the tentative millage rate during the budget process to provide the Board more flexibility in setting the final millage rate (the millage rate can be lowered during the budget process but cannot be increased). Mr. Listowski noted that the Board spent approximately \$1 million from reserves during the current fiscal year, and the higher millage rate would allow the Board to replenish reserves.

Pink Gold Rush – Mr. Listowski advised the Board of new history of the shrimping industry based at Ft. Myers Beach / San Carlos available on a compact disc called "Pink Gold Rush."

COMMISSIONER ITEMS: NONE

WCIND COUNSEL'S REPORT: NONE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mr. Listowski provided Board members with background information about his duties and responsibilities as Executive Director, together with drafts of job descriptions for executive director and assistant executive director, and a prospective timeline for a transition plan to have a successor in place when he ends his service for the District in October, 2015. By informal consensus, Board members agreed to review these materials and revisit the matter at the next Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 A.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME: Friday, August 22, 2014 at 10:30 A.M. at Venice City Hall Council Chambers, in Venice, Florida.