

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2005 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Ray Judah, Chair
Joe McClash, Vice Chair
Tom Moore, Treasurer
Nora Patterson, Secretary

Staff Present:

Charles W. Listowski, Executive Director
Philip E. Perrey, Counsel

Chair Ray Judah opened the meeting at 10:35 a.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL, acknowledging a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported his and Counsel Perrey’s attendance at a recent meeting with the DEP Administrative staff in Tallahassee. Mr. Listowski then introduced, for the record, the minutes (attached) from this meeting.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Rick McMillen reported to the Board the current status and contracts associated with the congressional “add” secured during the last legislative session. The first action will include the rehabilitation of the Venice north jetty’s bulkhead, in which work is to commence in September 2005. Additional funding will be required to complete the rehabilitation work of the Venice south jetty bulkhead. Any funding available beyond the required authorization activities will be used for dredging activities, as it becomes available. Mr. McMillen explained the need for coordination between the Venice jetty rehabilitation project and the Venice Beach restoration project, which will be underway the summer/fall of 2005. He went onto explain the master contract being administered by the Corps, including the restoration of 15 Florida beaches, to be completed by the winter of 2006. Mr. McMillen went into some detail regarding the status of these projects. To summarize, 8 of the 15 projects, including the Venice Beach project, will be completed during this 2005-06-time period. Mr. Listowski then reminded the Board that the contractors restoring the Venice Beach will use WCIND property for staging areas.

Conversation ensued with Mr. McMillen regarding the congressional “add” funding and associated projects. Commissioner McClash suggested that in addition to federal funding for ICW improvements, state funding through the governor’s SIS initiative should be pursued. Mr. Listowski then added that an opportunity exists for collaboration between the state and federal government regarding an illegal dredging violation in the Longboat Key area. A project could be designed to incorporate the dredging of the ICW with the restoration of sea grass beds on the west side of Jewfish Key. A motion was made by Commissioner McClash to have Mr. Listowski draft a letter to the administrator of the SIS program, which is administered by the FDOT, requesting funding for dredging of ICW “hot spots.” Motion was seconded by Commissioner Patterson and motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Patterson questioned Mr. McMillen about the status of the Sarasota Bay Section 1135 program involving restoration of spoil islands. Commissioner Patterson also requested information regarding the status of navigable cleanup in Charlotte County after Hurricane Charley. Mr. Bob Hebert addressed the Board clarifying contract services to clean up county waterways. Commissioner McClash asked Mr. Hebert for clarification of issues relating to FEMA funding that would clear debris from navigable waterways after a storm. Mr. Hebert explained that discussion with FEMA resulted in no available funding from that agency for navigable waters in question. Mr. Hebert explained that the USDA funding was involved in the clean up finances as a federal match. Commissioner McClash then made a motion to approach FEMA and the congressional delegation to determine if FEMA funding should be made available in the future for these types of clean up projects involving navigation. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moore informed the Board of information he received regarding the definition of deposited sand in an area as debris, to be removed and eligible for FEMA funding. Commissioner Moore suggested that Charlotte County would be requesting reimbursement from FEMA for storm impacts of shoaling sand at Stump Pass. Commissioner McClash reminded the Board that baseline surveys must be available typically, to be eligible for this type funding. Mr. Listowski then introduced a new District publication to the Board called "The Regional Waterway Management System," which is an example of a comprehensive baseline data file.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. FSG Performance Assessment Team – Letter from Jim Cato – Mr. Listowski reported on The National Sea Grant Performance Assessment Team meeting. Mr. Listowski reminded the Board of the extensive body of work that has been completed within this partnership with the University of Florida. This partnership has resulted in many permit authorizations and substantive planning between the District, the state, and the federal government.
2. Lee County NGP Initiative - Report – Mr. Listowski reported on the meeting with FDEP staff, focusing on a final draft language. A very productive meeting was also held in Tallahassee with FDEP administration, and it is hoped that this meeting will pave the way for dialogue and cooperative activities between the District and the State. We are traveling down a new path regarding permitting and resource use planning, and sometimes, creative solutions must be developed. Staff will report back on progress on this initiative.
3. District Projects Administration Report – Mr. Listowski reported on District-administered projects underway and partnerships with state, federal, and local governments
4. Preliminary Budget Overview – Mr. Listowski reported receipt of county project requests for FY05-06. These requests total approximately \$600,000 more than the current FY04-05. Property valuations are predicted to increase in the upcoming fiscal year, suggesting that maintaining current funding levels of District operation, plus new increased funding requests could be satisfied by maintaining the current .04 millage rate. Staff recommended Board direction to develop a FY05-06 budget using the .04 millage rate, and complete all TRIM requirements. Commissioner McClash made a motion to direct staff to develop FY05-06 budget using .04 millage rate as the proposed assessment and for approval at the two September Public hearings. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Patterson and motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS'/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS – Commissioner Patterson reported to the Board that County staff is working with Mr. Listowski to develop an improvement involving the Turtle Beach Entrance Channel.

Commissioner McClash commended Mr. Listowski for his efforts in managing the Crosley Channel dredging project. Commissioner McClash also requested research into the condition and improvement to areas in Pinellas County in the ICW, near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge.

WCIND COUNSEL'S REPORT - Counsel Perrey reiterated the comments made regarding the FDEP Tallahassee meeting. He also reported that he will be working on the necessary agreements and documents associated with the Cortez dredging project.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.