

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2008 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Chair Ray Judah opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL. Commissioner Patterson arrived after meeting convened.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported on a March meeting in Tallahassee, when the following projects were discussed: Longboat Pass/Venice Inlet IMP; Lee County NGP; Okeechobee Waterway/Senate Bill 758.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Luis “Rene” Perez, USACOE Project Manager, addressed the Board, re: the contributed funds agreement (CFA); available funding of \$166,000 of carryover funds; \$1,215,000 new funding for a total of \$1,381,000 available for four projects. Two projects appear ready to develop plans and specs, Longboat Pass GIWW Dredging and the Venice Inlet Dredging. Two other projects (Miserable Mile in Lee County and Boca Grande Constriction of GIWW) were discussed and will be addressed in a subsequent phase.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by Commissioner McClash to approve the Consent Agenda with amendment, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and the vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. Palm Island Transit Agreement – Counsel Philip Perrey – At the January 16, 2008 meeting, the Board approved not to exceed \$260,000 with a 10% cap rate. The Board approved \$22,100 per year, and the final agreement was sent to Charlotte County for approval.
2. Legislative Initiative FY08 – Counsel Philip Perrey – Counsel Perrey circulated a written synopsis of the WCIND initiated Bills under review. Commissioner Patterson inquired about the “public interest” language. Commissioner McClash questioned the “manatee protection speed zone” language and funding.
3. Florida Forever Program – Letter of Support – Mr. Listowski reported on a proposal to defund the Florida Forever Program. Board approved a resolution of support for the Florida Forever Program, thereby, extending the State Program Funding. Motion made by Commissioner McClash, seconded by Commissioner Patterson. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Okeechobee Waterway Meeting – SFWMD Regional Director/WCIND – Mr. Listowski reported on a recent meeting with a Director of the SFWMD to discuss deficiencies on the Okeechobee Waterway, from the Caloosahatchee River and through Lake Okeechobee. There was general Board consensus that this remaining Cross-Florida segment of the Intracoastal Waterway should merit consideration as a District initiative.
5. Project Status Report – Mr. Listowski reported on the status of the following projects
 - Lee County NGP initiative is still underway and additional areas are being considered.
 - Federal Funding Appropriation for GIWW Maintenance – There was some discussion about future federal funding addressing GIWW constriction area in Tampa Bay/Pinellas County, just north of Shipping Channel. The general consensus of the Board was to support staff initiatives to improve this area for the public safety of the active member counties.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS – There was some discussion on the subject of anchorages and liveaboards in Charlotte County and City of Sarasota. Commissioner Patterson reported on an upcoming presentation, re: the opening of Midnight Pass in Sarasota County.

WCIND COUNSEL'S REPORT – Counsel Perrey reported on his statutory research into tax collections procedures. He also reported on the current status of the CSX Class Action Lawsuit as a “unique class” participant. Commissioner Patterson requested clarification of the action. A motion made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner McClash, to pursue “unique class” participation. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on June 23, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at Venice City Hall.