

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MARCH 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 2:30 p.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL. After some discussion about Charlotte County Commissioner Representative at Board meetings, consensus of the Board was to have WCIND Chairman write a letter to Charlotte County Commissioner Chair expressing the importance of Commissioner attendance to WCIND Board meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Captain J. Kirk Walter, of Captain Kirk Enterprises on Pine Island Sound, addressed the Board, re: “Boat Goat” book. A motion by Commissioner McClash, seconded by Commissioner Patterson, to have staff work with Captain Kirk on historic information review. Motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Counsel Perrey reported on an email from DEP, re: Lee County NGP. Mr. Perrey received a notice that May 18, 2009 is the deadline for public comment on the Lee County NGP. The process was described as now being on a “fast track” for approval.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Nelson Colón, ACOE Project Manager, reported that the recently approved congressional omnibus bill will yield \$2.076 million for the GIWW O&M projects. With the balance of last year’s appropriation, approximately \$3.2 million is available for a combined project at Venice Inlet and Longboat Pass. Plans and specifications are near completion for Venice Inlet. The Longboat Pass area improvement requires environmental permits and water quality certification before construction. Commissioner McClash requested clarification of Manatee County shoreline issues related to shore protection and navigation. Commissioner Patterson expressed the importance of the Longboat Pass GIWW to the region. To allow Mr. Listowski the opportunity to explain further, the ACOE issues under discussion, Commissioner Judah suggested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner McClash made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Patterson, and passed unanimously. Mr. Listowski commented on the Lee County FGCU Marine Laboratory project, and stated that he would like the project approval to be contingent on a 30-day review of the proposal before funding availability. Amended motion approved unanimously.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers comments continued, reporting on the proposed schedule for the Matanzas Pass Emergency dredging, with a late April 2009 start time. Mr. Listowski proposed that the ACOE should be encouraged to use the same contractor, via a contract extension, to dredge the Venice Inlet and Longboat Pass after the completion of the Matanzas Pass Project, to save on mobilization costs. After some discussion regarding scheduling and contract implementation, Mr. Colón concluded his comments stating that no new Corps initiatives are underway for the District.

Economic Stimulus Projects Proposed – Mr. Listowski reported on a collaborative grant proposal for NOAA Economic Stimulus funding with a partnership between Florida Gulf Coast University, University of South Florida, WCIND, and Seagrass Recovery Inc. The grant application is for \$2 million for habitat restoration activities in Lee County waters, coinciding with the Lee County NGP initiative.

Meeting with SW Florida Delegation for FY2010 – Mr. Listowski reported on the latest request for congressional “add” funding at \$5 million dollars for FY2010. He outlined the areas of concern for the new funding as seven GIWW constriction areas. Mr. Nelson Colón informed the Board that the ACOE is still pursuing a contributed funds agreement, but it will probably not be the multi-year format that is most desired by WCIND. Commissioner Patterson requested an update on the study of the New Pass alignment. She also mentioned deterioration of Big Sarasota Pass and closure of Midnight Pass. Commissioner Patterson requested the ACOE Representative and Mr. Listowski strategize a maintenance regime for these inlets. Commissioner McClash reviewed some of the new data that may help resolve issues.

Mr. Listowski suggested that the WCIND Board approve a resolution requesting that New Pass be re-authorized as a federal project. Commissioner Patterson made this motion, seconded by Commissioner McClash and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Patterson requested clarification on the North Jetty “Fish Camp” encroachment process. An agreement with strict guidelines has been submitted to Sarasota County. Commissioner Patterson made a motion for staff to request modification of easement language pertaining to the North Jetty “Fish Camp” facility, at the North Jetty in Nokomis. The language should reflect that with appropriate notice, Sarasota County will remove the building to allow ACOE maintenance/operation of the Jetty regarding navigation and shoreline protection. Commissioner McClash seconded the motion, and passed unanimously.

Commissioner McClash suggested that WCIND be proactive in pass/inlet management for the region. A regional pass/inlet plan should be developed with specific detail for each pass/inlet. Commissioner Patterson suggested that Mr. Listowski develop a strategy for pass/inlet management via modeling similar to the completed model done for Longboat Pass and Venice Inlet.

WCIND COUNSEL’S REPORT – Mr. Perrey reported on his research into the District Investment Policy. Commissioner McClash made a motion to change the WCIND Investment Policy to adopt Section 23 of the Florida Statutes to amend the policy. Commissioner Patterson seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on May 15, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. at Venice City Hall.