

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MARCH 31, 2005 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Ray Judah, Chair
Jane Von Hahmann, Alternate
Tom Moore, Treasurer
Nora Patterson, Secretary

Staff Present:

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

Chair Ray Judah opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL and received a request from Commissioner Patterson to amend the agenda to delete the “Call to Order and Roll Call.” This agenda item has been the traditional opening of the meeting and allowed for minutes to reflect attendance of Board members. Consensus of the Board was to eliminate this item from the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr.

Listowski reported dialog with Mr. Paden Woodruff, Administrator of the Office of Beaches and Coastal Systems, DEP. Mr. Woodruff has expressed a desire for DEP involvement with WCIND in dealing with coastal issues. The Office of Beaches and Coastal Systems is presently funding a project involving management of the Venice Inlet.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski then reported that Ms. Pat Hanson could not attend the Board meeting due to illness; however, Ms. Hanson did submit comments to Mr. Listowski relating to the imminent construction activities involving the Venice jetties bulkhead rehabilitation. Mr. Listowski went into some detail about the composition of the new bulkhead, requested assistance from Commissioner Patterson, and described the need for right-of-way easement agreements on both the north and south jetties. These easements are especially important in light of the fact that there are two public oriented facilities presently operating close to the bulkheads, both north and south. The balance of the \$500,000 congressional “add,” which amounts to \$467,000, will initially fund the construction work on the jetties, and planning and design activities for the associated shoaled areas within the ICW.

Rob Patton addressed the Board regarding to the north jetty fish camp and the issues relative to an easement for USACOE construction activity on that bulkhead.

Mr. Listowski also reminded the Board of the four constriction areas that will be addressed by the current congressional “add” and completed with subsequent requests for congressional funding.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. FY04 Audit Report – Mr. Ed Leonard reported to the Board the changes associated with the expanded FY2004 audit report, with focus on the new GASB No. 34 requirements. Mr. Leonard reported that the audit showed the District to be in excellent fiscal condition with no requirement for any major management changes in auditing procedures. Commissioner Patterson made a motion to accept the audit report, motion was seconded by Commissioner Von Hahmann, and motion passed unanimously.

2. Sarasota Staff Presentation – Rob Patton, Director of Environmental Services, Sarasota County, introduced the Sarasota County coastal management initiative and introduced Dr. Cliff Truitt, principal consultant for Sarasota County's effort. After some discussion about the technical merits of both the County program and the District's activities contracted to be performed by Humiston & Moore, coastal engineers from Naples, it was decided that, whenever possible, the County and the District would collaborate and cooperate for the common public benefit on issues relating to specific and comprehensive projects. After some discussion, Mr. Listowski introduced a concept involving an expanded request to the FDEP Beaches & Coastal Systems regarding inlet management funding for Big Sarasota Pass, New Pass, and Longboat Pass. Commissioner Patterson made a motion to direct staff to utilize \$75,000 from contingency reserves to serve as a match for a request for \$75,000 from the FDEP Beaches & Coastal Systems in cooperation with Sarasota and Manatee counties staff to involve inlet management studies at Big Sarasota Pass, New Pass, and Longboat Pass. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Von Hahmann, and motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Listowski then introduced a potential lobbying effort involving Congresswoman Harris' office and issues relative to the management of New Pass for navigation. Motion by Commissioner Patterson to allow the chair to sign a letter from the WCIND Board supportive of an ACOE initiative to utilize shore protection project funding to derive sand from the New Pass area to be used on the adjacent severely eroded beaches. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Von Hahmann and motion passed unanimously.

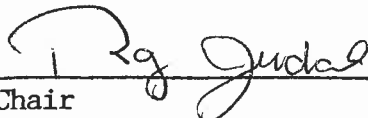
3. Washington, D.C. Liaison Report – Mr. Listowski gave the Board a synopsis of the current status of the congressional "add" request for \$3.5 million to fund construction of the planned improvements to the Venice jetties bulkhead, and dredging of deficient areas of the ICW in Manatee, Sarasota, and Lee counties.


4. District Projects Report – Mr. Listowski presented a detailed report covering the last six months of District managed project activities. This attached list included work on a use agreement with V.A.B.I., relative to District property on Venice Island, which would support a concrete recreational pathway through the property. There was some discussion by Commissioner Patterson and Commissioner Von Hahmann regarding the liability insurance coverage suggested by Council Perrey. Staff will report back to Commissioner Patterson regarding the formulation of this final draft use agreement, and the insurance issue.

COMMISSIONERS'/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS – Discussion involved input by the District at Whitaker Bayou in Sarasota County, and issues of Okeechobee Waterway Management in Lee County and east into Lake Okeechobee. Staff will report back to the B.C.C.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on June 3, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.


Chair


Secretary