

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MARCH 31, 2006 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Vice Chair Joe McClash opened the meeting in Chair Ray Judah's absence at 10:30 a.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported on DEP correspondence involving non-combustion engine zones, and the progress on the Lee County NGP. Mr. Listowski also reported to the Board that staff is investigating the use of "social marketing" as a method to substitute for the suggested NCEZ areas. Further discussion by Commissioners McClash and Patterson encouraged the concept of boater education and appropriate exclusion zones for boaters when sea grasses are in jeopardy, i.e., the long standing NCEZ at Pansy Bayou in Sarasota County.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' COMMENTS – Ms. Jackie Keiser, USACOE Project Manager, addressed the Board about a variety of issues. First, the recent renovation of the Venice Jetties is complete, and further concrete injection "tightening" will be performed within 2 months.

Secondly, the long awaited contributed funds agreement (CFA) is delayed due to changes in ACOE rule requirements for language. ACOE staff will remedy this in the coming months resulting in re-submittal consideration. Commissioner Patterson questioned the definition of a CFA and Commissioner McClash responded with an explanation of this funding mechanism through the Corps of Engineers for desired WCIND work. Mr. Listowski introduced the associated concept of WCIND exploring sponsorship of improvements to the Okeechobee Waterway similar to the sponsorship responsibilities, recently taken on by FIND, coming from the east coast into Lake Okeechobee. Commissioner Patterson expressed concern regarding the potential financial commitment associated with "expanding" district jurisdiction, but Commissioner McClash expressed interest in discussion at future meetings about agreement mechanisms that could be used to facilitate assistance to non-member counties.

Ms. Keiser then reported the progress on GIWW improvements and described the surveying updates that will be required prior to dredging construction later this year. The key to starting dredging on surveyed "hot spots" will be the availability of the beach disposal locations and the associated compatible sand grain analysis. Commissioner McClash asked for clarification of the "hot spots" and the order of scheduled improvements. Ms. Keiser will report back to the Board on the survey and sediment analysis that is underway.

Commissioner Patterson then requested information about the process involving beach placement of sediment from the Turtle Beach Boat Ramp Channel dredging project, and the combination of this material with the larger Siesta Key Renourishment Project. After brief discussion, Mr. Michael Poff of Coastal Engineering Consultants, representing both, Sarasota County and WCIND, addressed the Board. Mr. Poff suggested that the best strategy to accomplish the dredging of the Turtle Beach Boat Ramp Channel would be to combine the work with the larger Siesta Beach Renourishment Project, with permits imminent, as a permit modification.

Commissioners McClash and Patterson also requested detailed survey and sediment analysis information from Ms. Keiser relative to the most recent survey activity undertaken by the Corps.

Ms. Keiser introduced the current status of the Ft. Myers Beach Project. The chronic problem associated with shoaling of the federal entrance channel to Estero Bay through Matanzas Pass is, again, being explored. Historically, the tip of Estero Island (Bowditch Point) was dredged and material transported south along the beach. Ms. Keiser now reports that the DEP has changed the percentage allowable for fine material placement. Commissioner Patterson made a motion to write letters to the DEP and USACOE to request consideration for boating safety and economic support for the commercial shrimping industry involving improvement to the deteriorating situation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, and motion approved unanimously.

Discussion ensued with Commissioners McClash and Patterson suggesting correspondence to appropriate legislative delegates involving the current congregational “add” funding for GIWW improvements. It was suggested that an additional letter go to Congressman Davis seeking his formal support of the current \$4.5 million request. Consensus of the Board was to request additional funding assistance for the maintenance of the federal channel on Ft. Myers Beach. Commissioner McClash then brought up the issue of pass/inlet (pre-hurricane) conditions. This survey activity would be a prerequisite for FEMA reimbursement after a hurricane event. Motion by Commissioner Patterson to secure this pre-hurricane survey baseline, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Patterson inquired of Ms. Keiser the status of the design of the shoreline protection project under the Section 1135 program for the Bird Colony Islands in Sarasota Bay. Commissioner Patterson described an apparent flaw in the design of a structure that would enable predators to have easy access to bird nests on these islands, hence, destroying the concept of habitat protection. Ms. Keiser ensured the Board that this project was in the design phase and would take into consideration all features and structures that would have an impact on all functions of these islands.

The Board thanked Ms. Keiser for her attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Moore, approved the Consent Agenda and the vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. Regional Inlet Management Data Presentation – Dr. Mohamed Dabees, Humiston & Moore Engineers – Dr. Mohamed Dabees made a presentation of the results of his evolving regional hydrodynamic model of an all inclusive area from the Venice Inlet at the south end to Longboat Pass north. Technical aspects of this model included use of the ADCIRC model

and the reservoir model to establish a baseline for sand management involving the function of four inlets. The baseline data derived from these models for Venice inlet and Longboat Pass also provides much detailed information about Big Sarasota Pass and New Pass. The District will be working with Sarasota County Staff/Consultants to create a regional model that could present a level of predictability of the function of these inlets for years to come. It is important to be able to anticipate sand transport and other physical phenomena involving coastal systems, so as to qualify for federal and state assistance and planning rationale. Discussion ensued regarding details of conditions around the Venice Inlet, including the deterioration of Snake Island. Some conceptual remedies for the erosion that is occurring were discussed. The Board then thanked Dr. Dabees for his presentation and looks forward to the final collaborative product, which will address the regional inlet conditions between Tampa Bay and Venice.

2. Projects Progress Report – Mr. Listowski reported to the Board on projects underway in all member counties: the Lee County NGP process is moving forward; the Charlotte County Regional Waterway Management System Project could be approved soon by the Charlotte BCC; the last segment of the Phillippi Creek Dredge Project in Sarasota County should be complete within 90 days; and in Manatee County, the Crosley Dredge Project DMMA site should be restored within 30 days.
3. Legislative Amendment Process 2007 – Counsel Philip Perrey - Counsel Perrey reported to the Board his work on various agreements. The Sarasota County Agreement regarding use of WCIND 's Lands for hurricane debris processing has been finalized. An Agreement with Sarasota County on the Boys and Girls Club will be amended to accommodate the current construction site plan. An Agreement with VABI could be finalized regarding the project walkway alignment through District owned land. Some discussion on potential uses of this parcel led to a motion by Commission Moore and seconded by Commissioner McClash, regarding the need for property appraisals that could lead to disposal of this land from the District's inventory. Motion was approved unanimously.

Counsel Perrey also reported on the finalization of an air space agreement with the FDOT on property located adjacent to the Hatchett Creek Bridge in Venice. Consensus of the Board was to approve this revitalized agreement. Finally, Counsel Perrey, with the consensus of the Board, stated his intention to analyze existing rules and statutes pertaining to the District, and present appropriate future amendments.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS – Commissioner McClash led a substantive discussion regarding the need for regional boat ramps within the district. He suggested a potential site for analysis along the Sunshine Bridge Causeway in Manatee County. Consensus of the Board, with strong support from Commissioner Patterson, was to pursue this effort cooperatively and collaboratively as a District.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on June 8, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. at Venice City Hall.