

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2007 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present: Joe McClash, Chair
Tom Moore, Vice Chair
Nora Patterson, Secretary

Commissioners Absent: Ray Judah, Treasurer

Staff Present: Charles W. Listowski, Executive Director
Philip E. Perrey, Counsel

Chair Joe McClash opened the meeting 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 a public workshop on the legislation, re: Lee County NGP for waterway improvements. The DEP, Lee County, and WCIND Staff attended the workshop. Counsel Perrey commented on the slow progress and still unresolved issues, i.e., no combustion engine zones and waterway management within aquatic preserves. Counsel Perrey said the next step is a joint meeting with DEP in Tampa, including FWC Staff, on June 27, 2007, with the hope of a positive report by Mr. Listowski at the June 29, 2007 meeting.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported on discussions with the USACOE, re: encroachment issues at Venice Jetties along with other issues. The ICW dredging near Jewfish Key is reported in detail later in the meeting.

Commissioner McClash asked if budget in Congress indicates any additional funds. Mr. Listowski responded with the information on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), recently passed in Congress listing around \$8 billion for Florida projects, with \$3 million estimated as WCIND related. Mr. Listowski needs to get a better idea about the project list and will report back on this matter at the June Board Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA – Chairman McClash commented on Minutes of May 18, 2007, re: a correction on Chair making a motion, and wants the minutes to reflect “Chair framed a motion.” Commissioner Moore made a motion to amend the minutes as suggested, second by Commissioner Patterson, and the vote was unanimous.

Motion by Commissioner Patterson to approve balance of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. FY07-08 Budget Discussion – Mr. Listowski discussed four budget scenarios and the associated millage rates. Commissioners requested a copy of the budget drafts as available before the June Board Meeting.

Commissioner McClash suggested preparing a budget that illustrates the fact that revenue from the District Investment Portfolio and other miscellaneous income offsets the Administrative budget for the District. Commissioner Patterson commented that the current budget format is adequate and flexible enough to address special project needs of the District.

Other comments by the Board/Staff included the potential for budget “rollback”; better effort by Counties to spend existing project balances; review of capital project balances; and the use of FBIP Funds.

Counsel Perrey discussed tax relief issues and handed everyone a package with information regarding scheduled meetings on May 21, 2007 & June 4, 2007. The June 4, 2007 meeting will address remaining issues, including protection for critical special districts. Our District Liaison in Tallahassee suggested contacting Senators Carlton & Bennett to convince them that WCIND is a critical special district.

2. Jewfish Key Area Emergency Dredge Project - Report – Mr. Listowski reported we have a contract for \$312,500 for dredging with a negotiable amount for trucking. The Board approved \$450,000 for the project. Commissioner McClash is working with the County on having Coquina Beach as a landing point for dredged material. Work should commence after all issues are addressed.
3. Projects Update – Mr. Listowski reported on the following projects underway:
 - Cortez project is complete, with local canal residents negotiating permission to do supplemental dredging in two canal/waterfront basins.
 - Warner’s Bayou project is underway and is a very challenging project, due to the restrictive dredging material management area and sediment composition.
 - Turtle Beach project, as a hydraulic dredging project, is going very well, even with a very limited DMMA.
 - Bowlees Creek & Bryn Mawr Dredge Projects are situated near a private island that has been improved. If this property is used for DMMA, WCIND can save over \$200,000 compared to developing a useable site. Counsel Perrey is exploring issues involving an ethics question, due to ownership interests by elected official, to ensure positive perception of public/private conflict of interest.
 - WCIND has received a permit to have Hatchett Creek dredged in Venice. Using District’s Spoil Island for DMMA to minimize disruption of adjacent boat ramp use.
 - WCIND received a grant from FWC/FBIP to collaboratively create a boating safety program for personal flotation device (PFD) increased use. Due to severe time constraints and problems with consultant services, WCIND/Lee County Staff have requested a rescission of contract requirements until next grant cycle.

4. FY07 Legislative Initiative – Counsel Perrey – Counsel Perrey reported on failure of District’s legislative initiative.

COMMISSIONERS’ ITEMS – Commissioner Patterson discussed attending an award ceremony after the June 29, 2007 Board Meeting. The Venetian Waterway Park Project and the Venice Area Beautification Organization have requested WCIND Board of County Commissioners participation in a dedication ceremony in Venice. Consensus of the Board was to attend the ceremony.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next meeting will be held on June 29, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at Venice City Hall.