

WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
Approved MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2013 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA

Commissioners Present	John Chappie, Chair Charles Hines - Alternate Stephen R. Deutsch, Secretary Larry Kiker, Treasurer
Staff Present	Charles W. Listowski
Others in Attendance	Philip Perrey, Legal Counsel

Chair, John Chappie opened the meeting at 10:37 a.m. in Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, Florida.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Peter VanRoekens, discussed the Sarasota Big Pass proposed dredging project, to be conducted by the USACE and the City of Sarasota. He reported that Mr. Milan Mora, ACOE Project Manager has said; “the Inlet Management Plan (IMP) was peer reviewed and is the basis for the current model”. Mr. VanRoekens noted this is something we should all be concerned about. He said in conversations between members of the Siesta Key Association, Sarasota Yacht Club, Boaters Coalition and Sarasota Bay Watch, there is agreement that the current modeling should have a peer review, followed by a public hearing before a permit is granted. Mr. VanRoekens hopes that WCIND will support this position.

Mr. Listowski suggested that WCIND could act as an intermediary between the local community and the ACOE with the Boards approval.

Commissioner Hines motioned that WCIND coordinate with the ACOE and Sarasota County in regards to the Big Pass dredging project.

Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski noted that he and Counsel Perrey attended an October 3, 2013 meeting with the DEP, and Charlotte County staff regarding the Charlotte County Regional Waterway Management System and the associated General Permit rule. The Rule will complete the WCIND regional initiative regarding a General Permit for all four member counties. Another meeting will be held at the Fort Myers DEP office on Monday, November 4, 2013 regarding a final version of the rule.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski noted, we are in a holding pattern regarding permit review by the federal agencies, until January 15th, or until government budget resolution, as a result, our projects are about three months behind.

CONSENT AGENDA -

Commissioner Chappie opened the floor to any public comment on the Consent Agenda.

No public comment.

Commissioner Deutsch motioned to approve the consent agenda

Commissioner Hines seconded the motion

Motion approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

District Project Status Report

Manatee County –

- Trailer Estates East – Could begin in the next three months.
- Fort Hamer – Delayed due to the Federal government shutdown. We are very close to getting final review from the ACOE and the project will start after the first of the year 2014.

Commissioner Kiker arrived.

- Coquina Boat Ramp – Working on issues with the access channel for the north boat ramp and the dredging along the shoreline up to the City pier, trying to establish a depth in which to dredge, using historical data.
- Flamingo Cay Channel – We are applying for permits, to remove about 100 yards of material, in a critical location, near the mouth of a very long straight channel.

Sarasota County –

- Cherokee Park - Delayed due to the Federal government shutdown. Permitting is close to completion.
- Snake Island/Venice Inlet – About 400 tons of bedrock material have been delivered, additionally rock boulders will be placed inside a structure to stabilize the Island and then backfilled. Mangroves and other ground stabilizing plants will be placed along the structure to stabilize and provide habitat.

Charlotte County –

- The Charlotte County Regional Waterway Management System is moving forward, with a November 4, 2013 meeting scheduled.

Lee County -

- New Pass – shoaling in rapidly, and is in the permitting process.
- Plato Channel – completion in about 60 days.
- Shell Cut Channel – permitting has been difficult because of the aquatic preserve.

Commissioner Kiker asked about dredging Big Carlos Pass. Mr. Justin McBride, Lee County Staff, noted the bathymetric survey has been preformed to locate the best water and the channel configuration has been adjusted to address depth issues. Mr. Listowski added the WCIND will work closely with the County.

Policy Manual – Introduction to Policy Manual is a new feature of the evolving manual and contains targeted topics on what is in the policy manual.

OLD BUSINESS –

Charlotte County easement on Palm Island – Mr. Listowski reported that there was a provision in this County Coastal Management Plan to have an easement on Palm Island through one of our properties. In conversation with the consulting engineer, language of the agreement should include, format for our standard License to Use Agreement.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS - None

COUNSEL'S REPORT - None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hans Wilson & Associates has requested a potential partnership with WCIND and Gulf Harbor Marina Condominium Association to qualify the ingress / egress channel and flushing channel as Public Channels. Counsel Perrey warned of potential liabilities, problems, and difficulties. Mr. McBride explained how this request came into fruition. Previously the DEP did not charge easement fees for dredging or channel markers, but now they do. WCIND and the County are exempt from those fees. Mr. McBride voiced his concern with the liability issue.

Commissioner Hines motioned to explore the benefits and risks of WCIND involvement with this type of partnership.

Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

Next regular meeting will be held on Friday January 24, 2014 at 10:30 AM Venice City Hall, Board Chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.