

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present: Ray Judah, Chair
 Robert Skidmore, Vice Chair
 John Chappie, Alternate
 Nora Patterson, Secretary

Commissioner Absent: Joe McClash, Treasurer

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

Chair Ray Judah opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, Florida, acknowledging a quorum. Mr. Listowski explained the reason for Commissioner McClash’s absence was due to the loss of his Mother. Commissioner Judah, with consensus of the Board, registered the condolences of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported on the Lee County NGP initiative and that the process is still slowly progressing after 8.5 years. Counsel Perrey explained the public objection process. Mr. Listowski also reported on a scheduled October 1, 2009 meeting with the FDEP, FWCC, and USACOE in Tallahassee.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Tim Murphy, USACOE Project Manager, reported on the Venice Inlet maintenance dredge project – contract open for bids in October 2009; award contract in November 2009; work to commence in January 2010; and to be completed in March 2010. Mr. Murphy reported on the more complicated features of Longboat Pass and the goal to start work in 12 months. He commented on the Pinellas County project as a third priority.

Commissioner Judah commended the ACOE on efforts to complete the Matanzas Pass dredging project.

Commissioner Patterson requested that staff work with ACOE staff to develop practical solutions for use of the R.O.W. for the North Venice Jetty with focus on the North Jetty “Fish Camp” encroachment.

Mr. Listowski suggested to the Board that Mr. Murphy could represent a positive change in the relationship between ACOE and WCIND. Mr. Murphy reported that the House is considering a \$750K appropriation in the President’s budget and the Senate is proposing \$2 million. We are watching the conference meetings and the final allocation.

CONSENT AGENDA - Motion by Commissioner Chappie, seconded by Commissioner Skidmore, approving the Consent Agenda, and the vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. FY09-10 Budget Review and Approval for Public Hearings – Mr. Listowski explained to the Board how the economic downturn and the associated calculations reflected much different tax rates than previous years. He explained that the fiscal condition of the District is sound, but cautioned that project balances are higher than expected. He offered assistance to the counties in developing strategies to administer available funds expeditiously. Mr. Listowski commented that the District’s proposed budget represents no change in District activity, but that less funding is available.
2. Report on Manatee County Waterway Improvement Permit Data Base – Mr. Listowski introduced a new product invented by the District at the urging of Manatee County. The Permit Database is designed to categorize all permits relating to projects completed or planned to improve waterway infrastructure. The Database, using a “tiered” approach to prioritizing project implementation, may provide assistance to county governments. Commissioner Chappie expressed appreciation for the Database development on behalf of Manatee County.
3. Regional Pass/Inlet Condition Report – Mr. Listowski reported on the revised Regional Pass/Inlet Report and that it is nearing completion. Some of the report features include the current known survey, notable navigation concerns and local knowledge, and a text condition report/probable dredge volume needs. Mr. Listowski went into some detail about Longboat Pass as an example of a project with many distinct features presenting significant challenges. Commissioner Patterson inquired when the report, with a narrative, would be complete.
4. Project Status Report – Mr. Listowski explained that due to long-time deterioration, wave action, and tropical storms over the last 10 years, the GIWW revetment along the “Venice Canal” and damage to the Venice Jetties has been fixed through the WCIND maintenance program. Costs have been minimal to accomplish this repair work. Mr. Listowski also reported on the WCIND involvement with a shark-tagging educational project in collaboration with the University of Miami, Florida Gulf Coast University, and Lee County.

COMMISSIONERS’ ITEMS – Commissioner Patterson reported that Sarasota County has been approached by an organization regarding an international rowing program for high schools and colleges. Commissioner Patterson requested that Mr. Listowski assist the non-profit organization in pursuing a dock improvement to property which was acquired for public recreation. Mr. Listowski will assist the organization, via consensus of the Board, as needed.

Commissioner Patterson requested clarification of the various functions of a comprehensive permit database. Commissioner Patterson made a motion to have Mr. Listowski assist with Sarasota Waterway Management Projects as appropriate. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Skidmore, and approved unanimously.

WCIND COUNSEL'S REPORT – None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mr. Listowski reported on the WCIND Strategic Plan for 2008 – 2013 and Accomplishments of 2002 – 2007. Key elements of the updated plan included the comprehensive list of legislative references applicable to District operations. He also reported on some encouraging trends regarding seagrass population improvements and other projects being conducted by Florida Gulf Coast University with oyster relocation and population enhancements. Commissioner Patterson also reported that policies enacted in Sarasota County in recent years have apparently resulted in dramatic increases in seagrass communities.

Chair Judah adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at Venice City Hall.