

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2008 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

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

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported on continuing negotiations regarding the Lee County NGP.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski introduced the ACOE representatives present to address the Board. Mr. L. Rene Perez introduced Mr. Nelson Colon as the new project manager for the GIWW. Mr. Listowski also reported to the Board that he had conversations with these ACOE representatives before the meeting, and was promised assistance from the Federal Government in improving deteriorating conditions at Matanzas Pass in Lee County. Mr. Perez outlined the ACOE plans to develop plans and specs for improvements to Longboat Pass area and the Venice Inlet area of the GIWW. Mr. Listowski spoke in detail of the emergency dredging performed by WCIND last year and the potential collaborations that could occur with the various project principals at Longboat Pass. Commissioner Moore questioned how Stump Pass could receive federal help. Commissioner Patterson requested information on project coordination regarding mobilization costs, etc. Mr. Listowski also reported on the first interagency meeting between navigation districts and all Federal and State agencies regarding the OWW (Okeechobee Waterway). The Board thanked Mr. Perez for his work and welcomed Mr. Colon.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. FY08-09 Budget Review and Approval for Public Hearings – Mr. Listowski explained the effect that national economic conditions have on WCIND budget development. He also explained that the Board instruction to develop a “rolled back” rate budget, resulted in a “rolled up” millage rate, due to dramatic changes in property values. After some discussion of the ramifications of the aggregate property values and impact on revenues, and the already advertised Public Hearing/Tentative Budget, the consensus of the Board was to discuss final millage rates at the First Public Hearing.

2. Bowditch Point/Matanzas Pass Emergency Dredge Report/Permit Application – Mr. Listowski discussed further, a topic brought up during the ACOE presentation. The cooperative presentation of an application for dredge permitting at Matanzas Pass Federal Channel was to be submitted within two weeks. It is hoped that this “emergency” request would be reviewed quickly, and allow the Lee County/WCIND cooperative project management to be complete by March 2009.
3. Okeechobee Waterway FIND/WCIND Cooperative Project – Mr. Listowski reported on a September meeting between WCIND/FIND/ACOE, FDEP, SFWMD, which laid the foundation for management strategies to improve and maintain the Okeechobee Waterway. The group of agency representatives acknowledged the potential benefits to functionality and commercial/recreational safety associated with an improved federal channel link of the Intracoastal Waterway system.
4. Project Status Report – Mr. Listowski briefed the Board on navigation projects underway and permitting initiatives. Mr. Listowski went into some detail about the potential for a continuation of the emergency dredging undertaken by the District at the Longboat Pass vicinity of the GIWW, near Jewfish Key. Commissioner Patterson made a motion to allow Mr. Listowski to make arrangements for disposal options for placement of the balance of the shoaled material within the GIWW near Jewfish Key. Commissioner McClash seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS – None.

WCIND COUNSEL'S REPORT – Mr. Perrey briefed the Board on a request to subpoena testimony from staff that was not applicable and he averted this action through a motion to the Judge. He also reported that the case on the abandoned railroad is still progressing.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mr. Listowski reported on Oyster Restoration Day – FGCU, and Mr. Pat McCarthy – International Cleanup Day at Snake Island.

Chair Judah adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on December 8, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. at Venice City Hall.

FIRST TRIM HEARING ON THE FY2008/2009 BUDGET

Chair Judah opened the public hearing at 5:01 p.m. on WCIND's proposed millage rate and tentative budget for FY2008/2009. He publicly announced the current year rolled back rate is .0471 mill, and the proposed millage rate of .0451 mill.

Chair Judah announced the percentage increase in millage over the rolled back rate necessary to fund the tentative budget is -4.25%; and that the percentage increase in property taxes based on the proposed millage rate is -4.25%.

Chair Judah opened up the floor for any public comment.

There was no public input recorded.

Chair Judah closed the public hearing.

Discussion by the Board focused on the T.R.I.M. process advertisement requirement, versus the previous Board direction to develop a tentative budget using the traditional "rolled back" rate as the revenue template. The severe economic downturn and the associated property devaluations caused the "rolled back" rate to become a "rolled up" millage percentage. Commissioner Patterson lamented the predicament that this procedural anomaly posed to the public. The advertisement was published with a higher proposed millage than originally intended by the Board, but the process disallowed re-advertisement.

Commissioner Moore moved and Commissioner McClash seconded the motion to adopt the tentative millage rate for FY2008/2009 of .0451 mill. Motion approved 3-1, with Commissioner Patterson dissenting.

Commissioner McClash moved to adopt the tentative budget for FY2008/2009 with projected funds available of \$18,927,528, total expenditures of \$5,832,954, and reserves of \$13,094,574. Commissioner Moore seconded. Motion approved 3-1, with Commissioner Patterson dissenting.

Chair Judah announced that the hearing to finalize the budget and adopt the final millage rate would be held at 5:01 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2008 in the same room, Venice City Hall – Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.