

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2003 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Nora Patterson, Chair
Ray Judah, Vice Chair
Joe McClash, Treasurer
Tom D'Aprile, Alternate

Staff Present:

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

Chair Nora Patterson opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL. Mr. Listowski called the roll and determined that a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S COMMENTS – None.

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' COMMENTS – None.

CONSENT AGENDA - Motion to approve by Commissioner D'Aprile, seconded by Commissioner McClash. Motion approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. City of Clearwater Request to Utilize WCIND Property – Commissioner Judah made a motion to have staff forward the City of Clearwater request to the USACOE for further review and action in collaboration with City of Clearwater officials regarding this property. Motion seconded by D'Aprile, motion approved unanimously.
2. FSBPA Conference Report – Counsel Perrey – Counsel Perrey reported the highlights of the 2003 FSBPA meeting, which he attended. He submitted to the Board a written report of his notes from the meeting and verbally reported highlights, including a new emerging issue relative to shore birds and their protection by both the federal government and international law.

Mr. Perrey also reported the change in leadership in the FDEP's Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, with Mr. Michael Sole resigning as Bureau Chief and being replaced with Mr. Michael Barnett. He also reported the need for the Board to consider the imminent comment period relative to the enabling legislation for the beach and coastal funding program. After some discussion regarding the logistics of the comment period relative to this legislative initiative, Commissioner McClash made a motion to request a time extension for the Board and participating counties to comment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Judah and motion passed unanimously. Clarification of the motion indicated that the time extension should be 30 days.

Counsel Perrey also reported on an initiative by the FSBPA to lobby the Florida legislature to continue using "doc stamp" revenues as the primary source for the beach erosion control assistance program at a level of \$30 million per year. After some discussion, the Board decided to continue that

issue at the September 12 meeting in a regular business session meeting of the Board. Mr. Perrey advised the Board that there was a sample resolution distributed to local and regional governments to support this request to the State. There was consensus by the Board to have a short business meeting in conjunction with the final budget public hearing on September 12, 2003.

3. FWCC Stakeholders Meeting Regarding Strategic Management Plan – Mr. Listowski reported the FWCC initiative regarding problematic changes and policy revisions to facilitate the merger between FDEP/FMP and the FGFWCC, into the new agency. Mr. Listowski indicated he would come back to the Board at a future meeting to discuss details as they emerge.
4. Lee County NGP Work Session Progress Report – Mr. Listowski reported on the progress associated with the NGP development in Lee County waterway management. He indicated the differences between the Sarasota/Manatee County NGP and the Lee County NGP.
5. Update on “Miserable Mile” Spoil Islands in Lee County – Mr. Listowski reported on the most current issues associated with this proposed island restoration and the positive aspect of this project being clarification of the District/ACOE’s use of these lands for waterway management of the adjacent ICW.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Listowski reported the dates for the 2003 Water Access Conference at South Seas Plantation on November 6-7, 2003.

Mr. Listowski reported to the Board the solicitations from a company called Gannett Fleming as they market an innovative technique of exchanging waters between bay systems and the Gulf of Mexico. This technology may in the future afford some alternatives to inlet dredging and other types of projects designed to enhance water quality in the bay. Mr. Listowski distributed materials from Gannett Fleming and suggested that Board members may solicit input from county staff.

Motion by Commissioner Judah to continue the September 5 business meeting to September 12 after the adjournment of the final public hearing for the fiscal year 2003/04 millage rate and budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClash and motion approved unanimously.

In the interest of time, Mr. Listowski continued the Executive Director report to include some detailed explanation on projects like Palma Sola dredging authorization in Manatee County and also discussed the Crosley Estate channel dredging project in some detail with input from Commissioner McClash and Consultant Sam Johnston.

During this discussion period, Commissioner Patterson also requested clarification on a payment to Dr. Gustavo Antonini representing Florida Sea Grant for professional liaison services regarding waterway management. Mr. Listowski explained the kind of task-oriented activities Dr. Antonini performs on behalf of the District.

Chris Koepfer of Lee County staff also addressed the Board about the details associated with the Ft. Myers Beach mooring project/harbor management plan using CNIF funds.

The Board meeting concluded.

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2003 BOARD MEETING
CONTINUATION OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2003 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Ray Judah, Vice Chair
Joe McClash, Treasurer
Mac Horton, Secretary

Commissioners Absent:

Nora Patterson, Chair

Staff Present:

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

Vice Chair Ray Judah opened the continuation of the September 5, 2003 meeting at 5:15 p.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL, and initiated discussion regarding the pending items.

The primary pending item involved a resolution supporting maintaining the current level of funding for the FDEP administered Beach Erosion Control Assistance Program. Commissioner McClash requested Counsel Perrey to review whether there remained any considerations that the Board needed to address. Counsel Perrey stated that there were no pending considerations and the proposed legislation was consistent with WCIND's previous comments. There was a motion by Commissioner McClash, seconded by Commissioner Horton, to send the resolution to the State indicating support for maintaining current funding levels and doc stamp usage for the State Beach Erosion Control Assistance Program. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Listowski then requested the Board consider a submittal from a Washington lobbyist, Alcade and Fay, involving the representation of the District to congressional delegation specifically regarding funding for GIWW maintenance/operation. After some discussion by the Board, Commissioner McClash made a motion to defer the item, since Commissioner Patterson was not in attendance. Also, Mr. Listowski was asked to research other companies that may provide similar services, so that the Board could compare qualifications and suitability. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Listowski also reported Charlotte County action to proceed with the previously approved CNIF funded project called "Lemon Bay Marker System." Motion affirming this use of funding was made by Commissioner Horton, seconded by Commissioner McClash, and motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Listowski also informed the Board of the imminent completion of the District's web site opened for perusal.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

FIRST TRIM HEARING ON THE FY2003/2004 BUDGET

Chair Patterson opened the public hearing at 5:01 p.m. on WCIND's proposed millage rate and tentative budget for FY2003/2004. She publicly announced the proposed millage rate of .04 mill.

She announced the percentage increase in millage over the rolled back rate necessary to fund the tentative budget is 11.1%; and that the percentage increase in property taxes based on the proposed millage rate is 11.1%.

She asked Mr. Listowski to discuss the specific purposes for which ad valorem taxes are being increased. Mr. Listowski stated that the county funding requests have increased and with the millage rate at .04, the District is able to fund these requests and pay back some of the contingency reserves for emergencies. The desired level for contingency reserves is \$1.5 million and, with this increase, it will be at a level of approximately \$1.3 million. Also, funds would be available to do regional projects.

The Chair opened the hearing for public comment. Mr. Sullivan approached the Board about his tax bill and, after determining that he was attending the wrong meeting, commissioners counseled him briefly as to what he might do in order to address the proper authority of his concerns.

The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Judah moved and Commissioner D'Aprile seconded the motion to adopt the tentative millage rate for FY2003/2004 of .04 mill. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Judah moved to adopt the tentative budget for FY2003/2004 with projected funds available of \$7,124,538, total expenditures of \$3,967,347, and reserves of \$3,157,191. Commissioner McClash seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Chair Patterson 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 12, 2003 in the same room, Venice City Hall – Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned.