

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2002 BOARD MEETING  
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Joe McClash, Chairman  
Mac Horton, Vice-Chairman  
Nora Patterson, Treasurer  
Ray Judah, Secretary

Staff Present:

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

Chairman Joe McClash opened the meeting at 4:10 p.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL. Mr. Listowski called the roll and determined that a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Listowski noted that a written public comment letter had been received regarding the taxation in Tennessee and Florida. Commissioner McClash requested that the letter be put into the record.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – None

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Don Fore, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided the following update:

New Pass/Gordon Pass Project – This will be opening for bids on September 12, and the contract will be awarded on the 30<sup>th</sup>. On the New Pass project, a new continuing authorities program (107) - small navigation project, has a spending limit of \$4.5 million on the operation, maintenance and dredging, and that is pro rated back to 1960. With the project limits approaching, Mr. Fore suggests that future funding for the New Pass project will need to be reassessed.

Commissioner McClash requested clarification on the funding required determining the appropriate future alignment of New Pass subsequent to this imminent dredging. Mr. Fore suggested that a \$10,000 analysis could be conducted by the ACOE to determine the most advantageous alignment. Commissioner Patterson moved that a letter be drafted for the Chair’s signature requesting funding of \$110,000 for determining the logical path for the dredging of New Pass. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Judah and motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fore advised the Board of his cooperative discussions with Sarasota County staff considering the Sarasota Bay 1135 program. He described the discussions as productive and moving towards implementation of the project.

Commissioner McClash questioned Mr. Fore on his progress on obtaining funds to study the condition of existing federal markers and how they may be moved to “best water,” instead of assessing the channel needs for dredging. Discussion ensued among the Board members relative to federal funding participation in the management of the federal waterway. Commissioner Patterson and Commissioner McClash suggested making contact with the congressional delegation to ensure that the needs of WCIND are being voiced. Staff received direction to contact both senators and representatives to obtain points of contact within those offices.

Mr. Listowski reported to the Board of the recent history of the Corps of Engineers financial investment in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in the form of bathymetric surveys and other condition surveys that set the stage for other improvement projects for the waterway.

Mr. Listowski also reported to the Board that the District has had primary involvement in a recent initiative by Lee County government regarding the Okeechobee Waterway conditions. Mr. Fore explained the content of a letter response from Colonel May to the Lee County resolution. He explained that the Colonel outlined the CERP initiative and the Southwest Florida feasibility study, as two mechanisms that could certainly address some of Lee County's concerns, as well as WCIND's concerns.

After Mr. Fore explained to the Board in some detail, the continuing authorities program mechanisms and strategies to obtain funding, Commissioner McClash reiterated the sentiment regarding relocation of channel markers within the federally authorized project to accommodate a path through "best water" to accomplish safe navigation. Commissioner McClash explained the obvious potential benefit associated with shifting channel versus dredging the original channel footprint, in terms of less dredging material generated at an obvious lesser cost. Commissioner Patterson concurred with this line of thinking as possibly being more cost effective. Mr. Fore further elaborated regarding the composition of the material and, if it is beach quality, it can become part of a shore protection project, thereby enhancing the cost effectiveness of the activities.

Commissioner McClash suggested that staff develop a congressional "platform fact sheet" to be used as a means to acquire consideration from the delegation. Commissioner Patterson then went into some detail about Sarasota County initiatives to improve conditions in Lemon Bay/Stump Pass and at the Midnight Pass area. The County's resolutions to Congress plus the resolution for broader regional consideration from WCIND certainly should result in some federal consideration.

Steve Boutelle, Lee County staff, addressed the Board concerning the current status of the Ft. Myers Beach Shore Protection Project, and the challenges of obtaining federal funds at this time.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Judah made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, and Commissioner Patterson seconded it. Motion was approved unanimously.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. WCIND 5-Year Strategic Plan – Mr. Listowski reported that major changes had been requested by the Board regarding format and text of this document. The changes have been made and are reflected in the current draft. Staff recommends approval of the Plan as amended and recommends an annual review of the Plan to assess implementation and the further need to amend goals and/or objectives. Commissioner Judah made the motion to approve the Plan, seconded by Commissioner Horton, and motion passed unanimously.
2. Regional Harbor Board – Mr. Listowski, who is on the RHB/Marine Advisory Committee, reported that the Regional Planning Council recently requested the Advisory Committee to do a study of the ramifications of all of the manatee protection issues that have been coming up statewide and how they are affecting the Southwest Florida region. This is a very big undertaking and work will start at the end of this month per the RPC direction.

WCIND COUNSEL'S REPORT – Counsel Perrey reported on the Palm Island Beach Renourishment Project. Counsel Perrey stated that a request had been received from Charlotte County for two pedestrian walkway easements from Gulf Boulevard to the Gulf of Mexico. Counsel Perrey recommended that the Board pass a motion authorizing the Chairman to sign the easements. The motion was made by Commissioner Judah, and seconded by Commissioner Patterson. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mr. Listowski reported that he will be attending a meeting with Manatee County Environmental Management staff on October 7, and did attend a meeting with Sarasota County on September 6 regarding the waterway studies. Also, he will be meeting with Lee County staff, within the next 3 weeks, to formulate a strategy on development of a notice general permit, similar to that done in Sarasota/Manatee counties.

Commissioner McClash stated that procedures should be developed between the counties and the District regarding the implementation of the Notice General Permit.

The Board meeting concluded.

### FIRST TRIM HEARING ON THE FY2002/2003 BUDGET

Chairman McClash opened the public hearing at 5:01 p.m. He publicly announced the proposed millage rate of .04 mill.

He announced the percentage increase in millage over the rolled back rate necessary to fund the tentative budget is 9.59%. Therefore, the percentage increase in property taxes based on the proposed millage rate is 9.59%.

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 payback 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 \$1.1 million. Also, funds would be available to do regional projects.

The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment. There were no public comments. The one letter received from Herman Novak concerning the tax increase was entered into the record.

The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Judah moved and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion to adopt the tentative millage rate for FY2002/2003 of .04 mill. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Judah moved to adopt the tentative budget for FY2002/2003. Commissioner Horton seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Chairman McClash 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 13, 2002 in the same room, Venice City Hall – Council Chambers.

Commissioner Horton stated that he would not be able to attend the September 13, 2002 meeting due to a schedule conflict, but all other commissioners stated they would be available.

The meeting was adjourned.