

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2007 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present: Joe McClash, Chair
Tom Moore, Treasurer
Shannon Staub, Alternate
Ray Judah, Treasurer

Commissioners Absent: Nora Patterson, Secretary

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

Chair Joe McClash opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, Florida, acknowledging a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Geno Kauzlarich addressed the Board with problems he has experienced in Sarasota County navigating close proximity to the Ringling Causeway Bridge. He also expressed concern about a number of derelict/sunken vessels, unmarked around Sarasota County. He further described problems associated with “after hurricane conditions” in Sarasota County. In general, he offered his navigation experience and assistance to the Board, regarding the WCIND mission. Commissioner McClash suggested through consensus of the Board that Mr. Listowski follow up on the sunken/abandoned boat issue with the appropriate governmental jurisdictions.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported to the Board that the Lee County NGP initiative is progressing, with the addition of the County Resolution, regarding NICMZ. This No Internal Combustion Motor Zones (NICMZ) will allow for the channel improvement projects, outlined by the District’s regional study. Mr. Listowski also reported on the progress of the Jewfish Key Emergency Dredge Project and the Jewfish Key Illegal Prop Scar Fill Project. Both of these projects are authorized and underway.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Luis “Rene” Perez introduced himself as the new liaison from the USACOE to the District. He has many years of experience in project management to the government and should be able to assist the District in all matters of waterway management. Mr. Perez reported to the Board that although the President submitted a request of \$150,000 for waterway projects, the House and Senate’s request was for \$1.5 million. Mr. Listowski read into the record a report from the District’s Washington liaison indicating the current status of potential funding of waterway projects. Mr. Perez then reported on his commitment to process the long-standing Contributed Funds Agreement (CFA). Commissioner McClash requested that Mr. Perez initiate activity to survey the markers along the Intracoastal Waterway for proper placement and marking of “best water.” Mr. Listowski brought up for discussion the potential need of rededication of lands associated with the jurisdictional waterway. Mr. Perez confirmed the fact that processes are available to deal with this issue. Commissioner McClash and Mr. Listowski requested clarification and information pertaining to existing balance

from the previous year congregational “ad” funding in the amount of approximately \$240,000. Commissioner McClash further requested information regarding USACOE involvement in the planning for the dredging of Longboat Pass and the associated Beach Renourishment Project. Mr. Listowski also requested current status of the USACOE position on the severely encroached Ft. Myers Beach federal entrance channel.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. Project Status Report – Mr. Listowski reported on the status of the Jewfish Key Project, the Turtle Beach Dredging Project (complete), and the Cortez Dredging Project (complete). Mr. Listowski also reported on current status as “underway” for Warner’s Bayou, Bowlees Creek, and Bryn Mawr Channel. Finally, Mr. Listowski reported on the current status on Hatchett Creek and the Lee County NGP.

Counsel Perrey reported on negotiations for the Lee County NGP. Commissioner Judah questioned the concept of the NICMZ and asked Mr. Chris Koepfer, Lee County Staff, to respond to comments and questions. Mr. Koepfer outlined the negotiation process with FDEP that resulted in the development of these protection zones. After some discussion, the Board wished Lee County well in this initiative. Mr. Listowski then reported on the new Charlotte County Regional Waterway Management System (RWMS) Project. This project will complete the regional data base that is presently used by the District to pursue management plans for area waterways, including the NGP process. Mr. Listowski then reported on the status of the Regional Socioeconomic Artificial Reef Study Project. Due to economic conditions, Collier County, Hillsborough County, and Pinellas County have dropped out of the cooperative project. Mr. Listowski also reported on the status of Longboat Pass Inlet Management Plan Project.

2. FY07-08 Budget Review and Approval for Public Hearings – Mr. Listowski introduced a new budget format to the Board, based on the state legislature’s mandated actions for this fiscal year. The preliminary budget is being presented with two millage rates for Board consideration, .0394 mill (the rollback rate), and .0382 mill (97% of rollback rate). After some discussion about the financial differences between the two rates (approximately \$240,000), Commissioner Judah made a motion to adopt the rollback rate for discussion at the First Public Hearing, regarding the FY2007/2008 budget, seconded by Commissioner Staub. Commissioner Moore voted no, motion approved 3-1.

COMMISSIONERS’ ITEMS

WCIND COUNSEL’S REPORT –

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT –

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

Next meeting will be held on November 9, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at Venice City Hall.

FIRST TRIM HEARING ON THE FY2007/2008 BUDGET

Chair McClash opened the public hearing at 5:01 p.m. on WCIND's proposed millage rate and tentative budget for FY2007/2008.

Mr. Listowski presented the fundamental aspects for FY2007/2008 for Board consideration.

There was no public input recorded.

After some discussion about the millage rates, and the difference in financial balances, Commissioner Judah made a motion to adopt the rollback rate of .0394 mill as the tentative millage rate for FY2007/2008, seconded by Commissioner Staub. Commissioner Moore voted no, motion approved 3 to 1.

Commissioner Judah moved to adopt the tentative budget for FY2007/2008 with projected funds available of \$15,779,989, total expenditures of \$5,084,820 and reserves of \$10,695,169. Commissioner Staub seconded. Commissioner Moore voted no, motion approved 3 to 1.

Chair 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 14, 2007 in the same room, Venice City Hall – Council Chambers.

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