

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2006 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Tom Moore, Treasurer
Nora Patterson, Secretary
Amy Stein, Alternate

Staff Present:

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

Commissioner Nora Patterson, serving as Chair, in the absence of Chair Ray Judah and Vice Chair Joe McClash, opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, Florida, acknowledging a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported to the Board a meeting has been scheduled for September 19, 2006, with FDEP/FWCC administrative staff. The meeting will address several issues and will focus on the longstanding District NGP initiative for Lee County. The Beach Erosion Control Program funding to the District for IMP activities at Venice Inlet and Longboat Pass was also discussed with a progress report scheduled for the November Board meeting.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski briefed the Board on a written report by Ms. Jackie Keiser (attached), USACOE Project Manager, providing a status update on a number of pending issues in light of her imminent maternity leave.

Mr. Listowski also reported that the current District initiative involving Congressional “add” funding has yielded \$1.5 million pending anticipated final budget approval. Commissioner Patterson inquired about the disposition of the \$500,000 supplemental request the Sarasota County Habitat Restoration Project involving the Bird Colony Islands. Mr. Listowski advised that of the \$4.5 million request, the referenced \$500,000 was not approved at this time. Mr. Laird Wreford then addressed the Board with some relevant details about the project re-design. Mr. Listowski suggested the concept of completing the Bird Colony Islands project, using additional WCIND reserve funding. Commissioner Patterson reviewed the history of the problem. Environmental interest groups have lamented for years of the need for a longer no wake zone, due to these rookery islands being disturbed by boat wakes creating erosion. Mr. Wreford confirmed these causes of the rookery islands deterioration.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. FY06-07 Budget Review and Approval for Public Hearings – Mr. Listowski presented the preliminary budget for FY06-07 detailing the main features of the proposed document, and including the County project requests, and conditional reserve fund. Commissioner Stein commented on the District not being in a position of assuming debt. Commissioner Patterson requested clarification of the CFA process and clarification of the line items in the budget for various reserve items. Mr. Listowski further explained county expenditures, and the need for county staff to aggressively approach project management. Commissioner Stein also explained Manatee County initiatives for water access projects. Mr. Listowski explained the restoration needs in Charlotte County, post Hurricane Charley.

Commissioner Moore commented on the rationale for maintaining the current millage and the issues related to property valuations. Mr. Listowski explained that letters were received from four families representing our four member counties making comments negative toward a tax increase. Additional comments were made regarding project management assistance to the County from the WCIND. A motion was made by Commissioner Stein to move the preliminary budget review to public hearing for final approval, seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion approved unanimously.

2. On Going Projects Update – Mr. Listowski introduced Mr. Terry Redman of the VABI (Venice Area Beautification Inc.), to make a presentation, regarding a previously approved Board action, to secure a re-alignment of a recreational path across District property. The new alignment will be between 100'-150' bordering the south property line of the neighboring Bellagio community in a perpendicular route. A motion made by Commissioner Stein to approve the re-alignment of the path route, seconded by Commissioner Moore. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Listowski made an announcement on the long awaited USCG channel marker permit being very close to being approved. An additional announcement was made regarding an opportunity to receive funding from the State Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems for innovative demonstration projects regarding coastal function. Some discussion ensued regarding demonstration projects.

3. Inlet Management Modeling Update –Mr. Listowski distributed an updated report on regional inlet conditions within the District jurisdiction, done by Coastal Engineering Consultants of Naples, Florida. Mr. Listowski also distributed the latest version of the Venice Inlet and Longboat Pass Inlet management model by Humiston and Moore Engineers in Naples.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

WCIND COUNSEL'S REPORT – Counsel Perrey reported in detail about a pending lawsuit filed by Mr. John Konecnik against FDOT and WCIND, regarding use of the Hatchett Creek Bridge R.O.W.

Counsel Perrey also reported receipt of a formal request from Charlotte County regarding a meeting facility proposed to be built on District property on Palm Island. He will report details at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mr. Listowski reported on his attendance at the National Sediment Management Conference. His comments included an overview of this federal initiative and examples from around the country of the challenges involved.

Commissioner Patterson adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on November 17, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. at Venice City Hall.

FIRST TRIM HEARING ON THE FY2006/2007 BUDGET

Commissioner Patterson opened the public hearing in accordance with TRIM law at 5:01 p.m.

Mr. Listowski explained a unique condition regarding property valuations, and the apparent increase in taxes at the same millage rate as last fiscal year, due to growth. Mr. Listowski reported to the Board that construction costs have increased 35% since last fiscal year and that insurance rates have increase 26%.

Other Budget requirements are statutory requirements on the District for the dredged material management plan, and match funding requirements for federal and state funded programs. Contingency reserves are also stabilized with the proposed .04 millage rate, as these reserves have been deficient in recent years.

Commissioner Patterson opened the floor to the public.

Under public comment, Mr. Thomas Bahring addressed the Board with a particular concern for a better time for public hearings. Mr. Richard Curcio, a Venice resident, addressed the Board regarding inflated property values, and suggested the budget be presented at the "roll back" rate. He suggested that government uses false values by land speculators. He also suggested that government should run on a zero based budget. Mr. Steven Wanvey from Osprey suggested to the Board that he was visiting only taxing districts where there was an increase proposed. He was in a position to tear down a house on his property with hopes of building a new home.

None of the above mentioned speakers agreed with the proposed budget at .04 mill, due to the appearance of a large tax increase, due to increased property values.

A request for a motion was made by Commissioner Patterson to adopt the tentative millage rate for FY2006/2007 of .04 mill. Motion was made by Commissioner Moore, and second by Commissioner Stein. Commissioner Stein commented about the Manatee County budget process and thanked the speakers that addressed the Board. Commissioner Judah arrived at the hearing and brought up the issue of the future legislation that could help remedy state revenue short falls, regarding partial year assessments. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Patterson requested a motion to adopt the tentative budget for FY2006/2007 with projected funds available of \$18,275,800, total expenditures of \$10,887,842, and reserves of \$7,387,958. Commissioner Moore made a motion to adopt the tentative budget for FY2006/2007, second by Commissioner Stein. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner 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 15, 2006 in the same room, Venice City Hall – Council Chambers.

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