

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2005 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Ray Judah, Chair
Joe McClash, Vice Chair
Tom Moore, 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, FL, acknowledging a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski advised the Board of an upcoming meeting with DEP administrative staff to discuss the Lee County NGP for waterway improvements. He expressed his hopes that the meeting would be progressive, since the past few meetings have not been so.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported that SW Florida Congressional Delegation was still supportive of WCIND’s request for funds to improve conditions of the GIWW. The areas of concern for dredging are still the throat of the Venice Inlet in Sarasota County, the “Miserable Mile” in Lee County, an area in Boca Grande in Lee County, and the inland waterway area of Longboat Pass in Manatee County. Additionally, staff has been working with ACOE’s staff on the stabilization of the bulkhead of the Venice Jetties in Sarasota County. Commissioner Patterson discussed the North Jetty Fish Camp and was advised by Mr. Listowski that staff was working with the operator of the Fish Camp to comply with ACOE ROW easement requirements.

CONSENT AGENDA – Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Patterson, and the motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. FY05-06 Budget Review - Mr. Listowski presented a graphic of the proposed FY05/06 budget to the Board. The graphic indicated more than a \$600,000 increase in requests for the Waterway Development Program; however, property valuation increased at a commensurate amount to enable funding of these projects. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the proposed budget for FY05/06 continuing the millage rate at .04. Mr. Listowski gave the Board a detailed overview of the increase in county requests for project funding, including the fact that Sarasota County’s request represented the largest increase, followed by Manatee County. Charlotte County’s request continues to be impacted by the effects of Hurricane Charley. The CNIF and the large Lee County balance planned to be used for NGP dredging projects and channel improvements was commented on by Chris Koepfer of Lee County

Natural Resources. Mr. Listowski then mentioned that there has been that a long-standing budget item for the past several years of \$300,000 (federal match requirement) for the Sarasota Bay Habitat Restoration project. Mr. Listowski suggested that if Sarasota County has no need for this funding, that it should be transferred to undesignated reserves. Commissioner Patterson strongly suggested that Sarasota County would be utilizing that money for the prescribed project.

Commissioner McClash requested that Mr. Listowski provide a list of goals for the FY05/06 budget, and Mr. Listowski provided a list of District initiatives, including: permit acquisitions, property management projects, i.e., Venice Jetties, and all necessary pre-construction consultant services for county project assistant requests. After much discussion, and suggestion by Commissioner McClash and Commissioner Patterson, motion was made by Commissioner Patterson to write a letter to Senator Mel Martinez requesting his continuous support for our request for assistance to maintain the designed specifications of the ICW in areas of the Venice inlet, the Longboat Key area, "Miserable Mile," and the shoal area around Boca Grande. Commissioner McClash seconded the motion, and motion passed unanimously.

2. On-going Projects Update – Mr. Listowski reported on the staff's ongoing project list (attached). Highlights include dredging projects and surveys that are underway, permits being requested, and a long-range comprehensive plan, such as the Venice IMP model. During the discussion of ongoing projects, Mr. Listowski reported to the Board of a need to remove DV's. The cost of this action at \$65,000 is within District budget constraints, i.e., either project budget and/or regional budget. Motion by Commissioner McClash, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, to approve Director administration of this DV project. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Marine Law Enforcement – Discussion (LCMLETF) – Chris Koepfer from the Lee County Natural Resources made a presentation on the Lee County Marine Law Enforcement - Task Force and the need for the District to allow a higher cap for law enforcement from 20% to 25%. After some discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner McClash, seconded by Commissioner Moore to increase funding cap marine law enforcement from 20% to 25%. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Accounting/Audit RFP – Counsel Perrey reported on the competitive negotiation process for selecting an accounting firm to perform the annual audit activity for the District. This new process is required by a new Florida Statute and was administered by a committee of District staff. Christopher, Smith, Leonard, Bristow, Stanell & Wells, P.A. was chosen to perform the annual audit of the District's operation for FY05/06. There was a motion to accept the composition of the selection committee by Commissioner McClash, seconded by Commissioner Patterson, and motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Patterson made a motion for execution to process a contract with the firm of Christopher, Smith, Leonard, Bristow, Stanell & Wells, P.A., seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS – Commissioner Patterson requested an overview of the efforts by the District to assist the City of Venice in obtaining a permit for the Hatchett Creek dredging project. Mr. Listowski reported that the process is underway with the survey of the Creek being near completion. The results of the survey will be part of a permit application that could later

lead to construction that could be administered by the County. Commissioner Patterson also requested that certain WCIND properties in the Venice area be utilized for hurricane debris processing as needed. Commissioner Patterson made a motion to approve the use of two District properties in the Venice area for hurricane debris activities, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and motion passed unanimously.

The Board then recessed for the First Budget Hearing for FY05/06 at 5:04 p.m. The Board reconvened at 5:20 p.m. to resume the regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Listowski reported to the Board that a community representative from Bellagio, located on Venice Island, met with staff to voice concerns over the alignment of the VABI trail traversing District property. After some discussion among the Board, consensus was to maintain the already approved alignment.

Commissioner Moore questioned members of the Board for information about derelict vessel programs. Commissioner McClash offered some advice about existing programs for these activities.

Commissioner Judah began discussion regarding public water access concerns. Commissioner McClash discussed the dilemma in terms of inadequate mooring fields, inadequate boat ramps, and general inadequate access to the water. After some discussion, Commissioner McClash proposed a water access forum to discuss this statewide problem.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on December 16, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. at Venice City Hall.

FIRST TRIM HEARING ON THE FY2005/2006 BUDGET

Chair Judah opened the public hearing at 5:05 p.m. on WCIND's proposed millage rate and tentative budget for FY2005/2006. He publicly announced the proposed millage rate of .04 mill.

Chair Judah announced the percentage increase in millage over the rolled back rate necessary to fund the tentative budget is 19%; and that the percentage increase in property taxes based on the proposed millage rate is 19%.

Chair Judah asked Mr. Listowski to discuss the specific purposes for which ad valorem taxes are being increased. Mr. Listowski stated that the counties funding requests have increased and with the millage rate at .04, the District is able to fund these requests and maintain the usable balance for contingency reserves. Also, District operation and maintenance activities, including county project assistance, can be maintained at current funding levels.

Chair Judah provided a brief overview of the District. He then opened up the floor for any public comment.

Commissioner McClash clarified the purpose of the meeting to any public attendees.

Chair Judah closed the public hearing.

Commissioner McClash asked for a goal statement from Mr. Listowski for 2005/06 fiscal year. Mr. Listowski outlined federal, state, regional, and county assistance initiatives for fiscal year 05/06. Commissioner Patterson requested information about the CAP program (Schedule H) of the proposed budget.

Commissioner McClash moved and Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion to adopt the tentative millage rate for FY2005/2006 of .04 mill. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner McClash moved to adopt the tentative budget for FY2005/2006 with projected funds available of \$9,137,135, total expenditures of \$4,891,874, and reserves of \$4,245,261. Commissioner Patterson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

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 16, 2005 in the same room, Venice City Hall – Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.