

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2004 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present: Nora Patterson, Chair
Ray Judah, Vice Chair
Joe McClash, Treasurer

Commissioners Absent: Tom D'Aprile, Secretary

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

Chair Nora Patterson opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. at Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, FL. Mr. Listowski announced Commissioner D'Aprile's absence due to emergency situations from the recent hurricane.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S COMMENTS – None.

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. Report on Hurricanes Charley and Frances - Mr. Listowski reported to the Board that there was devastating damage associated with Hurricanes Charley and Frances having hit the region since the last Board meeting. At the time of the meeting, Hurricane Ivan was approaching SW Florida. Mr. Listowski explained that the District staff accompanied the Lee County Sea Grant agent and Mr. Bob Hebert, Charlotte County Liaison, on a damage assessment boat trip around the Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte area, along the Peace River. The District stands ready to assist Charlotte and Lee Counties in dealing with their existing storm damage cleanup, and Mr. Listowski suggested that the Board deviate from the policy of requiring Board approval prior to county CNIF funds being eligible for expenditure (only during an emergency).

After some discussion regarding the upcoming final budget meeting schedule, and the potential impacts of the approaching Hurricane Ivan, the Board decided to meet on an appropriate alternate date in accordance with the TRIM laws, if necessary.

Discussion then ensued regarding CNIF funding and the county's ability to spend funds, upon approval by the participating county, and without the final approval by WCIND Board as policy requires. Counsel Perrey advised that these are activities that are most appropriate to include in a motion that is emergency driven. These activities have to do with emergency sign placement, channel marker replacement, derelict vessel removal, and all emergency oriented obstructions to navigation found in navigable waters of the District.

FIRST TRIM HEARING ON THE FY2004/2005 BUDGET

Chair Patterson opened the public hearing at 5:11 p.m. on WCIND's proposed millage rate and tentative budget for FY2004/2005. She publicly announced the proposed millage rate of .04 mill.

Chair Patterson announced the percentage increase in millage over the rolled back rate necessary to fund the tentative budget is 10.5%; and that the percentage increase in property taxes based on the proposed millage rate is 10.5%.

Chair Patterson 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 increase the usable balance of contingency reserves for emergencies.

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

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Schultz addressed the Board relative to their concerns about higher property taxes. Commissioners Patterson and McClash explained to Mr. & Mrs. Schultz that the WCIND assessment is not to be confused with the overall property assessment for other taxation entities. Mr. & Mrs. Schultz expressed appreciation for this explanation.

Ms. Warfield, from Englewood, addressed the Board regarding funding available to improve conditions at Stump Pass. Mr. Listowski explained to her that the funding for the continued dredging of the Pass was not included in the District budget, but \$150,000 was available for a structural feature of the project designed to add stability to the dredge activity.

Chair Patterson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner McClash moved and Commissioner Judah seconded the motion to adopt the tentative millage rate for FY2004/2005 of .04 mill. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner McClash moved to adopt the tentative budget for FY2004/2005 with projected funds available of \$7,743,009, total expenditures of \$4,196,441, and reserves of \$3,546,568. Commissioner Judah 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 17, 2004 in the same room, Venice City Hall – Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned.