

The October meeting of the Commissioners of the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT was held October 12, 1964 at the Manatee County Office Building.

Present were:

Ellsworth G. Simmons, Chairman, Hillsborough County
H. H. Anger, Vice-chairman, Charlotte County
A. L. Anderson, Secretary, Pinellas County
Ralph S. Clark, Treasurer, Manatee County
Kenneth W. Daniels, Lee County
Masel C. Huston, Sarasota County

George Kumpe, Executive Director
J. Hardin Peterson, Sr., Special Counsel
Joe K. Merrin, Engineer
Dewey A. Dye, Jr., General Counsel

ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M., and apologized for missing the last meeting, and welcomed Mr. Daniels and Mrs. Stanley. Minutes of the September 3, 1964 meeting were approved as presented. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Vouchers #3838 through #3869 covering current bills were approved for payment as presented.

PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Simmons asked if drainage of S/A S35-1 and knocking down of dike above level of the fill are the District's responsibility. Mr. Dye stated that the work should be done to minimize damages in the pending condemnation suit. Mr. Merrin is handling the administration of getting this matter completed as far as the District is concerned. He has inspected it and reported that the opening of one drain should dry out the area sufficiently so that the dike can be pushed

down. Grading probably can be done within authorized expenditure.

The Chairman asked what part of the completed waterway is now marked. The Director advised that Sections 1, 4 & 5 and the Skyway and Cats Point projects have been marked by the Coast Guard.

Mr. Dye commented on status of condemnation cases in Sec. 3 and 4. Sec. 4 right-of-way was finished with the trial last week. One temporary spoil area condemnation suit is still to be disposed of. Verdicts last week were in line with District appraisal and were covered by funds already deposited with the Court. Sec. 3 spoil areas suit was filed on September 24 and notices of service are being received. A declaration of taking will be filed at the end of this month, for all parcels that have not been settled at that time, in accordance with authorization to proceed with the acquisition. Several tracts are being negotiated. All those not settled at the end of the month will be included in order of taking. Mr. Dye stated that the estimated appraisal of the rights desired is a little over \$80,000, but that the amount could go either up or down by the time of filing an order of taking. Mr. Dye advised that the suit included the acquisition of both temporary and permanent rights, the larger amount being permanent. At the time the court has a hearing on the order of taking, it will determine the amount to be deposited.

The Director advised that the SRD contract on the Venice Avenue bridge was awarded Oct. 1. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled within the next six weeks. Mr. Huston was asked by Mr. Simmons if he had any information on the North and South bridges. Mr. Huston stated we have only a verbal statement that it will be in October.

Under the agreement with the City of Venice one of the commitments of the Navigation District is to lower the water and sewer lines at Venice Avenue. The District informs the City of Venice quarterly of the status of funds reserved for this item and of any changes that have been made during the quarter. As this work is included in the bridge contract the Director suggested the reserved balance be transferred to the escrow account for the bridge contract. Mr. Huston asked if this should be negotiated with the City officials. The Director asked permission to inform the City that the bid item for the work was over \$40,000 and the balance in the account was over \$19,000. The District will provide the total amount but proposes to use the \$19,000 as part of it. Motion made and seconded, approved unanimously. The Director will handle the matter by letter, after co-ordination with Mr. Dye.

The Progress Report was accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft of the Annual Report for year ending Sept. 30, 1964 was approved. The Director was instructed to arrange for reproduction and distribution.

The annual financial statement was approved and the Director instructed to arrange for advertisement as required by law. Mr. Anderson asked that the statement be advertised in St. Petersburg Times and Independent.

The Director reported notification of scheduled Mississippi Valley Assoc. meeting in St. Louis on Feb. 7 - Feb. 9. Mr. Simmons expressed his opinion that attendance was worth while particularly with the West Coast Waterway reaching the point of completion. A motion was made and passed authorizing members of the Board of Commissioners and the Director to attend with necessary allowable expenses to be borne by the District. The Director also referred to a meeting of the Florida Waterway Association in Orlando on Nov. 10. Mr. Dye advised that reimbursement for travel would be a proper expenditure of District funds in accordance with established per diem rules. The travel and authorized per diem is in furtherance of waterway development and the West Coast Waterway in particular. Motion made and carried that members of the Board of Commissioners and the staff be authorized to go at District expense of waterway.

The next meeting was set for Monday, November 9, at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Simmons commented that in order to meet all financial commitments and keep faith with those people who have had faith in us, the District has on deposit \$1,000,000 for the construction of the Venice Avenue bridge. Through cooperation of SRD this project has been advertised and a contract has been let. The District is committed to complete its obligation by providing an additional \$215,000 during the month of November. The

District must also be able to post twice appraised value of Sec. 3 spoil areas, or about \$160,000. In addition normal administrative expenses will require some \$21,000 to Dec. 31, 1964. Mr. Simmons noted that a resolution has been prepared authorizing the Chairman and Treasurer to negotiate a loan of not to exceed \$500,000 to be repaid before Sept. 30, 1965. Loans will be for the minimum duration and amount consistent with necessary operating demands. Amendments to the draft resolutions were discussed and agreed to. With these corrections Mr. Clark moved adoption, seconded by Mr. Huston. The motion passed unanimously. (Page 73 WCIND Annex to Meetings)

Mr. Simmons said the Board will be kept advised as to the interest rates and the amounts of money involved.

Mr. Daniels asked about the completion date of work in Lee County. He was advised the dredge is now in Charlotte County and work has been completed in Lee County. The contractor has been authorized by the Corps of Engineers to suspend work on the waterway for a short time to work in Boca Grande Harbor, but this is not a portion of the waterway.

Mr. Huston advised that action to improve mosquito control specifications in waterway contracts were appreciated by Sarasota County.

Mr. Dye reported that a series of easements to SRD in connection with road and bridge projects in Venice area were ready for signature. The Corps of Engineers has approved the work proposed by SRD. Motion was made and passed approving easements and authorizing signature by the Chairman.

Mr. Simmons referred again to the financial burden of the District commenting that citizens in each county were looking to reduction in tax burden. He noted that the Venice expenses were not the final major expenditures of the project as there still remained one more, the modification of the Seaboard Air Line bridge to Gasparilla Island.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.



Chairman


Secretary

PROGRESS REPORT

September 3, 1964 - October 12, 1964

CONSTRUCTION

Construction Progress - Sec. 2 - During the month of September Parkhill-Goodloe dredged 206,729 cu. yds. and advanced 16,000 ft. along the waterway. On Sept. 30 the contract was 13% complete.

S/A S35-1 - Pre-dredging grading was done in the spoil area. The Sarasota County contract dredge started operations on Sept. 21 to replace material which had flown from the spoil area during initial use.

CONSTRUCTION PLANNING

Section 2 S/A S-1 Alternate - Negotiations between the contractor and Mr. Goodwin are continuing. Apparently no solution has been reached.

Section 3 - Mr. Barksdale, of the Corps of Engineers, visited the project on Sept. 24.

S/A S3-8 - Eagle Point, Inc. is making studies as a basis of requesting an estimate of contribution required.

SRD Borrow Pits - The CE has notified SRD that there were no objections to SRD excavation at the three Venice bridges or in three borrow pits desired by SRD. Two other requests by SRD for borrow areas, which were returned for modification, have not been resubmitted.

Dredging under North and South Bridges - Agreements on dredging under these bridges were prepared by SRD and signed by Navigation District.

Appropriations USFY 1966 - Colonel Kelly, Assistant Director of the State Board of Conservation, was advised that all matters of local cooperation in the Venice area should be satisfied before Jan. 4.

LANDS

Section 3 S/A S3-5 and 5A - Acquisition was completed as authorized by Sept. 3 meeting.

Condemnation - Suit for condemnation of spoil areas was filed on Sept. 24. Twenty-three of the forty-three owners are out-of-state residents.

BRIDGES

Venice Avenue Bridge - SRD opened bids on Sept. 22 and the low bidder was Bay Dredging and Construction Company with a bid of \$1,090,266. The SRD asked that an additional \$215,000 be placed in escrow for this construction to allow for the bid price, engineering and contingencies.

North and South Bridges - On Sept. 29 Court issued order of taking for the right-of-way required for these bridges (and the By-Pass). It is expected that they will be advertised for construction in October.

UTILITIES

Section 2 Power Crossings - Florida Power and Light Company wrote to Mr. Dye, agreeing that crossings at the Cape Haze and Bland bridges are not Navigation District financial responsibilities.

Section 3 Venice Avenue - Low bid for construction of the Venice Avenue bridge included \$41,583.83 for lowering the city water and sewer lines of Venice Avenue.

ADMINISTRATION

Valuations - Pinellas and Charlotte Counties furnished information on millage and valuation.

Encroachment Section 2 - CE was notified that at the east abutment of the old Bland Bridge a claim was being made that CE had authorized exclusive use of existing ferry terminal. CE answered that no authority had been given. Charlotte County is handling the matter.

Mosquito Control - CE answered letter suggesting more stringent mosquito control measures in Sec. 2 and Sec. 3 contracts. Contractor will be required to comply strictly with specifications.

Bulkhead Law - Colonel Kelly was furnished copies of correspondence with CE and Senator Friday on possible changes in the bulkhead law.

S/A C8A - Proponent of a small side channel east of the Seaboard Air Line bridge in Sec. 2 was advised that Navigation District had no objection to use of spoil area but that he might be required to obtain permits and that CE must approve non-project operations of Parkhill-Goodloe.

Cats Point Refund - CE asked when unused part of contribution would be refunded.

The Director spoke before the Sarasota Power Squadron on September 29.