

WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT

November 12, 1957

The regular meeting of the West Coast Inland Navigation District was held in the Court House, Bradenton, Florida, on Tuesday, November 12, 1957, at 2:00 P.M.

Those present were:

Ellsworth Simmons, Chairman	Hillsborough County
H. C. Slaughter, Treasurer	Manatee County
Edwin F. McCann	Sarasota County
James Miller	Charlotte County
Charles R. Fischer	Pinellas County

Fred W. Ball, Executive Secretary
 Dewey A. Dye, Jr. Attorney
 Joe K. Merrin, Engineer
 J. Hardin Peterson, Special Counsel
 Bruce M. Cox, Accountant

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order.

Mr. Slaughter made a motion which Mr. Miller seconded that the minutes of the October 14, 1957 meeting be accepted as presented. Approved.

Mr. Simmons stated that he had received communications from many Congressmen and Senators stating that they were anxious to see this project succeed and would do all they could to further its promotion.

Mr. Slaughter reported that he and Mr. Dye went to Jacksonville to confer with the Corps of Engineers at the request of this Board. He said that he left there with the impression that the engineers would do everything they could to help. He also said that he learned that any budgetary figures were not a matter of public record until the Chief Engineer in Washington released them. Mr. Slaughter stated that he felt much encouraged from his interview

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and was also pleased to find out that several civilian employees also expressed their desire to give their support. Mr. Dye accompanied Mr. Slaughter to confer on right-of-ways.

Mr. Joe K. Merrin, Engineer, submitted his regular monthly report, which was accepted as presented.

Discussion ensued regarding pending applications and acquisition of submerged land. Mr. Simmons said that it was the desire of this Board to have Mr. Dye take necessary time to check the deeds to see exactly what right-of-way the Board has obtained to date and to determine how many parcels are yet to be acquired, and to have these set out on maps prepared by the engineer. Mr. Fischer made a motion which Mr. Slaughter seconded that this Board authorize Mr. Merrin and Mr. Dye to go to Tallahassee to confer with the Internal Improvement Fund about our status of right-of-way with them. Approved.

Mr. Dye introduced Mr. Hoffman, from Sarasota, who owns 4 lots which are in the right-of-way of the West Coast Inland Navigation District, at Stickney Point Bridge. Mr. Hoffman has agreed to accept the appraised valuation of \$37,384.00 for that portion of his property extending into the right-of-way of the West Coast Inland Navigation District.

Mr. Slaughter made a motion which Mr. Miller seconded that the Board enter into an agreement to purchase the lots in Pine Shore as presented by Mr. Dye, and that Mr. Dye be authorized to go to Jacksonville to secure the approval of the land agent or other representative of the United States Corps of Engineers Office in Jacksonville. If approval is given, that Mr. Dye be authorized to complete negotiations with Mr. Hoffman. Approved.

Mr. Dye reported settlement on the East Coast Fisheries at Albee Bridge, which involved taking a portion of four lots on Little'

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Sarasota Bay, which has been appraised at \$26,723.00 which the owner has agreed to accept. Mr. Dye said that the owner agreed to vacate the premises on our demand. Mr. Dye also reported that there were three more small parcels in the immediate area, and five or six on the other side of the bridge. Mr. Slaughter said that demanding evacuation at the time the right-of-way is acquired would mean putting the owners out of business - the procedure would be condemning established business. He felt that they are entitled to business damages, if they have been in business more than five years, and that they should be given time to relocate and get back into business again. They should be given a chance to rebuild before vacating their present site. Mr. Fischer asked if there were many more parcels similar to this one, and Mr. Dye informed the Board that there are several that will be more expensive in that area, but that they don't involve business and improvement.

Mr. Miller made a motion which Mr. McCann seconded that the Board enter into an agreement to purchase the lots of East Coast Fisheries, Inc. as presented by Mr. Dye, and that Mr. Dye be authorized to secure the approval of the land agent or other representative of the U. S. Corps of Engineers Office in Jacksonville. If approval is given, that Mr. Dye be authorized to complete negotiations with the East Coast Fisheries. Approved.

Mr. Peterson reported that he had alerted all three members of Congress and they have agreed to do their best to see that the District is included in the next budget. Referring to the progress of the waterway, Mr. Peterson related that after a long time, the so-called "lost strip" was found. The G.S.A. has found that it was certified as surplus to the old War Assets Administration, and that the agents notified the Corps of Engineers

that they didn't want the other strip, and since other agencies of the government have not taken the strip which we abandoned, it is available for the city of Venice. Mr. Peterson explained that this Board would have to make a joint application with Venice, and that Venice will get it only for airport purposes; that a joint application gives us the assurance and protection that one part is for the city and one part for the District. Mr. Peterson said that he anticipated making this application within a few days.

Mr. Cox, Accountant, presented two Financial Statements - one for a ten-year period - June 23, 1947 to September 30, 1957; and the other for the past year, October 1, 1956 to September 30, 1957. Mr. Slaughter made a motion which Mr. McCann seconded that the statements be accepted and that Mr. Cox be authorized to publish the report of the last fiscal year, in keeping with the law requiring it. Approved.

Mr. Miller made a motion which Mr. McCann seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read. Approved.

Mr. Slaughter made a motion which Mr. Miller seconded that the Board authorize a transfer of \$75,000, if required, from Time Deposit to Checking Account. Approved.

Mr. Slaughter made a motion which Mr. Miller seconded that current bills be paid. Approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

William C. Galt
Secretary

William C. Galt
Chairman