

WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT

December 9, 1957

The regular meeting of the West Coast Inland Navigation District was held in the Court House, Bradenton, Florida, on Monday, December 9, 1957, at 2:00 P.M.

Those present were:

Ellsworth Simmons, Chairman
 Edwin F. McCann
 Charles R. Fischer
 Wilson Pigott

Hillsborough County
 Sarasota County
 Pinellas County
 Lee County

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

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order.

Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. McCann seconded that the minutes of the last meeting be approved as presented.

A communication from Senator Eastland of Mississippi, addressed to Mr. J. Hardin Peterson, was read, expressing his determination to do all within his power to see that "the West Coast link of the Intracoastal Waterway from Caloosahatchee at Fort Myers to the Anclote at Tarpon Springs becomes a reality just as quickly as possible".

A communication was also read from Dewey A. Dye, Jr., Attorney for the District, who was unable to attend the meeting. His report to the Board is as follows:

"There are several matters to be brought to the Board's attention: The first to report - that the East Coast Fisheries matter has been settled. Second, is that pursuant to your instructions

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I referred the East Coast Fisheries matter and also the Watson property at Stickney Point bridge to the Corps of Engineers for approval. They approved the East Coast Fisheries property and suggested a modification on the other property. This modification is now being re-appraised and no doubt will result in some saving to the District, although the exact amount has not been determined.

"I also have two new right-of-way settlements to be approved. The first involves islands and mangrove land in Sarasota Bay to be settled at the appraised valuation of \$4,150.00. This property is owned by the Palmer Estates - represented by Charles Dempsey. The second parcel is at Albee Bridge and is owned by G. W. Gabel and Marie Gabel and is to be settled for the appraised valuation of \$3,500.00.

"I should also like a resolution passed at this time authorizing and directing me to proceed with condemnation procedures against all un-secured right-of-way in Charlotte County."

Discussion ensued regarding the Watson property at Stickney Point Bridge. Mr. Simmons stated that Mr. Dye discussed this property with the Corps of Army Engineers at Jacksonville. They reviewed it and said it was possible that they might reduce their construction limits by 25 feet. Mr. Fischer questioned the legality of this Board to go beyond the engineer's request, and said that would be a question for the attorney of the Board. Mr. Fischer also said that recently he had a meeting with Colonel Troxler, of the Army Engineers, and discussed the intracoastal waterways. Colonel Troxler indicated he would look favorably on cutting down on the amount of right-of-way where there is an existing seawall in good condition.

Mr. Simmons stated that he felt that this parcel should be acquired on the original plan and appraisal. In the event of the saving of only a comparatively small amount this might cause a much greater expenditure later should it become necessary at some future date to acquire this 25 feet after seawalls are re-installed and the property improved.

Mr. Pigott made a motion which Mr. McCann seconded, that the Board secure the Watson right-of-way as soon as possible, on the basis of appraised valuation as recommended by the engineer. APPROVED.

Mr. Simmons felt that the Board should ask the Corp of Army Engineers as early as possible to re-evaluate requirements for right-of-way.

Mr. Peterson expressed the view that it was a very good suggestion to get the Army Engineers to re-evaluate. Mr. Simmons said that in this case it is impossible to get within the sea-wall - that the right-of-way will have to go back of it.

Mr. Fischer made a motion which Mr. Pigott seconded that Mr. Dye be given authorization to settle the following: Palmer Estate, \$4,150.00, and G. B. and Marie Gabel property for \$3,500.00. APPROVED.

Mr. Pigott made a motion which Mr. Fischer seconded that the Board adopt a resolution giving Mr. Dye authority to proceed with condemnation procedures against all unsecured right-of-way in Charlotte County - said resolution to be drawn by Mr. Dye. APPROVED.

Mr. Joe K. Merrin presented colored right-of-way maps of Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota and Manatee Counties, showing properties for which easements have been procured. Those colored orange were acquired from Trustees - green, acquired from individuals. These maps are to be on file in the County Commissioners' Office, Court House, Bradenton, Florida, so that they may be available at any meeting, and will be kept

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posted from time to time.

Mr. Simmons stated that Mr. Dye felt that his recent trip to Jacksonville had been advantageous, as the Corps of Engineers was impressed with the amount of right-of-way secured, and the sincerity with which it was approached.

Mr. Peterson said that when Washington starts to swell the budget for defense, there is a tendency to cut elsewhere, and that the Rivers and Harbors project are usually their first cut. Mr. Peterson said that the District must work hard to keep the project in the budget.

Mr. Simmons suggested that all members make the effort to see their Congressmen and Senators while they are home for the Christmas recess, urging their continued endorsement of this project.

Mr. Fischer introduced Mr. Dan Campbell, administrative assistant on the Board of County Commissioners, Pinellas County, who was present as a guest.

Mr. Fischer made a motion which Mr. McCann seconded that the Chairman, Mr. Simmons, be authorized to meet with Colonel Troxler at Jacksonville at such time as may be convenient, with necessary expenses, and also that any or all members of this Board be authorized to go to Washington in the interest of the Intracoastal Waterways, with necessary expenses allowed, at such time as the Chairman may deem advisable. APPROVED.

Mr. Simmons discussed the fact that interested people from all parts of Florida have organized a group called the Florida Waterways Committee. It is strictly a lay organization. They elect officers, and the group hopes to coordinate all waterway projects within the State. Mr. Simmons expressed the opinion that at State level there

is need for such an organization. He explained that the Mississippi Valley waterways have helped them organize, as the Mississippi Valley are interested in better waterways in Florida, and are the most powerful group dealing with waterways, having full-time executives.

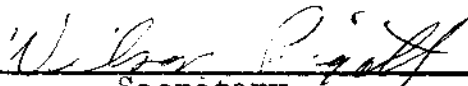
This new group has designated Tampa as headquarters for the State, with permanent offices there. Mr. W. S. Arthur, of St. Louis, Missouri has been elected as General Manager. Mr. Simmons said that temporary facilities have been made for housing them at the Court House, Tampa.

Mr. Simmons reported that Mr. Arthur had requested this Board to share some of the Florida Waterways Committee office expense - at least temporarily. Mr. Simmons stated that he felt this might be a good idea and suggested sharing the expense of a secretary with them.

Mr. Pigott made a motion which Mr. Fischer seconded that the Board obtain a part-time secretary on a trial basis - the maximum salary to be \$100.00 a month. Mr. Peterson suggested that the Board watch the progress of the committee for benefits, and that the relationship with them could be terminated at any time.

In the absence of Mr. Slaughter, Treasurer, Mr. Bruce M. Cox, Accountant for the District, read the Treasurer's Report. Mr. McCann made a motion which Mr. Fischer seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Mr. Cox presented current bills, and Mr. Pigott made a motion which Mr. McCann seconded that the bills be paid. APPROVED.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.


Secretary


Chairman

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