

The May meeting of the Commissioners, of the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT, was held May 17, 1971, in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Manatee County Courthouse, Bradenton, Florida.

Present were: Ellsworth G. Simmons, Chairman, Hillsborough County  
 Kenneth W. Daniels, Vice Chairman, Lee County  
 Larry Rhodes, Secretary, Sarasota County  
 Dan P. McClure, Treasurer, Manatee County  
 H. William Thompson, Charlotte County  
 A. Oliver McEachern, Pinellas County

Charles E. Furbee, Executive Director  
 Dewey A. Dye, Jr., Counsel

#### ADMINISTRATION

The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes of the April 23, 1971 meeting were approved as presented.

The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Vouchers, #6629 through #6649, were approved for payment.

The proposed budget for 1971-1972 will be submitted next week by the Director for members' consideration. The proposal for 00.01 mill levy on the counties in the District for FY 1971-1972 also will be submitted for members' consideration in order to have the required WCIND resolution for millage levy forwarded to the State and copies furnished to the six counties of the District on or before July 1, 1971. The Director reported that included in the budget proposed is the item of SCL Bridge to be constructed at Placida, Florida, at the contract cost of \$975,000. Completion date is scheduled for May, 1972.

#### HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS

The Director reported that he and Mr. Dye attended two meetings with Mr. Paul A. Youngberg, City of Venice Administrator, concerning the Venice area water supply.

Mr. Paul A. Youngberg addressed the Board and read to them his letter of proposal requesting WCIND to replace a section of the Venice well fields damaged by salt intrusion. He proposed two methods for settlement; one would cost the WCIND \$88,500 and the other would cost \$78,375. He referred to the Four-Party Agreement during the period when the route for the inland waterway through the City of Venice was settled, the four parties being City of Venice, WCIND, Sarasota County, and State Road Department. Mr. Youngberg also presented the study made showing Gulf Coast well fields are no longer useable as day by day dependable water source. Negotiations commencing in the fall of 1969 with the U.S. Geological Survey Bureau, Florida Division of Interior Resources, and ending October, 1970

resulted in a cooperative agreement for an investigation of water resources for City of Venice on a matching fund basis.

Mr. Dye: "Some joint settlement will be necessary between the City of Venice and WCIND. Basically, it must be resolved concerning saltwater intrusion in the Venice well fields and then which party is liable to what extent. There is no saltwater intrusion from the waterway detected. But, in pumping the spoil material into the spoil area adjacent to the well field, the saltwater moved down into the well fields. WCIND does have some liability."

Chairman: "We have been working with Mr. Horace Sutcliffe, U.S. Geological Survey Bureau, State of Florida."

Mr. Horace Sutcliffe addressed the Board to present his letter report furnished to the Director with copies enclosed. The report contained several illustrations concerning the hydraulic condition in the Venice area as presented at the meeting in Venice on April 27, 1971; also, pertinent data on chloride analysis of water taken from wells #22 through #32. All the wells have increased in chloride content. There is no sure way to forecast when the saltwater may be removed nor under what conditions it might take place. The past several Annual Reports submitted to WCIND cover these problems in the City of Venice. The Table attached in this report today indicates the changes of chlorida concentration in the Venice well fields that adjoin WCIND S/A 3-4B. Only the chloride concentration was compiled here simply as an indicator. Reports for 1967, 68, and 1969 indicated the rundown of problems here during the dredging of the waterway. The wells are dug 100-125 foot depth due to the hydrology of the Venice Area.

Chairman: "I know this is a serious problem for the City of Venice and for each of us here on this Board. I feel a real deep and sincere responsibility to some obligation, to what extent, I do not know. I think this Board has a degree of obligation in it. We tried and worked with this problem and it is a real knotty problem down in Venice. I would like two members and our legal staff to work with Mr. Sutcliffe and dedicate themselves to research this problem and try to have a report to present here next month. I do think that every Board member wants to know completely the liability involved. Personally, I want this problem resolved and then I want it to be you Board members' decision when we resolve it this time although I don't want any lingering responsibility in it. I would like to see this Board discharge its responsibilities and that is the end of it."

Mr. Sutcliffe: "Commissioner Simmons, I must add that I am consultant to both sides right now. The final settlement lies in the realm of engineering."

- Chairman: "You are engaged as a governmental department to give the City of Venice and any individual, and this Board, the facts of this problem as you find it professionally."
- Commr. McEachern: "I would like to suggest that WCIND consider retaining an engineering firm for the Board's guidance. I am willing to suggest one."
- Chairman: "I would like to suggest the Board appoint Mr. Thompson and Mr. McEachern for the two members to serve with our legal department and work with the City of Venice to take any reasonable steps in engagement of services to make a report back to the Board next month."
- Commr. McClure: "Mr Chairman, engineering responsibility for interpretation of the problem seems unnecessary. County engineers should be able to supply required information, and waterworks superintendents are available."
- Mr. Dye: "This problem includes gallons per minute, reasonable costs, the kind of pump size, size of wells, etc."
- Chairman: "My recommendation was not to hire, but to get professional guidance as required and needed for presenting the report and recommendation to this Board next month."
- Commr. Daniels: "We could await this report following a meeting with County engineers and, if still needed, the Board could consider hiring someone from the outside."
- Chairman: "Mr. Dye, do you have any suggestions?"
- Mr. Dye: "As stated to Mr. Youngberg previously, I think what we are talking about is replacement of a certain number of gallons per minute no longer available to the City of Venice and then finally arrive at what the cost is going to be. Venice must substantiate its cost estimate to the WCIND and then the Board will have the information to consider and move on."
- Chairman: "Gentlemen, then is it agreeable to ask Commissioners McEachern and Thompson to work with the staff to come up with recommendations and, if they feel the need to make expenditures, the Director will then contact us members? What is the Board's pleasure?"
- Commr. Rhodes: "Mr. Chairman, I think your suggestion is an excellent one and I now put that in the form of a motion."  
Motion carried.
- Chairman: "And, if the Board agrees, I am willing to authorize a sum necessary for expenditure requested by the investigating committee named here today."  
All members expressed agreement for the authorization.

Chairman: "Thank you, Mr. Youngberg and Mr. Sutcliffe."

Mr. Dye: "Mr Chairman, I think our investigating committee should schedule a meeting with Mr. Sutcliffe as soon as they can in order to review the old reports. He, more quickly than anybody else, can outline the problems."

Chairman: "Mr. Dye, you will serve as chairman and the Director will supply the reports requested and the Four-Party Agreement file."

## ACTIVITIES REPORT

### Charlotte County

SCL Bridge, Placida, Florida - The SCL Railroad Company and contractor, Misener Marine Construction, Inc., had a pre-construction meeting last Tuesday and WCIND asked Mr. Louis Stahl of J. E. Greiner Company, Inc., to be the District's representative. No formal report, but a telephoned report was received that the contractor is in a position to take measurements and now estimates completion date to be May, 1972. A payment schedule will be provided in thirty days and WCIND will know the time of funds spent. WCIND has its Certificates of Deposit program where there is sufficient number maturing each month for these requirements as submitted.

### Pinellas County

Resolution for Dunedin Pass - The Director reported receipt of resolution for support from Pinellas County Commission. WCIND had adopted its resolution to support this project and some consideration was given as to the amount to be authorized. WCIND minutes reflect that one-eighth cost would be contributed by WCIND. Commissioner McEachern stated he believed the County of Pinellas acted a little hastily since the project will be just as advantageous to the City of Clearwater as to the City of Dunedin. Both cities should make their pro rata contribution and they are prepared to do that.

Mr. Dye stated that WCIND has never been the sponsoring agency. WCIND has the State Attorney's opinion that WCIND can legally contribute when some other public agency is the sponsoring agency. The Corps of Engineers requires the sponsoring agency to be responsible for the acquisition of right-of-way and spoil areas, most of these are on State-owned submerged land. Financially, it doesn't make any difference.

The Chairman called for a motion - is it agreed to place in the form of a motion that WCIND ask Pinellas County their interest and position in this project? The motion was made by Commissioner McEachern; motion carried.

Spoil Area P-29, South End of the Narrows - Negotiations were being made for approximately ten acres. WCIND attorney, Mr. Gilbert A. Smith, has suggested that WCIND ask for assistance from

TIIF for establishing mean high water mark for this area. since all the area lies outside the bulkhead line. Board members concurred. Motion was made by Commissioner Daniels that WCIND request assistance from TIIF; motion carried.

Lee County

Okeechobee Waterway Ass'n - The Director reported that at the open hearing conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard at Ft. Myers on May 4 re a bridge being considered a hazard to navigation, WCIND referred them to WCIND's previous resolution No. 69-07, February 17, 1969, which states its support in the general improvement of waterways throughout Florida and the nation. Nothing new was presented.

GENERAL:

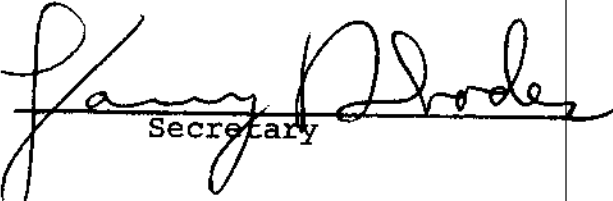
Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Personnel Retirement -

Mr. A. L. McKnight, Chief of Operations; and Mr. Joe Koperski, Chief of Engineering; these gentlemen with service of 36 years and 32 years respectively, are retiring June 5, 1971. The two resolutions were 71- submitted for approval; these acknowledged appreciation for past co-91- operation and assistance in their years of service at Jacksonville. Commissioner Daniels moved that these two resolutions be adopted with the original resolutions forwarded to Mr. McKnight and to Mr. Koperski; motion carried. See Resolutions 71 - 02 and 71 - 03.

NEXT MEETING DATE: It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Monday, June 14, 1971.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary

## ACTIVITIES REPORT

April 23, 1971 - May 17, 1971

## I. A. CHARLOTTE COUNTY

1. SCL Railroad Bridge, Placida, Florida -

The Authorization Telegram as approved at the April 23, 1971, meeting was dispatched to the SCL Railroad immediately following the meeting with a copy provided to Mr. Bob Bayless, of Misener Marine Construction, Inc., and a copy sent to Mr. Louis Stahl, of J. E. Greiner Co., Inc; in addition, a letter of confirmation was sent to the SCL Railroad on April 26, 1971. A pre-construction meeting was held on May 11, 1971, with Mr. Stahl representing WCIND.

## B. PINELLAS COUNTY

1. MSA P-29 -

Assistance was requested of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida to establish a mean high water mark in the area surrounding Maintenance Spoil Area P-29 to aid in acquisition of subject Spoil Area.

## C. SARASOTA COUNTY

1. Right of Way Widener -

Mr. Gilbert Smith appeared in Court in Sarasota County to defend a motion to dismiss WCIND's request for hearing for the right of way widener and pipeline easement in the Alligator Creek area. Motion to dismiss was not approved. Order of Taking will be filed.

2. City of Venice Water Well Field -

The Director and Attorney attended a meeting in Venice on April 27, 1971, with Mr. Paul Youngberg, City Administrator, Mr. Horace Sutcliffe, U.S. Geological Survey Representative, Mr. Lindh, Consulting Engineer, and the City of Venice Engineer. Mr. Youngberg is to appear before the WCIND of Commissioners on May 17, 1971.

3. The Director met with Mr. J. L. Dunn and Mrs. Ben Dunn in regards to the damaged fence which separates the Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant and WCIND property. Proposal will be presented at the June, 1971, meeting.

D. LEE COUNTY

1. Okeechobee Waterway Hearing -

The Director attended a U.S. Coast Guard Open Hearing in Ft. Myers on May 4, 1971. WCIND Resolution #69-7 was read and placed in the records of the Hearing. The Resolution is in support of Waterway improvements in general in Florida and the nation.

II. GENERAL

1. Mrs. Happich, WCIND Secretary, is scheduled to be released from the hospital on May 17, 1971, and the Doctor estimates it will be approximately two months before she will be able to return to work.