

The November meeting of the Commissioners of the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT was held November 14, 1966, at the Manatee County Office Building.

Present were:

- A. L. Anderson, Vice Chairman, Pinellas County
- Ralph S. Clark, Treasurer, Manatee County
- Mrs. Dorothy R. Flowers, Secretary, Charlotte County
- Kenneth W. Daniels, Lee County
- Robert M. Wright, Sarasota County

- Harlan T. Johnson, Executive Director
- Dewey A. Dye, Jr., General Counsel
- Joe K. Merrin, Engineer

Absent were:

- Ellsworth G. Simmons, Chairman, Hillsborough County

ADMINISTRATION

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Minutes of the October 7, 1966, meeting were approved as presented. The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted. Vouchers #4666 through #4706 were approved for payment. The Director noted that the current vouchers included a check for \$1,794.66, payable to the City of Venice, covering installation charges for the temporary pipeline at Turin Street; and a check for \$5,760.00, payable to Morris Trading Co., covering purchase of a right-of-way easement for channel relocation at Stickney Point Bridge.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS

The Chair recognized RAdm. C. A. Keller, representing the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, who presented an excellent report on



progress of the completion ceremony. He quoted a price of \$148.00 for the purchase of bunting for the speakers' platform. Mr. Dye suggested that bunting for the speakers' platform is available for rental purposes which would be much more economical. Admiral Keller agreed to investigate further. An additional cost of \$93.00 will be necessary to provide a rider to Chamber of Commerce insurance for bleacher coverage. The Board was unanimous in approving preparation for serving up to 5,000 people at the fish fry. It was pointed out that most of the unused supplies could be returned, and prepared food donated to worthy agencies. ^{* Mr. Simmons} ~~Mr. Dye~~ was appointed Chairman of a finance committee to contact various interested agencies and businesses for contributions.

PROGRESS REPORT

The Director reported progress through October. The canal is now cut through sufficiently for small boat traffic, but due to continuing dredge operations the Corps of Engineers has issued a notice that the waterway from Alligator Creek to Dona Bay is not yet open to navigation. A restrainer will be placed to eliminate traffic until construction in the area is completed.

Preparation of side slopes is continuing with tank trucks being utilized for watering the seeded areas. We are still trying to reach an agreement with Dr. Caspersen for an easement to permit side slope treatment in S/A S3-1F. It is necessary to fill a borrow ditch here with material from a spoil dike on property belonging to the Caspersens which is not a part of the right-of-way. Dr.

Caspersen has expressed a desire to appear before the WCIND Board at the December meeting in an attempt to settle differences. The meeting will be scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to allow ample time for this discussion.

A motion was adopted authorizing Mr. Clyde Higel to move material from S/A S3-3, not to exceed 4,800 cu. yds., at his own expense in return for complete release of any claims against the District. Approval has been received from Norfolk Dredging Co. for Dean Trucking Co. to remove spoil from S/A S3-4. Wendel Kent & Co., road contractors, have requested permission to remove spoil from this area consisting of approximately 15,000 to 16,000 cu. yds. a year. The Board approved this request, stipulating that the same contract provisions apply on all purchases of spoil and that all contracts expire on June 1, 1967, to permit renegotiation for a higher price.

In reporting on S/A S3-9 the Director stated that designated spoil is not sufficient to fill area; however, a group of individuals have requested a permit from the Corps of Engineers to remove a sand bar in front of their properties, with this spoil to be used for S3-9. The Corps of Engineers had turned down this request until after the contractor has completed work in the area. The property owners refused to pay the additional expense for relaying the pipeline on completion of the project. The Director reported his concern that we might have another Manasota Key empty dike situation on our hands, and he was instructed to take such action as might

be feasible to prevent such a situation from developing.

The Director also reported that pumping into S/A S3-9 would start on Wednesday, November 16, and that additional complaints concerning contamination of Robert Bay could be expected at that time. All possible action was being taken to prevent excessive contamination.

Mr. Wright announced that a fender system is being installed on the North Bridge at Venice which would block boat traffic into a private canal. He wishes to have this matter investigated and corrected if possible. The Director volunteered to take appropriate action.

In S/A S3-10A the Corps of Engineers had been requested to change the height specifications from a minimum of $6\frac{1}{2}'$ mlw with no maximum limit to a minimum of +5' and a maximum of +8' mlw due to objections of neighboring property owners. The Director was authorized to expend up to \$500 to have the area graded to a level conforming with surrounding properties. The Director announced an offer to purchase this property from the District, burdened with the pipeline easement, at the cost paid by the WCIND for the property originally purchased, including fees. The Director recommended that this offer not be considered until pumping into area was completed and our lands program further developed. The Board approved this recommendation.

Mr. Gilbert Smith submitted for approval a contract with the Seaboard Airline Railroad for construction of a lift span in the

railroad bridge at Placida. The contract was unanimously approved.

Mr. Dye reported that the County of Sarasota and the State Road Department have filed an order of taking for right-of-way for the new Stickney Point Bridge with the hearing date set for November 23. The District has acquired additional right-of-way for channel relocation at Stickney Point on two parcels of land. One additional parcel is in suit and should be acquired on November 23. He noted that the westerly bridge approach will be used as a spoil area for the material dredged from relocating the channel. An owner on the mainland side has filed an application with Sarasota County for a slight bulkhead change and fill permit. He has agreed to grant an easement so that material may be stockpiled for filling the easterly bridge approach. The Board approved submitting a letter to the County supporting the application for bulkhead change.

The Director reported on a public appearance before the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners, attended by Dewey Dye, Jr., the Director, and about thirty interested citizens. The citizens objected to the system used by the District in the purchase of land on Manasota Key for the use of maintenance pipelines by means of a trustee. They further objected to the disposal of spoil from the waterway on the Gulf beaches. As a result of this meeting the Director presented a statement of policy concerning acquisition of permanent spoil areas by the WCIND. This policy statement, as

approved by the Commissioners, states: "The WCIND became actively engaged in a program to acquire permanent spoil areas required by the Corps of Engineers approximately three months ago. It was decided to make initial purchases through another agency to obtain required property at the lowest price and to avoid litigation. The WCIND wanted to determine the availability and price of required property in a free market.

"This has been done. The WCIND has now secured seven parcels of property under this policy, six for pipelines to the Gulf and one upland island spoil area. The entire group was secured at less than the appraised value, set by a registered appraiser of the highest repute. In each instance an endeavor was made to locate the least valuable piece of land which would fulfill the requirements set by the Corps of Engineers and then to secure that piece of land at the lowest price. In no instance did the WCIND pay more than the appraised value.

"It appears desirable now to seek an understanding within the community of the requirements established by the Corps of Engineers. This should facilitate offers from willing sellers and assist in preventing rumors of large requirements which could increase price.

"The Executive Director and Attorney of WCIND are directed to provide the County of Sarasota the requirements for spoil disposition in Sarasota County, as they are developed and to work closely and publicly with such persons as may be designated by the Board of Commissioners of Sarasota County in planning for spoil areas.

"The WCIND seeks the aid of all citizens in disposing of spoil in the manner most advantageous to the community as a whole."

Two suggestions were made at this conference as to possible solutions to the disposal of spoil: underground pipelines and bagging of spoil. Mr. Dye suggested reducing the number of pipelines by pumping further. These suggestions will be forwarded to the Corps of Engineers for comment as to cost and practicability. Mr. Dye contended that the basic problem with the public continues to be lack of understanding. The people are thinking of temporary easements and do not comprehend that permanent easements involve a change in property values as well as long-term indefinite usage requiring large capacity areas. The District cannot be as flexible as in the past.

The Board adopted a motion made by Mr. Clark that policy in the future be as the policy in the past, any time donated temporary spoil areas can be effected at a saving to the District, they will be used.

Mr. Wright stated that several of the residents are complaining of the litter and noise caused by people using District owned property for picnic and party areas. He requested that some sort of restrictions be posted. The Director was instructed to confer with interested citizens in the area involved and Commissioner Wright in order to prepare appropriate recommendations.

The City of Venice has negotiated a contract with Misener

Construction Co. to install a permanent pipeline at the Turin Street crossing at a depth of 18' and a base width of 200'. The Board unanimously approved this contract and payment by the WCIND of additional expense involved in providing depth for a 12' channel at the width provided with Corps of Engineers Design memorandum.

Upon motion duly made and unanimously carried the Progress Report was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dye reported receipt of a request from a group of citizens who are interested in extending the waterway down to Naples. The project would entail the installation of two locks to prevent infiltration of salt water into the fresh water table. Mr. Daniels stated that he had been approached on this project and had suggested that they form a new district as the West Coast Waterway was very near completion, and also that the financing of such a project with two locks would prove very expensive.

The Director reported that a drain from Venice High School property was causing considerable erosion at its outlet into the waterway. The Corps of Engineers has refused to share the expense of correcting the problem, since they consider the drain pipe to be a utility, and the District is responsible for all utilities in the waterway right-of-way. The approximate price for a drop structure to correct the problem is \$16,000. The Board adopted a motion to authorize the Corps of Engineers to contract for this work at

Navigation District expense.

The Director reported that the State Road Department proposed to establish additional borrow channels adjacent to and occasionally overlapping our channel near the Sunshine Skyway in order to four lane the highway. He proposed that the District offer the waterway as a means of obtaining material, thus reducing cost to the Corps of Engineers in maintaining the waterway, abating the hazard and confusion caused by additional deep channels in the bay, and eliminating unnecessary damage to marine life. This procedure may require an adjustment in channel markers which might result in some expense to the WCIND. The Board agreed that it was in the interest of WCIND to provide for the removal of spoil from the waterway and the Director was authorized to take necessary action.

The Director notified the Board that a resolution had been passed by the Manatee County Commissioners requesting a study for the improvement of Longboat Pass. The Board unanimously passed a motion proposed by Mr. Clark that the WCIND submit a letter to the Corps of Engineers supporting this study.

The next meeting was set for December 12, at 10:30 a.m., at the usual place. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

W. L. Anderson
Chairman

Norothy B. Hewers
Secretary

PROGRESS REPORT

3 October 1966 - 4 November 1966

CONSTRUCTION

Construction Progress - During October the Section 3 contractor excavated 212,789 cubic yards of earth and advanced 2,895 linear feet. At the end of the month the contract was 98% complete.

Canal Open to Small Boats - On October 27 the dredge CHARLESTON entered Roberts Bay, completed pumping into S/A S3-8 and then back tracked to remove dam and high points in channel previously dredged. Dredge floated over Venice Avenue pipelines without operating. Venice Avenue shoal will remain, in accordance with CE directive, until Turin Street waterline is replaced. Temporary Turin Street waterline was removed by dredge crew with consent of City of Venice. WCIND was not consulted concerning removal. On October 28 at 3:00 p.m., dam was removed sufficiently to permit passage of small boats. Remaining restriction, other than dredge, is undredged section of Roberts Bay with a controlling depth of about 4 feet. Outboards now using canal.

Side Slopes - Contractor continued work on seeding, fertilizing and watering side slopes in Venice area. Easement signed by Dr. John D. Caspersen not acceptable to CE. No progress on Caspersen property until problems are resolved. Conference arranged with CE and with Dr. Caspersen.

S/A S3-3 - Complaints continue to be received concerning appearance. Negotiations continue concerning 30' easement to permit grading, drainage and clean-up. Mr. Higel has requested additional spoil. Morrison Trucking Co. will not start removing spoil until this matter is resolved. CE planning for grading banks, drainage and beautification.

S/A S3-4 - Approval received from Norfolk Dredging Co. for Dean Trucking Co. to remove spoil from area. Forwarded to CE for their approval. Cross section of removal area taken. Proposal received from Wendel Kent & Co. for removal of all excess spoil in area.

S/A S3-8 - Complaints received concerning silt in discharge water. CE raised water level to alleviate situation. Pumping into area completed on October 27; representative of owner, Mr. George Higel, pleased with results.

KMI Property - Norfolk Dredging entered into private contract

to pump undesignated spoil from Cut S-17 on to KMI property.

S/A S3-9 - Norfolk Dredging, CE and owners reached agreement concerning dike nearer shore than originally planned due to lack of sufficient spoil to fill designated area. Complaint received from Board of Conservation concerning plan to place dike hydraulically. Complaint referred to CE.

S/A S3-10 & 10A - Letter forwarded to CE requesting revision of height limits from a minimum of 6½' mlw to a minimum of 5' mlw and a maximum of 8' mlw. This action necessary to satisfy agreement with City of Venice that height of property should not exceed that of adjoining property.

BRIDGES

SAL Bridge - Phase Two, Engineering contract with J. E. Greiner Co. signed. Greiner forwarded design specifications to SAL Railroad Co. Revised draft agreement between SAL and WCIND received for review by WCIND staff.

Stickney Point Bridge - CE and SRD have reached substantial agreement concerning spoil, clearing and grubbing. Sarasota County working on road right-of-way and has Order of Taking set for November 23. WCIND has secured all channel right-of-way, except for one parcel set for Order of Taking hearing also November 23. Morris Trading Co. will submit request for dredge and fill permit and bulkhead change on November 9, for area to be used as spoil area.

LANDS

Section 2 MSA's - Additional parcels needed in Charlotte and Sarasota County being appraised. Director and Attorney to meet with Sarasota County Commissioners on November 10 to review program.

UTILITIES

Turin Street Waterline - Agreement signed on October 11, 1966, with City of Venice whereby WCIND agrees to advance money necessary for temporary waterline, a permanent line and engineering fees, subject to recovery if responsible party is determined. Gee and Jensen, consulting engineers of West Palm Beach, employed by City of Venice as consultants. On October 27, WCIND agreed to pay additional cost of Turin Street waterline resulting from placing line at depth of 18' with a base width of 200' as required by CE for a 12' x 150' channel. On October 28, 1966, contract awarded by City of Venice

to Misener Construction Co. Pipe scheduled to arrive and installation to begin on November 7, 1966.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial - On October 6, 1966, transferred \$50,000 from Bank of Palmetto Time Deposit to Manatee National Bank checking account. On October 17, 1966, the \$184,318.09 remaining in Venice Avenue Bridge account was withdrawn by State Road Department.

Completion Ceremony - Conference with CE and Board of Conservation representatives held on October 13. Preparation of invitation lists continues. RAdm. C. E. Keller making excellent progress on planning for ceremony in Venice.

Public Relations - Director appeared before Cruise and Rendezvous Committee of District 22, U.S. Power Squadron to explain canal program and request their support.

Drainage, School Property - CE requested WCIND commitment to pay approximately \$16,000 for drop structure to drain school property south of Structure No. 7. Request submitted for CE to assume or share expense.

Groundings, Venice Inlet - Reports received of groundings just north of Venice jetties as boats attempt to cut across to channel west of Rattlesnake Island. Letter and photographs forwarded to CE. RAdm. C. E. Keller requested to submit written report.

Florida Waterways Association Conference - Commissioners Ralph S. Clark, Kenneth W. Daniels, Mr. Dewey A. Dye, Jr. and the Director attended the conference in Tampa on October 13 through 15. Display of maps and aerial photographs set up for information.

Inland Waterway to Naples - Letter received from Mr. Walker concerning the desire of Collier County to join the WCIND to provide for extending the present waterway to Naples. Procedure explained, justification requested.

Appropriation - Information received from Hon. J. Hardin Peterson that PL 89-689 of 89th Congress signed on October 15, 1966, provides \$648,000 for West Coast Intracoastal Waterway.