

The regular monthly meeting of the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS was held June 14, 1963 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
Irwin Klemmer, Treasurer, Manatee County
Masel C. Huston, Sarasota County

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

Absent:

Mack H. Jones, Lee County

ADMINISTRATION

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 11 A.M. Minutes of the May 13, 1963 meeting were approved as presented. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Attention was called to the fact that the State Road Department had withdrawn \$300,000 from the escrow account for bridges during the month. Vouchers #3396 through #3426 covering current bills were approved for payment.

PROGRESS REPORT

The Director gave the report of construction progress during the month and announced that the basic dredging of Sec. 4 (Tampa Bay to Venice Inlet) was finished at 10 P.M. June 13; the contractor still has some sweeping to do and the work must be accepted by the Corps of Engineers.

It was reported that one spoil area in Charlotte County needs to be modified slightly. This was discussed with Mr. Anger.

In Sec. 2 apparently all owners in spoil areas S11 A and B who are going to reply to requests for easements have done so. Motion was made and carried that the staff make whatever presentation is necessary to the Corps of Engineers of the areas for which easements have been received.

The Coral Cove spoil area (S-34) was discussed; all adjacent spoil areas had been filled to capacity and the contractor had had to use the area again. In S/A S35-1 the individual easements restrict the height of fill to that of Peacock Road; the contractor, however, is governed by a quantity limitation only. It was felt that the Navigation District had a responsibility to grade the material to a uniform height. Motion was made and carried that the Director and Mr. Huston get some estimates of cost of this grading and act on behalf of the Board in settling this matter. If the estimate should run more than \$1000 the work was to be advertised for bids.

Commissioner Anger announced that Cleary Brothers of West Palm Beach were the low bidder for the reconstruction of the Englewood bridge at a cost of \$744,874.20.

Commissioner Huston said that he thought Sarasota County
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would execute the agreement/to validate \$750,000 worth of bonds
for the Albee-Manasota bridges during the week of June 17. The Director said before September there must be an assurance from the State Road Department that the bridge will not delay the construction of Section 2.

The Progress Report was accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Simmons stated that the millage to be applied to the tax rolls of the six counties in WCIND must be set before

July 1st. The Director gave figures on the funding program for the next year (446 A) and showed for the next two years a graph of expected liabilities and assets. Balance on hand and total tax revenue for the next two years based upon an annual increase in valuations and a millage rate of .25 mills would meet anticipated obligations within each tax year, however, receipts are so distributed that for a portion of each year a deficit would exist. These deficits could be eliminated by borrowing in anticipation of tax revenues (\$550,000 borrowed in July, 1963 to be repaid by February, 1964; \$200,000 to be borrowed in July, 1964 to be repaid by December, 1964). Proposed borrowing in 1963 would permit the start of construction on the Venice Avenue Bridge in October, 1963. Mr. Simmons questioned the 5% growth factor in 1963 due to frost damage and other changes in tax valuations. With no increase over 1962 the .25 mill rate should provide a revenue of \$615,000. It was felt the District had to finance the program adequately and that a little more "cushion" than the .25 mill would provide would be comfortable. After much discussion Commissioner Anderson moved that the millage for the current year be set at .25 mills. The motion carried unanimously, copies of the millage resolution to be forwarded to each of the six counties in the District and to the State Comptroller. (Page 55, WCIND annex to Minutes)

Motion was made and carried that the Director, the Attorney and Chairman Simmons proceed on behalf of the Board to see if the loan from Manatee County banks can be arranged.

(Page 56, WCIND annex to Minutes)

The Board adopted a resolution/urging appropriations for the construction of Sec. 2. It was noted that all the counties have passed similar resolutions. Mr. Peterson announced that the

House hearings would be on June 20 and the Senate hearings on June 21. He will represent the Navigation District.

(Page 57, WCIND annex to Minutes)

The Board passed a resolution/supporting appropriations to permit start of construction on the Cross Florida Barge Canal. This resolution had been requested by the Manager of the Canal Authority.

The Commissioners noted that Mr. Ralph F. Davis was no longer with Sarasota County, having gone into private business, and passed a resolution/of appreciation for his services to the Navigation District with copy to be sent Mr. Davis and to Sarasota County for their permanent records. Mr. Huston said Mr. Davis had assured him he would still assist the Navigation District in any way he could.

An article on the Waterway with map of the project, which had appeared in a recent issue of the Bradenton Herald was commented on and each Commissioner furnished a copy. The Director stated that prints of the map could be secured for approximately \$60 for 500. Motion was made that 500 be purchased, copies to be given to the counties and other interested public agencies and copies held in the District office for distribution.

The July meeting will be held on July 12.

The meeting adjourned at 12 o'clock.



Chairman



Secretary

WCIND Funding Program

Liabilities:

During the latter half of 1963 the Navigation District will have liabilities for dredging at the Siesta Key and Blackburn Point bridges, for the acquisition of right-of-way in Sec. 3, for the provision of access to the Caspersen tract, for the construction of the Venice Avenue bridge; and probably for the project contribution for the Cats Point project. These non-routine liabilities amount to approximately \$1,300,000.

Routine administrative costs will amount to an additional \$70,000.

In 1964 non-routine liabilities will include providing access to the South Venice beaches and some diking in Sec. 2. Administrative costs for the year will be about \$80,000.

In 1965 the non-routine liabilities will include utility crossings of the telephone and power lines in Sec. 3 and reconstruction of the draw-span of the railroad bridge at Placida. Administration costs for the year will be about \$70,000.

Assets:

As of June 1 the Navigation District had on hand unencumbered \$856,000. An additional \$15,000 tax revenue is anticipated before Oct. 1.

Based upon .25 mill levy and 5% annual increase in valuation, anticipated tax revenues in 1963-64 would be \$650,000 and in 1964-65, \$680,000.

PROGRESS REPORT

13 May 1963 - 14 June 1963

CONSTRUCTION

Progress - In Sec. 5 the contractor continued clean-up operations. At the end of the month the project was 95% complete.

In Sec. 4, the contractor advanced 2073' and dredged 89,957 cubic yards of material. At the end of the month Sec. 4 was 96% complete.

The Sunshine Skyway Channel contract was awarded on May 14. The contractor started operations on May 20 and completed the contract on May 27. A total of 3,877 cu. yds. of material was dredged for a total advance of 670 feet.

Operations Sec. 4 S/A S23 - The Corps of Engineers advised the Navigation District that overflow from the spoil area had been cleared up by the contractor.

S/A S31 - Mr. Dennis Azar protested the non filling of an alternate area which had been diked. He was advised that arrangements for use of alternate areas were private negotiations between owner and contractor, not subject to Navigation District control.

S/A S34 - The contractor reported that maximum permissible use of S/A's S35-1 and 35-8 will fail to accommodate final dredging in Sec. 4 by about 8500 cu. yds, and that he will have to use S/A S34 again. He has agreed to place spoil so as to facilitate hauling away.

S/A S35-2R - The contractor arranged to remedy damage to a dock in Little Sarasota Bay caused by his operation.

Sec. 5 - The Corps of Engineers advised the contractor that payment Sec. 9 had been accepted.

LANDS

Lee and Charlotte Counties - The President of the Sunset Realty Corporation notified the Director that the corporation would contribute \$21,200 additional pumping costs to place spoil on their property in Lee County. No decision has yet been made on similar contribution for spoil in Charlotte County.

Charlotte County, C10-A - The part-owner of this spoil area is not willing to extend easement due to fear of adverse effect on existing channel.

S/A C-31 - On May 17 owners of the peninsula north of C-30 asked that the Corps of Engineers review their estimate of contribution required to eliminate spoil island C-31 by placing spoil from C-31 upon the peninsula, with requirement that the existing shell road be used as pipeline easement. This request was made to the Corps of Engineers.

Sarasota County, General - On May 27 Mr. Merrin and the Director met with Commissioners Gernhard, Haigh and Huston and discussed Sec. 2 land problems. - Mr. Dye advised the Staff of the Internal Improvement Fund that sale of submerged lands intended for spoil areas should be processed even if purchasers had declined to grant spoil easement to upland area.

Sec. 2, S1 - Owners proposed the elimination of this island spoil area by substitution of a composite spoil area on Manasota Key. Mr. Merrin met with the proponents and outlined criteria for a spoil area and the financial burdens imposed. Mr. Merrin worked with the engineer of the owners.

S/A S2 (Paulson) - The IIB has approved revised bulkhead line. Mr. Merrin furnished sketches of submerged land purchase required to be made by Sarasota County and Paulson.

S/A S3 - At meeting on May 27 the County Commissioners indicated they would consider contribution to eliminate spoil island S3 by placing spoil on County-owned property, S4.

S/A S6 - The IIB has indicated they will advertise the one sale of submerged land required for this spoil area.

S/A's S7, 8 and 10A - The Corps of Engineers indicated that protection of the County-road by diking would not be required if the road elevation was as high as that along S/A S6. It was determined that the road along S10-A is higher, but that approximately one-fourth (2500') of the road along S7 and 8 is lower than the lowest part of the road along S/A S6.

S/A S10-A - The triangular tract of submerged land between this spoil area and S/A S-10 is desired by both private owner and Sarasota County. The Director advised the County that the private owner had already applied for purchase but regardless of successful purchaser, the area was desired as part of spoil area.

S/A's S 11-AB - Formal answers from most of the 24 property owners in S/A 11A and the 8 owners in S 11B have been received. Pipeline easements are being sought to compensate for tracts for which new spoil easement were refused.

Sec. 3, S/A S3-1, S3-2 - Description of pipeline easements across these areas was prepared for possible condemnation action.

S/A S3-8 and 9 - The County furnished information on floodway limits which will determine the northern boundary of these spoil areas.

Sec. 4, Tarpon Center - Mr. Dye is preparing answer for owners of Tarpon Center as to present limits of right-of-way.

S/A S35-1 - Agreement was reached with the County as to the size of ditch and culvert which would meet drainage requirements of vicinity.

BRIDGES

Englewood Bridge - On May 28th bids for the reconstruction of the bridge were opened. Cleary Brothers of West Palm Beach were the apparent low bidder with a bid of \$744,874.20.

Manasota Bridge - Mr. Johnson answered Mr. Simmons that the estimate of \$720,000 for the bridge appeared as accurate as could be expected, and bid received for the Englewood bridge confirms this opinion.

Footbridge - On May 16 Mr. Dye and the Director met with representatives of the South Venice Civic Association and their attorney, Mr. Braswell. After the meeting Mr. Freeman Horton was asked to refine his estimate for the cost of a pedestrian swing bridge.

Albee-Manasota Bridge - On May 21 Sarasota County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution required to validate \$750,000 worth of bonds for these bridges. On May 31 the Chairman of the State Road Department withdrew an additional \$300,000 from the escrow account containing the Navigation District contribution towards reconstruction of these bridges.

Utilities, crossings - On May 27 the Director requested the General Telephone Co. and the Florida Power & Light Co. to review plans for Sec. 3 and estimate cost involved in altering their utilities.

ADMINISTRATION

Revised schedule of programmed expenditures for use in setting millage for next tax year was prepared.

The Corps of Engineers furnished correspondence with Mr. Minthorne outlining claims to which he felt he is entitled. Mr. Dye answered a similar letter to the Navigation District from Mr. Minthorne asking for specific statement of the claims. The District Engineer advised Mr. Minthorne that the Navigation District is legally bound to hold the United States free from damages resulting from construction of the project.

Appropriation Testimony - On May 17 the Director furnished the Corps of Engineers revised information on the status of local cooperation. He furnished to the State Board of Conservation a revision of the information furnished in Tallahassee on March 25. The statement was furnished the Manager of the Canal Authority of Florida, outlining the previously established position of the Board of Directors of the Navigation District that they support the development of all economically justified navigation projects in the State and that this applied to the Cross State Barge Canal. Appropriation hearings are scheduled for June 20.

Based upon the resolution passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County in support of appropriations for Sec. 2, similar resolutions were passed in each of the other counties.

Legal notices for dredging at Siesta Key Bridge were advertised on May 23, 30 and June 6.

Copy of "Notice of Report on Channels at Frenchman Creek and Gulfport, Florida" was received from the Corps of Engineers.

The Director attended the meeting of the National Rivers & Harbors Congress in Washington on June 4 and 5 and the meeting of the Florida Waterways Association and members of the Congressional delegation.