

The June meeting of the Commissioners, of the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT, was held June 14, 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
H. William Thompson, Charlotte County
Robert C. Hutches, Manatee County

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

Absent were: Dan P. McClure, Treasurer, Manatee County
A. Oliver McEachern, Pinellas County

ADMINISTRATION:

The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes of May 17, 1971 meeting were approved as presented.

Chairman Simmons, on behalf of the Board members, expressed deep sympathy for Commissioner McClure who suffered his serious accident on May 21 and is in Manatee Memorial Hospital. Commissioner Hutches was welcomed to the WCIND Board as Manatee County's representative pro tem.

Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Vouchers #6650 through #6674 were approved for payment.

The proposed FY 1971-1972 Budget was presented for approval. Commissioner Daniels moved that the FY 1971-1972 Budget be approved and that the 00.01 mill tax levy proposed for the 1971-1972 fiscal year be adopted; motion carried. Copies of the approved budget and the WCIND resolution for adoption of the 00.01 mill tax levy will be forwarded to the six counties of the District: Resolution No. 71-01.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Charlotte County

SCL Bridge Status Report - Misener Marine Construction, Inc., will have equipment on site June 25 and their field office will be located adjacent to the Gasparilla Fishery. Prefabricated steel will be floated down via dredge. SCL Railroad Company expenses must be detailed and substantiated as a WCIND requirement in conformance with all rules and regulations under which WCIND operates.

Sarasota County

Venice Wellfield Water Supply Committee Report - Mr. Dye reported on a meeting June 9 and their tour of the area with Commissioner Thompson; also, a study was made of the graphs and the well

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locations. He noted these problems: a) the depth of the casings as compared to depth of the well itself; b) specific wells seem to be more affected than others; and c) Mr. Horace Sutcliffe, U.S. Geological Survey Bureau, is presently in Colorado attending a technical school. He was going to make several other final readings and this information is not yet available. Mr. Dye stated the Investigating Committee's recommendations:

"We want to wait until these other final readings have been made."

"We would like to have our own technical consultant to help us interpret these readings for us before we arrive at a final conclusion to present to the Board."

Chairman: "Do you have a recommendation or do you now suggest an amount of money be made available to the Committee?"

Mr. Dye: "I do not know what the cost will be. A water-supply Geologist is needed."

Commr. Thompson: "I probably feel more strongly about this than Mr. Dye, I have not seen a thing yet that really makes me conclude that the spoil area has been the cause of salinity in those wells. Unless Mr. Sutcliffe comes up with some reason to believe for this cause and effect relationship, I would like to have someone to defend us, the WCIND. I propose to spend as much as \$5,000 to get out from under this liability because I do not think that the \$80,000 - \$90,000 amount which the City of Venice proposes is at all reasonable - in fact, I might use the word 'ridiculous'."

Chairman: "What time-table does the Committee think we should be talking about?"

Mr. Dye: "I should say it will be another month before Mr. Sutcliffe does his other final readings which he was going to do. Maybe we can give you a report in that time; also, what the cost will be for a water-supply Geologist."

Chairman: "This problem has been brought to our attention and we should pursue as rapidly as possible in order that the City of Venice may know."

Mr. Dye: "The City of Venice is now proceeding with exploration for a new wellfield because of their very serious problem. We did observe during our tour that all but one of these wells are in use but we do know from Mr. Sutcliffe's last readings that probably one-half of these wells have an unsatisfactory level of salt content but the other half are useable. It also becomes a question of, is it economically feasible for them to operate only one-half of this wellfield."

Mr. Horace Sutcliffe, U.S. Geological Survey Bureau, is subcontracted with the State of Florida for monitoring these wells. WCIND has a \$1500/year contract participation with the State of Florida. This Annual Study continues year to year.

Commr. Hutches: "Every city up and down the coast of Florida is having the same problems - but they are not affected by WCIND. I agree with Commissioner Thompson. If we are going to be put in a position of being expected some day to pay for some damage that which is allegedly caused down in Venice, then I would certainly agree to get someone who is going to defend our position - someone who will provide more than the legal knowledge - to present the WCIND side. I don't know what they are talking about in terms of dollars but I guarantee you it is going to be more than \$5,000 if they come up with re-locating wellfields."

Mr. Dye: "The City of Venice has requested \$88,500 for one of the two methods presented."

Commr. Hutches: "This is happening on every coast in the State more and more. Anytime you have dry weather and you are pulling more and more out of this underground supply and reducing the pressures that are there, this allows the salt to come in. You are going to have this along the coasts."

Commr. Daniels: "I think with the advent of rains, it is going to change the picture some and I think it will change the picture for the City of Venice too."

Commr. Rhodes: "I do not think this has been a this-year proposition. It has been over a period of years."

Commr. Hutches: "Every year you have a greater drain on the underground water supply and this is going to get worse the following year. But, this doesn't mean that WCIND is the cause of it."

Chairman: "What we hoped to do was to determine whether or not there was damage caused by this spoil area and to what extent. We do have a 4-party agreement contract in line with this problem. The Investigating Committee's request, as I understand it, was for some professional help in the interpretation and analysis of data available and the advising whether or not more data might be necessary."

Commr. Thompson: "It is my suggestion that this Board propose that we, the Investigating Committee, go to the Southwest Florida Management District."

- Mr. Dye: "Dr. Robert Vernon's Department, for the State of Florida, originally made the studies."
- Commr. Daniels: "Dr. Vernon's man is presently working in Lee County and he is highly qualified."
- Commr. Hutches: "Mr. Chairman, I'd like to go along with the thinking of contacting Dr. Vernon on this matter because I have sat in on a number of presentations he has made in work here at Manatee County."
- Chairman: "Is there a motion to ask the Investigating Committee to seek the services of Dr. Robert Vernon or his Department? Would you be satisfied with this, Commissioner Thompson?"
- Commr. Thompson: "I would be perfectly satisfied as long as we are not limited to that."
- Commr. Hutches: "I think, possibly, let the Committee look around for any other of their people available from the Department and come back to the next meeting with a recommendation that Dr. Vernon or one of his men available be employed and then get an estimate of the cost." "I so move."

Motion made and carried.

- Chairman: "Mr. Dye, you know Dr. Vernon. Will you follow through with the Committee on making this contact?"
- Mr. Dye: "Yes, I will."
- Chairman: "I want, and this Board too wants the City of Venice to be sufficiently and officially notified by the District - not only by the press media - that WCIND is seeking the services of Dr. Robert Vernon for collaboration in this matter. This will make for a better understanding."

Director Furbee was so instructed to officially notify the City of Venice.

Venice Chamber of Commerce Request of WCIND - The Director reported on information received today re the earlier question of the Venice Chamber of Commerce building encroachment on the WCIND Right-of-Way there. Six months ago, they asked WCIND for release of easement interest since the building structure encroached seven-eight feet. A sketch of this was presented for examination. Mr. C. F. Wheeler of Boone, Kanetsky & Moore law firm wrote and he referred to copy of letter from the Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, Mr. Lohman, Real Estate Division, who advised that the CE had no objection to releasing the easement interest to the affected land subject to final approval by its higher authority. Established

policy is that all requests for such release of the U.S. be first submitted to WCIND for its consideration. There is roughly 100 feet clearance between the channel cut and adjacent side of the structure. The Venice Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that WCIND recommend to the Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, a release of easement interest to the affected property.

Chairman: "Would a release by WCIND to Venice Chamber of Commerce for this purpose take care of the situation?"

Director: "Mr. Chairman, the Venice Chamber of Commerce is in the process of selling the building and the land."

Chairman: "I would be willing to vote for them to remain there for the Chamber of Commerce and for cooperation and anything reasonable for them to operate and remain; but, if there were any need for WCIND to acquire the Right-of-Way in an area as restricted, bought and paid for, it must have been on the possibility of the need for maintenance and upkeep. To release it for the Chamber of Commerce purpose of sale - this throws a completely different light on it."

Mr. Dye: "This piece of property abuts the north bridge of North Trail. Prospects of widening right up against the bridge are fairly remote. But I do say in all cases in the past for R/W release approval by the Corps of Engineers - where WCIND has purchased R/W as compared with given by somebody - the release is conditioned upon the payment of appraised value of the parcel requested to be released."

Commr. Rhodes: "There isn't much use that can be made of the land between the building and the waterway. It is pretty steep. We should have some sort of appraisal made for the land's worth to WCIND. I move that Director Furbee have an appraisal made of the affected property over the R/W line and that of the WCIND property remaining." Motion carried.

Pinellas County

P-29 Proposed location for Spoil Area at Narrows - The Director reported on the WCIND request to the State TIIF for assistance in determining a mean high water mark in this area for the needed spoil area. The response was negative from the TIIF who stated it was due to lack of funds and suggested that WCIND engage a registered surveyor. Mr. Dye advised that this probably will take a period of at least a week.

Commissioner Daniels moved that the WCIND proceed with employing a registered surveyor for this location. Motion carried.

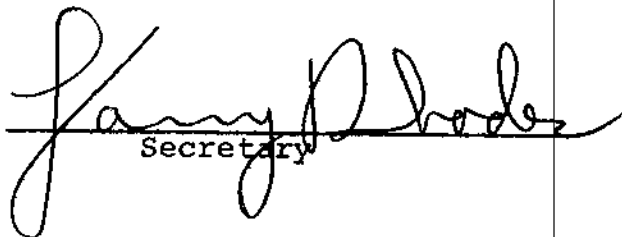
NEXT MEETING DATE - It was agreed that the next regular meeting will be held on Monday, July 12, 1971, Manatee County Courthouse, Bradenton.

Commissioner Hutches expressed his hope for Commissioner McClure's continued progress and recovery soon enough to return to the Board for the July 12 meeting.

Commissioner McClure, via telephoned special communication, addressed the Board: "Mr. Chairman, I want to express my appreciation to all the members for their prayers and kind expressions for my early recovery and I hope to be able to be present at July meeting."

Chairman Simmons acknowledged the message on behalf of the Board and expressed the hopes for Commissioner McClure's body healing and early return to the Board. He promised Commissioner McClure the members' visits whenever permission is granted.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.


Secretary


Chairman

W. C. I. N. D.

ACTIVITIES REPORT
MAY 17, 1971 - JUNE 14, 1971

- I.
- A. CHARLOTTE COUNTY
1. Placida, Florida SCL Bridge Report - Misener Marine Construction, Inc., contractor for the bridge, advised that they will have equipment on site ^{time} May 25, 1971 with a field office located at the Gasparilla Fishery. Date of estimated completion is June 1, 1972.
- B. SARASOTA COUNTY
1. Venice Water Well Field Committee Report - A meeting was held in Commissioner Thompson's office in Punta Gorda, Florida, on June 9, 1971 with Commissioner Thompson, Mr. Dye, and the Director. Commissioner McEachern could not attend due to prior commitments. Possible solutions to the problem were discussed and will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at the June 14 meeting.
- C. PINELLAS COUNTY
1. Spoil Area P-29 - Reply was received from the Florida Internal Improvement Fund Director in regards to the WCIND request for them to establish a mean high water mark in area of P-29. They are unable to perform the survey due to lack of funds and they suggest WCIND engage a registered surveyor.
- II. GENERAL:
- A. The Director visited S/Areas S3-3 and S3-4 for inspection purposes on June 9. Both were satisfactory although vehicle tracks indicate that vehicles are entering the areas in violation of the No Trespassing signs.
- B. The Director visited with Mr. H. L. Tomlinson of the Venice Boat and Motor, Inc., to discuss the VB&M utilization of the WCIND property which they have under lease.
- C. The Auditor, Mr. R. Bourne, began an audit of the last two fiscal years of operation of WCIND on June 1, 1971.