

The September meeting of the Commissioners, of the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT, was held September 20, 1971, in the Commission Chambers, 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  
Robert C. Hutches, Treasurer, Manatee County  
H. William Thompson, Charlotte County

Charles E. Furbee, Executive Director  
Gilbert A. Smith, Associate Counsel

Absent were: A. Oliver McEachern, Pinellas County  
Dewey A. Dye, Jr., Counsel

Guest: Mr. Paul A. Youngberg, City of Venice Administrator

#### ADMINISTRATION

The meeting convened at 10:35 a.m.

Minutes of the August 9, 1971, meeting were approved as presented.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. Vouchers #6714 through #6742 were approved for payment.

The Chairman welcomed Gilbert A. Smith, Associate Counsel for WCIND, to the meeting.

#### ACTIVITIES REPORT

##### Charlotte County

SCL Bridge Status Report - The Director stated that the construction is now progressing ahead of schedule. The first billing was returned to SCL with the request that they submit a breakdown for portions due SCL, and the Contractor, with percentage of billing toward the total contract price. J. E. Greiner Company, Inc., as WCIND representative, has approved the bill for payment.

Sunset Realty Corporation - WCIND was requested to endorse their proposal to widen and deepen the waterway from Marker #3 to Marker #20 in Gasparilla Sound, to 300' wide and 25' deep. The WCIND Counsel stated that the board should not endorse the proposal but at the same time should pose no objection since WCIND does not hold title. This proposed project is one of private enterprise and WCIND only has control of the bottom lands. Mr. Smith stated that the project is subject to the approval of TIIF and the Corps of Engineers. The expanding of the waterway could or could not be a benefit to all the waterway use. Commr. Rhodes stated that WCIND should not get involved since the proposed project is subject to governmental agencies other than WCIND; he requested that the WCIND table the Sunset Realty Corporation proposal at this time.

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Sarasota County

Venice Water Well Fields Report - The Chairman stated that he had reviewed the past history of the well field problem, the WCIND responsibility, and the board has received Dr. Vernon's report.

"I am sure this board will keep its responsibility - this is the last existing contract to be resolved. I would hope the board will come to a point to discharge the board's responsibility. Water is very important and necessary; the local government must plan and be responsible for it. I believe if WCIND could be relieved of responsibility, by making payment to the City of Venice, all board members of the six counties of WCIND would discharge the board's responsibility and I would hope the board could meet this obligation of \$83,500. as recommended by Dr. Vernon. At the same time, we have another contract with the Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Interior, for \$1,500 per year. This should be placed with the City of Venice and leave it there. The WCIND is not dealing with an individual, WCIND is dealing with another governmental agency serving people and WCIND should be relieved of responsibility for the Geological Survey Annual Reports on Venice. As Mr. Dye, Counsel, stated in his opinion to the board, this is a legal responsibility; the Venice Water Wellfield problem's settlement should be determined by the board, and Mr. Dye recommended \$70,000. which does not include \$13,500. claim, cost of investigation of new water resources."

Commissioner Thompson: "Mr. Chairman, I would settle for the amount of \$70,000. as recommended by Mr. Dye."

Chairman: "I am prone to agree with payment of the \$13,500. claim. There might be conditions for the claim. I have reached no conclusion. The City of Venice believes they will continue to have to spend more than \$13,500. since this is their necessary research. We must discharge our responsibility to the people of City of Venice. The amount of money is one for the board to decide on. We should settle now."

Commissioner Hutches: "Mr. Chairman, we are responsible to a certain degree for the research because of the problems caused and researched in Venice. Dr. Vernon's outline of cost is a just one. I would suggest that the research cost be accepted as correct by WCIND, and as recommended by Dr. Vernon; that WCIND split the difference of \$13,500. with the City of Venice."

Mr. Paul A. Youngberg: "City of Venice feels that \$13,500. is in proportion to the water that Venice is losing due to the problem."

Chairman: "I believe that the City of Venice wants to settle and is willing but that Dr. Vernon's recommendation to WCIND is what Venice should be guided by. City of Venice has its problem to settle and this board would want our legal department to approve. This board would want no continuing liability for the City of Venice water wellfield problem and does want the matter settled."

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Commissioner Daniels: "I am in accord with the Chairman's statements but the question of \$13,500. I would be more prone to give \$80,000. if WCIND would be free of all claims; part of the money came from Sarasota County."

Commissioner Thompson: "I will move to approve \$80,000. payment to City of Venice subject to WCIND legal department approval, ratified, by the City of Venice, and free WCIND of responsibility."

Mr. Smith answered Commissioner Hutches' question by stating that this claim is to be resolved under the Four-party Agreement: WCIND, City of Venice, County of Sarasota, and State Road Department.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniels; motion carried.

Mr. Youngberg: "Mr. Chairman, thank you and WCIND board members. I feel reasonably sure that City of Venice will see your offer to be reasonable and will agree to the terms presented."

Chairman: "This will absolve the WCIND board from all responsibility and places the responsibility with the local governing body there, City of Venice."

Mr. Youngberg: "Thank you."

South Venice Civic Association - The Director reported that, following a meeting there September 10, 1971, with the Director and Mr. Gilbert A. Smith attending, the S.V.C.A. officers requested the WCIND to assist them in seeking a solution to their ferry-boat operations. WCIND did agree to assist the S.V.C.A. in seeking their solution; there is no WCIND obligation.

#### Pinellas County

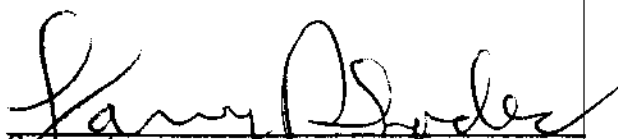
MSA P-14 - Proposed Spoil Area - The Director stated that the State Department of Natural Resources has referred this proposal back to the Corps of Engineers; he requested authority of the board for him to travel to Jacksonville for a meeting with the Corps of Engineers. Motion was made by Commissioner Rhodes to authorize the Director's meeting with personnel, C.E. Jacksonville District; the motion carried.

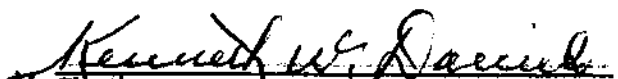
MSA P-29 - The Director reported that it is necessary to determine the bulkhead line surrounding above property and a field survey will have to be accomplished by George F. Young, Inc..

The Activities Report was accepted as presented.

NEXT MEETING DATE - Monday, October 18, 1971 was agreed to be the next meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

  
Secretary

  
Chairman

W. C. I. N. D.  
ACTIVITIES REPORT

August 9, 1971 - September 20, 1971

I.

A. CHARLOTTE COUNTY

1. SCL Railroad Bridge - Status Report: The Director visited the project site on August 5, and 18, and September 17, 1971 to check on progress. First billing in the amount of \$68,118.54 dated September 10, 1971 was received by WCIND and then returned to SCL to have breakdown of statement to reflect per cent complete of over-all contract and the SCL portion of reimbursement in accordance with contract specifications. Also received confirmation of validity of bill which was verified by J. E. Greiner Company, Inc. Official public notice has been published in the Fort Myers News-Press and Punta Gorda Herald News for a dredge permit in accordance with instructions from Florida Department of Air and Water Pollution Control.

2. Sunset Realty Corp. - WCIND has received a request for the endorsement of a project to widen and deepen in the Waterway from Market #3 to Marker #20 in Gasparilla Sound.

B. SARASOTA COUNTY

1. Venice Water Well Field Report - A letter report has been received from Dr. R. O. Vernon, Chief, Bureau of Geology, in response to WCIND request for his assistance in the Venice Water Well Field problem.

2. South Venice Civic Association - A meeting was held in the office of Mr. Eugene Williams, Venice, Attorney for S.V.C.A., reference the right-of-way widener. Mr. G. A. Smith, Counsel for WCIND, the Director, WCIND, met there September 10, 1971 with: Mr. E. P. Foster, President, S.V.C.A.

Mr. W. J. Crosier, V. Pres., S.V.C.A.

Mr. Michael Perinovic, Charge of Parks and Beaches

Mr. Burtine Longacre, Charge of Legal Relations.

WCIND agreed to assist S.V.C.A. in seeking a solution to their ferry-boat operations.

3. Maintenance Spoil Area - S3-4 - Sarasota County Road personnel were discovered to be hauling material from this spoil area on September 15, 1971. When questioned by the Director, the County personnel were under the impression that a new haul contract had been entered into between the County and WCIND. Sarasota County was allowed to continue hauling upon assurance by Mr. Ramirez of Sarasota County that an accurate account would be kept of the amount of spoil removed and Sarasota County would haul from the area assigned by the Director.

C. PINELLAS COUNTY

1. Maintenance Spoil Area P-14 - Proposed Spoil Area -

A twenty-four acre spoil area located south of the Corey Causeway has been selected by WCIND. This site has been objected to by Robert A. Rounta, Chief, Survey and Management, Department of Natural Resources, based upon Mr. Allen Burdett, marine biologist. A solution for selection of an alternate area or confined use of P-14 will be sought between the State, U.S. Corps of Engineers, and WCIND.

2. Maintenance Spoil Area P-29 - Mr. G. A. Smith, Counsel for

WCIND, and the Director, WCIND, met with Mr. Kent of George F. Young, Inc., St. Petersburg, to determine the bulkhead line surrounding above property. A field survey will have to be accomplished by George F. Young, Inc.