

The monthly board meeting of the Board of Commissioners, WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT, was held August 25, 1980, in Sarasota County Property Appraiser's Conference Room, Sarasota.

Present were: Larry Rhodes, Chairman, Sarasota County
L. H. Fortson, Treasurer, Manatee County
J. A. Tringali, Charlotte County, Alternate
Franz H. Ross, Charlotte County
J. D. Neville, Sarasota County

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

Absent were: Arnold F. Schade, Vice Chairman, Charlotte County
R. Douglas Taylor, Secretary, Lee County

Guests: Sarasota County Government:
Ralph Davis, Water & Navigation Control Coordinator
Dr. J. L. Lincer, Environmental Specialist
Robert Patten, Marine Biologist

Leo Kosky, State Legislative Aide
for Senator Henderson, Sarasota County

ADMINISTRATION

The meeting convened at 10:40 a.m.
Minutes of June 23, 1980 monthly board meeting were approved as presented. There was no board meeting for the month of July.
Treasurer's Reports, June 30 and July, 1980, were approved as read.
Vouchers, July 28 #2026-2055, and August 25 #2056-2080 were approved.

WCIND Resolution No. 80-03 for a Tentative Budget FY 1980-81 and also WCIND Resolution No. 80-04 for a Tentative Millage " 1980-81 were recommended by the Director. WCIND budget was approved in June and WCIND millage rate was approved by the Cabinet in June. TRIM Bill, (Truth in Millage), became effective June 30 and the WCIND resolution returned to WCIND. The Director did not recommend to change millage from 00.01 mill to the rolled-back millage - not enough difference. The rolled-back millages to date stand at 6/1000 to 9/1000 mill - only 4/1000 mill difference. The first public hearing is scheduled for September 25, Sarasota, with a recommendation that resolutions (80-03 and 80-04) be tentatively adopted now. Chairman Rhodes did question the hearing dates, can WCIND have the same day as any other County, School Board or Municipality for after 5 P.M. Counsel Dye stated that the intent of the TRIM Bill is to prohibit local governments to combine these meetings; the Bill is almost impossible to understand. Director reported on sample given where only two meetings for an area; he then proposed same pattern for Sarasota County and for other Counties. The tentative millage for first hearing and a second hearing for confirmation of same. Commr. Tringali moved to adopt resolutions (80-03 and 80-04); motion seconded and carried.

Proposed Legislation - Amend FLORIDA CHAPT. 374 Reference was made to PART III, Waterway Development; need of Attorney General's opinion. Commr. Tringali moved that Counsel request Attorney General's opinion; motion was seconded and carried.

Florida Waterways Association Meeting, August 14 Director attended meeting in Jacksonville where the current Permitting Process, as established by the DNR and DER, was discussed. The Ports Council was assigned to study this procedure re Civil Works project here in Florida and also to ask for exemption since the Federal Government has its own exemptions. Also, to study the complete application with additional requirements; this is an effort to assist the Corps of Engineers re the Federal projects. Counsel Dye noted there is a question of whether or not this could be receptive, re the property appraiser's liability in case of WCIND lease or rental of property. This will have to be reported.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS

Mr. Derek Dunn-Rankin, publisher of Sun Coast Gondolier, Venice, and his Attorney, W. R. Korp, presented request to lease a tract of WCIND property located in Sarasota County from WCIND. Atty. Korp noted the area is on west side of the waterway, south of Venice Avenue, and is adjacent to and north of the Gondolier property there. The request is to lease the southerly 110 feet for a period of 15 years - to keep north side of 60 feet clear of building, to make available for WCIND maintenance purposes. Future plans may call for a metal building but to restore WCIND property back again at end of lease. Counsel Dye stated that this site was acquired before the IWW was built for the purpose of future maintenance requirements; he also stated there are some easements here - a power easement, and a T.V. cable. Commr. Fortson inquired as to a plan. Counsel Dye stated the request lists \$4,500 per year for period of 15 years with a parking area but WCIND also could use this area. Appraisal of this property should be renewed and all items can be re-negotiated. Commr. Ross stated that escalation clause is necessary here for any such plan. It was noted that Laws of Florida, Chapter 374, states DNR as supervising the WCIND, that WCIND can not sell or lease property, or acquire. Mr. Dunn-Rankin reported that this WCIND area is now being used by employees for parking and it needs to be matched up with WCIND needs. Any sale of this property is limited by the problem of easements; also, the Gondolier is amenable to an escalation clause. Commr. Tringali moved that WCIND Counsel prepare a lease agreement with escalation clause for this property and the owners of Sun Coast Gondolier to have the first right to purchase same; lease is to be submitted to the Board for its consideration. The motion was seconded and carried.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Charlotte County

Status of Stump Pass Project - Work should be complete with two weeks and will include the placement of markers. Photos were distributed to show the beach and area of spoil placement. Dr. Lincer inquired where, for any location for loggerhead turtle nests. It was noted that these are on the south side of the Pass. Mr. Michael F. Stephen, for Coastal Engineering Consultants, is monitoring every day and contractor is required to survey this land area each day. Commr. Schade's letter was read for the record re cost of this project with a \$13,000 limitation and any excess forwarded to WCIND for County approved bills.

Sarasota County

Disposal Site for Restoration Project - Mr. Patten, Marine Biologist, Sarasota County, presented Proposed Spoil Island Revegetation Project. This is located on "Skier's Island", a spoil island owned by WCIND. This man-made island, located at mouth of Grand Canal, Siesta Key, is currently dominated by Australian Pine and Brazilian Pepper - not a desirable habitat for local fish and wildlife. The purpose of project is to create a productive salt-marsh/mangrove/coastal hammock system; then to develop interpretative nature walk around the marsh-hammock system with opportunities for several kinds recreational experience with a companion study of the bay. Justification was cited as the productivity of salt-marshes. Estimated project cost is \$104,500, with Sarasota County allocation \$25,300 and today the request is for WCIND funds in the amount of \$79,200. The time frame for Stage I is about 12 months with another half-year for Stage II. It is the attempt of project to re-establish habitat that is both productive and self-supporting. It will also enable establishment of a workable and applicable model for future restoration projects in other coastal areas of the southwest Florida region. This work will be put out for public bid, with Mr. Patten the project officer. The Chairman noted that it could become a pilot program, since the C.E. has done experimental work on some islands up in Tampa Bay. The concept of this project was presented to Sarasota County about three months ago. The Director noted WCIND budget pledge to Sarasota County for study of Big Sarasota Pass and study will be at a standstill for a year since no monies now for FY by the Corps of Engineers for such a study. Mr. J. L. Garland informed the Director that a "capability money" fund can be available by the Corps of Engineers. Cost of such study is approximately \$80,000. Also, the C.E. was invited by WCIND to come and see Stump Pass project. Commr. Fortson inquired if Mr. Patton knew of cost/maintenance requirement and it was reported that proposed revegetation project would be self-maintaining; when it is completed the County could refer this to Parks and Recreation. Director suggested that the WCIND might ask for yearly maintenance money from the DNR.

Counsel Dye advised the Board that each organization should have someone to state the "negative". The WCIND does not own this property; the State Trustees of IIF still own the submerged land and legal grants approved. The DER has money for restoration projects. Also, there can be no diversion of budget funds unless a change made in the budget. WCIND has a perpetual easement. Other state agencies may give funds.

Commr. Tringali moved that action on this proposed project be deferred in order that WCIND Counsel investigate and prepare a WCIND statement, re the suggestion WCIND and Sarasota County go to DNR and DER for the funding of this project, to be presented to the Board at next meeting if possible; the motion was seconded and carried.

Venice "Cut" Maintenance- Property owners have been complaining to WCIND. THE BEST BID WAS \$24,000 to mow the total stretch, per letter read by Director. Clewiston personnel is to investigate the work here re the berms and suggested a burning process - requiring variances & hearings. A periodic maintenance program has been requested some time ago.

City of Venice - Request for Water Out-flow A holding pond re the industrial complex for a place to store water then into the IWW. This is for information only.

Gulfstream Land Development - Request for Water Out-flow This location is at Center Road for water through the DOT settling pond then outflow into IWW. This is for information only.

The ACTIVITIES REPORT was accepted as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Rhodes thanked Mr. Kosky for attending this board meeting and expressed the Board members' appreciation for Senator Henderson's and Mr. Kosky's help for District projects.

Y R I M public hearing is scheduled for 5:15 p.m., September 25, in Sarasota County Courtroom "E". A second hearing will be three days later. Only the regular legal notice is required.

Florida Shore and Beach Association Meeting, September 17-19, in Palm Beach. Commr. Tringali moved that members and staff be authorized to attend at WCIND expense; motion seconded and carried.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE: Monday, September 22 will be the next Board Meeting date with County meeting place to be announced.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Charles E. Turbee
Assistant Secretary

James B. Rhodes
Chairman