

May 11, 1959

The regular meeting of the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT was held in the Court House in Bradenton, Florida, on Monday, May 11, 1959, at 2:00 p.m.

Present were:

Ellsworth Simmons, Chairman	Hillsborough County
Charles Fischer, V-Chairman	Pinellas County
James D. Neville	Sarasota County
James E. Miller	Charlotte County
H. C. Slaughter	Manatee County
J. K. Merrin	Engineer
Dewey Dye, Jr.	Attorney
J. Hardin Peterson	Spec. Attorney
Bruce M. Cox	Accountant

Absent were:

Wilson Pigott	Lee County
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The meeting was called to order by Mr. Simmons.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Neville approving a trip made by Mr. Slaughter and Mr. Dye, to Washington D. C., to appear before the Appropriations Committee. APPROVED.

Mr. Slaughter reported that he and Mr. Dye were well received in Washington. They went to Rep. Haley's office first and appeared before the House Committee at 5 p.m., and before the Senate Committee at 12:30 the following day. Mr. Slaughter stated the committees showed interest in the project but did not make any commitments. Mr. Slaughter advised the Board that Congressman Cramer wished to go on record as being in favor of the program. Mr. Slaughter also stated that Congressmen Rogers and Haley felt as Mr. Cramer.

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Mr. Dye said he was very favorably impressed by the way he and Mr. Slaughter were received.

Mr. Simmons advised the Board that Mr. Neville, the Sarasota County representative was doing an outstanding job in pushing the project ahead, bringing to the attention of the Board a resolution passed in Sarasota in favor of the canal. Mr. Simmons suggested that the other Commissioners see what they could do about getting their Chamber of Commerce, and other strong organizations to pass resolutions, or send telegrams, to Washington.

Mr. Peterson advised that he planned to be in Washington early next week when he thought the appropriations for District may be scheduled.

Mr. Fischer advised that he was certain organizations in Pinellas County would make known their wishes regarding the District, as had Sarasota County.

Mr. Peterson, upon question by Mr. Fischer as to what the procedure would be from this point to obtain the necessary appropriations, stated that letters to the representatives advising them of the interest in the completion of the project are very important. Mr. Peterson said communications to Clarence Cannon of Missouri, and Louis Ribault of Michigan in particular would be helpful as they were on the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Simmons said he would write letters to each member in appreciation of their support of the project, on behalf of the Board.

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Letter was read from the Corps of Engineers by Paul D. Troxler, advising the policy concerning disposal of material dredged from navigation channels, including an information circular on cooperative studies of beach erosion and Federal Participation in Construction of Protective Works. It was decided by the Board that copies should be made of the letter and its enclosed report and sent to the members of the District and to Mrs. Stanford, who has appeared several times before the Board concerning the usage of the spoils to combat beach erosion. ✓

Mr. Neville reported that comments in his county were favorable to the District, but most people felt that there should be no more delay in Venice and several people would appear before the District to urge the Board to consider going out into Lemon Bay at Alligator Creek and go back inside of Casey's Pass. The feeling seemed to be that there should be no hold up for another ten years to suit the whims of some people and that most people in that area were in favor of the canal coming through there.

Mr. Peterson stated that he has an appointment with the Mayor on Thursday. Mr. Peterson said that Mayor Brohard would sign over an easement for the new canal route through the city as soon as he obtains authorization from the Civil Aeronautics Administration. ✓

Mr. Dye stated that he was certain negotiations were near completion.

Mr. Merrin reported that during the past month conferences were held with the Corps of Engineers and that right-of-way property maps were revised and colored. Field work consisted of revised surveys for description of property north of Albee Bridge, also met with Pinellas County officials concerning proposed change of alignment for Dunedin Causeway and with Mr. Pigott concerning suggested changes in Lee County. The revisions were approved by Mr. Fischer and Mr. Pigott.

Mr. Dye reported that the Bill for the District's extension was passed by Legislature as presented.

Mr. Dye read the following Memorial, which he had prepared.

HOUSE MEMORIAL NO. _____
Companion to Senate Bill No. _____

A MEMORIAL to the Congress of the United States to provide sufficient funds for commencement of construction of the West Coast Intracoastal Waterway from the Caloosahatchee River to the Anclote River, Florida at the earliest possible time.

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has heretofore created the West Coast Inland Navigation District by legislative action in 1947, which legislative authority has been from time to time amended, and

WHEREAS, Congress has heretofore authorized this project and did in the last Congress appropriate \$135,000.00 for advance planning and engineering, and

WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers of the U. S. Army has reported that it will be able to economically use 1.4 million dollars for immediate commencement of construction, and

WHEREAS, studies have indicated that the project is economically feasible and is in the best interest of the citizens and taxpayers of the particular area involved and of the State of Florida in general and of commerce generally in the United States and further justified on the basis of national

defense needs in having an inland waterway connecting the great Port of Tampa to the already established waterway system of the Eastern United States, and

WHEREAS, local interests have raised more than one and one-half million dollars in local taxes to meet local commitments and now stand ready and able to carry out requirements for local interests, and the Legislature of the State of Florida having just extended the taxing authority of the West Coast Inland Navigation District for an additional ten years to insure full cooperation and participation by local interests in the completion of this great project, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the Congress of the United States be and it is hereby requested to provide at the earliest possible time 1.4 million dollars as found by the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army may be economically expended at this time for commencement of construction of the West Coast Intracoastal Waterway from the termination of the existing cross Florida Waterway at the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River, to the Anclote River, Florida, during the next fiscal year and that such funds be provided from time to time thereafter as may be needed to pursue this project expeditiously to completion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States; to the President of the United States Senate; to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; to each of the ablest congressional delegations in the United States Congress, the Florida delegation; to the Chief of Engineers, Corps of Engineers, Washington, D. C., and to the Governor of the great State of Florida.

Mr. Slaughter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Neville approve the preceding Memorial. APPROVED.

Mr. Dye presented copies of the Brief to members and all agreed it was well presented.

Mr. Fischer suggested that twenty five copies each be given to the commissioners for distribution and that they should be available to any organization that has interest in the project.

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Mr. Simmons advised that he had not been able to contact Mr. Edwards to ask him to be present at this meeting, but that Mr. Edwards had suggested the District obtain a full-time manager.

Mr. Simmons informed the members present that Col. E.E. Kirkpatrick, considered for the position of Manager, has declined the offer as it would necessitate changing his residence from Jacksonville to this locality.

Mr. Slaughter read the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as read.

Mr. Slaughter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer that the current bills be approved for payment. APPROVED.

Mr. Simmons brought up the question of office space for a manager, when the right man is found.

Mr. Slaughter stated that accomodations would be available for such an office in one of the county buildings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

W. Edgar Begett
W. Edgar Begett
Vice-Chairman *see*

[Signature]
[Signature]
Chairman