

The January meeting of the Commissioners of the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT was held January 9, 1967, at the Manatee County Office Building.

Present were:

Ellsworth G. Simmons, Chairman, Hillsborough County
A. L. Anderson, Vice Chairman, Pinellas County
Mrs. Dorothy R. Flowers, Secretary, Charlotte County
Kenneth W. Daniels, Lee County
Robert M. Wright, Sarasota County
Robert C. Hutches, Manatee County

Harlan T. Johnson, Executive Director
Dewey A. Dye, Jr., General Counsel
Joe K. Merrin, Engineer

ADMINISTRATION

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Minutes of the December 12 meeting were approved as presented. The Treasurer's Report was read by the Director and accepted. Vouchers #4735 through #4763 were approved for payment.

Introduction of New Members and Reorganization

Mr. Dewey A. Dye, Jr. administered the oath of office to the new Board member, Honorable Robert C. Hutches of Manatee County. Mr. Simmons welcomed him to the Board of Commissioners.

The Director presided during the election of a Chairman for the coming year. Mr. E. G. Simmons of Hillsborough County being unanimously re-elected, resumed the Chair. Mr. A. L. Anderson, Pinellas County, was re-elected Vice Chairman; Mrs. Dorothy R. Flowers, Charlotte County, was re-elected Secretary; and Mr. Robert C. Hutches,

Manatee County, was elected Treasurer.

Motion made and passed re-employing the staff to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS

The Chair recognized Col. H. J. Kelly and Col. Roger M. Bachman of the Board of Conservation who were present to discuss the completion ceremony. The Director presented the Board with three guest lists for approval. One list is comprised of the names of platform guests, one of dinner guests, and the other of guests for the Venice ceremonies only. Platform and dinner guests are invited to ceremonies in Sarasota as well as Venice. Members were requested to review the lists and inform the Director of any desired changes. The completed lists with Index will be submitted within the week.

RAdm. C. A. Keller and Mr. Harvey Rohlwing of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce together with Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick, Sarasota County Chamber of Commerce, were present for consultation and to present a resume of plans to date for ceremonies. Mr. Fitzpatrick presented a copy of the invitation for Board approval. Mr. Simmons noted that all yacht clubs in the area should be notified and encouraged to participate. It was also agreed that maximum press coverage be encouraged from each of the six counties.

A motion was made and carried that on approval of Counsel the District assist in providing funds for items of expense that are

legally permitted.

Mr. William Drumheller appeared before the Board to request District support in extending the waterway south to Flamingo via Naples. He noted that the extension, as planned, is 100 miles long and bypasses developed areas. The local sponsor is requesting a channel dredged to a 12' depth with a 100' bottom width. The route proposed would be inland except for five miles between Doctor's Pass and Gordon Pass. He stressed that WCIND would not be required to pay any of the cost of the project. The Board approved support of this project at no expense to the District. Mr. Dye was directed to prepare an appropriate resolution and forward to Collier County, the CE, and Florida Board of Conservation. A letter will be sent to the Collier County Commissioners extending an invitation for them to join WCIND on this project if they so desire.

PROGRESS REPORT

The Director reported progress through December. He reported that Dr. John W. Caspersen had sent a letter of thanks to WCIND for cooperation in improving the shoreline and beautification of the canal through his property. Mr. Dye announced that a condemnation suit had been prepared for the land bordering S3-3. An interest is to be acquired from the Caspersens, who have an easement, as well as the fee simple owner. CE will start working in the area on February 11. CE plans to cut dikes in the area to height of basic spoil area, degrade banks and seed. Contractor

will be permitted to remove spoil, working southeast from the northwest corner behind the remaining banks until area is again available as spoil area. Dye described the required property as the 30' adjoining S/A S3-3 on the east. A condemnation resolution was proposed and adopted.

Blackburn Paving Co. is proposing a contract for spoil removal from S/A S3-4B. A contract was signed during the month with the Wendel Kent Co. for removal from S/A S3-4C.

The Director reported on problems resulting from pumping to the beach in S/A S3-10. After the lands committee meeting with Mr. Hamilton, and agreement to improve beach conditions, a conference between Mr. Jack Lenhart, Mr. Bob Hamilton, Mr. Dale Morrison, Mr. James Vann, and the Director was arranged. Mr. Lenhart objected to removal of shell from beach so this plan was cancelled. Unanimous agreement was reached on work to be done and Mr. Morrison, contractor on the site in the employ of Mr. Lenhart, was engaged to do required bulldozer work for WCIND, at a cost of \$12.50 per hour not to exceed \$300.

A permit application submitted to the CE by the SAL for the bridge at Placida has been rejected. SAL does not plan to submit another application until agreement is reached with WCIND on relocating bridge tender's house. The Board was unanimous in a recommendation that the permit application be expedited and that the WCIND not assume the obligation for relocating the bridge tender's

house. WCIND wishes the permit request to be resubmitted without further delay.

In reporting on Stickney Point Bridge the Director stated that an inspection conference has been scheduled for January 10, between representatives of the SRD, the Sarasota County Engineer, Mr. Dye and the Director to determine if suitable material can be secured by SRD on the west side of Stickney Point Bridge from old spoil areas in private ownership.

The Director noted that it should be emphasized in any discussion of this matter that it is not the WCIND or the CE that needs spoil areas in the vicinity of Stickney Point Bridge. Dredging in the Stickney Point area does not arise from a request by WCIND or CE but from a request by the people of Sarasota County for a new bridge to Siesta Key. The waterway dredging results solely from the bridge replacement program. The WCIND is attempting to assist Sarasota County in attaining what it desires, namely a badly needed new bridge to Siesta Key. The WCIND and CE, as well as Sarasota County officials, are all cooperating with the SRD in an effort to expedite the construction of a new Stickney Point Bridge and in making waterway spoil available to SRD for bridge approach fill, if possible.

The Director reported that the CE has reduced the requirements for MSA's in Section 4 from 15 to 7, provided that WCIND agrees to pay any extra cost incurred because of the increased

interval between areas. It was agreed that Sarasota County be contacted regarding WCIND obtaining easements on County-owned property where it is available and suitable.

Upon motion duly made and carried the Progress Report was accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

(Annex page 97)

A resolution supporting the Cross Bayou Canal project in Pinellas County was presented and approved.

Mr. Anderson requested an additional \$20,000 for completion of improvement of John's Pass in Pinellas County. Cost for this project has been estimated at \$100,000 with the Corps of Engineers paying \$60,000, local interests contributing \$40,000; to be shared equally by Pinellas County and WCIND. Request approved as presented.

The Director reported on his attendance at a meeting of the Manatee County Planning Commission in December. The Commission is requesting use of spoil area M-16 for use as a recreation area. The Director had stated to the Manatee County representative that it is the policy of the Board to cooperate with local agencies to the full extent of its legal authority.

The Director announced a telephone call from Mr. "Red" Marston reporter for the St. Petersburg Times, at which time Mr. Marston mentioned his interest in the development of recreation areas along the waterway in this area. He is writing a series of articles

on this subject. He was offered the cooperation of the WCIND staff.

Mr. Dye presented the opinion of the legal department, requested at the December meeting, on the expenditure of WCIND funds for the development of recreational areas. It is the attorney's opinion that under present legislation, WCIND cannot spend money for development of recreation areas, but District owned property can be made available to other governmental agencies for this purpose provided it is not used in any way that is inconsistent with our waterway purposes.

Mr. Dye stated that in view of several items discussed at this meeting it appeared desirable to study WCIND legislation which was last amended in 1961, as it may be desirable to seek some amendments. One item is the extent WCIND can go in extending the waterway to the north or south. The second item is the development of recreation areas along the waterway. There may be other areas of legislation that need to be studied at the same time. Since the legislators are having their hearings throughout the state now, if WCIND proposes any changes action should be taken during February.

Col. H. J. Kelly was asked his views on the subject. He stated that due to the changing federal laws and also public realization of the need for recreational areas and the extension of waterways, legislation should be amended to provide for this. The legal department was instructed to review WCIND legislation

with the proper agencies, and if they find changes to be desirable, present recommendations to the Board for approval.

Mr. Dye reported that on January 5, he accompanied City of Venice officials to Jacksonville, at their request; for the purpose of processing its claim against Norfolk Dredging Co. for damages to the Turin Street waterline. They met with CE officials and legal staff. The total cost for loss of this water main has not been determined, but WCIND has received a statement for partial payment of expenses incurred which was approved for payment in the January vouchers, in the amount of \$40,000. The CE will probably call a conference between the contractor and city, with WCIND to be represented in view of its interest. No date has yet been set for this meeting.

Mr. Simmons stated that he would like to have a complete history of WCIND prepared. This should include background material, the length of the project, expenditures of this District, outstanding obligations, relation with the CE, and description of property owned by WCIND. A brochure on the waterway containing a brief history of the accomplishments of WCIND should also be prepared.

The Director reported that an invitation has been received to attend the Florida Waterways Association annual meeting in Tallahassee on January 30, along with the Governor's Annual Waterways Conference on January 31. Authorized expenses were


approved for all members and staff attending.

The Mississippi Valley Association annual meeting is scheduled February 11 through 14 in Chicago. Authorized expenses were approved for members and staff attending. The Director reported that Secretary of State Tom Adams had urged WCIND participation and that at least one delegate should attend.

The next meeting was set for February 13, 1967, at 10:30 a.m. at the usual place.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.


Chairman


Secretary

PROGRESS REPORT

5 December 1966 - 3 January 1967

CONSTRUCTION

Construction Progress - During December the Section 3 contractor excavated 1600 cubic yards of material and advanced 240 feet in the vicinity of the Venice Avenue Bridge. The dredging was 100% complete as of December 8, 1966.

Canal Completion - On completion of dredging, the CHARLESTON was secured in Venice for repairs. Work remaining involves clean up and draining of spoil areas, grading and grassing of banks, completion of bridge fenders and construction of drainage structures. Aids to navigation are scheduled for installation about January 5, 1967. The waterway is being used extensively although not officially open to navigation.

S/A S3-3 - Morrison Trucking filled the Higel property in accordance with plan. No other spoil has been removed. CE has requested a plan for use of area after beautification operations begin. Plan submitted involves removing material from northwest corner of property, working southeast behind present dikes, which will be graded down to level of basic spoil area and seeded. Sale of material would continue until area again usable as spoil area.

S/A S3-9 - Filling and dragline work completed. Mr. Obendorf has complained concerning bottom conditions in the vicinity of S/A S3-8 and 9. Investigation continuing.

S/A S3-10 - Filling completed, unable to obtain fill for Mrs. Mabley, adjoining property owner to north. Agreement reached with Mr. Jack Lenhart, adjoining property owner to south and Mr. Bob Hamilton, owner of Chateaugay Apartments; concerning grading of property and covering mud on beach. Morrison Trucking employed for bulldozer operations on hourly basis at \$12.50 per hour with cost not to exceed \$300.

BRIDGES

SAL Bridge - CE has rejected SAL request for permit due to minor technical deficiencies in application. The SAL requested WCIND and J. E. Greiner to approve necessary changes to permit and also to approve a change in the location of the permanent bridge tender's house. This change would cost WCIND about \$5,000. The SAL was requested to process the necessary changes to obtain a permit while the location of the bridge tender house was being discussed.

The SAL refused and requested deferral of action on a permit until further changes are made in the bridge plans.

Stickney Point Bridge - A hearing was held before the Sarasota County Water and Navigation Control Authority on December 20, 1966, concerning a fill permit for the Morris property. The Navigation Control Authority approved the application as submitted by Morris. The matter is now before the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund for action. A letter from the CE, SAJBP of December 6, 1966, indicates that only 31,000 yds. of material are to be removed prior to completion of the bridge and some of this is undesirable for use on bridge approaches. This was discussed with Mr. Cochran of the SRD after the hearing before the Navigation Control Authority. The SRD is going to request overdredging of material suitable for bridge approaches.

After completion of the bridge, space must be available on Morris property, or other suitable area, for the material removed from the canal right of way by the SRD in the bridge area. SRD is to furnish estimate of yardage to be placed here.

LANDS

Section 4 MSA's - As requested by WCIND, CE letter SAJBP of December 21, 1966, reduces requirement for MSA's on Casey Key from 15 to 7; spacing revised from one about every 2,000 ft. to one about every 5,000 ft. This reduction is contingent upon WCIND agreement to pay extra pumping cost if closer spoil areas are not available.

UTILITIES

Turin Street Waterline - Request received from City of Venice for partial payment of \$40,000. Actual costs are greater but City is negotiating some minor amounts with contractors. Mr. Dye conferred on two occasions with City officials relative to recovery of costs. A formal claim is to be presented to CE on January 5.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Relations - On December 6, the Director conferred with Mr. Proffitt and Mr. Watts, editorial writers for the Sarasota Herald Tribune. Policies of Board were explained. Director agreed to provide information on Beach Replenishment and Barging of Spoil when available from CE.

On December 6, Mr. Dye and Director conferred with Mr. Haven Page and Mr. Henry Bryant representing VAMO Corporation. They de-

sired the WCIND to dredge out a silted channel into their property. It was explained that WCIND had no responsibility for conditions claimed and that other agencies could possibly help.

Recreation Areas - On December 13, the Director attended a meeting of the Planning Commission, Manatee County. Plans had been developed for use of spoil island M-16 as a recreation area. Plan has been submitted to the County Commissioners of Manatee County for approval.

Red Marston has written a series of articles for the St. Petersburg Times concerning waterways in Pinellas County. He has suggested the use of spoil areas as recreation areas and is planning to make this the subject of additional articles. He has requested assistance from the Director. Policy guidance may become necessary.

Manasota Key - Mr. Jack Van Norman and the Director met with Mr. Ray Fowler, President of the Manasota Key Association on December 16. Mr. Fowler proposes that the WCIND relinquish its pipeline easements across the Key, but has produced no acceptable alternate thereto. Mr. Fowler believes that a suit will be instituted by residents of Manasota Key. Discussion is continuing.

Contract Completion Inspection - On December 7 & 8 Mr. H. P. Barksdale from the Jacksonville office CE, inspected the project in company with Mr. Dye, Mr. Van Norman, and the Director. Decisions were reached concerning degrading banks of spoil areas, reducing number of planned pipeline easements on Casey Key from fifteen to seven, reducing width of easements on Manasota Key, and opening drainage ditch on east side of canal near Venice Avenue Bridge.

Inspection by Atlantic District, CE - The canal in the Venice area was inspected by General ~~Wallings~~ ^{WALKER}. One apparent result of his visit is a major effort to clean up and beautify the project in time for the Completion Ceremony.

Hatchett Creek Channel - Proposed channel from Hatchett Creek was cleared by telephone with CE and Board of Conservation. Proposed channel has been marked and contract let by Mr. DeRoche.

Waterway to Naples - Letter received by Mr. Dye from Mr. William Drumheller of the Southwest Florida Intracoastal Waterways Association, Inc. concerning extension of WCIW. He was advised concerning procedures to obtain extension of waterway and to appear at monthly meeting if matter is to be pursued seriously.

Completion Ceremony - On December 21 representatives of WCIND,

CE, Board of Conservation and Chambers of Commerce from Sarasota County and Venice met regarding the completion ceremony. Among details arranged: General invitation list expanded to one thousand; invitations approved and ordered; landing barge, stairs, and shuttle boats will be provided to transport yachtsmen to the ceremony.

Lands Committee Meeting - The Lands Committee of the WCIND consisting of Mr. A. L. Anderson, Mr. Kenneth W. Daniels, and Mr. Ralph S. Clark surveyed problem areas in the southern part of Sarasota County on the afternoon of December 22. They were accompanied by Commissioners Wright and Flowers, who were present to explain the problems as they pertain to their constituents in the area. Staff members who participated in the discussions were RAdm. Johnson, Mr. Dye, Mr. Merrin, and Mr. Van Norman. Commissioner Robert Hutches of Manatee County accompanied the group as an observer.

Problems under discussion and areas inspected included the Venice Inlet revetment easement area, Eagle Point property, the Gulf spoil area north of Chateaugay Apartments (S3-10), and S/A's 3 & 4 on the east bank of the canal, where material is currently being removed and where it is planned to conduct "beautification operations".

The group also inspected and discussed the canal banks and spoil areas between the airport and Alligator Creek where the WCIND is seeking a resolution of problems with the Caspersen interests. Also involved are proposed pipeline easements and "Truitt Island".

The Committee met with Mr. Robert Hamilton, owner of the Chateaugay Apartments, and agreed to improve conditions on the beach caused by pumping to S/A S3-10.