

The regular monthly meeting of the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS was held February 15, 1960 at the Courthouse in Bradenton, Florida.

Present were:

Ellsworth G. Simmons, Chairman, Hillsborough County
 Charles R. Fischer, Vice Chairman, Pinellas County
 James D. Neville, Sarasota County
 H.H. Anger, Charlotte County

George Kumpe, Executive Director
 J. Hardin Peterson Sr., Special Counsel
 Joe K. Merrin, Engineer
 Dewey A. Dye, Jr., General Counsel

Absent: Wilson Pigott	Secretary	Lee County
Elmer Bustle	Treasurer	Manatee County

Administration

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:15 P.M. Minutes of the 11 January meeting were changed in two respects: Page 175, 2nd paragraph, should read "Mr. A.B. Dixon and Mr. T.S. Dixon"; Page 178, purchase price of Grove City Realty Company property should be "\$3,760.00". The minutes were approved as corrected.

In the absence of the Treasurer the Treasurer's report was read by the Director and was accepted as read.

Vouchers #2228 through #2287 covering current bills were approved for payment.

Progress Report

Upon recommendation of Mr. Dye, the attorney's fee for the Grove City Realty Company as approved at the January, 1960 meeting was increased to \$376.00, because of the work involved.

Approval of payment of the following settlements based on condemnation trials was given: W.D. & Juanita Jordan, \$3,200.00; Marjorie B Cohn and Betty L. Jordan, \$2,000.00; A.B. and Eva Dixon, \$1,768.00; T.S. Dixon, \$12,400.00; Palm Island Estates, Inc., \$2,400.00.

The Commissioners were informed that on Friday, February 19 a report must be given to the District Engineer on status of all real estate held by WCIND and that which will be conveyed to the U.S. by Friday. It is expected that on Feb. 16 the Trustees will act on right-of-way and spoil areas in Lee County previously requested.

Board gave authority for signatures to Resolutions to the Trustees for spoil areas in Charlotte and Sarasota County, ^(WCIND annex to minutes, page 6) also one change in right-of-way in Sarasota County.

With respect to modification of the SAL bridge it was agreed that, if SAL and the Corps of Engineers agreed, no work on the bridge would be done until the highway bridge program would permit. A Resolution was adopted requesting SAL to continue their studies of the most economical permanent solution. (WCIND annex to minutes, page 7)

The visit to WCIND on 11 February of General Albrecht, Division Engineer, and Col. Troxler, District Engineer, was discussed. General Albrecht must be fully informed of the intended procedure, ^{for financing the bridge program} and progress in accomplishing these procedures, when he testifies before Congressional Appropriation Committees in March. WCIND must give a progress

report not later than 25 February.

Mr. Peterson reported progress on enlisting support of the Florida Development Commission in financing the highway bridge program. Such support is legal and cooperation has been offered provided necessary agreement with the member counties can be worked out. Mr. Peterson presented a draft resolution which the Boards of County Commissioners of the six member counties of the Navigation District would be requested to consider and, if they approved, pass. These resolutions will be used in informing the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, by 24 February of the positive steps being taken to assure the immediate financing of the bridge program. Chairman Simmons stated that he would request the State Road Department to provide estimates of bridge costs for use in further negotiations with the counties, the State Road Department and the Development Commission. He also agreed to investigate the possibility of assistance from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund.

The Board accepted the Progress Report and correspondence referred to in it.

Other Business.

Consideration was given to letter from the Florida Waterways Committee soliciting support of appropriations for the Cross-State Barge Canal. The Director was authorized to inform the Congressional delegation, on behalf of

the Board, that they support the promotion and development of economically justified waterways in and about Florida.

The National Rivers & Harbors Congress will convene in Washington May 24-27. The Director was asked to keep abreast of this program and authorized to represent the Board if he feels it necessary.

Signatures were authorized to the agreement entered into between WCIND and Robert G. & Zelda Ward for them to use the building on their property no longer than one year beginning February 1, 1960.

Mr. Merrin, Mr. Dye and the Director were authorized to meet with the Sarasota County Engineer on a proposal to exchange an island near Nokomis Beach for one owned by WCIND and to bring the matter to the Board for action when worked up to a point for Board consideration.

Mr. Peterson reported that Venice Council had refused pointblank to sign agreement ^{to convey right-of-way} /they are legally and morally bound on, but have referred the matter to their attorney. Mr. Petersen has furnished the attorney a copy of the agreement.

Mr. Dye reported on a conference with Mr. Caspersen on 11 February on his 270 acre holding south of Venice. The main question is severance damage which is affected by future decisions on relocating the Manasota Bridge and on the construction by the City of Venice of an access road along the beach.

Mr. Merrin reported that a conversation by telephone

with Jacksonville District had tentatively set an inspection tour for March 7, starting at Venice and continuing north to look over spoil and right-of-way problems that come up in the manual. Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota County representatives will be asked to accompany the group within the county concerned.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

George Rumpke
Director

Wilson Cijett Sec.

[Signature]
Chairman

PROGRESS REPORT

12 January 60-15 February 60

RIGHT-OF-WAY

1 Robert G. and Zelda Ward, whose property at the south-east end of Stickney Point bridge has been purchased, agreed to a one year limit of free occupancy of a building on the property.

2 At the pre-trial hearing of condemnation cases at Punta Gorda voluntary agreements were made for the purchase of four parcels (W.G. Gault & Louise Gault, D.G. Bland, and Grove City Realty Corp.)

3 At condemnation trial at Bradenton on 12 January, two parcels on Sisters Island and Jewfish Key (W.D. & Juanita Jordan, and Marjorie B. Cohn and Betty Lambert Jordan) were obtained, completing all right-of-way acquisition in Manatee County. On 28, 29, and 30 January condemnation trial at Punta Gorda resulted in the acquisition of 3 parcels (A.B. & Eva V. Dixon, T.S. Dixon, and Palm Island Estates, Inc.). This completed private right-of-way acquisition in Charlotte County. Engineering assistance in these trials was provided in testimony and in field work marking tracts for jury inspection.

4 Studies were continued during the month on the exact documentary requirement by the Corps of Engineers on the conveyance of right-of-way to the United States.

5 Modification of Lee County right-of-way will be considered by the Trustees on 16 February.

6 The Corps of Engineers approved two changes of right-of-way in Pinellas County which will minimize acquisition costs.

7 Mr. Peterson requested execution by the City of Venice of right-of-way easement to WCIND in accordance with a formal agreement executed by the City. Action on this matter was tabled by the City council on 26 January. Mr. Peterson attended City council meeting on 9 February, outlined the legal and moral responsibility of the City to grant the easement, and requested that the City live up to its commitment. In spite of statements by Mr. Brohard and the City attorney that the City was legally bound to execute the easement the City council again declined to execute the easement, but referred the matter to their attorney for study. Mr. Peterson furnished the attorney another copy of the agreement.

7 a (Added see page 3)

SPOIL AREAS

8 Request was made to Trustees for spoil areas in Lee County. Trustees will consider this request at their 16 February meeting. Descriptions of similar spoil areas in Charlotte and Sarasota Counties are in preparation as basis for additional request. (Trustee-held spoil areas will be conveyed to the United States.) Descriptions and negotiations were continued for acquisition of privately-owned spoil areas in Charlotte and Sarasota Counties.

BRIDGES

9 Seaboard Airline Bridge. A request was made to the Corps of Engineers to permit the strengthening of the existing span until the end of the highway bridge construction program so that more WCIND money would be available for highway bridge construction. Corps of Engineers agreed to this recommendation but further study is being given to eliminating all temporary work on this span in order to provide greater horizontal clearance. The Seaboard Airline is continuing studies of the most economical method of providing 80 foot horizontal clearance.

10 Highway Bridges. The Commissioners and Staff met with Mr. Al Rogero, SRD, in Clearwater on 20 January to discuss the general problem of highway bridges (memo on file). Mr. Rogero offered some help on the two bridges on U.S. 41. On 4 February engineers from the State Highway Department office in Bartow met with Commissioner Neville, Mr. Collins, Sarasota County Engineer, and the Director to examine the bridges from the Manasota bridge north. Consideration was given to shifting the Manasota bridge to south Venice. This matter will have to be considered with respect to the additional road construction required. Chairman Simmons discussed the general problem of bridges and the project with Governor Collins and enlisted his assistance in obtaining additional funds for bridge construction - - Mr. Peterson continued investigation with officials of the State Development fund to determine their ability to assist the project. They offered all assistance legally possible.

11 Albee Bridge. On 29 January a bond issue for Sarasota County was sold. This issue included funds for the reconstruction of Albee Bridge.

CONSTRUCTION

12 On 22 January the Director visited Jacksonville to discuss with the District Engineer the prosecution of construction work after the first contract, recommending that the two contracts north of Venice be awarded next and the Venice contract be awarded last. This recommendation was declared feasible but the District Engineer requested specific information on how bridge modifications were to be financed.

Decision by the Corps of Engineers will be made after budget hearings.

13 Gen. F.M. Albrecht, Division Engineer, and Col. Paul D. Troxler, District Engineer, visited Venice on 11 February, inspected route C-1 and then met with WCIND Commissioners and staff to discuss the entire project. (Memorandum on file.)

ADMINISTRATION

14 The Assessor, Lee County, submitted revised bills for each year from 1948. These bills required an additional payment of \$4,017.55, and were necessitated by an incorrect computation of fees.

15 \$25.00 was received from Hillsborough County for credit received by the county on a WCIND typewriter which they turned in.

16 Answer to the City of Venice request for information on the relative costs of route C-1 and the Open Gulf route was furnished the City on January 18.



Executive Director

7 a On 11 February Mr. Dye discussed with Mr. Caspersen acquisition of his properties south of Venice airport. No firm price would be set by Mr. Caspersen until the resolution of related problems such as the possible relocation of the Manasota bridge.