

WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1991 AT 10:30 AM

OLD LEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM

2120 MAIN STREET, FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

A G E N D A

ADMINISTRATION:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 1991
3. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID FOR APRIL AND MAY, 1991
4. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS OF MARCH AND APRIL, 1991
5. APPROVAL OF DELETIONS OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES COMMENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. REPORT ON SNAKE ISLAND MANAGEMENT AND CORPS OF ENGINEERS VISIT
2. REPORT ON STUMP PASS ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
3. REPORT ON SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY ON MANASOTA KEY
4. REVIEW FOR APPROVAL POLICY GUIDELINES FOR GRANT REQUESTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND NAVIGATION

NEW BUSINESS:

1. AUTHORIZATION FOR VICE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENTS FOR SARASOTA AND MANATEE COUNTIES - FY90/91
2. EXECUTION OF WIRE TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHEAST BANK
3. REQUEST TO USE EASEMENT BY CHOICE INVESTMENTS - 165 VENICE AVENUE - FOR PARKING
4. REVIEW PROJECT REQUESTS FROM ALL COUNTIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
5. REVIEW INLET MANAGEMENT COORDINATING AUTHORITY TO DEFINE WCIND'S ROLE COMPLETELY.

NEXT MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

SUGGESTED: JULY 12, 1991 IN MANATEE COUNTY

ADJOURNMENT:

WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING

MAY 31, 1991

LEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

MINUTES OF MAY 31, 1991

A regular meeting of the West Coast Inland Navigation District was held on Friday, May 31, 1991, at 10:30 a.m. at the "old" Lee County Courthouse, Commissioners Meeting Room, 2120 Main Street, Fort Myers, Florida.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ray Judah, Vice Chairman
Wayne Derr, Secretary
Bill Burdick, Treasurer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Kent Chetlain, Chairman

STAFF PRESENT:

James Armstrong, Executive Director
Connie McLenna, Administrative
Assistant
Philip Perrey, Counsel

DNR REPRESENTATIVE:

None

GUESTS:

Jim Herbert, Midnight Pass Society
Lonnie Ryder, DNR Beaches & Shores
Belinda Perry, Sarasota County
Natural Resources
Dennis Daughters, City of Sarasota
Ken Humiston, Humiston & Moore
Consultants
Chuck Listowski, Lee Co. Marine
Sciences

ADMINISTRATION:

With Vice Chairman Judah Presiding, Commissioner Burdick motioned to approve the minutes of March 29, 1991, second by Commissioner Derr. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Burdick motioned for approval of the bills to be paid for April and May, 1991. Seconded by Commissioner Derr. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Armstrong informed the Treasurer's Report for April has not yet been received. Therefore, it cannot be approved at today's meeting. Commissioner Burdick motioned for approval of the March, 1991 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Commissioner Derr. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Armstrong said he had one item to add to the Agenda which would come under "Administration", that being insurance coverage on a District package including liability insurance on the WCIND office building, property liability insurance, auto insurance, workers' compensation through the League of Cities. We have received a proposal quote of some \$1,000.00 savings a year. Would like to ask the Board's approval to negotiate with present insurance agent to see if we can get a refund on previously paid policy and cancel that insurance in order to take the insurance with the League of Cities. It seems to offer better coverage and certainly at a better price. Commissioner Derr motioned to allow the Executive Director to negotiate with present agent for the cancellation of present policy with some kind of a rebate and to take the policy with the League of Cities. Seconded by Commissioner Burdick. Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: The Director introduced and welcomed all guests present at today's meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES COMMENTS: Mr. Armstrong said that Jeremy Craft called and informed him that he was unable to attend today's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Report on Snake Island Management and Corps of Engineers visit:

The Director stated that Counsel and he visited the Corps of Engineers in Jacksonville to discuss a multitude of topics including where we are at on Snake Island. We are still working with the Fish & Game people, the Corps of Engineers, and the Coast Guard. He also has found that the Coast Guard Cutter, "Point Countess", stationed about 1/2 mile north of Snake Island in Venice, at low tide on certain days cannot even get out of the inlet to go to a mission. We are talking to the Corps of Engineers about getting that dredged and possibly utilizing Snake Island for some of the deposition to rebuild it because about 20% of it has disappeared into the waterway due to erosion. They are investigating the Corps of Engineers' stance on speed zones because of the safety problem that exists there due to speeding boats at Snake Island as indicated by the Coast Guard and many others. The Corps of Engineers has said they will cooperate but they do not like to go to anything slower than 25 MPH in the channel but they will give it further study and consideration, subject to some hard facts as to the safety factor. Mr. Armstrong informed he is working to try to actually put "No Wake" signs around that island. Until we do that, we cannot really do anything about the island.

Report on Stump Pass Administrative Hearing:

Mr. Armstrong reported the Administrative Hearing dates have been changed and are now on 6/12-14/91 at the Charlotte County Administrative Center; room 119.

Mr. Perrey is reviewing where we are at and stated that we are getting ready for what amounts to a trial. We are going to have the opportunity of putting on our case first. When I say "we", it is basically Charlotte County who is the Permit Applicant, but of course this Board is very interested in the outcome. The second day will probably be with Mr. Tom Reece and the Lemon Bay Conservancy putting on their case. Mr. Reece represents the Lemon Bay Conservancy.

Mr. Perrey said, if possible, he would like to have the Director present along with Commissioner Burdick. Commissioner Burdick said his intent was to be there for all three days. Mr. Perrey said his feelings are that it looks better if a client is sitting there. Without further discussion, Mr. Perrey stated this was for informational purposes and to bring the Board up-to-date.

Report on Sale of Surplus Property on Manasota Key:

Mr. Armstrong reported West Coast Inland Navigation District received a request to purchase two residential lots on Manasota Key. As a courtesy, these lots were first offered to Sarasota County. The county declined to purchase these lots, stating they had no pressing need for beach property in that particular area so they did not wish to actively pursue acquisition of the lots.

Mr. Armstrong stated that we do have a problem with the Manasota Key Homeowners' Association which has decided the road vacated by the county does not go to our property. Therefore, we have no ingress or egress to our property. We have a choice of getting into a contest with them or to formally advertise the lots for sale. Then, if we get into a problem of showing the property to interested buyers, we'll just have to cross that bridge when we get to it.

Mr. Armstrong said his recommendation is to go ahead and to advertise the property. We don't want to spend \$2,000 to have the property appraised and then have no one buy it. We have done that before. Perhaps we can negotiate some kind of a deal with an interested buyer. Also, the property is not buildable as far as the set-back line goes. If anyone built on that property they would have the added expense of getting variances. Additionally, the Director said that the appraised value ten years ago was \$260,000. We need to set a date to open sealed bids.

Without further discussion Commissioner Burdick motioned to authorize the Director to proceed with the sale of the property. Seconded by Commissioner Derr. Motion carried unanimously.

Review for Approval Policy Guidelines for Grant Requests on Environmental Education and Navigation:

Mr. Armstrong stated every January WCIND has to certify to the Senate Natural Resource Committee and the House Natural Resource Committee what our projects are by county, project cost, source of other funding, and relationship to the waterways and its justification.

Also, anything we fund other than environmental education, law enforcement, or navigation projects has to be match-funded. Those three items above can be funded 100% by West Coast Inland Navigation District. What we are finding is that we don't have a clear definition of what environmental education and navigation are.

Many projects are coming in for 100% funding which do not appear to qualify for 100% funding. Navigation projects for 100% funding should be for improving navigation and navigation that WCIND and the counties are responsible for, not navigation that the Corps of Engineers is responsible for.

Further, these guidelines are for clarification of the legislative intent, and we are not condemning any of the projects. They are all good projects, but we have to live within our rules and we have to live with the legislative intent.

Regarding law enforcement, we also consider a cap, and I suggested 10%. WCIND is contributing a sizeable sum every year to law enforcement which is good. We need it. Also, Mr. Armstrong feels it would not hurt to require a recap once a year of what they have done, other than to buy a boat and gas, or fix engines, etc. How many people did they save? How many people did they arrest? What did they enforce?

Mr. Perrey added that there is a cap that each county can receive each year which is the ad valorem tax collection of the county. This cap is for County Projects as opposed to District Projects which are already in place in our rules. Commissioner Burdick motioned to adopt the Waterway Development Program Funding Policy Guidelines to include Boating Safety and Boating Education, which can be match-funded to at least 50%, and Law Enforcement, which comes under a 20% cap of available allocation to each county. Seconded by Commissioner Derr. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Authorization for Vice Chairman to sign Agreements for Sarasota and Manatee Counties - FY90/91:

Commissioner Burdick motioned to authorize WCIND's Vice Chairman to sign agreements for Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Seconded by Commissioner Derr. Motion carried unanimously.

Execution of Wire Transfer Agreement with Southeast Bank:

Commissioner Burdick motioned to authorize WCIND's Vice Chairman to execute the Southeast Bank wire transfer agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Derr. Motion carried unanimously.

Request to Use Easement by Choice Investments for Parking (165 Venice Avenue, Venice, FL):

Mr. Armstrong stated this easement is located about one block from the WCIND office. As you may recall, the City of Venice cited us and said they were going to fine us X number of dollars a day because someone was parking on our easement which is zoned Government Use only. We put up "No Parking" signs and tried to negotiate with the property owner for a lease to use our property for parking. He has not responded in any way. The Director has had the property surveyed, showing WCIND's property line is within five feet of the building.

Basically, when he walks out of the back door of his building, he is on our property. Years ago we issued a License to Use Agreement to a Mr. Downing so he could install a 10 x 10 concrete pad on which to put a dumpster. The agreement stipulated that he could not transfer that License to Use Agreement. He has since sold the property. Thus, no one has a right to even have a dumpster there. Mr. Armstrong distributed a photograph showing a dumpster and garbage all over the easement. He is encroaching "all over" the place. In fact, it does look trashy. The City does not like it but is not complaining too much. They would like to see us do something. The Director is proposing that we simply fence off that portion (with a pole and cable type fence, not to deny ingress and egress), but to stop the parking, at their expense.

Mr. Armstrong said he will contact Choice Investments and attempt to work out a lease agreement. Then, if something cannot be done, to go ahead and fence the area off, up to the back door. Commissioner Derr motioned to authorize the Executive Director to proceed with negotiations with Choice Investments to deny usage of the concrete pad by the Outlook Pub until proper agreement is executed. Seconded by Commissioner Burdick. Motion carried unanimously.

Review Project Requests from All Counties and Local Governments:

The Director reviewed each project request with the Board, county by county. One project request submitted by Sarasota County recommended removal of Midnight Pass from the Gulf Coast Pass Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$650,000. This amount would be redirected to the Ken Thompson Park Project. The Director stated that we need to understand that those funds for Midnight Pass were put there as GCPMF. They were not put there just for Sarasota County. Certainly they were earmarked for Midnight Pass. The GCPMF was created as a regional fund for all inlets and all passes.

The Ken Thompson Park Seawall Project is a big project, something that might need to be phased in over a period of two or three years, but he still cannot justify it as a navigation project. Further, Mr. Armstrong said that the seawall has been down for some time. If we have a navigation problem at some point, all he needs is for someone to write him a letter and let him know. The Corps of Engineers will be told immediately.

Dennis Daughters said, in defense of the project, that it is hard to convince the Board that it is a public navigation problem. It seems to him the guidelines keep changing and there is no public input of the guidelines so it is kind of hard to convince anyone. He feels that if the seawall is not replaced, it will impair navigation and that, yes, the seawall is in a stage of deterioration as it has been for many years. What we are trying to do is solve a problem before it exists. As far as the rock revetment alternative, the City is receptive to that. The City does have funds they could use up front for the cost of this project subject to reimbursement. They do not feel it should be the City's burden to pay the cost for this improvement.

Mr. Armstrong questioned whether this is a navigation project. One way to determine this might be to ask the Corps of Engineers if they have a problem with the navigation of this channel. Their answer would be no. Recent surveys show that the channel along there is 10ft. or deeper in some places and less in others, but there is an awful lot of water there.

Going back to what he said earlier, the legislative intent for WCIND navigation projects is to improve a channel, mark a channel, or move obstruction from within a channel. This isn't necessarily the way he feels about it, but that is what the legislative intent was.

Commissioner Burdick questioned Mr. Daughter's statement regarding the commitment of \$200,000 annually for three years. Mr. Perrey stated this Board cannot commit future Board's funding. We can only do it year by year. Mr. Perrey said that funding commitment should probably be stated in the form of 50% of the project cost or \$200,000, whichever is less in case the total project cost would be less than \$400,000. We could pay half.

After much discussion, Commissioner Burdick motioned for conceptual approval of the reduction of Manatee County's funding request for the Civil Air Patrol "Sundown Patrol", U.S. Coast Guard Flotillas 81, 82, and 83, and EPSAR by 50%, thereby reducing their total request to \$162,500, and giving them ample time to come back to the total requested amount of \$200,000. Seconded by Commissioner Derr. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Derr motioned to reduce the Sarasota County Nokomis Island Rock Revetment Project funding by 50%, to reduce the Ken Thompson Park Seawall Rock Revetment to 50% of the project cost or \$200,000, whichever is less, and to recommend the Rock Revetment subject to the findings of the engineering consultant. Seconded by Commissioner Burdick. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Burdick moved for conceptual approval of the two funding requests submitted by Charlotte County in the amount of \$175,000, subject to changing the Hayward Canal Dredging Project from Inlet/Pass Maintenance to Public Navigation. Seconded by Commissioner Derr. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Derr moved to conceptually approve the project funding request by Lee County and recommendations made by Mr. Armstrong that sight-specific plans need to be submitted for the County-Wide Channel/Canal Maintenance Project. Also, a need for clarification and possibly a new category for the Emergency Marine Pollution Clean-up Equipment and site plans for specific projects including all activities for Inlet Pass Maintenance, for a total request of \$461,000. Seconded by Commissioner Burdick. Motion carried unanimously.

Review Inlet Management Coordinating Authority to Define WCIND's Role Completely:

Mr. Ryder stated he wanted to review, for discussion purposes only, some draft guidelines that Kirby Green, Jim Armstrong, and he are working on. They are trying to find ways to implement the effort that Mr. Green has made as far as coordinating all inlet management planning activities through the WCIND. We wanted to get input from the Board and public before finalizing.

1. First of all, WCIND shall be the coordinating authority for the development of Inlet Management Planning Studies and Plan Implementation within the four counties of Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee.
2. The allocation and implementation of inlet management pursuant to Chapter 161 which establishes the Board of County Commissioners of the several county general governments as a beach and shore preservation authority for the counties. That authority may be delegated by the county to municipal government or special districts.
3. Obligation for financial assistance for inlet management planning studies shall be submitted to WCIND.
4. WCIND and the DNR shall in concert determine if the application is to be funded, the level of financial assistance by the state and WCIND, and priority of funding relative to other applications submitted.
5. Cost sharing for inlet management studies and recommendations of implementation shall be up to 50% state, 25% WCIND, with 25%

provided by the project sponsor, be it the county, municipality, or special district.

6. The WCIND may engage a consulting firm with cost sharing by the state for inlet management planning studies in the case where the project sponsor or its delegate submitting the application to WCIND has already engaged a consulting firm. That firm shall be honored if the firm was selected in accordance with Chapter 287 F.S.

Mr. Ryder requested that the Board consider these draft outlines provided and that the staff of Jim Armstrong and himself draft the final guidelines and bring these final guidelines back to the Board for approval at its next meeting. Also, that applications submitted to date for inlet management planning through review by DNR and WCIND with funding recommendations be brought back to the Board at its next meeting.

Vice Chairman Judah opened the meeting to the public for comments and input.

Ms. Kate Gooderham asked why the County Commissioners need to delegate to an independent special taxing district that already has that authority delegated to it by the State of Florida through its enabling legislation. Mr. Ryder stated that delegation already exists and it wouldn't have to be done again.

Mr. Armstrong said he may have missed something Mr. Ryder said but maybe he can clear it up. Mr. Ryder mentioned applications coming to the DNR for inlet management.

Mr. Ryder stated they would come to WCIND and then to DNR. Mr. Armstrong asked who will be responsible for hiring the consultant to do the management plan for DNR.

Mr. Ryder read that WCIND may engage a consulting firm with cost sharing by the state for inlet management planning studies. In a case where a project sponsor or its delegate submitting an application to WCIND has already engaged a consulting firm, that firm shall be honored if the firm was selected within the provisions of Chapter 287. If they have not engaged a consulting engineer, he sees no problem with WCIND obtaining the consulting engineer for that applicant.

Mr. Armstrong stated then there could be 2, 3, 4, or more entities doing inlet management planning studies under those guidelines. Mr. Ryder said that is possible. Mr. Armstrong asked what does he need to be thinking about in the way of a budget. What are we going to be doing? Are we going to be saying, we may be doing them or John Doe may be doing 2 or 3 or 4, and somebody else may be doing another 3 or 4. He certainly does not want to staff-up to do something that he doesn't know whether or not he will be doing. Either you have the authority or you do not.

He understands that there are applications in process now and there is nothing wrong with getting those done and being done with it. But are we going to continue that? If so, then we really haven't got a regional approach to inlet management with one entity handling the permitting. We still have the possibility of a whole bunch of people out here getting permits.

The conclusion of the southwest Florida delegation and the Beach and Inlet Preservation Committee of Southwest Florida was that one of the best ways to accelerate the permitting process would be to have one entity that was applying for the permitting to all the various regulatory agencies. The various regulatory agencies would have as few people as possible dealing with that one entity. That would be the first step towards accelerating the process.

If the WCIND has anything to do with inlet management plans, there are going to have to be some changes in the cost because WCIND cannot afford it at the rate they are going. If we are going to be responsible for something, we need to be able to control how much it is going to cost.

Mr. Armstrong said what he is concerned about is what we are going to coordinate and what we are going to control. If we are going to have everybody doing inlet management all we are doing is creating another desk for paperwork to go across. We don't need another desk for paperwork to go across. That is the problem with it. We have too many desks now in his opinion.

Mr. Armstrong stated he does not want to take a problem that somebody else has created, gotten involved in, and worry about how it is going to be funded, permitted, etc.

Mr. Ryder informed there are situations where coastal engineering firms have worked quite a bit on some of these inlets. It does not make sense to hire someone else to redo what that consulting engineer has already done.

Mr. Armstrong said that is exactly the point he is making. When going for the competitive bid, you ought to get "one heck of a price from those guys". He's got all the information already in hand. Automatically honoring them as the firm to do the job might not get you the best price.

Commissioner Derr motioned to continue working with DNR on drafting the necessary guidelines and finding the funding mechanism to implement a regional inlet management plan coordinated by WCIND. Seconded by Commissioner Burdick. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kate Gooderham informed that she was on the committee referred to by Mr. Armstrong. She stated she feels that the purpose of the inlet management coordinating authority is to deal not only with the inlets and take care of their problems but to expedite the permitting process. Mr. Armstrong alluded to this stating if all we are going to do is add another layer of government, that's not going to make any of our lives more pleasant. We need to find a way that WCIND can do it faster than the local governments because if they can't do it faster there is no need in doing it.

Mr. Jim Herbert stated that what Jim Armstrong is getting at in making the change to this inlet management program is WCIND being tagged with some responsibility and what he is saying is if he has the responsibility then he wants the authority.

Regarding Midnight Pass, Mr. Herbert said there is no correlation between the five Sarasota Waterway Development Program project requests that were submitted today and the funds that have been previously earmarked for Midnight Pass.

He feels that any reallocation of Midnight Pass funds would be premature at this time. Those funds are earmarked for this important project and until there is absolutely no chance it can be restored they would respectfully request that those funds be kept tagged so the project would be fundable.

In terms of the inlet management program, Midnight Pass Society would like to see the participation of WCIND and would also feel very comfortable with the WCIND getting involved in finding out if Midnight Pass is a permitable project. Because if this isn't a permitable project, we can close the chapter on it and forget about it. If this is a permitable project, and he thinks it is, they could really move forward with WCIND's assistance.

For the record, Mr. Herbert introduced the Official Resolution which was passed and adopted by the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners in support of opening Midnight Pass and also the seven points outlined in the memo from the Midnight Pass Society.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Armstrong announced the Coastal Zone "91" is in California this year from July 8-12th. Commissioner Derr motioned for approval of travel expenses for any Board member including the Director who wishes to go. Seconded by Commissioner Burdick. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Burdick said he really is enjoying traveling to the different counties to attend WCIND's meetings and he thanked Lee County for having today's meeting.

MINUTES OF MAY 31, 1991

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NEXT MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, July 12, 1991 at 10:30 a.m. in the South Venice Senior Friendship Center, Venice, Florida.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned.

Kent G. Chetlain

Kent G. Chetlain, Chairman

Ray Judah

Ray Judah, Vice-Chairman

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

RE: MIDNIGHT PASS

WHEREAS, specific actions of man resulted in the closure of Midnight Pass, a significant natural asset in Sarasota County; and

WHEREAS, this forced closure has resulted in the significant degradation of the natural environment in and around Midnight Pass, including the greater portion of Little Sarasota Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes its continuing obligation to the Jim Neville Marine Preserve to do all that the Board can to preserve and protect the marine plants and animals that historically inhabited this area in Little Sarasota Bay; and


WHEREAS, there are navigational, recreational, environmental, and other benefits to be derived from an open and flowing Midnight Pass;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, as follows:

The Sarasota Board of County Commissioners strongly supports the restoration of Midnight Pass and, at the earliest opportunity subsequent to obtaining the required permits and based upon current projections of restoration and maintenance costs, will proceed with the construction activity needed to restore and to maintain this important natural resource of Sarasota County.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, this 22nd day of January, 1991.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Chairman

ATTEST:

KAREN E. RUSHING, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and Ex-Officio Clerk
of the Board of County Commissioners
of Sarasota County, Florida

By: 
Deputy Clerk

The

Midnight Pass



SOCIETY, INC.

"MIDNIGHT PASS - PASS IT ON!"

POST OFFICE BOX 38865

ROBERT D. MEADOR, PRESIDENT (813) 349-1825

SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34231

JAMES P. HERBERT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (813) 923-8817

WAYNE L. DERR, COMMISSIONER
MIDNIGHT PASS RESTORATION PROJECT
FOR DISCUSSION AT WCIND MEETING 5-31-91

1. THERE IS NO CORRELATION BETWEEN THE FIVE SARASOTA COUNTY WATERWAY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROJECT REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY RESOLUTION TODAY AND THE FUNDS THAT HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR THE RESTORATION OF MIDNIGHT PASS.
2. FUNDING FOR THE FIVE PROJECTS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION THIS DATE SHOULD BE FROM: NEW WCIND REVENUES, UNALLOCATED PRIOR REVENUES AND THE RE-ALLOCATION, WHERE APPROPRIATE, OF ANY PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED FUNDS. SUCH RE-ALLOCATION SHOULD NOT INCLUDE THE DOLLARS EARMARKED FOR MIDNIGHT PASS.
3. THE SARASOTA BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BCC) STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE RESTORATION OF MIDNIGHT PASS AS REFLECTED IN THE RESOLUTION PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BCC IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR.
4. WHILE A RESTORATION PLAN WAS RECENTLY REJECTED BY THE FLORIDA DER, ANOTHER RESTORATION PROPOSAL THAT ADDRESSES THEIR EXPRESSED CONCERNS MIGHT WELL BE PERMITTED.
5. THERE IS, ACCORDINGLY, A FEELING ON THE SARASOTA BCC THAT RELEASE OF THE EARMARKED MIDNIGHT PASS FUNDS WOULD BE PREMATURE AT THIS TIME AND MIGHT FURTHER IMPEDE OUR EFFORTS TO RESTORE THIS IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCE.
6. THE FLORIDA DNR HAS REQUESTED THE PARTICIPATION OF THE WCIND IN ALL INLET-RELATED PERMITTING ACTIVITY IN THE FOUR COUNTY REGION. THE PROPOSED INVOLVEMENT, IF ACCEPTED, MIGHT WELL LEAD TO A STREAMLINED, MORE EFFICIENT PERMITTING PROCESS COVERING ALL PERMITTING AUTHORITIES.
7. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE WE WOULD REQUEST WCIND INVOLVEMENT AND ASSISTANCE IN THE MIDNIGHT PASS REMITTING EFFORT. THE OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO DETERMINE THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF A MIDNIGHT PASS RESTORATION PROJECT THAT WOULD BE PERMITTABLE BY THE VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES.