

The regular monthly meeting of the WEST COAST
INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS was held
April 11, 1960 at the Courthouse in Bradenton, Florida.

Present were:

Ellsworth G. Simmons, Chairman, Hillsborough County
Charles R. Fischer, Vice-chairman, Pinellas County
Elmer Bustle, Treasurer, Manatee County
James D. Neville, Sarasota County
H.H. Anger, Charlotte County

George Kumpe, Executive Director
Joe K. Merrin, Engineer
Dewey A. Dye Jr., General Counsel

Absent were:

Wilson Pigott, Secretary, Lee County
J. Hardin Peterson, Sr., Special Counsel

Administration

The Chairman called the meeting to order at
2:05 P.M. and mentioned the fact that Mr. Peterson
was in Washington to represent WCIND at the Appropria-
tion Hearings beginning April 12. Minutes of the
14 March meeting were approved as presented. The
Treasurer's report was read by Mr. Bustle and approved
as read. Vouchers #2309 through #2333 covering current
bills were approved for payment.

Progress Report

In order to meet the deadline of Thursday, April 14
for conveyance of all lands for the first contract it
has been necessary for Mr. Dye to be in several places
during the same day. A special plane was chartered for

a trip to Tallahassee and Jacksonville with the approval of the Chairman. The Board ratified this action.

It was reported that all lands have been obtained for the first contract and the deeds of conveyance to the United States checked by the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Dye will have the deeds recorded, with one correction, and take them to Jacksonville by Thursday, April 14.

For the second contract (Boca Grande to Alligator Creek) Mr. Merrin reported that twenty-eight easements in Charlotte County have been completed, there are four outstanding in the mail. Three easements are for encumbered parcels and permission of the mortgage holder must be obtained. Acquisition of privately owned spoil areas in Sarasota County for the second contract will start soon.

The Director reported that the Corps of Engineers has requested that all necessary lands in Pinellas County be conveyed by 30 June, which is also the deadline for lands needed for the second contract. Mr. Simmons and Mr. Fischer were directed to act as a committee to work out the most expeditious solution of meeting the deadline of the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Fischer promised that Pinellas County would cooperate in any way they could. Mr. Dye was asked to furnish the committee a letter stating just what the Corps of Engineers requires in land conveyances.

Newspaper clippings from a Sarasota paper were given the Commissioners - Mr. Haley's endorsement of route C-1.

It was reported that Mr. Dye has been in correspondence with the Attorney for Seaboard Airline Railroad on an agreement for the new swing span at their Gasparilla Island Bridge.

The Chairman has been unable to meet with the State Road Department and the Governor's staff on the problem of highway bridges, but is still trying and will keep the Commissioners advised as to what comes from the meeting.

The account with the Abstract Company of Sarasota will be settled to date with the payment of the current voucher.

The Director was directed to attend the next meeting of the Florida Waterways Committee at Ft. Myers the latter part of April, and to invite Mr. Pigott to attend.

Mr. Dye reported that the staff of the Internal Improvement Board recently had devoted more time to meeting WCIND matters than their duties would permit. Mr. Dye was authorized to confer with Mr. Van Ferguson on the employment of an individual to represent WCIND in that office for a period of three months in order to help WCIND meet the two deadlines of June 30.

The Director was directed to write the Corps of Engineers and request that the northerly four thousand feet be eliminated from the second contract and included in the third section. Deferral of this section would allow more time to resolve land and the foot bridge problems north of Alligator Creek.

The progress report and related correspondence were accepted.

Other Business

New project maps have been prepared at a cost of 37¢ each, and were given to each Commissioner. Each Commissioner will be given ten of the maps for distribution to interested persons, copies will be sent to the Congressional delegation; and additional copies may be purchased at the WCIND office for 50¢ each. Copies will be furnished gratis to public bodies.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

Gene Kuyse
Assistant Secretary

W. H. Thomas
Chairman

Wilson Begett Sec -

PROGRESS REPORT

14 March 60 - 11 April 60

Construction

1. On 30 March the District Engineer sent a telegram advising that the first contract must be awarded by April 13 and that all lands must be conveyed prior to that date. Col. Troxler was advised that land would be conveyed on time. (See Lands)

Lands

2. On 16 and 17 March representatives of the Corps of Engineers, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Hester, County Engineer Pinellas County, Mr. Merrin and the Director examined proposed spoil areas in Pinellas County.

3. Trustees granted revised right-of-way and spoil areas in Lee County and right-of-way in Charlotte County. Previous grants from the Trustees for these areas were granted back to the Trustees. Mr. Dye visited Tallahassee on 6 April to pick up the last Trustee grant required for the first contract, then visited Jacksonville to obtain immediate approval of all deeds before recording. Right-of-way and spoil areas in Lee County, required for the first contract, were deeded to the United States.

4. Various property owners visited the office of the Director to discuss spoil area problems.

5. Easements to spoil areas in Charlotte County for the second contract are being acquired at steady rate and work in Sarasota County has started. The Corps of Engineers' proposed award of the second contract by 30 June will require continued emphasis on these easements.

6. During the month representatives of the County Commissioners of Sarasota County visited the Trustees to discuss fills accomplished in connection with the waterway. Two conferences were held by representatives of the Navigation District with Sarasota County personnel. At the last meeting, on 4 April, it was tentatively agreed that filling operations by the Federal government required no approval by the Trustees or the County and that while bulkhead lines should be adjusted to encompass such fill adjacent to uplands it would be efficient to defer the adjustment of bulkhead lines until fill had been placed.

Lands (Cont'd)

7. Upon verbal request to Mr. Van Norman, Mr. Merrin's field representative, a letter was sent to Mr. Marion Urbanek waiving any objection to dredging by Mr. Urbanek in the canal right-of-way in front of the property he had sold to the Navigation District. He was advised that this action by WCIND could not and did not relieve him of necessity for complying with local and federal regulations requiring permits.

Venice

8. On 22 March Commissioner Neville and the Director appeared before the St. Marks Men's Club at Venice to discuss with Mayor Brohard the waterway. In his remarks Mayor Brohard indicated one reason for the City's failure to grant all airport right-of-way to WCIND was the District's failure to obtain FAA approval. By letter of 23 March to Mayor Brohard and Mr. David Hamilton, President of the City Council, information was given that FAA approval would be given to an executed document and that the City of Venice should execute the necessary papers, subject to FAA approval if desired, and submit them to FAA. No reaction to this letter has been received.

9. No progress was made during the month on obtaining the remaining right-of-way due from the City of Venice.

10. During the month Mr. Finn Casperson and others visited the office of the Director to examine petitions and other papers relating to route C-1.

Bridges

11. On 14 March County Commissioners of Charlotte County passed a resolution approximately as proposed by Mr. Peterson requesting a study on means of financing the Englewood Beach Bridge.

12. By letter of 16 March the Corps of Engineers approved the Railroad's study of how to modify the north swing span on bridge #1 to provide 80' clearance with a proviso that the clearance must be measured normal to the channel. The Seaboard Airline Railroad Company was so advised.

Bridges (Cont'd)

13. On March 4 President of Venice Gardens of Venice, Inc., wrote to the Commissioners of Sarasota County objecting to the construction of a high level bridge at U.S. 41 south and concurring in the erection of a low level bascule bridge.

14. On 5 April the South Venice Civic Association offered to the Commissioners of Sarasota County an 800' Gulf frontage for public use if a bridge were constructed at South Venice.

15. Commissioner Simmons is arranging a meeting with Mr. Rogero on the general problem of bridges.

Administration

16. The Director visited the Abstract Company of Sarasota twice and reviewed in detail the Navigation District account. A recommendation on settling this account was proposed to the Abstract Company and agreed to by them.

17. Mr. Dye transferred to the Director certain files on completed land acquisitions. These were rearranged and stored.

18. Mr. Peterson will represent WCIND at hearings before the House Appropriations Committee in Washington on 12 April.

19. On 5 April the quarterly lobbying report was sent to Congress.

20. The Florida Waterways Committee notified WCIND that the next meeting would be held in Ft. Myers late in April.

11 April 1960

Supplement to Progress Report

Lands

By letter of 6 April the Corps of Engineers requested that all lands for the Pinellas County section of work be conveyed to the United States Government not later than 1 July 1960. Mr. Merrin and Mr. Dye were asked to be prepared to discuss this matter at the 11 April meeting.

Mr. Dye visited Tallahassee on 7 rather than 6 April. Deeds from the Trustees were left with the Corps of Engineers in Jacksonville to check before recording. With respect to the five spoil areas at the northern end of LaCosta Island, apparently privately owned, easements have been obtained for three of the five, the fourth is owned by Lee County and owners of the fifth (Collier interests) will be interviewed without delay.

Administration

With the approval of Mr. Bustle, Trust Company of Georgia was given approval to substitute equivalent U.S. Bonds as collateral for Time Deposit with the First National Bank.