

WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 20, 1991
BOARD MEETING / FINAL PUBLIC HEARING

SARASOTA COUNTY SOUTH COUNTY ANNEX
4000 SOUTH TAMiami TRAIL
ROOM ROOM 228
SOUTH VENICE, FLORIDA

BOARD MEETING TO BEGIN AT 4:30 PM
PUBLIC HEARING TO BEGIN AT 5:01 PM

ADMINISTRATION:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 1991
3. APPROVAL OF DELETIONS OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES COMMENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. REPORT ON WCIND'S ROLE IN INLET MANAGEMENT AS A REGIONAL AUTHORITY

NEW BUSINESS:

NEXT MEETING DATE:

SUGGESTED DECEMBER 6, 1991 AT 10:30 AM

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

1. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:01 PM
2. PUBLIC ANNOUNCE THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OF 4.90% IN MILLAGE OVER THE ROLLED-BACK RATE, NECESSARY TO FUND THE BUDGET AND THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR WHICH AD VALOREM TAX REVENUES ARE BEING INCREASED.
3. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
4. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS 91-1 AND 91-2
5. MOTION TO ADOPT WCIND'S PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE
6. MOTION TO ADOPT WCIND'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY91/92
7. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20, 1991

SARASOTA COUNTY SOUTH COUNTY ANNEX

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1991

A regular meeting of the West Coast Inland Navigation District was held on Friday, September 20, 1991 at 4:30 P.M. at the Sarasota County South County Annex, 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice, Florida, in Room 228.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Kent G. Chetlain, Chairman
Ray Judah, Vice-Chairman
Bill Burdick, Treasurer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Wayne L. Derr, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT:

James M. Armstrong, Executive Dir.
Connie McLenna, Admin. Assistant
Philip Perrey, Counsel

DNR REPRESENTATIVES:

Andrew Grayson, Assistant Dir.
Beaches & Shores
Lonnie Ryder, Beaches & Shores
Jeremy A. Craft, Director,
Resource Management

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ralph DeVitto, Senator Johnson's Aide
Chuck Listowski, Lee Co. Marine Sciences
John Maslak, Charlotte County
Jim Herbert, President, Midnight Pass
Society
Mike Barnett, Coastal Planning &
Engineering, Inc.
Dennis Daughters, Engineer, City of
Sarasota

ADMINISTRATION:

With Chairman Chetlain presiding, Commissioner Burdick moved for approval of the minutes of September 6, 1991. Seconded by Commissioner Judah. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Armstrong stated there were no deletions or additions to today's Agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Commissioner Chetlain welcomed all guests present at this meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES COMMENTS:

Jeremy Craft said that WCIND's proposed budget is on the Agenda of the Governor and Cabinet for the week of September 23rd, and he assumes it will be approved after tonight's Public Hearing. It was presented to the Cabinet aides earlier this week, and there were no questions at that time and only one since then which was of a technical nature.

OLD BUSINESS: REPORT ON WCIND'S ROLE IN INLET MANAGEMENT AS A REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Mr. Armstrong informed that his report is very brief. His report as to where we are at regarding regional inlet management authority has been sent to each Commissioner as of yesterday. Further, Andrew Grayson and Lonnie Ryder from DNR's Beaches & Shores are here, and perhaps the Board would like to address them or has some questions for them.

Chairman Chetlain stated, for informational purposes, that Mr. Armstrong's conclusion was that the Board seriously consider the report he submitted with all its back-up material and that whatever decision the Board made would be fine with the Executive Director. In essence this was a recognition of the fact that the State DNR has a plan for inlet management and we should accede to its role in controlling inlet management.

Mr. Armstrong said the issue really has been one where the Navigation District has been considered "the" regional authority for inlet management. What has transpired is all the inlets within this district already have local sponsors and inlet management plans under-way or will be under-way in the very near future. With that in mind, it seems the effort to manage inlets has been so successful that he does not know of anything we could do to help that situation. The other comment made was, assuming all inlet management plans were complete and approved by the Division of Beaches & Shores, obviously there comes a time for implementation. Regarding implementation, since the sponsor and its consultant have already made the plans, no doubt they can do a better job of implementation than WCIND could do.

If WCIND were to do so, we would need to "staff-up", and in Mr. Armstrong's opinion, that would result in a redundancy of consultants' fees and likely add another layer of government which might not be productive. In view of these facts, Mr. Armstrong has suggested to this Board that WCIND continue its role as a funding entity for requests made by the member counties. Should a member county request WCIND to procure inlet management plans and implement them, we should make every effort to do so. It is also obvious that the local sponsors of these inlet management plans would rather handle the job themselves. WCIND should not be doing something unless everyone wants us to do so.

This recent activity clearly shows this is not the case in view of the fact that many of these local sponsors were very recently signed up for the Division of Beaches & Shores inlet maintenance program.

Andrew Grayson informed that Mr. Ryder and he met with Mr. Armstrong prior to this meeting to try to make sure that we were all on the same wave length in terms of our concept of what should be happening regarding the development of management plans. We are ready, willing, and able to move forward cooperatively if you so desire. If you choose not to, we understand and will continue to carry on. Our main objective is to make sure we get inlet management plans developed. The true regionalization will come in the implementation of the plans.

Chairman Chetlain said if you look at the long litany of efforts and work that has been done and chronologically compiled, it is very frustrating. His feeling is that unless called upon by the individual counties to get involved, as the director has mentioned, we should continue our present mission and let DNR go ahead and take care of the passes.

Commissioner Judah stated it was the expressed interest of DNR to have WCIND pursue the regional authority responsibility for inlet management. He hears that DNR wants to cooperate but he does not see any evidence of it, at least at this point in time.

Mr. Grayson informed the Board that where the concept falls apart is that there are various entities at the local level that have not authorized WCIND to work on their behalf. The suggestion DNR is offering is the development of a committee approach, i.e. for example, organizing a Blind Pass Committee and having Captiva and Sanibel coming together with Lee County, DNR, and also WCIND, if it so desires, being participants on this committee. By having all the local entities represented along with DNR, and possibly even C.O.E., we would have the best opportunity to resolve conflicts and to move forward. This is the approach the Department is going to use elsewhere, and if WCIND wants to be a participant, DNR will be happy to have them.

Commissioner Judah said this is the very reason why we had a regional management authority, being WCIND, to avoid those kinds of problems in the future.

Mr. Grayson stated DNR has been trying to encourage local entities and inlet districts to come forward and take on the responsibility of developing inlet management plans. The Department has the funding opportunity to assist them in the development of those plans.

Ralph DeVitto said he was here to monitor what he thought would be an agreement by this Board and the Department to move forward. Senator Johnson is very concerned about the need for a comprehensive approach to inlet and beach management. Senator Johnson's bottom line is that he is tired of the inlets not having a comprehensive plan and he is sure the community feels the same way. Only recently has he been made aware of the speed at which the Department has been getting funding. This past session it was two million dollars. Mr. DeVitto feels that if this Board were to come to him for some legislation, Senator Johnson would be receptive to that.

Commissioner Burdick said if you look at the number of passes in the District (there are 16), 9 are already sponsored, 2 are closed, 2 are natural, which leaves 3. Of that 3, two are C.O.E. passes. Therefore, does DNR want us to be a regional body over one pass?

Chairman Chetlain adjourned the meeting to open the Final Public Hearing on WCIND's Proposed FY91/92 Budget.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Chetlain opened the second and final Public Hearing on the adoption of WCIND's FY91/92 Proposed Budget.

Mr. Armstrong publicly announced the percentage increase of 4.90% in millage over the Rolled Back Rate, necessary to fund the Budget and the specific purposes for which ad valorem tax revenues are being increased are to fund a total of \$1,352,984 in projects in the four counties of Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, and Manatee. These projects have been requested by the four counties for funding by WCIND. Mr. Armstrong said the 4.90% increase is the aggregate of the four member counties.

Chairman Chetlain opened the meeting to the public for comment. After several minutes during which no one moved forward to speak, Commissioner Burdick motioned to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Judah. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Perrey read, in the entirety, Resolution No. 91-1 adopting WCIND's proposed millage and Resolution No. 91-2 adopting WCIND's Final Budget. Commissioner Burdick motioned approval of Resolution No. 91-1. Seconded by Commissioner Judah. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Burdick motioned approval of Resolution No. 91-2, adopting WCIND's Final Budget. Seconded by Commissioner Judah. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Chetlain declared that there being no further business, the Public Hearing was closed.

OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Commissioner Burdick, referring to a letter from Kirby Green to Senator Dudley, wondered why Charlotte County was left off the list, which included Manatee, Sarasota, and Lee Counties, for the development of inlet and beach studies both on a regional and statewide basis.

Lonnie Ryder replied that DNR's Division of Beaches and Shores received \$2 million on July 1, 1991 to take care of any unforeseen dredging the C.O.E. may have for FY91/92. They determined that none of the funds were needed by the C.O.E., thus most of the \$2 million was put towards inlet management planning. They did not initiate the Stump Pass project and were not part of the contract. Since they were not in on the beginning of that contract and have not seen the guidelines, the subject of reimbursement for costs incurred could be made by the Department providing, after review, that plan is in accordance with the guidelines for inlet management plan development.

Mr. Grayson added they would have funded Stump Pass had WCIND come to them and said they had a plan they wanted to do. Then the Department would have set aside money for a contract specifying exactly what would have happened in the contract and given WCIND the money.

Commissioner Burdick said he is confused because he is also in receipt of a letter dated August 21, 1990 showing approval. Mr. Grayson said this was discussed with Mr. Armstrong this afternoon and there had been some misunderstanding. Mr. Armstrong stated there was a room full of people here today vitally interested in Stump Pass. He wanted the two letters referred to by Commissioner Burdick to be entered into the record, including the dates the project was approved by DNR, the Governor, and Cabinet. In turn, this lead us to believe that this project, as far as the comprehensive plan was concerned, was valid and supported by DNR over a year ago.

Mr. Grayson said the only thing that letter represents is that the Governor and Cabinet approved their FY91/92 budget requests. From there it went to the legislature which approved it by line-item. Stump Pass, which was included in this Budget, was not approved by the legislature for funding.

Mr. Ryder stated that they started developing their list for appropriating the \$2 million shortly after July 1st. The Stump Pass project did not make the list because it had been started many months before they received that money. Therefore, assuming they have an appropriation to draw from next year and the project falls within DNR's guidelines, Stump Pass will be first on the list for funding.

In summary, Mr. Armstrong said this Board has always been careful about how they obligated the District for future funding. We need to think about the implementation of these plans. WCIND would not be a part of the planning process. If we are not a part of knowing and determining what it is going to cost, we're going to be implementing plans we have no control over. The idea was to cluster the inlets and then hire a consultant to do five or six at a time. That idea is no longer valid. They are being done individually.

As indicated in his report, Mr. Armstrong thinks it is a very successful effort. About four weeks ago, a lot of inlets had no plans and now suddenly they have a sponsor. He feels whatever effort we have contributed has been worthwhile. They now are moving along very well.

Commissioner Judah added that he just could not understand why DNR would want to have only a specific contract with a specific local sponsor and not take a regional approach. It did not make sense that if we went forward with the possibility of legislative action establishing the District as the Regional Authority for Inlet Management, we're looking at possibly one and maybe no inlets left that do not already have some type of contractual agreement between DNR and the local sponsor.

Mr. Ryder stated they had a vision of what should be done on a regional basis, and it is going to get done. It simply could get done a lot faster with WCIND's participation, especially if WCIND has some funds available. Also, as for Mr. Armstrong's idea of purchasing a dredge, Mr. Ryder feels it is premature at this time. We need to develop all inlet management plans and pull into a regional management plan. Then you would have the information to determine if and what kind of dredge should be purchased.

Commissioner Judah said his concern is straight forward and pretty simple. He sees WCIND as a funding entity with no control.

Mr. Grayson concluded stating that certainly if it were possible to have a single management authority, it would be much easier, but he really didn't know whether that would ever happen. If the legislature directs that to happen, that would be one way for it to come about. Obviously WCIND doesn't have the authority to make that happen. He doesn't know if that will ever happen.

Mr. Ryder added that WCIND and its consultant really couldn't determine how to lump those plans into a regional approach. Even if WCIND would go to the legislature and it designated WCIND as the Inlet Management Authority for this four-county area, it still is going to have to be in partnership with DNR. It would just be a lot easier to get it done now. It's going to be voted in sooner or later anyway.

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Commissioner Burdick recommended this Board take a "wait" approach. Commissioner Judah said he agreed, and Chairman Chetlain stated he concluded also.

Chairman Chetlain opened the meeting to the public.

Jim Herbert introduced himself and said he was very disappointed. He was part of the committee that talked about the regional concept and he saw nothing but benefits to be derived by the four counties by moving forward with that approach. What we were doing was taking local governments and regionalizing the philosophy to get more bang for our buck and moving along at a faster track. Now we seem to have an instance where the people in Tallahassee will not only be giving the permits but will also be doing the planning. By following this approach, he thinks the inlets and the people will pay in the long run.

Dennis Daughters said he agreed with the action taken by the Board. Further, in the two inlet management studies the City of Sarasota is doing, he will consider a committee of the local governments similar to what Mr. Grayson suggested. The City of Sarasota is funding the local share of those two studies. There really is no one else offering us money other than DNR. That is the position they are pursuing because managing their beaches is their main concern.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date is tentatively set for December 6, 1991 at 10:30 A.M. at the Sarasota County South County Annex in Venice, Florida.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 P.M.

K.G. Chetlain

Kent G. Chetlain, Chairman

Ray Judah

Ray Judah, Vice-Chairman