

The February meeting of the Commissioners of the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT was held February 10, 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
- Robert C. Hutches, Treasurer, Manatee County
- Kenneth W. Daniels, Lee County
- Robert M. Wright, Sarasota County

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

ADMINISTRATION

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Minutes of the January 9 meeting were approved as presented. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. A motion was approved to transfer \$200,000.00 from Manatee National Bank Checking Account to time deposits for six months at a 4% interest rate, 3½% for a lesser time. These funds are to be distributed as follows: The Island Bank, \$50,000.00; the Bank of Palmetto, \$50,000.00; and the Inter City National Bank, \$100,000.00. Vouchers #4764 through #4803 were approved for payment. The Director called attention to Check #4803 in the amount of \$13,741.53, payable to the City of Venice, This payment brings the balance in the Venice Water Supply Escrow Account to zero. The account is thereby eliminated. The final statement received

from Venice was for \$55,857.72 in full payment of all expenses in connection with replacement of the Turin Street waterline. The October 11, 1966, Agreement provided that payments by the WCIND would not exceed the amount in the Venice Water Supply Escrow Account. The Director noted that final statement included items of expense which the District had not agreed to pay. Total payments by WCIND are \$55,536.19; \$1,794.66 for temporary pipeline repair, \$50,000.00 advance payment, and this final payment of \$13,741.55; \$2,116.19 less than requested. Mr. Simmons recommended that this bill be reviewed in order to determine the requirement for and legality of further payments. The Director will review the bill with the City of Venice officials and submit their proposals with his recommendation at the March meeting. The General Counsel will review payments for legality.

(Annex Page 98)

A resolution of appreciation was approved unanimously to be presented to former WCIND Treasurer, Mr. Ralph S. Clark.

HEARINGS ON REPRESENTATIVES

The Chair recognized Col. Mason and Mr. Brown, Corps of Engineers representatives; Adm. Keller and Mr. Rohlwing, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce representatives; and Mr. Schall and Mr. Fitzpatrick from the Sarasota County Chamber of Commerce, who were present to discuss progress and planning for the completion ceremony.

Admiral Keller reviewed current progress in the Venice area

and presented a detailed plan. Mr. Simmons recommended that platform guests not be separated from the general public at the fish fry.

Mr. Fitzpatrick presented a suggested program for the dinner in Sarasota and for the dedication ceremony. It was agreed that 10,000 dedication ceremony programs would be printed. The Board approved a suggestion that ushers be identified by the use of arm bands.

Mr. Simmons suggested that it would be appropriate for special invitations to be issued to former Governor Farris Bryant and Warren Cason, State Road Board member under Governor Bryant. He stated that these two men had been instrumental in breaking a stalemate in the Venice area. The Board was unanimous in their approval of this recommendation.

PROGRESS REPORT

The Director announced that the beautification program in Section 3 was progressing satisfactorily, but that the canal had not been opened to navigation. Mr. Hutches asked if anything had been done regarding the excessively steep slope of the canal bank at the southwest corner of S/A S3-3. The Director answered that the contractor is working in that area installing a drainage structure. He would check on work being done and report his findings.

The Seaboard Airline Railroad Company has requested a conference

with representatives of WCIND in Richmond, Virginia. The staff was authorized to attend with all necessary expenses paid.

In reporting on the Stickney Point Bridge realignment the Director stated that the District is still trying to acquire a spoil area from Mr. Morris. Mr. Morris has indicated that he does not want his property made into a spoil area unless he can acquire the submerged land requested from the TIIF. This additional area is required to dispose of the dredged material. Mr. Dye announced that the CE has indicated they will cancel the notice of bidding on the Stickney Point job if an agreement on a spoil area is not reached in a few days. The CE has no way of knowing whether or not they will have funds available for this project at a later date. The Board agreed that it is most important that the requirements of the bid date be met if at all possible. Mr. Dye stated that Mr. Morris would agree to provide an easement on his uplands if, in the event the submerged land sale failed to materialize, the WCIND would be responsible for the expense of diking and for having the spoil removed from his property. The only other alternative is the use of a spoil area in the bay now owned by WCIND. The cost of additional pumping required would have to be paid by WCIND. The CE must be informed of any decision by February 15. Mr. Dye was instructed to poll the Commissioners by telephone in the event an agreement is reached with Mr. Morris.

Mr. Dye reported that the District Engineer has called a

hearing in Venice on February 14 in regard to the damaged Turin Street waterline and has asked all interested parties to attend and present their views. Mr. Dye stated that he had attended several different conferences with the City of Venice officials in assisting them to prepare material to present to the proper agencies, and will appear at the February 14 hearing to present the position of WCIND. Norfolk Dredging Company has denied liability for breaking the pipeline. Mr. Simmons stated that it is the desire of the Board to pursue every legal effort in cooperation with the City of Venice to make a recovery if one is due.

The Director reported on the Water Resources Development Conference attended by Mrs. Flowers, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Smith and the Director. The WCIND presentation was well received. Mr. Dye and the Director were elected Directors of the Florida Waterways Association. A resolution was unanimously approved by the Florida Waterways Association to support the naming of the Venice Avenue Bridge for the late Col. George Kumpe.

The Director announced that the Planning Directors of Pinellas and Manatee Counties are working on plans to utilize spoil islands for recreation areas. The WCIND is cooperating.

The Director presented copies of letters received from Delray Beach and Hollywood Beach concerning use of spoil for beach replenishment. Progress is being made in collecting constructive information on this subject. All the cities that have been con-

tacted to date support a program of pumping spoil to the beaches.

Bids have been advertised for the sale of a WCIND owned 1½ HP pump which was removed from a well in Venice. Sealed bids will be opened on February 17. The Board granted the Director authority to sell the pump and motor to the highest bidder.

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

NEW BUSINESS

The Director announced receipt of a letter of appreciation from Mr. J. Floyd Glisson for WCIND cooperation in the John's Pass project.

The Director announced a hearing in Tarpon Springs on February 14 concerning deepening the channel to a 12' depth from the Gulf to Tarpon Springs. A statement in support of this project will be presented at that time.

Mr. Dye and Mr. Smith presented a report concerning proposed legislation to be presented to the 1967 legislature. The first proposal would allow WCIND to participate with other governmental agencies in the improvement of interconnecting passes and channels along the waterway not exceeding 50% of the cost of such improvement. After discussion the proposal was approved by the Board with the condition that the legislation should be clarified that such improvement would not be limited to passes connecting to the Gulf, but would also include channels moving inland from the waterway. The second item of legislation authorizes WCIND

to participate with other governmental agencies in development of property along the waterway into public recreation areas. During the discussion it was pointed out that development of such recreation areas would be limited to those owned by or in which WCIND had an interest. Following discussion the proposed legislation was approved.

Mr. Smith discussed other legislation which dealt with authority for WCIND to cooperate with other governmental agencies, including other navigation districts, in extending the waterway to the north or south. He pointed out that this would require amendment of state legislation now dealing with navigation districts in order to allow the other districts to channel their funds through WCIND or in cooperation with WCIND to develop extensions of the waterway to the north or south. Following discussion, the Board requested that copies of the proposed legislation be sent to the counties for their study and comments and that the staff be authorized to go to Tallahassee to review proposed changes with Board of Conservation personnel and the Attorney General's office.

At the conclusion of discussion on legislation, Mr. Dye requested that all WCIND Commissioners bring the legislative program to the attention of their respective legislative delegations since it would be impractical and in fact impossible to attend all local public hearings in the six-county district.

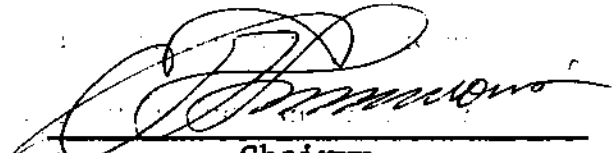
The Director reported that Commissioner Hutches will represent the WCIND at the Mississippi Valley Association annual meeting

in Chicago, February 11 through 14.

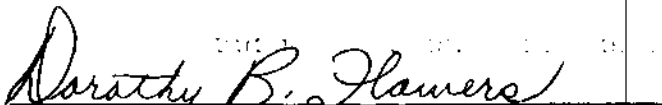
Mr. Anderson proposed the support of the Board in the fight against the drilling for oil on submerged lands. He requested each Commissioner present to urge legislators in his county to support legislation to prohibit drilling for oil on submerged land areas. The Board approved a motion that each Commissioner urge his Board of County Commissioners to support legislation prohibiting drilling for oil on submerged lands.

The next meeting was set for March 17, at 10:30 a.m. at the usual place.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



Chairman



Secretary

PROGRESS REPORT

3 January 1967 - 3 February 1967

CONSTRUCTION

The CE has undertaken an extensive "beautification" program. S/A's S3-3, 3B, 5, 5A and 6 are being improved by degrading banks, grassing and improving drainage. Grading and grassing of canal banks continues, but riprapping has not been started.

S/A S3-3 - West and north sides degraded and seeded. Drain installed. Morrison removing material from south side.

S/A S3-4 - Steve Dean made additional payment of \$1,000 for material removed.

S/A S3-9 - Lost "A" frame recovered. Complaint of Mr. Obendorf resolved.

S/A S3-10 - Grading completed, mud on beach covered with sand, including area in front of Chateaugay Apts. and Venice Yacht Club Apts. Construction has been started on Lenhart property. Present condition of spoil area and beach is excellent.

BRIDGES

SAL Bridge - No progress since last report.

Stickney Point Bridge - Repeated conferences have been held concerning dredging of waterway to straighten canal in connection with construction of a new bridge at Stickney Point. State Road Department has determined that spoil to be removed from channel is not suitable for road fill. They will not use this material or material now on Morris property. They do not have funds for letting of contract this fiscal year. As a result, problem facing WCIND is disposal of 31,000 yds. of spoil. Mr. Morris has indicated that he does not wish to accept this spoil unless he is permitted to purchase land from TIIF in accordance with his application. Bulkhead line change approved by the TIIF on January 24, 1967. Mr. Gilbert Smith and the Director appeared before the TIIF in support of the purchase application on January 31, 1967. Advertising of sale for objection only approved by the TIIF, sale to be held March 14, 1967.

LANDS

Condemnation order of taking entered February 1, 1967, granting 30' easement along east side of S/A S3-3. Court Deposit of \$1325.00 made to secure Order of Taking.

UTILITIES

CE has called a conference in Venice on February 14, concerning damage to Turin Street waterline. Norfolk Dredging Co., City of Venice, and WCIND have been invited to participate. Mr. Dye is scheduled to represent WCIND.

ADMINISTRATION

Water Resources Development Conference - Commissioners Flowers and Daniels, Mr. Gilbert Smith and the Director attended the Florida Waterways Association annual meeting in Tallahassee on January 30 and the Governor's Water Resources Development Conference on January 31. The FWA unanimously approved a resolution supporting the naming of the Venice Avenue Bridge for the late Colonel George Kumpe. A program for the ensuing year was presented to the Water Resources Development Conference by the Director.

Recreation Areas - A conference was held in Tallahassee with Mr. Marston and representatives of the Board of Conservation concerning use of spoil islands as recreation areas. Mr. Blandford, Planning Director for Pinellas County, and Mr. Spagna, Planning Director for Manatee County, have been informed of desire by State and WCIND to promote non-interfering recreational use of spoil islands and they are developing plans for such use.

Completion Ceremony - As of February 3, 1967, 453 invitations had been issued: 57 Platform guests, 115 Dinner guests and 381 Reserved Seat guests. Replies received from Platform guests and Dinner guests - 86: 52 acceptances and 34 refusals. Our major administrative effort is Completion Ceremony planning.

Beach Replenishment - Investigation of desirability of pumping spoil to Gulf was continued. The Director and Mr. Van Norman met with Mr. Jack W. Landis of Manasota Key. Letters were written to CE, FIND, University of Florida and seven cities on Florida East Coast concerning their experience with pumping spoil to beaches. Replies received to date were favorable. WCIND appraiser is making

- 3 -

study of the effect on land value of beach spoil areas on adjacent properties.

Sale of Pump - Pump and chlorinator recovered from well near dam on canal in Venice advertised for sale. Bids to be opened February 17.