

May 14, 1952

The regular meeting of the West Coast Inland Navigation District was held at the courthouse in Bradenton, Florida, Wednesday, May 14th, 1952 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ball.

Members present were:

Matt Weeks, Member	Charlotte County
Fred W. Ball, Chairman	Hillsborough County
H M. Stringfellow, Vice Chairman	Lee County
J. E. McLeod, Treasurer	Manatee County
James R. Shoecraft, Member	Pineellas County
W. L. Woodard, Secretary	Sarasota County

J. Ben Fuqua, attorney, and J. K. Merrin, Engineer were present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read by the secretary and approved on motion by Mr. Shoecraft, seconded by Mr. McLeod.

Treasurer's report was given by Mr. McLeod and accepted on motion by Mr. Shoecraft, seconded by Mr. Woodard.

Vouchers No. 575 to 586 were approved for payment on motion by Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Weeks.

On motion by Mr. Stringfellow, seconded by Mr. Woodard, Mr. Merrin was authorized to purchase a boat and outboard motor according to quotations submitted by

Engineer's report was given by Mr. Merrin.

It was Mr. Merrin's recommendation in his report that negotiations be started to secure option and/or purchase rights-of-way through Venice. Motion was made by Mr. Weeks that the

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Board proceed with the purchase of the rights-of-way on the basis of appraisal submitted by Mr. Edwards and Mr. Townsend. Motion was seconded by Mr. Stringfellow. Discussion followed.

Mr. Woodard objected. He requested that the matter be deferred until proof that the Venice Airbase would not be interfered with and until formal approval of the U.S. Engineers received. There followed discussion by the Board members concerning extension of the canal farther east in order not to overlap the Venice Airfield. (Location would still be within properties listed on appraisal.) It was agreed that the approved right-of-way be acquired and if the right-of-way changed to extend farther east at a later date that negotiations be made with the owner of the property for exchange if necessary.

The engineer was instructed to proceed with negotiations in acquiring the rights-of-way, based on the appraisal, with the exception of lands adjacent to the Airbase (owned by O. W. Caspersen), about which some question of the reactivation of the Venice Airbase is involved; that he negotiate with the owner, O. W. Caspersen, for right-of-way necessary if the airbase becomes reactivated upon the same financial basis as shown by original appraisal. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon motion by Mr. Stringfellow, seconded by Mr. Shoecraft, the Board adjourned to meet Wednesday, June 11th, 1952 at 2:00 p.m.

W. L. Woodard
Secretary

F. A. Ball
Chairman