

The monthly board meeting of the Board of Commissioners, WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT, was held May 16, 1977, in the Sarasota County Commission Hearing Room, Sarasota, Florida.

Present were: Dan P. McClure, Chairman, Manatee County
Don Jones, Vice Chairman, Pinellas County
Larry Rhodes, Treasurer, Sarasota County
R. Douglas Taylor, Secretary, Lee County
Jerry M. Bowmer, Hillsborough County

Charles E. Furbee, Executive Director
Dewey A. Dye, Jr., Counsel

Absent was: Arnold F. Schade, Charlotte County

Guest: Mr. Jack Woodard, Assistant Director,
Division of Resources Management, Florida DNR.

ADMINISTRATION

The meeting convened at 10:45 a.m.

Minutes of April regular board meeting held April 18, 1977, were approved as presented.

The Treasurer's Report for April, 1977 was approved as presented. Director Furbee reported all certificates of deposit have been redeemed and the funds reported in WCIND checking account. Approximately \$67,000 is expected to be received from the DNR Beaches and Shores Preservation Bureau.

Vouchers #904 through #937 were approved for payment.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Hillsborough County

Proposed Legislation by Hillsborough County Commission - The WCIND Counsel, Mr. Dye, furnished to members a synopsis of proposed bills filed in Tallahassee as of May 9, 1977. The following have been filed as relating to the West Coast Inland Navigation District:

Senate Bill 717 (Companion House Bill 1854) re any county to withdraw from the WCIND as related to Sect. 3 of Chapt. 374, Fla. Statutes. The WCIND was created under Chapter 61-1590, Florida Statutes;

Senate Bill 845 re the provision for any member county of the WCIND to withdraw by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners;

Senate Bill 856 is same as Bill 845 except limiting to Hillsborough County;

Senate Bill 1446 re the provision that the WCIND shall not be authorized to issue any ad valorem bonds as presently authorized under Sect. 4 of Chapter 61-1590, Florida Statutes; and

Senate Bill 1447 - this bill would completely abolish the WCIND, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1977. No provision is made for the State of Florida acting through the DNR to take over the functions and responsibilities of the district. No disposition is made of assets of the WCIND which

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are considerable. This bill #1447 was not advertised nor was it presented at the Hillsborough County delegation hearing prior to the session. Counsel Dye reported that this synopsis remains the same since Friday, May 13, 1977. The Director stated that each of these proposed bills have been receiving various amendments, re the transfer of WCIND to the Florida DNR, which makes it difficult to determine the current status of these bills.

Mr. Dye reported that Senate Bill 1447 as proposed was approved in Committee and the outcome is to be reported today. There was no public hearing and it was not included in the package submitted by Hillsborough County. Senate Bill 856 was ready to be moved; the Hillsborough County has agreed to do this; but both Senators Gallen and Henderson objected, stating that this provision should be made available to all the counties in the WCIND.

Commr. Jones requested that Commr. Bowmer address the Board to submit Hillsborough County's reasons for such proposed actions.

Commr. Bowmer referred to past history of board meetings with lack of representation from Hillsborough County and then referred to WCIND Director Furbee's answer to his inquiry when Commr. Bowmer first came to the Board as Hillsborough County representative: "Hillsborough County has received nothing." Commr. Bowmer then submitted that the Hillsborough County contributions to WCIND had been "a waste of money; the only portion of IWW is under the Skyway Bridge and maintenance is not done by the WCIND." Commr. Bowmer stated that, basically, only Bill 856 is the real interest of Hillsborough County in the proposed legislation; following the WCIND representatives appearing before the Hillsborough Commission on April 20, 1977, the Hillsborough County Board maintains the same position, that is, to withdraw from the WCIND." Bill #856 temporarily has passed; and will come up today along with Bill 1447; Bill 1854 is to be addressed in the Senate. Commr. Bowmer reported: "What Hillsborough County wants is only to have Hillsborough County out of WCIND." He referred then to the mailgram received by WCIND as sent by Chairman Bondi, for Hillsborough County Commission:

(Mailgram delivered to WCIND May 13, 1977, was read for the record.)
 "TO WCIND DIRECTOR, SARASOTA, FLORIDA -
 RE, THE WITHDRAWAL OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY FROM W.C.I.N.D.
 THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUEST THE DELEGATION PURSUE EVERY AVAILABLE VEHICLE FOR EXTRICATING HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY FROM SAID DISTRICT. SUCH IS BOARD POLICY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS SB 856 OR EQUIVALENT LEGISLATION PASSES BOTH HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE."
 Signed: Bob Bondi, Chairman, Hillsborough County Board of County Commrs.

Commr. Jones stated that the purpose of the WCIND is to see that the IWW and the Passes are maintained. He declared: "I will be voting on Bill #856. Why doesn't Hillsborough County feel a participatory stake in the maintenance of IWW?"

Commr. Bowmer: "Re, your question, I ask why would Polk County not be included?"

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Commr. Jones stated that he felt that Hillsborough County has just as great a stake, re the boat registrations for the IWW; also, he will be voting for Bill 856 but, politically, Hillsborough County has put the WCIND in a very poor condition. "I move that the WCIND Board, very reluctantly, support the Bill 856 with effective date to be 1978, rather than 1977, and that this support be endorsed by W.C.I.N.D." The motion was seconded by Commr. Taylor, and the motion carried.

Commr. Jones stated that this motion is intended for action to be taken by the Chairman and WCIND Counsel. He also stated: "I think you are wrong, Bowmer (Hillsborough County) but I will vote for it today and try to do my best that you get back in the IWW."

Commr. Taylor referred members to a prior board meeting wherein Commr. Taylor presented Lee County's support for IWW and advantages realized.

Mr. Dye called to the Board's attention that for the WCIND support of Bill 856, the Board's action just taken must be reported to both the Senators, Gallen and Henderson, today.

Commr. Jones stated his belief that WCIND needs to do some lobbying for the truth and the functions of WCIND; that this needs to be done in Tallahassee re the history and accomplishments; also, that the IWW is not really comparable to "a candy bar" as was previously stated by Commr. Bowmer re the advantages to be received by Hillsborough County; and he declared that the WCIND must do better whereby the WCIND states its accomplishments, obligations, and functions for the record.

Director Furbee reported that the WCIND Commissioners are solicited for any need or request for WCIND information and has always encouraged communications; and he then asked of the Board: "What is the staff to do -- when there are no responsive ears?"

Commr. Jones submitted that there is need for an in-fact annually presentation report; also, a slide report for District information.

Commr. Bowmer commented that this current Hillsborough County proposal is not the first time Hillsborough County called to withdraw from WCIND.

Commr. Jones declared that Commr. Bowmer can take the credit today for action proposed by Hillsborough County and stated it was his belief that WCIND needs its own advocate in Tallahassee today. "If this District goes 'down the tube', then a campaign may commence by the boatowners on the West Coast of Florida; I hope that Commr. Bowmer will do everything he can to help preserve the integrity of this District."

Commr. Bowmer stated that the Bill 856 is to be supported by Hillsborough County for the amended date, per Section 2, from 1977 to 1978.

Chairman McClure inquired of Commr. Bowmer: "Would you be receptive to looking at the other side of the coin for Hillsborough County to remain being a member of the WCIND?"

Commr. Bowmer stated if Bill 856 is passed, an amendment can be made "to have Hillsborough County come back into the IWW District."

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Commr. Jones submitted a request to Commr. Bowmer to be granted the opportunity to address Hillsborough County Commission after the Bill #856 is passed. Commr. Bowmer gave his assent.

Chairman McClure read the drafted letter dated May 16, 1977 for the Board's consideration.

Commr. Jones moved that the WCIND letter to Hillsborough County Commission reflect the effective date to be July, 1978, not July 1977; and this letter be approved for the WCIND's support of Bill 856, with this letter to be hand-carried to Tallahassee by Commr. Bowmer today. The motion was seconded and the motion carried. Commr. Bowmer will contact via telephone today Senators Gallen and Henderson re this WCIND action taken today.

MANATEE COUNTY

Longboat Pass Dredging Project - Mr. Dye submitted a resolution for Board consideration today with the resolution giving authority to the Chairman and other appropriate officers to execute papers and documents for the necessary and desirable permanent and temporary easements, permits, licenses to be delivered to the U.S. of America, and/or the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, necessary to commence and complete construction and maintenance of the dredging project. Commr. Rhodes moved for adoption; WCIND Resolution No. 77-02 was duly adopted by the Board.

The ACTIVITIES REPORT was accepted as presented.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next board meeting date, a tentative date set, will be Monday, June 20, 1977.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.


Secretary


Chairman