

The monthly board meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT, was held November 21, 1977 in the Manatee County Commission Hearing Room, Bradenton, Florida.

Present were: Dan P. McClure, Chairman, Manatee County
Don Jones, Vice Chairman, Pinellas County
Larry Rhodes, Treasurer, Sarasota County
Arnold F. Schade, Charlotte County

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

Absent were: R. Douglas Taylor, Secretary, Lee County
Jerry M. Bowmer, Hillsborough County

Guest: H. Jack Woodard, Assistant Director,
Division Resources Management, DNR, Tallahassee

ADMINISTRATION

The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m.

Chairman McClure was welcomed back to the Board by the members and staff following his lengthy illness.

Minutes of the September 19, 1977 regular monthly board meeting were approved as presented. There was no October board meeting.

Mr. Woodard, representing the State DNR, was welcomed here today.

Treasurer's Reports for September 30, 1977 and for October 31 were approved as presented. Vouchers for October, #1051 - 1069; and November, #1070 - 1095 were approved for payment.

Audit Report - FY Ending September 30, 1977, was accomplished by Whitcomb & Christopher, C.P.A.'s, Bradenton, Florida. Copies were distributed to members and staff and the Director read for the record the Accountant's letter accompanying the Audit Report dated November 17, 1977. It was noted that, the excess expenses over revenues, were attributable to the Longboat Pass Dredging Project with WCIND local sponsor; also, the interest expense on the Crystal Beach property purchase in Pinellas County. Copies of Report will be distributed to the State Comptroller, the State Auditor, Department of Natural Resources, and each Clerk of Circuit Court for the six Counties as well as WCIND Board and Counsel.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Sarasota County

Proposed Agreement, WCIND/City of Venice - The Director referred to the area of Hatchett Creek vicinity, about 6.8 acres of WCIND MSA S-32, which the City is requesting for recreational use. WCIND has approved this request and Counsel will present an Agreement to the City of Venice.

Canal Bank Treatment - The need for correcting a hazardous condition at the South Jetty Area is being taken care of by the Corps of Engineers amendment to its current contract, Section II.

Sarasota Marina Request - The Director reported that a current appraisal is recommended for this property. Commr. Jones moved that the Board authorize the appraisal be ordered; the motion was seconded and carried.

WCIND Parcel No. 8, Manasota Key - This lot is currently appraised at \$67,500. Commr. Jones moved that WCIND proceed to advertise for bids to purchase this property; motion seconded and carried. WCIND Parcel No. 11, Manasota Key, sale will be closed December 3.

Manatee County

Longboat Pass Project - The Corps of Engineers has accomplished this project as of October 29, 1977 and all work approved. The beach material was reported to be very desirable cement sand.

Hillsborough County

Hillsborough County - Member Status Report: The County's recent resolution for withdrawing from the District gives the withdrawal date of December 31, 1977. The Director reviewed the District's taxing liability per the State law and reported that he discussed the current status of the County's obligation with Commr. Bowmer. A breakdown prepared by the Director and submitted to the Board notes the fiscal contractual obligation of Hillsborough County to WCIND as of December 31, 1977 for a total of \$168,862 with the Hillsborough County liable for their taxes for 1977-78. Mr. Dye recommended that WCIND 1) request that Hillsborough County settle its financial obligation to the District; 2) determine what will be the effect on the WCIND Board for the County's withdrawal. Commr. Jones reported that he and Counsel Dye met with the County Administrator, Mr. Picot Floyd, re the Enabling Act stating the WCIND's obligations. Commr. Jones moved that WCIND Counsel follow through with these problems; motion was seconded and carried. Commr. Schade suggested that the Board consider addressing various Boating councils to generate some interest to the District's responsibilities. The Director recommended that WCIND Board address the State Legislature re the Enabling Act before December 31, 1977 for the question of quorum and this Board's officers. Commr. Jones requested the Chairman to obtain from the Director a list of the current problems to be incorporated in a study re the functions of the District and some long-range planning with priorities and costs for the benefit of the public and also to present to his County. The Director referred to the WCIND inquiry given to the Corps of Engineers for some information of C.E. planning and projects planned along the IWW, with incorporation of the (6) passes or inlets into the IWW. The District's current levy is 00.01 mill for funds from the District. Mr. Dye stated that WCIND may have to get some help for its presentation to Hillsborough County via boating interests.

Charlotte County

SCL Railroad Proposed Abandonment of Port Boca Grande - Mr. Dye reported that he filed a statement of objection, based on the SCL's statement, for the WCIND funds spent on the SCL bridge at Placida. The SCL filed a rebuttal denying any commitment made to the WCIND. The ICC, Washington, D.C., had voted on November 11 to set a public hearing some time after the first of the year. WCIND will be advised. Mr. Dye reported that WCIND, Lee County, and Beker Industries, were among the five formal objections submitted against the SCL.

Pinellas County

St. Joseph Sound - Crystal Beach Property - Reference was made to the Corps of Engineers statement re the ocean dumping of dredged material and the Director noted that the C.E. is working on a salt-water marsh disposal area. The Board was requested to consider taking some action with this property considering current values. Mr. Dye recommended that until such time the St. Joseph maintenance project is resolved, no disposition should be made. The property is very saleable. Commr. Schade stated that the Board's priority should be to get some resolution to this maintenance problem.

The ACTIVITIES REPORT was accepted as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Water Resources Congress Convention will be held February 15-17, in New Orleans. Members received program brochures along with registration forms. Commr. Jones moved that members and staff be authorized to attend this annual convention at District expense; the motion was seconded and carried.

NEXT MEETING for the monthly board meeting will be held tentatively on Monday, December 19, 1977 with the place to be announced.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Charles E. Fisher
Assistant Secretary

Don P. McClure
Chairman