

June 10, 1953

The regular meeting of the West Coast Inland Navigation District was held in the courthouse in Bradenton, Florida, Wednesday, June 10th, 1953 at 2:00 p.m.

Present were:

Fred W. Ball, Chairman	Hillsborough County
H. E. Keene	Lee County
James R. Shoecraft, Secretary	Pinellas County
Glenn R. Leach	Sarasota County
Matt Weeks, Vice Chairman	Charlotte County
J. K. Merrin, Engineer	

J. E. McLeod, Treasurer, was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ball.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read: Correction: paragraph one, page 150, to be four miles in length instead of "set out in the Gulf approximately four miles". Upon motion by Mr. Leach, seconded by Mr. Shoecraft, the minutes as corrected were approved.

A number of residents of the Venice area met with the Board to discuss the waterway route through that area. Smith Brohard acted as spokesman for the group and he gave a brief summary of objections to the location of the present route and requested that Mr. Leach give reasons for protest with relationship to a new highway now being considered by the State Road Department (8-lane highway south from Sarasota)

Philip H. Hiss, member, Sarasota County Board of Public Instruction, voiced objection on basis that the state would not approve

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plans for improvements (not make appropriation of funds therefor) as the canal would constitute a hazard to the school. He presented for examination a sketch showing plans on the forty-two acres laid out for school development. There followed a lengthy discussion between Mr. Merrin, Mr. Hiss and W. A. Washburn, Jr. as to the area involved.

Motion was made by Mr. Shoecraft that T.D. Bailey, Superintendent, State Board of Public Instruction, be presented with a sketch of the proposed school improvements showing location with relation to the canal in Venice area. Motion was seconded by Mr. Weeks and carried. (To be sent to Carl Strode, Superintendent, Board of Public Instruction, Sarasota County, for presentation to Mr. Bailey)

Mr. Brohard continued with presentations of reasons for objections, and introduced H. S. Bowden, president of City Council of Venice. Mr. Bowden stated that construction of the canal would cut the city of Venice in two parts; that water department has no facilities for bring mains across canal to another part of the city; that present streets would dead end at the canal, etc., and invited the Board to Venice Wednesday, June 17th to view the city by water or air. Chairman Ball called Mr. Bowden's attention to the fact that the City of Venice had approved the route being discussed.

W. A. Washburn, Jr., (Nokomis) read the laws pertaining to establishment waterway canals and stated that he wished to go on record for finding an inland water route agreeable to the people.

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Geo. E. Youngberg, Sr., Venice, presented a map by the U.S. District Engineer in Jacksonville, showing outside routes and gave water depths. Mr. Merrin stated that outside routes had been consistently turned by the Corps of Engineers.

Chairman Ball advised that if the citizens of Venice could get the U. S. Engineers to approve an outside route that this Board would offer no objection to any approved route.

Other persons voicing objections to the present route were Victor Ritty, City councilman, Venice, Leo Crump, South Venice (by proxy)

Resolution from Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners was read. (Protesting present route)

Mr. Leach stated that it was imperative that his Board know as soon as possible whether or not to put right-of-way east of the canal or down the present route 41, that if the present route of the canal to remain that it would be necessary to purchase right of way east of Route 41 through Venice.

Chairman Ball stated that indications were that the route (canal would be approved or disapproved this month and that this Board would not relinquish anything at this time in the way of properties already acquired, commitments, etc., and that the status would remain as at present.

Mr. Shoecraft introduced Mr. Wick, chairman, Board of County Commissioners, Pinellas County, and presented resolutions from that Board, the City of Clearwater, City of St. Petersburg and others, urging the members of the W.C.I.N. District to proceed

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, under Chapter 23770, Laws of Florida 1947, provided by Section 13 thereof, the West Coast Inland Navigation District was authorized to determine by resolution on or before the first day of July of each year the millage not exceeding one-fifth mill on the dollar to be levied as taxes for that year upon the taxable property in the District for the purposes of said District, and that certified copies of such resolution shall be executed in the name of the Board of Commissioners of said West Coast Inland Navigation District by its chairman and attested by its secretary under its corporate seal and delivered to the Board of County Commissioners of each and every county in said West Coast Inland Navigation District and to the Comptroller of the State of Florida, whereupon it became the duty of each of said Boards of County Commissioners to order the assessor of each of said counties to assess and the tax collector to collect a tax at the rate fixed by said resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the West Coast Inland Navigation District upon all of the real and personal property in said county for said year and said levy shall be included in the warrant of the tax assessor of each of said counties and attached to the assessment roll of each of said counties and taxes be collected and remitted as provided therein, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 23770, Laws of Florida, 1947, provided that collections from taxes county not exceed the sum of \$500,000.00, and

WHEREAS, said Chapter 23770, Laws of Florida 1947 was amended by Chapter \_\_\_\_\_, Laws of Florida 1953, authorizing the Board of Commissioners of the West Coast Inland Navigation District to determine the millage not exceeding one-fifth mill each year for two years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the West Coast Inland Navigation District, that under authority of Chapter \_\_\_\_\_, Laws of Florida 1953, the Boards of the various counties composing said District are hereby authorized and directed to levy a tax of one-fifth mill on the dollar as taxes for the year 1953 upon the taxable property in the District for the purposes of the District and to collect and remit said tax as provided under the terms of said laws aforesaid.

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The foregoing resolution was unanimously adopted on motion by Mr. Shoecraft, seconded by Mr. Keen and carried.

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with acquiring right-of-way and construction of the canal along the present proposed route without further delay.

Col. Watson, from Englewood, expressed interest in progress of the West Coast waterway and stated that the residents of Englewood favored the present route.

Support of the route now being discussed was given by Capt. Marston, Bradenton, Col. Mayo, Mr. Peters

On motion by Mr. Shoecraft, seconded by Mr. Weeks, vouchers dated June 10th, 1953 were approved for payment.

On motion by Mr. Shoecraft, seconded by Mr. Leach, the treasurer's report was accepted.

The engineer's report was given by Mr. Merrin, and accepted on motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Leach.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned to meet Wednesday, July 15th, 1953 at 2:00 p.m.

Paul P. Shoecraft  
Secretary

J. H. Ball  
Chairman

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