

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT was held July 20, 1962 at the Manatee County Office Building, one week late due to attendance of some of the Commissioners at the meeting of the National Association of County Officials in New York on July 9-13.

Present were:

Ellsworth G. Simmons, Chairman, Hillsborough County  
 L. Elmer Bustle, Treasurer, Manatee County  
 Mack H. Jones, Lee County  
 Warren S. Henderson, Sarasota County

George Kumpe, Executive Director  
 J. Hardin Peterson, Sr., Special Counsel  
 Dewey A. Dye, Jr., General Counsel  
 Joe K. Merrin, Engineer

Absent:

H.H. Anger, Vice-chairman, Charlotte County  
 A.L. Anderson, Secretary, Pinellas County

ADMINISTRATION

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:05 A.M. Minutes of the 18 June 1962 meeting were approved as presented.

The Treasurer's report was read by Mr. Bustle and accepted as read. Vouchers #3094 through #3122 covering current bills were approved for payment. \$353,714.83 was transferred from checking account to time deposits on July 2 as a result of study by committee appointed at June meeting.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS

Dr. Robert O. Vernon, State Geologist, and Mr. John Wakefield, Division of Water Resources, were present to bring the Board up to date on studies they are making of the Venice water problem. Dr. Vernon showed a three dimensional picture of the Venice well fields as well as logs used in obtaining

data. Their investigations had shown that a maximum of 11 wells along Seaboard Avenue may be damaged and that these wells have produced very little water for a number of years. In answer to a question from Chairman Simmons as to when the study could be completed and findings made available to the Navigation District and to the City of Venice Dr. Vernon said they should be able to finish the study in about two weeks but a more formal report would take several weeks. Mr. Simmons said that if the City of Venice and the WCIND Board could accept the findings the detailed report may not be necessary. He stressed that it was of prime importance that the Navigation District fulfill its responsibility. Dr. Vernon remarked on the fine cooperation he has received from the Venice Water Dept. officials in trying to make the test helpful and conclusive and the findings should be of great help to the City; the study would have cost the City several tens of thousands of dollars over a period of time. Information has been given to the Venice waterworks personnel as developed and Mr. Youngberg and Mr. Ives have been in on much of the conversations. Commissioner Henderson felt this was the best way to handle Dr. Vernon's reports at the present time. Dr. Vernon said that his department would continue the study as rapidly as possible. Mr. Frank L. Lanus also spoke of the cooperation received at Venice and stated that he had the preliminary drawings of water and sewer line crossings at Venice Avenue with him.

PROGRESS REPORT

The Corps of Engineers has asked for the conveyance of all lands in Section 2 and the engineer and attorney are busy bringing necessary papers up to date. Mr. Dye stated that expiration date on some easements at Manasota Key must be extended. The board authorized the engineering and legal departments to proceed without delay in acquiring all lands needed for Section 2.

Commissioner Jones asked if there was any action necessary in Lee County and Mr. Dye said the only thing remaining to be taken care of was title insurance. Mr. Jones said Lee County was working on legal descriptions and request for permit from the Corps of Engineers for the air strip at Gasparilla Island, that it is an engineering problem at this point; Chairman Simmons told him to let the Board know any way they could help the County.

In Section 3, Mr. Dye stated that the balance of right-of-way required is in litigation. The suit against the City of Venice for approximately 70 acres of land in accordance with the 1957 contract, also for the three or four miles of right-of-way south of the City of Venice were filed during the latter part of May. At preliminary hearing Judge Justice ruled that if evidence were presented as claimed he would enforce the 1957 contract. The next step is to file an amended complaint with respect to the "Lost Strip". Old FAA files will be returned to Atlanta from Kansas City for examination. The Board authorized travel for Mr. Dye and Mr. Peterson to Atlanta and Miami for examination of these files in order to expedite

this suit as rapidly as possible. It is planned to file the amended complaint about July 24 to which the City of Venice must file an answer within 20 days. Mr. Peterson stated that the Corps of Engineers has always said that if necessary they would condemn the property, and it was hard to see the City of Venice going ahead on a losing thing. Due to Mr. Dye's request for priority because of the public agencies involved the suits are progressing rapidly.

In Section 4 the Director reported that appraisal of the Sanderling Beach area is underway in an effort to eliminate spoil area S-34. Mr. Henderson said that perhaps WCIND should re-confirm the agreement to pay \$11,600 for additional pumping and distribution of spoil along the bay. Mr. Dye pointed out that this agreement was made before the contract was let and would have been made with the Corps of Engineers; now conditions have changed and dealings would have to be with the contractor. The District made the offer in an effort to eliminate a spoil island, the Sanderling owners were not certain that their rights would be protected and the time to make a contribution to the Corps of Engineers expired. Mr. Dye said that apparently the contractor is not interested in doing anything that is not in the contract. The Attorney and the Director were asked to determine if the contractor is willing to utilize the Sanderling Beach area and to notify the owners of the contractor's answer.

Elimination of spoil area S-39 by the use of spoil areas 38-B and A south and north of Grand Canal also seems

to depend on whether or not negotiations can be made by Mr. Ed Wright with the contractor. Mr. Dye reported that the dredge would be at Siesta Key bridge about Sept. 1.

The Director reported that plans and specifications of the Navigation District for diking the four areas authorized by the Board have been completed and the work has been advertised once and will be again Wednesday, July 25, with bids to be opened at 11:00 A.M. on July 31. Mr. Bustle, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Dye and the Director were appointed as a committee to open the bids, get confirmation of the Board by telephone and award the contract.

Chairman Simmons said that he had been informed that the State Road Department was having a special "letting" for strengthening bascule piers of the Siesta Key bridge in order that it be done before the dredge reaches there.

The Progress Report was accepted.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Peterson gave his opinion that the millage rate in the District must be uniform. He was asked to render a ruling upon a resolution forwarded to Mr. Simmons by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County.

Mr. Dye reported that Attorney Gilbert Smith had agreed to work as legal counsel on pending condemnation cases, three besides the two at Venice, involving 20 or 25 parcels of land, on the basis of compensation paid him and his office for trial work; that he didn't think costs could possibly run over \$2500, that he would bill the Navigation District periodically.

Mr. Dye was authorized to use the services of Mr. Smith as outlined, not to exceed \$2500 expenditure.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board adopted a resolution (Page 41 WCIND annex to minutes) authorizing the Secretary of the Board, in the absence of the Treasurer, to authorize the exchange of securities safe-guarding time deposits.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15.

George Kuryse  
Asst Secretary

C. Harrison  
Chairman

## PROGRESS REPORT

18 June-20 July 1962

CONSTRUCTION

Progress - During June the dredge Gahagan Puerto Rico in Section 5 dredged 49,150 cu. yds. of material and advanced 2,479 linear feet. On 30 June the contract was 75% complete. The dredge was shut down for repairs during much of the month.

In Section 4 the R.C. Huffman Construction Co. started dredging on June 27 at the north end of the job. From June 27 to June 30 the dredge advanced 1800 linear feet and removed 27,965 cu. yds. of material. As of 30 June the contract was 3% complete.

On June 21 the Corps of Engineers formally requested that diking spoil areas S 35-4, 35-8, 37-1 and 40-1 be performed by local interests. Spoil area 37-1 was subsequently removed from the list but this diking is a responsibility of the Navigation District in accordance with an agreement with the owner. Specifications for the diking and an invitation to bid were prepared and were sent to prospective bidders on July 20, 1962.

In discussion of diking with the Huffman Construction Co. it was pointed out that the responsibility of local interests was limited to the diking shown on construction plans and that if higher dikes were desired they must be provided by the contractor.

On June 29 the Corps of Engineers asked that upland spoil areas in Section 4 be identified in accordance with specifications. The two spoil areas north of Manatee Avenue bridge were marked.

On July 5 Mr. Art Huffman, Project Superintendent for the contractor, visited the Director and discussed the project.

LANDS

Lee and Charlotte County - On July 12 the Corps of Engineers requested that Lee and Charlotte County spoil areas be conveyed to the federal government without delay.

Mr. W.E. Dunwody notified the Director that the contribution of \$9000 estimated by the Corps of Engineers to eliminate spoil area C-26 by placing material from it on C-27 was accepted.

Sarasota (Section 3) - The Corps of Engineers asked for the status of right-of-way suits in Section 3. This information was furnished to answer Congressional questioning.

(Section 4) Spoil area S-31 - The lower portion of the spoil area west of Midnight Pass road was deleted from the spoil area. in accordance with an agreement made when the easement was

granted. Deposit with the Clerk of the Circuit Court was made on June 20 to permit Order of Taking for drainage easement from spoil area.

Spoil Area S-34 - The Director talked to Mr. Embry, appraiser for alternate Sanderling Beach area, pointing out urgency in obtaining cost figure for owners. Data available in Navigation District were furnished to Mr. Embry.

Spoil Area 35-1 - On June 20 check for \$9702 was deposited with the Clerk of Circuit Court, Sarasota County, for Order of Taking for portions of spoil areas S35-1 and S-31.

Mr. Ed Wright, major owner in S-38A and B, was advised that in the near future he could expect legal assurance that spoil area 38-B might be used. This information was furnished in case he wished to enter into advance negotiations with Huffman Construction Co.

Manatee County - Huffman Construction Co. advised Mr. Albert W. Bailey and Mr. Arch Wedebrook that it was not feasible to place spoil upon the tracts they had proposed. The City Manager of Long Boat Key asked if this decision could be changed. He was advised to take the matter up with the contractor.

Mr. R.J. Crampton visited the Director on July 5 to discuss receiving spoil near the southeast abutment of the Cortez bridge. He was advised there was no dredging for some distance south of the bridge.

Pinellas County - Spoil area P 32-33. On July 12 Mr. Joseph Rodriguez, attorney for one of the owners, met with the Director and Mr. Dye to discuss expanding the area westerly to the canal right-of-way. He was advised to assure his client's title to the submerged tract involved.

Spoil area P-36 - Mr. Floyd Schaefer of Indian Rocks Beach complained of spoil washing into a private channel north of spoil area P-36. On July 9 the Corps of Engineers confirmed this situation stating that the contractor had or would soon take necessary action to remove the material. Mr. Schaefer was advised.

Spoil area P-38 - Mr. C.R. Headstrom of Largo reported similar shoaling in the creek north of the spoil area. The matter is being investigated by the Corps of Engineers.

The City of Dunedin asked that the 6 spoil area islands within the city limits be granted to the City for public use subject to the rights held by the Corps of Engineers.

#### UTILITIES

Section 3 - Mr. Lanius was authorized to incur not more than \$1400 in costs for foundation investigations required to determine the cost of lowering utilities at Venice Avenue.

On June 28 Dr. Robert Vernon conducted conference of the physical investigations conducted early in July of the Venice well field. On July 11 he asked that estimates from drilling contractors be obtained for 4 types of work in the Venice well field. The contractors were asked to provide these estimates.

Section 4 - Mr. Walter Anderson of the Florida Power & Light Co. discussed with the Director utility crossing changes required by the contract. Mr. Anderson agreed to work with Mr. Berger of the Huffman Construction Co. on scheduling these modifications.

Section 5 - Pinellas County forwarded the Navigation District two bills totaling \$1246.06 incurred in lowering a cable on the Belleair Causeway Bridge. The Corps of Engineers informed the Director that the permit covering this bridge placed no requirement on the owner to modify the cable crossing. Mr. Robert Austin, State Auditor, stated that settlement of these bills by the Navigation District was proper and payment was made.

#### BRIDGES

Albee Bridge - As requested by Commissioner Henderson at the June 18 meeting Chairman Simmons addressed a letter to Honorable Warren Cason supporting Sarasota County's request that the Albee bridge crossing be closed to vehicular traffic for as short a time as possible.

#### Blackburn Point, Stickney Point, Siesta Key Bridges -

Mr. Hector Johnson, District Engineer State Road Department District 1, was advised of the construction schedule of Huffman Construction Co. Strengthening of the Siesta Key bridge piers before the dredge reaches that structure appears improbable even with the maximum cooperation being extended by the State Road Department. To simplify this work the Director discussed with the Corps of Engineers reducing slightly the 50' horizontal clearance requirement. Such change was found to be infeasible as these three bridges will be the controlling width of the waterway.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Copies of the resolution establishing .25 mill for the current tax year were sent to the 6 counties and to the State Comptroller on June 18.

A review of Time Deposits lead to the increase in such deposits on July 2 in the amount of \$353,71483.

On June 25 Chairman Simmons, Commissioner Anger and the staff attended a meeting in Sarasota between the Board of County Commissioners, Honorable Warren Cason and the Mayor and City Council of Venice. No agreements were reached at the meeting as the bridge requirements of the City of Venice were not acceptable to the Navigation District and the State Road Department.

Mr. Marcoux of the State Road Department District office in Bartow visited the Director twice to discuss land requirements for the Sunshine Skyway borrow channel. The Corps of Engineers was asked to furnish additional information on this matter.

The Corps of Engineers furnished commercial statistics for the calendar year 1961. Traffic on the West Coast Waterway increased from 261,330 tons in 1960 to 283,183 tons in 1961.

The Director was named WCIND representative on the Advisory Committee for the Mid-Gulf Basins study of the Division of Water Resources and Conservation of the State Board of Conservation.

The Director spoke before the Rotary Club of Sarasota on June 20 and before the West Coast Branch, Florida Section, of the American Society of Engineers on June 21.