

January 13, 1954

The regular meeting of the West Coast Inland Navigation District was held in the court house in Bradenton, Florida, Wednesday, January 13th, 1954 at 2:00 p.m.

Present were:

Fred W. Ball, Chairman	Hillsborough County
Matt Weeks, Vice Chairman	Charlotte County
G. L. Leach, Member	Sarasota County
J. E. McLeod, Treasurer	Manatee County

Members H. E. Keene, Lee County, and James R. Shoecraft of Pinellas County were absent.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ball.

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

Communication from L. W. Lambert, Tax Collector of Pinellas County, was read and referred to Mr. Fuqua for a report on same at the next meeting.

Communication from the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Sarasota County, Carl C. Strode, was read by Chairman Ball. Discussion followed. Upon question by Mr. Leach, Mr. Merrin stated that he was withholding comment on the subject embraced in the letter until after he had received the complete report of Mr. C.K.S. Dodd.

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Upon motion by Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Weeks, the letter was ordered recorded in the minutes of this meeting. The letter is recorded as follows:

"Office of the Superintendent of Public
Instruction, Sarasota County,
Sarasota, Florida

January 6, 1954

"Mr. Glenn R. Leach
Member of the Inter-Coastal
Waterway Committee
Osprey, Florida

Dear Mr. Leach,

"The Board of Public Instruction at its regular meeting yesterday after considering the report of our engineer, Mr. C.K.S. Dodd, had the feeling that they should not oppose the proposed canal route through the school property. In other words it would be to the advantage of the School Board that this canal be put through providing that not over 250 feet of right of way would be used. The drainage in that area would be greatly improved if the canal would go through. The Board passed the following resolution:

" 'Board adopts recommendation of Mr. Dodd and will agree that right of way be limited to the easterly 250 feet of the property after consulting with the Board attorney." '

"The Board feels that this is in the best interest of its property for looking forward to its utilization for school purposes."

(Signed) "Sincerely,
Carl C. Strode (P)
Carl C. Strode
Superintendent"

mjp

The treasurer's report was given by Mr. McLeod, and accepted on motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Leach and carried.

Vouchers dated January 13, 1954, for bills to this date, were approved for payment on motion by Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Weeks and carried.

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Suggestion was made by Mr. Leach that the matter of investment of surplus funds, not now needed in the checking account of the District, be deferred until a later meeting when a new member from the Board of County Commissioners, Sarasota County, would act as member of the West Coast Inland Navigation District. It was agreed by the Board that disposition of the matter should be deferred as suggested by Mr. Leach.

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

Mr. Leach reported that at a recent meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of the Venice area he went on record as trying to get the Gulf route of the canal established instead of the Seaboard Route; that if the Seaboard Route was followed it would make an island out of the city of Venice and would disrupt the present utilities; that an adopted resolution opposing the Seaboard Route would be brought to the attention of the City Council of Venice; that "if the worst came to the worst" injunction would be brought against the West Coast Inland Navigation District; that it was his opinion that the Venice citizens would, in all probability, be willing to accept the No. 1 route, which would constitute a saving of approximately one million dollars.

S. F. Peters, visitor from Nokomis, asked if it would be possible for the Board to hold an open meeting with the people in Venice and secure sentiments regarding the establishment of Route No. 1. Mr. Merrin advised that no official petition or request for

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a review of the routes had been presented to the Board; thereupon, Chairman Ball stated that the Board would be bound to hold such a meeting if requested by the majority of property owners involved, but until such time the proposed routes would remain "status quo."

Upon motion by Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Weeks, the Board adjourned until Wednesday, February 10th, 1954 at 2:00 p.m.



Chairman

Secretary