

March 16, 1955

The regular meeting of the West Coast Inland Navigation District was held in the court house in Bradenton, Florida, Wednesday, March 16th, 1955 at 2:00 p.m.

Present were

Ellsworth Simmons, Chairman	Hillsborough County
Matt Weeks, Vice Chairman	Charlotte County
Wilson Pigott, Secretary	Lee County
J. E. McLeod, Treasurer	Manatee County
Col. G. M. Nelson, Member	Sarasota County
Charles R. Fischer, Member	Pinellas County
J. Hardin Peterson, Special Attorney	
J. K. Merrin, Engineer	
Dewey A. Dye, Jr., Attorney	
Fred W. Ball, Executive Secretary	

and visitors.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Simmons.

George Gibbs, president of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce introduced members of a committee present to get information relative to the waterway route through Venice. He asked the status of appropriations, if any, by Congress, specifically in connection with the two bridges indicated on the right-of way maps. Mr. Peterson answered his inquire regarding appropriation by stating that his business in Congress was to get the route approved and appropriation for the entire project; that the federal government was authorized to pay all or any part of bridges in the route (but no specific appropriation mentioned for the two bridges). In answer to a question by one of the committee as to the re-location of the state road through Venice, Chairman Simmons stated that this question should be directed to the State Road Department.

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Attorneys Peterson and Dye presented the proposed bill for special legislation for the West Coast Inland Navigation District. On motion by Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Pigott, the bill was approved to be presented to the legislative committee with the full endorsement of this Board. The Board ordered that each member of the House in the District be sent copies of the bill, also Senators and any other persons who might be interested.

Minutes of the previous regular meeting were approved as read on motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Col. Nelson and carried.

On motion by Mr. Fischer, seconded by Mr. Nelson, the treasurer's report was received and accepted.

Mr. Micklin, operator of a large barge line, was present at the invitation of Mr. Franklin. He stated to the Board that he was willing to assist in any way possible toward the promotion of this project and that he was anxious to see the completion as early as possible. It was brought out that completion of the canal would bring about decreases in rates and many constructive changes in shipping facilities. The chairman expressed appreciation of the interest shown by Mr. Micklin and requested that he contact Mr. Ball and leave his address for possible future reference.

Chairman Simmons read a copy of his letter to Mr. Ball outlining his duties as executive secretary.

Dewey A. Dye, Jr., attorney, reported that Bryan Willis, State Auditor, had stated that bills for commissions rendered by the Tax Collectors and Tax Assessors in the District had been correctly computed as to percentage on collections. On motion by Col. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Weeks, bills for commissioners were ordered paid.

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Mrs. Lashbury, Englewood representative, stated that there was a great need of the waterway in that area as there was no railroad there.

Mr. Ball made a report of his canvass of numerous business houses and individuals contacted in the interest of the waterway,, who intended to patronize the canal facilities when available.

Motion was made by Mr. Pigott that Mr. McLeod be authorized to purchase a filing cabinet if necessary for the filing of maps, correspondence, which should be filed in this office at all times for reference. Motion was seconded by Col. Nelson and carried.

On motion by Col. Nelson, request from the Chambers of Commerce of Venice and Englewood for maps to be furnished them by the engineer was granted. Motion was seconded by Mr. Fischer and carried.

On motion by Col. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Fischer, the engineer was authorized to furnish maps to civic and governmental bodies at the Board's expenses, as had been the policy in the past, with maps to be furnished to individuals at cost.

On motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Pigott, the engineer's report was received.

Mr. Weaver, president of Artists Guild Foundation was advised that basis of compensation for property required for right-of-way would be on appraisals of properties to be furnished by competent appraisers, and that a copy of the appraisal would be furnished him when presented to the Board.

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Resolution regarding a refund to Pinellas County was submitted to the Board by Mr. Fischer. The resolution was accepted, approved and referred to the attorneys for advice at the next meeting of the Board.

On motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Pigott, the Board adjourned to meet Wednesday, April 13, 1955 at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
Secretary

  
Chairman