

June 15, 1955

The regular meeting of the West Coast Inland Navigation District was held in the Court House in Bradenton, Florida, Wednesday, June 15th, 1955 at 2:00 p.m.

Present were

Ellsworth Simmons, Chairman	Hillsborough County
Matt Weeks, Vice Chairman	Charlotte County
Wilson Pigott, Secretary	Lee County
G. M. Nelson, Member	Sarasota County
Charles R. Fischer, Member	Pinellas County
J. E. McLeod, Treasurer	Manatee County

J. K. Merrin, Engineer  
 Dewey A. Dye, Jr., Attorney  
 Fred W. Ball, Executive Secretary  
 J. Hardin Peterson, Special Attorney

Members of the press and visitors.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Simmons.

On motion by Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Pigott, a letter from L. W. Bauer, requesting maps of the right of way, was referred to J. K. Merrin, Engineer.

Copy of a letter from Jack E. Harnes to J. Hardin Peterson was read. The subject of the letter was cost of preparation of a report on the engineering work at an approximate cost of \$6,500.00. (Study of local contribution for the Venice re-alignment for the expedition of the project). Upon motion by Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Pigott, Chairman Simmons was authorized to pursue this matter to determine if commitment could be obtained on advance of \$6,500.00 by the district, since funds were not available from federal sources, and if this would be advantageous to the District.

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A letter from Senator Spessard L. Holland was read in which he advised there could be no 1956 budget appropriations for the Waterway but that inclusion in the 1957 budget might be possible.

The engineer's report was given by Mr. Merrin and he submitted a sketch showing location of Route C-1, alternate I.C.W. Anclote River to Caloosahatchee River. He read copies of letters written to owners of property in the right of way and replies. He stated that the owners were asking three to four times as much as the appraisal value.

Mr. Merrin was requested to work with Attorneys Dye and Peterson and submit necessary data on going into condemnation suit on land and to proceed with acquisition of "alternate Route C-1".

Motion was made by Col. Nelson that Mr. Merrin be authorized to secure appraisal of remainder of property. Motion was seconded by Mr. McLeod and carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Pigott that the attorneys submit, within the next few days, their proposal as to fees for handling condemnation suit for acquisition of the right of way (same to include City of Venice and School Board properties, Sarasota, if necessary). Motion was seconded by Col. Nelson and carried.

Mr. Pigott read an editorial from the Ft. Myers News Press, dated May 14, 1955,

Mr. Fischer reported that he was of the opinion that the sole parcel in Pinellas County, in the right of way, owned by an individual, could be purchased through negotiation and would not have to be included in the condemnation suit; that the original property was a

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government lot and spoil in dredging had extended the lot.

Chairman Simmons stated that upon the attorneys advising as to fees for the condemnation suit that he would call all members of the Board and if the figure submitted was controversial a special meeting would be called , but if all members were in accord the attorneys would proceed with the condemnation suit and make a report to the Board at the next regular meeting.

On motion by Mr. Fischer, seconded by Mr. Weeks, the treasurer's report, given by Mr. McLeod, was accepted.

On motion by Mr. Pigott, seconded by Mr. Weeks, all vouchers dated June 15, 1955 were approved for payment.

Mr. Franklin, delegate appointed by Governor Collins to the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, was present and gave a report on approved projects, thirty-seven in all, ten of which were in Florida.

On motion by Mr. McLeod, seconded by Col. Nelson, resolution requesting one-fifth mill levy in the counties comprising the district was unanimously adopted. Resolution is recorded as follows.

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