

July 13, 1955

The regular meeting of the West Coast Inland Navigation District was held in the court house in Bradenton, Florida, Wednesday, July 13th, 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
Herman Burnett, new member,	Manatee County
J. K. Merrin, Engineer and Dewey A. Dye, Jr., attorney.	
Fred W. Ball, Executive Secretary and J. Hardin Peterson, Atty.	

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Simmons.

On motion by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Weeks, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: (Re J. E. McLeod, deceased)

Herman Burnett, incoming member representing Manatee County Board of County Commissioners, to replace J. E. McLeod, deceased, was sworn in by Nona D. Major, Deputy Clerk.

The chairman called for nomination for treasurer.

Mr. Pigott nominated Herman Burnett for Treasurer of the West Coast Inland Navigation District. Nomination was seconded by Mr. Nelson, who moved that nominations be closed. Upon the affirmative vote of all members present, Mr. Burnett was unanimously elected Treasurer of the District.

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Weeks, the bond of J. E. McLeod, with Wyman-Green and Blalock, Inc., was authorized cancelled.

Upon motion by Mr. Pigott, seconded by Mr. Weeks, Mr. Burnett was authorized to secure bond as Treasurer of the District as soon as possible . (Same amount as Mr. McLeod)

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Minutes of previous meetings were read (May and June, 1955) and approved on motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Pigott and carried.

The following communications were read from

James A. Haley, U. S. Congressman: (Wire dated July 13, 1955)

"Conference report on public works appropriations passed house this date. Funds for survey of Venice included, but not earmarked specifically. Report states that coops of Engineers must spend money for surveys according to the testimony as given before the two appropriations committees. Have contacted Corps of Engineers urging them to put Venice survey at head of their priority list. Best regards.

"James A. Haley MC Seventh District
of Florida"

Spessard L. Holland (wire dated July 1, 1955)

"Re Intracoastal Waterway from Caloosahatchee to Anclote. Pleased to advise Senate appropriations Committee today approved \$7,000 for survey on this project. Regards.

"Spessard L. Holland USS George Smathers USS"

William C. Cramer, M.C. (Letter to Fred W. Ball)

"Pursuant to my request that the U.S. Army Engineers include in their request for the fiscal year 1957 \$6,500 for study to determine the fair amount of local contribution on the Venice realignment problem, I have this day received the following reply:

' "In preparation of the proposed budget for fiscal year 1957 you may be assured that every consideration will be given to the inclusion of \$6500 for the study to determine the fair amount of local contribution in connection with the Intracoastal Waterway in the light of changed conditions because of the realignment at Venice. However, it must be realized that final determination as to whether or not it is contained in the 1957 budget does not rest within the Corps of Engineers." '

" The matter of appropriations was discussed at length by members of the District.

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Chairman Simmons advised that Dewey A. Dye, Jr., had been authorized to secure information necessary to bring condemnation suit for acquisition of the right-of-way in Sarasota County.

(See Minutes of June 15, 1955)

Mr. Dye reported on abstract information to date:

1. Change in ownership of Palmer properties
2. That he had an appointment with the U. S. Engineers in Jacksonville on August 4, 1955 to ascertain type of title required by them.
3. That appraisers had been contacted but were reluctant to tie themselves to specific figure for services (ordinary fees for expert witnesses usually \$100.00 per day.)
4. That right-of-way over Board of Public Instruction property would be 350 feet instead of 250 feet as previously anticipated when B.P.I. had agreed to give whatever property necessary. If negotiation for the 100 feet unsuccessful and price too high he thought best to include parcel in suit.
5. That, after conference in Jacksonville, if no further stumbling blocks, he should be able to file suit sometime in August.

Mr. Dye read his report to the Board as to appraisers, attorney's fees, etc. No definite fee set, but tentative figure to be \$250.00 plus amount equal to 5% of valuation of property actually condemned, probable total \$1500.00 based on present appraisal information; additional fees in event of appeals of proceedings. (Letter to Mr. Simmons)

On motion by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Weeks, Mr. Dye was authorized to proceed with the condemnation suit.

Motion was made by Mr. Nelson that Fred Palmer of Sarasota be engaged by Mr. Dye as appraiser. (Only member of American Appraisal Institute in Sarasota County and recommended by Mr. Dye.)

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The engineer's report was given by Mr. Merrin, together with progress report on the work in the office of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund.

Motion was made by Mr. Pigott that stop payment be authorized on Check No. 990, dated December 15, 1954, issued to C. A. Clutz, in the amount of \$126.16, and a new check be issued to him. Motion was seconded by Mr. Weeks and carried.

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

On motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Pigott, vouchers dated July 13, 1955 were approved for payment.

Based on information received from the Board of County Commissioners, Pinellas County, motion was made by Mr. Nelson that resolution authorizing payment of \$18,207.80 be adopted. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pigott and carried.

R E S O L U T I O N

(WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, West Coast Inland Navigation District is authorized by special act of 1955 session of Legislature of State of Florida to adjust inequities and inequalities of the taxes of the several Counties composing the District and

WHEREAS, it appears that such situation exists with reference to Pinellas County, and Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County have made demand for an adjustment and return of the sum of \$18,207.80 from the District to the County and,

WHEREAS, in consideration of the many services rendered by Pinellas County ~~in which the District~~ with reference to submerged lands located in Pinellas County in which the District is interested and with reference to engineering services performed for the benefit of the District by the County generally and,

WHEREAS, this Board deems the request of Pinellas County to be just under the circumstances and to be a fair and legal demand against the District, which this Board is authorized to consider under the act of Legislature.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of West Coast Inland Navigation District that in view of past services performed by Pinellas County for the District and future services to be performed and in order to adjust certain inequities and inequities existing in the taxes collected from among the various Counties of the District, and as authorized by law, this Board hereby authorizes the payment of the claim of Pinellas County in the amount of \$18,207.80 and that the proper check is authorized to be issued in payment of this adjustment.

Passed and certified to passage, this 13th day of July, 1955.

* * * * *

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Hon. J. E. McLeod has served the Board of Commissioners of the West Coast Inland Navigation District of Florida as a member of this Board faithfully and diligently for many years passed and has given greatly of his time and talents in behalf of this Board since its inception in 1947 and,

WHEREAS, the untimely death of Hon. J. E. McLeod on July 8, 1955 has terminated membership of Commissioner McLeod on this Board and has severed the fine relationship existing between Commissioner McLeod and the other members of this Board and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the West Coast Inland Navigation District of Florida as a group and as individuals wish to express their profound sense of loss over the recent departure of their friend and fellow Commissioner and to convey to his family their sincere sympathy in this hour of sorrow.

NOW THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that the Board of Commissioners of the West Coast Inland Navigation District of Florida does deeply regret the passing of Hon. J. E. McLeod and does by this Resolution sincerely express to each member of Commissioner McLeod's family its deepest sympathy in the passing of their good friend and fellow Commissioner.

Unanimously passed this 13th day of July, 1955.

WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
OF FLORIDA

ATTEST:

Wilson Pigott
Secretary

E. G. Simmons
Chairman

* * * * *

Motion was made by Mr. Nelson that as soon as Mr. Merrin is in a position to negotiate for title acceptable by the U. S. Engineers that he be authorized to have appraisal made on properties in the right-of-way west of U.S 41 (north of Venice) Motion was

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seconded by Mr. Weeks and carried. Chairman Simmons requested that Mr. Nelson assist Mr. Merrin in the negotiations for the right-of-way.

Upon motion by Mr. Pigott, seconded by Mr. Nelson, the meeting was adjourned until next regular meeting to be held August 10th, 1955 at 2:00 p.m.


Secretary


Chairman