

WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
FINAL PUBLIC HEARING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1997
SARASOTA COUNTY SOUTH COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER

Vice-Chairman Cummings called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Commissioners O'Neil and Judah were present. Executive Director Charles Listowski was present. Commissioner McClash and Counsel Phil Perrey were absent.

Vice-Chairman Cummings announced the opening of the public hearing on WCIND's millage rate and budget for FY1997-98. He requested discussion on the proposed millage rate increase over the rolled back rate (61.29%) necessary to fund the budget, and specific purposes for which ad valorem tax revenues are being increased. He opened the hearing for public comment. There was no comment from the audience and the public comment portion of the hearing was closed.

Vice-Chairman Cummings publicly announced that the name of the taxing authority named in the millage levy resolution is the West Coast Inland Navigation District, the rolled-back rate is .0186, the percentage increase over the rolled-back rate is 61.29%, and the millage rate to be levied is .03 (three hundredth mill). Commissioner Judah moved and Commissioner O'Neil seconded to adopt the millage levy Resolution 97-6. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner O'Neil questioned whether the advertising requirements had been met in relation to increasing the millage rate. Mr. Listowski explained that the publications have strict requirements about size, type and location to each other. There is a summary budget and a breakdown of the millage increase and they have to touch each other on the page and have to be a certain size and we have certification that it has been done in the four county newspapers that cover the District.

Commissioner Judah moved and Commissioner O'Neil seconded to adopt the final budget Resolution 97-7 for FY1997-98. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner O'Neil stated that he would like the Resolution or the purpose of the Resolution to be explained to the audience.

Mr. Listowski read the following into the record:

RESOLUTION 97-8

A RESOLUTION BY THE WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT REQUESTING COLLABORATIVE TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND COOPERATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF A DISTRICT INITIATIVE CALLED A REGIONAL WATERWAY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR SOUTHWEST FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, the W.C.I.N.D. has met several times with F.D.E.P. officials to acquaint them with a cooperative project underway, involving the University of Florida and the District member counties, with the intention of creating a working informational database for permit review processes and comprehensive planning purposes; and

WHEREAS, funding and technical support by the University of Florida (Florida Sea Grant and the Cooperative Extension Services) and, through the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, has benefited the southwest Florida community served by the Navigation District, including Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee counties; and

WHEREAS, to date, the collective funding for this project from W.C.I.N.D. and Sarasota County totals over \$250,000; and

WHEREAS, the W.C.I.N.D. is presently pursuing permits to improve conditions in several navigable waterways on behalf of Sarasota County and continues to support similar efforts by all member counties of the District; and

WHEREAS, the W.C.I.N.D. and the Florida Sea Grant college program are desirous of a formalized working relationship with the F.D.E.P., enabling these entities to provide a coordinated, regional level of public service that also strives for resource sustainability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT, A MULTI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, THAT:

1. The W.C.I.N.D. requests the F.D.E.P. enter into a Memorandum of Agreement involving the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, The Florida Sea Grant College Program and The West Coast Inland Navigation District relating to A Regional Waterway Management System.
2. That the said Memorandum of Agreement be signed by the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of the F.D.E.P. indicating that the District's initiative is strongly supported at the highest level of the Department.
3. With the formal endorsement of the F.D.E.P., W.C.I.N.D. will continue to develop regional and standardized databases relative to waterway management.

Mr. Listowski stated that this Resolution was approved by the W.C.I.N.D. Board at the September 12, 1997 meeting and signed by Chairman Joe McClash and Counsel Philip E. Perrey. The Resolution will be taken by Commissioner O'Neil on September 26, 1997 to a meeting with the F.D.E.P. in Tallahassee.

Additionally it is suggested at staff level each county pass a similar Resolution which is simpler in content. Mr. Listowski read the draft Resolution into the record.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE SARASOTA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING EFFORTS BY THE WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT RELATIVE TO A REGIONAL WATERWAY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM APPROACH AND ASSOCIATED PERMITTING AND PLANNING ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the West Coast Inland Navigation District is developing a cooperative and collaborative database involving the waters of the District; and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Sea Grant Program is providing scientific/technical data to this effort including a thorough and precise analysis of conditions required by vessels currently present and using canals/waterbodies/channelways; and

WHEREAS, Public concern regarding deteriorating conditions of area waterways and impacts on natural resources has driven the process of developing new strategies to ensure sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the West Coast Inland Navigation District is requesting the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to participate in a Memorandum of Agreement that will result in meaningful improvements to the permitting and resource management processes for District member counties in southwest Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY OF SARASOTA OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, THAT:

1. Sarasota County respectfully requests that the scientifically derived databases being developed cooperatively by the Florida Sea Grant College Program and the W.C.I.N.D., be acknowledged by F.D.E.P. as important information that should be incorporated into the agency permit review process.
2. The suggested Memorandum of Agreement involving the F.D.E.P., Florida Sea Grant, and W.C.I.N.D. proposed for F.D.E.P. signature and implementation, be signed by the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary of the F.D.E.P.

Mr. Listowski said that these Resolutions would be reflective of the desire of over a million people in southwest Florida to have public service relative to waterways.

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Commissioner O'Neil stated that last year Sarasota County signed a contract with the W.C.I.N.D. to have the waterways assessed from the Charlotte County line to the Manatee County line at a cost of something over \$142,000, and that that project was almost completed.

Mr. Listowski reported that Sarasota County waters would be completed in December/January of this year.

Commissioner O'Neil said that he believed that a step forward had been made with W.C.I.N.D. that is important to the tourism and waterways and he hoped this would carry over into the entire regional waterway.

Vice-Chairman Cummings announced that the next Board meeting will be November 14, 1997 at 10:30 in Venice, Fl.

Commissioner McClash and Counsel Philip E. Perrey arrived and apologized for being late. Counsel Perrey stated that if the meeting followed the Agenda as presented, it was done correctly.

Commissioner McClash stated that he wanted to add his vote as an "aye" to the resolution for the adoption for the budget.

Mr. Listowski said that in each Commissioner's packet there was a draft Resolution that could be taken to their respective boards for approval in time for Commissioner O'Neil to present them as indication of regional support in what we are doing at the meeting in Tallahassee on September 26th. That would be in addition to the District Resolution 97-8. He stated we are trying to build a view for the State that this is a strongly sought after position.

There being no further business before the Board, the Vice-Chairman adjourned the Final Budget Hearing at 5:25 p.m.

Joe McClash, Chairman

Jack O'Neil, Secretary

