

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2011 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COMMUNITY HALL
VENICE, FLORIDA**

Commissioners Present:

Ray Judah, Chair
John Chappie, Treasurer
Nora Patterson, Secretary
Robert Skidmore, Vice Chair

Staff Present:

Charles W. Listowski, Executive Director
Philip E. Perrey, Counsel

Chair Ray Judah opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Hall – Venice City Hall, Venice, Florida, and announced that Commissioner Skidmore would be arriving shortly to complete full Board attendance.

Mr. Listowski reported changes to the Consent Agenda with a Manatee County CNIF request for \$140,000 to fund a county waterways work vessel for waterway management projects, and a request from Lee County CNIF for a replacement pump for a Cape Coral fire/rescue vessel.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comments were made.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported on FDEP issues. The District has received NGP authorization from the FDEP for 8 dredging projects in Lee County. The companion ACOE authorization has been more difficult to obtain. Mr. Listowski suggested that federal approval for projects will be more challenging in the future.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS – Mr. Milan Mora, USACOE Project Manager, addressed the Board. He reported that Jacksonville USACOE headquarters staff has met with FDEP administrative staff regarding future project management issues, in light of new state leadership initiatives underway. Changes to the state regulatory process appear likely. Mr. Mora is less certain regarding the federal regulatory process, but environmental issues continue to be of great importance to the administration. Commissioner Patterson made a motion to have Mr. Listowski write a letter to the Governor’s office registering WCIND support for continued state funding for beach preservation projects. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Skidmore, and motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Chappie reported on a recent meeting of Manatee County representatives with Governor Scott to request his support for the Manatee County beach renourishment project. The Board also discussed news reports of a recommendation made to the legislature to preserve approximately \$19 million of the upcoming state budget for beach projects in FY 2012. Mr. Listowski was instructed to adapt language of approved motion to consider the positive news regarding available funds.

Mr. Mora continued to explain that state support may be available for federal port oriented projects in addition to shore protection.

Mr. Mora reported that the dredging schedule for Cut M-5 near Longboat Pass, GIWW east of the point on Anna Maria and the Skyway area in South Pinellas County, is late summer/early fall. Another specialized “hopper dredge” is being constructed due to high demand. This new vessel may be used for the WCIND work.

Mr. Mora discussed Snake Island issues from a shoreline protection perspective. He is working with the City of Venice on strategies associated with the Venice beach project, and a convenient, close small borrow area could be of great benefit to a management regimen for Venice beach. Mr. Listowski will explore a strategy for stabilization of Snake Island inclusive of the interests of all stakeholders.

Mr. Listowski mentioned that Charlotte County has requested information on funding for a reconnaissance study to determine feasibility of making Stump Pass a federally authorized project. Mr. Mora reported that normal Section 107 funding will not be budgeted by the administration, and any funding for this activity would come through the congressional "add" process. Commissioner Patterson then requested the status of funding to improve New Pass. To date, there has been no progress on the initiative to increase the continuing authority funding for improvements to New Pass. Mr. Mora was hopeful that the upcoming Lido Beach renourishment project could use material that has presently shoaled into New Pass channel. This would occur on a five-year cycle.

Mr. Listowski reported on District property in South Venice and a potential hazard to surrounding neighborhoods from the presence of coyotes. He recommended an eradication initiative through the USDA to enhance public safety. After much discussion, the consensus of the Board was to have Mr. Listowski continue to monitor the situation and consult with Sarasota County Natural Resources. Mr. Listowski also reported a scheduled meeting with Mr. David Hobbie, the new Jacksonville deputy engineer.

CONSENT AGENDA – Commissioner Judah requested clarification of the two added CNIF requests. Mr. Listowski gave an explanation for the Manatee County waterways management workboat, and the City of Cape Coral fire/rescue equipment. Motion by Commissioner Patterson to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Skidmore, and motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. Election of Officers – After a brief discussion, Commissioner Patterson suggested that a conventional rotation of Board officers take place for this year. Motions to elect Commissioner Skidmore as Chairman, Commissioner Chappie as Vice Chair, Commissioner Patterson as Treasurer, and Commissioner Judah as Secretary were passed, and adopted unanimously.
2. WCIND Projects - Mr. Listowski reported:
 - Lee County NGP Projects – Approvals from the FDEP.
 - Socioeconomic Artificial Reef Report – The report will be mailed, and indicates tremendous economic value associated to the artificial reef network for member counties.
3. 2010 Audit Report – Mr. Listowski focused on project balances and suggested that the high balances listed in all county project lists may require a renewed focus on moving projects forward. He offered all the technical assistance available in the District to assist the counties. Mr. Listowski suggested that reduction of revenues for FY11-12 budget development may be about -10%. He also reported that the audit reflects no management recommendations, which indicates a positive audit. Motion by Commissioner Skidmore to accept the audit, seconded by Commissioner Chappie, and motion passed unanimously.
4. 2011-12 Budget – Preliminary comments by Mr. Listowski included a discussion on decreasing valuations and the ramifications on the budget. Commissioner Skidmore requested information on District budget decreases that are planned. Commissioner Patterson suggested that Mr. Listowski review the possibility of procedural misunderstandings by municipalities that receive funding. Justin McBride, Lee County staff, provided input on Lee County enforcement funding.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS – Commissioner Skidmore requested that Mr. Listowski investigate the possibility of an agreement to allow an Englewood Beach parcel owned by WCIND to be used for additional parking by an adjacent business. Mr. Listowski reported contact from an attorney for the business owner, who promised a written proposal to the District within a week. He also outlined the process of entering into an agreement. Commissioner Judah commented that this process is comprehensive. Commissioner Skidmore also commented on a new device called a “sand raker” for beach cleanup.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Friday, June 10, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at Venice City Hall.