

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2011 BOARD MEETING
VENICE CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VENICE, FLORIDA**

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

Staff Present: Charles W. Listowski, Executive Director
Philip E. Perrey, Counsel

Chair Robert Skidmore opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, Florida.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator, addressed the Board regarding his dissatisfaction with communication between Manatee County and the WCIND staff. He also noted that he has had difficulty understanding the WCIND funding plan for the next five years in Manatee County. After substantive comments by all Board members, the consensus of the Board was to have Mr. Hunzeker and Mr. Listowski work on improving communications. Mr. Hunzeker also announced a Manatee County Board of County Commissioners' workshop to discuss WCIND functions. Mr. Listowski and Mr. Perrey will be part of the presentation.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S COMMENTS –Mr. Listowski reported on a meeting scheduled with DEP administrative staff on September 22, 2011.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' COMMENTS – Mr. Milan Mora, ACOE Project Manager, addressed the Board on the upcoming schedule for the dredging of Cut M-5, a GIWW cut off the shore of the City of Anna Maria and the Sunshine Skyway cut in Pinellas County. The present schedule is for dredging to commence on October 18, 2011 pending all approvals of the new vessel that is under construction. Commissioner Patterson requested information on the disposition of the sand derived from Cut M-5, and it was reported to be relocated off shore of Egmont Key.

CONSENT AGENDA –Motion by Commissioner Judah to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Chappie, and motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. Budget FY2011-2012 – Mr. Listowski introduced Counsel Phil Perrey, with 35 years experience in WCIND administration. Mr. Perrey provided the following historical overview of the District, prior to Mr. Listowski addressing the draft budget for FY2011-2012.

The District was formed in 1947 via Florida Statutes, and had six original member counties. In the late 1970's, Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties left the District and, overtime, each county has received more money than contributed to the District in taxes. This was largely due to the sale of surplus lands, grants, congressional "add" funds, and leases of District lands. Also, over the years, Mr. Perrey and Mr. Listowski have experienced other questions from county governments, typically asking "How is WCIND funding spent?" A historical review of the value of District membership typically answers this question. In 1996, the question of the value of the District to Charlotte County was raised. Mr. Perrey and Mr. Listowski made presentations to the Charlotte County Commission and the County made a decision to continue affiliation with the District. It was shortly after this action that the Stump Pass improvement project was conducted with major support from WCIND in the form of staging area lands and technical support.

Mr. Listowski then introduced the fiscal year 2011-2012 budget and defined certain terms listed to clarify subfunds, programs, etc., such as CNIF.

Mr. Listowski also indicated that the budget is very similar to last year's budget with decreases in administration, maintenance and operations costs, but increases in requests from counties for eligible projects with over \$1 million above the anticipated contributed tax base. Commissioner Patterson questioned whether the money for this increase in county requests comes from District reserves. Mr. Listowski responded affirmatively. Mr. Perrey then reported to the Board on the anticipated process involving the upcoming public hearing. He reviewed certain numbers within the budget, and the associated motion to approve the budget required by State TRIM law.

2. Project Status Report -

Charlotte County – Mr. Listowski reported on a Charlotte County request for assistance on the historic Gasparilla railroad trestle to Boca Grande.

Lee County – Bid openings on the Broadway & Hogue, Intrepid Waters, and Government Cut dredging project will be done on September 28, 2011.

Manatee County – A WCIND workshop will be conducted on September 13, 2011. Also, the bid opening for the Bimini Bay entrance channel project will occur on September 14, 2011.

Sarasota County – The North Jetty tightening at the Venice Inlet is underway.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS – Commissioner Skidmore had two items: 1) Commissioner Skidmore would like for a “WCIND 101” course to be available to county boards in order to acquaint new and existing Board members and staff to WCIND history and function. He would like Mr. Listowski and Mr. Perrey to present this information. Commissioner Chappie indicated it was a valuable idea. 2) Commissioner Skidmore would like to know more about the legislative priorities of the District on an annual basis, both federal and state initiatives. Commissioner Chappie and Commissioner Judah agreed with this approach. Commissioner Patterson would like to focus on the issue of inlet dredging/beach placement projects in a coordinated fashion. In this way, it might be possible for two improvements to be approached in one project. Commissioner Judah agreed with the approach of developing a legislation list.

It was suggested to Mr. Mora to invite the Governor to the dedication of the vessel performing the imminent dredging of the GIWW in Pinellas and Manatee Counties. Commissioner Patterson commented on the budget process and would like to pose questions about the budget, but she will wait until the public hearing.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – The Beach Erosion Control Program requests for the continuing of the Longboat Key inlet management plan (phase 6), the Venice inlet management plan (phase 7), and a regional sand source initiative for all 16 inlets within the District have been submitted. Commissioner Patterson registered support for the initiatives, but wondered about the disposition of sand from the upcoming Cut M-5 ACOE dredging project. Town of Longboat Key Manager Bruce St. Denis explained that the material is going to Egmont Key due to permitting issues that deemed the material unsuitable for Longboat Key beaches.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Friday, September 16, 2011 at 5:01 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Venice City Hall.

FIRST TRIM HEARING ON THE FY2011/2012 BUDGET

Chair Skidmore opened the public hearing at 5:01 p.m. on WCIND's proposed millage rate and tentative budget for FY2011-2012. Chair Skidmore publicly announced the current year rolled back rate is .0417 mill, and the proposed millage rate of .0394 mill.

Mr. Listowski made comments about the fiscal year budget in terms of a -5.52% in revenues that affect minor decreases in various District programs, including administration.

Chair Skidmore opened up the floor for any public comment.

Patrick McCarthy stated that his experience with WCIND indicated a very small millage rate administered in a very frugal administration of funds. He stated that the millage should be increased and that with a small increase in millage, more projects could be undertaken by the District.

Commissioner Judah made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Chappie, and motion passed unanimously.

Chair Skidmore announced the percentage increase in millage over the rolled back rate necessary to fund the tentative budget is -5.52%; and that the percentage increase in property taxes based on the proposed millage rate is -5.52%.

Commissioner Patterson posed two questions: The first question is that she wanted to confirm that .0394 is the current and proposed millage rate. Mr. Listowski confirmed that this was the case. She also had a question on page 4 of the budget and requested an explanation of the undesignated reserves. She also questioned the carryover amounts related to reserves on page 5. Mr. Listowski then explained the CNIF mechanism on page 17.

The Board had no desire to amend the tentative budget. Commissioner Judah moved and Commissioner Chappie seconded the motion to adopt the tentative millage rate for FY2011-2012 of .0394 mill. Motion passes unanimously.

Commissioner Judah moved to adopt the tentative budget for FY2011-2012 with projected funds available of \$18,072,959, total expenditures of \$5,566,183, and reserves of \$12,506,776. Commissioner Chappie seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Skidmore announced that the hearing to finalize the budget and adopt the final millage rate would be held at 5:01 p.m. on Friday, September 16, 2011, in the same room, Venice City Hall – Council Chambers.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Judah, seconded by Commissioner Chappie, and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.