

**WEST COAST INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MARCH 30, 2012 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

Staff Absent: Philip E. Perrey, Counsel

Chair Robert Skidmore opened the meeting at 10:32 a.m. in Council Chambers – Venice City Hall, Venice, Florida. Commissioner Judah arrived at 10:35 a.m. due to traffic congestion.

Mr. Listowski noted that Counsel Perrey was absent from the meeting due to family illness. He also announced that Ms. Sirisha Rayaprolu will be the interim representative to the Board from the USACOE due to Mr. Milan Mora’s deployment to Afghanistan. Ms. Rayaprolu was not available for today’s meeting due to a schedule conflict. It is hoped she will attend the next meeting. Commissioner Skidmore expressed appreciation for Mr. Mora’s service with best wishes from the Board for a successful deployment.

Commissioner Chappie made an announcement that representatives from Manatee County will address the Board regarding a letter for the Chair’s signature in support of a proposal to the DEP. This proposal would involve a cooperative strategy for inlet management planning at Longboat Pass. There was a motion by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Chappie, to include the discussion of the letter to the DEP as part of the administrative agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S COMMENTS – Mr. Listowski reported that there will be a meeting on April 27, 2012 in Tallahassee to discuss management strategies for Longboat Pass. This meeting is directly related to the aforementioned letter proposal that will be discussed and presented by Manatee County staff.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ COMMENTS –Mr. Listowski received a report from Ms. Rayaprolu indicating that the Jacksonville District is involved in a reorganization of staff and initiatives. In project-related matters, the Cut M-5 dredging, which has been delayed, is scheduled to begin in mid-June 2012. The next initiative will be the permitting involving the “miserable mile” located in Lee County at the interface between the GIWW and the OWW, which connects with the East Coast. Lobbying efforts for funding have resulted in WCIND receiving \$297,000 to accomplish these permitting tasks, as a pre-requisite to dredging improvements to this vital connection.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA –

1. Audit Report for FY2011 – Mr. Listowski reported that the 2011 audit is a basic “clean” audit with no anomalies that required management comment by the auditor. He detailed some features of the report like the reserve budget number, which had increased by approximately \$500,000 compared to last year. He indicated that, historically, the Board maintained approximately a \$1.5 million reserve, but due to various circumstances, including economic issues, we find ourselves with an increased reserve that is approximately \$3.5 million. Commissioner Skidmore commented that the flexibility associated with this kind of reserve would allow WCIND to strategically think about projects that to date have been unfundable. Commissioner Patterson commented that the purpose of a viable reserve to deal with hurricane-like emergencies is very important. She also stressed that some of the projects involving large financial commitment could impact reserve monies very quickly. Projects, such as the Longboat Pass or Venice Inlet management plans or any of the other large coastal projects, would quickly use all of the reserves. She suggested that some discussion about the nature and mechanism of the reserve budget would be helpful. After much discussion, Commissioner Patterson commented that reserve monies should be considered for worthwhile regional projects. Commissioner Skidmore suggested the creation of a “baseline reserve” policy. He also stated that the District operations budget was very small and thereby not a challenge for planning for District operations.

Mr. Listowski also commented that he was proud of the fact that this was the 19th consecutive “clean” audit. Commissioner Judah made a motion to receive the annual audit, seconded by Commissioner Chappie, and motion passed unanimously.

2. Project Status Report –

- a. Lee County – Mr. Listowski reported that there are presently 11 projects underway in Lee County and these projects are in various stages (recently permitted, under construction or about to be advertised for bidding). Government Cut and Intrepid Waters are complete with Broadway/Hogue planned to generate material for beach placement in Lee County. Caloosa Isles, along the Caloosahatchee River, is underway. The Punta Rassa boat ramp channel is scheduled for advertisement.
- b. Charlotte County – The Gasparilla Railroad trestle debris project is nearing completion of the first phase. Mr. Listowski suggests that there is strong reason to believe that the per linear foot cost for removal could be negotiated downward if the contractor on site is allowed to continue. He suggests that the Board associate an additional amount up to \$100,000 to allow for the continuation of the work with a minimum of 100 feet additional debris to be removed. Motion by Commissioner Judah, seconded by Commissioner Chappie to allow up to \$100,000 from reserves for this project of regional significance. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Chappie then requested copies of the project progress reports since Manatee County is exploring railroad trestle issues over the Manatee River.
- c. Sarasota County – Mr. Listowski reported that permits for the Englewood CRA project, involving construction of a fishing pier and boat dock with shore-side amenities, are imminent. He thanked District consultant, Mr. Sam Johnston, for his efforts during this difficult permitting project. Regarding Venice Inlet/Snake Island stabilization project, Mr. Listowski reported that permit documents have been submitted. Commissioner Patterson is aware that the City of Venice may require assistance and explanation of the need for a comp plan consistency letter as part of the permitting documents, and she offered her assistance in this regard.

- d. Manatee County – Mr. Listowski reported on the successful completion of the Bimini Bay/Key Royale channel dredging project and the associated placement of beach quality material near the Anna Maria City fishing pier. He also mentioned that Manatee County has requested assistance on other Anna Maria projects, and that these requests involve three different municipalities. He suggested that working through Commissioner Chappie to develop an inter-local agreement for a “mini regional approach” could result in tremendous public benefit through more cost-effective project management.
3. District Policy Workshop Overview – Regarding the policy workshop scheduled for May 11, Mr. Listowski suggested that an improved policy handbook could be developed that would provide institutional memory for the dynamic decisions that often times have been made by the District Board through history.
4. Election of Officers – Commissioner Patterson made a motion to keep the present slate of WCIND officers the same (Commissioner Skidmore as Chair, Commissioner Chappie as Vice Chair, Commissioner Patterson as Treasurer, and Commissioner Judah as Secretary). Commissioner Chappie seconded the motion, and motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Listowski introduced the addendum to the administrative agenda, Longboat Pass presentation, by Town of Longboat Key and Manatee County staff. Mr. Dave Bullock, Town of Longboat Key City Manager, and Mr. Charlie Hunsicker, Natural Resources Manager for Manatee County, addressed the Board. Mr. Hunsicker presented a chronological analysis of activities that have resulted in a need to collaborate with the FDEP regarding a functional inlet management plan for Longboat Pass. WCIND completed a study in 2008 that provided a foundation for developing a management strategy for Longboat Pass. The Town of Longboat Key and Manatee County have also been involved in a detailed technical study and planning for the Longboat Pass area. The proposal to the WCIND Board would be for a presentation to the FDEP of a coordinated strategy that could be assimilated into the FDEP’s program for management of this inlet regarding all functional aspects. This presentation would be bolstered by a letter signed by the WCIND Chair. There was a motion by Commissioner Chappie, seconded by Commissioner Patterson to allow the draft letter to be signed by Commissioner Skidmore, as Chair, to be presented to the FDEP for consideration. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS’ ITEMS – Commissioner Skidmore revisited the subject of the Boca Grande Tarpon fishing tournaments and associated support from WCIND for education/promotion. Commissioner Judah suggested that Steve Boutelle, Lee County’s Marine Sciences Director, would be able to comment. Mr. Boutelle reported that the tournament organizers reported to him that they were not ready to request funding until the next fiscal year cycle, which would indicate October 2012. After some discussion, Commissioner Judah made a motion to accommodate an eligible request for WCIND funding from Lee County’s CNIF and Charlotte County’s CNIF, in the amount of \$5,000 each, when appropriate. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappie, and motion passed unanimously.

COUNSEL’S REPORT - Mr. Listowski reported on behalf of Mr. Perrey about the recently signed legislation called HB-107 regarding the merger or dissolution of special districts. The preliminary analysis of this legislation indicates that WCIND is considered differently from other special districts because of the fact that the governing board is composed of elected officials, compared to other special districts which have appointed governing boards.

Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Next meeting will be held on Friday, May 11, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Hall at the Venice City Hall.