

Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4 PM, April 10, 2024
Sebastian Inlet District Office
114 Sixth Avenue
Indianapolis, FL 32903

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairman Jenny Lawton Seal, Commissioner Beth Mitchell (Vice Chair), Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer), Commissioner David Barney and Commissioner Lisa Frazier. Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, Contracts & Budget Director David Kershaw, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Legal Counsel Jack Kirschenbaum and Shawn Demers, Stephen Trbovich, (AtkinsRéalis), Marie Yarbrough (AtkinsRéalis), Christine Noll-Rhan (CRI), Bryan Flynn (ESA) and Josh Mills (Jensen Beach resident).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order – Chairman Lawton Seal called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of March 13, 2024. Commissioner Rowland made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Barney seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Under Agenda Item III

Presentations

- A. Presentation of Independent Auditor's Report for Sebastian Inlet District FY 2023 Financial Statements – Christine Noll-Rhan, Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC.
Ms. Noll-Rhan gave an Auditor's Report of the District's Financial Statements for FY 2023, which she described as a "clean, unmodified" audit. District revenues increased \$1.9 million over the previous year. The District's interest also increased by \$528,000 due to moving funds from CDs to Florida Prime. Property tax revenues increased about \$330,000. Expenditures increased \$930,000. The entire FY 2023 report is available on the District's website. The Commission had no questions for Ms. Noll-Rhan. Mr. Gray noted the good work of Mr. Kershaw that has resulted in good audits each year.

- B. Seagrass Monitoring Update — Stephen Trbovich, AtkinsRéalis
Mr. Trbovich gave a PowerPoint presentation focusing on key points in the 2023 seagrass monitoring report. In addition to aerial photography and ground-truthing, Atkins has also begun to include evaluating species composition and density and to look for signs of environmental stress. Seagrass coverage has remained stable for the past few years. The four predominant species are shoal, manatee, Johnson's and paddle grass. Due to unyielding weather and water conditions, Mr. Trbovich said they could not conduct aerial surveys and instead overlaid 2022 seagrass aerials surveys over 2023 Google Earth imagery to determine areas to investigate. He shared images of quadrats and transects conducted in October 2023 that showed the results of ground-level monitoring. Commissioner Frazier asked Mr. Trbovich which species of seagrass manatees prefer, noting that she understood that some species don't provide the nutrition they require. Mr. Trbovich said manatee grass provides the most food. Commissioner Mitchell asked whether certain species are more susceptible to temperature change because it appears that the Johnson's seagrass died first during the cold snap in 2011-2012. Mr. Trbovich said the cold snap had more effect on marine life, including fish kills, but that algal blooms blocked the sunlight that

helped kill seagrasses. Commissioner Barney asked whether boaters on the shoals are impacting seagrass. Mr. Trbovich said he hasn't seen noticeable impact from boaters, but sand transport may be impacting some areas. Overall, seagrass coverage remains about the same as in 2022. The 2023 Sebastian Inlet Seagrass Monitoring report will be made available on the District's website.

Under Agenda Item IV

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Media and Information

No discussion.

B. Executive Director's Reports

1. Update on the 2024/2025 Sebastian Inlet Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Maintenance Project

Ms. Yarbrough gave an update on the geotechnical work completed in advance of the upcoming Sand Trap Dredging and Maintenance Project. Core sampling showed two areas that were silted, which means the dredge template will be truncated and the two locations will not need monitoring. The geotech will help Atkins strategically determine which materials will be pumped straight to the beach and which will be processed at the DMMA. Atkins also conducted a beneficial site visit with Mr. Gray and Sebastian Inlet State Park Manager Ken Torres. The project design is 60 percent complete and Atkins is on schedule to complete the design by June 2024. Commissioner Rowland asked if the targeted material yardage has been determined. Mr. Gray responded that surveys were completed two weeks ago and the number is still being calculated. However, he anticipates 150,000 to 180,000 yards of material will be available.

2. Update on the North Jetty Revetment Improvements Project

Mr. Gray said that the District received all permits, including the USACE permit, necessary to begin phase one of the North Jetty Revetment Improvement Project. He turned the floor over to Mr. Flynn, who said ESA is preparing bid documents for the project. Bidding will be a two-part process that includes an RFQ and project bids. ESA is also working on permit applications for phase 2, which includes installing armor stone under the crib structure, fixing the area under the gate and working on the jetty structure itself. Mr. Barney asked whether the District has a place to store rocks for the project. Mr. Flynn said possibilities include the DMMA or barging in the stones from Fort Pierce or Port Canaveral.

3. Quarterly update on the District's balance sheet

Mr. Kershaw gave a brief overview of the District balance sheet for the quarter. He cited interest rate earnings and the increase in the TRIM rate as contributing to the District's good financial state. District assets are \$17 million or about 21 percent higher than the same time last year. Mr. Kershaw's entire update is available in the recorded meeting minutes.

4. Discussion of Consent Agenda

Mr. Gray reviewed a Consent Agenda item for the Commission's consideration. (Details are found under Item IX).

Under Agenda Item V

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland provided an overview of recent and upcoming public outreach activities, including highlights about the District's most popular social media posts, recent and upcoming presentations. He noted that an

April 1, 2024, social media post reached more than 193,000 Facebook followers, resulting in more than 100 new users of the District's phone app.

Under Agenda Item VI

Park Matters – Sebastian Inlet State Park Manager Ken Torres was not in attendance.

Under Agenda Item VII

Legal Counsel Update — Jack Kirschenbaum, Shawn Demers (Gray Robinson)
Mr. Kirschenbaum had nothing to report.

Under Agenda Item VIII

Public Comment Period
There was no public comment.

Under Agenda Item IX

Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review

No items.

B. Recommended for Approval

1. Work Order No. 2324-011-ESA, Environmental Science Associates DMMA Annual Land Management and Site Engineering\

Mr. Gray said the work order is a continuation of ESA professional engineering and biological support services related to the maintenance of the District's Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA). Services include quarterly nuisance and exotic vegetation treatment and fence maintenance. Mowing activities will be increased so as to help reduce some maintenance in successive years, Mr. Gray said. Commissioner Rowland asked why two mowings cost \$30,000. Mr. Gray said that mobilization of special equipment, including long-reach mowers, and excavation for gopher tortoise relocation contribute to the costs. The total amount of the work order is \$125,235 and will be invoiced on a time-and-materials basis only for actual expended effort.

2. Work Order No. 2324-012-CRI, Carr Riggs Ingram, Audit of Financial Statement for the Period Ending September 30, 2023

Mr. Kershaw said that the work order is for CRI to provide audit services for the fiscal year period ending September 30, 2024. The fee for the audit/tax return services is \$26,000 plus \$4,900, if a single audit is required. Including \$1,450 in necessary software fees, the total cost of the services is \$32,350.

3. Work Order No. 2324-013-ATK, AtkinsRéalis 2024 Flood Tidal Shoal Seagrass Monitoring and Dredging/Sand Placement Biological Monitoring

Mr. Gray said the proposed work order allows for ATK to continue to conduct annual aerial analysis and field monitoring of the seagrasses within the flood tidal shoal and provide permit-required baseline monitoring of seagrass along the inlet channel prior to the 2024/25 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement project. Atkins will also perform maintenance along the hardbottom monitoring transects in Sectors 1 and 2 prior to post-construction monitoring triggered by the beach project. The total amount of the work order is \$63,962.50 and will be invoiced on a time-and-materials basis only for actual expended effort.

4. FDEP Grant Agreement No. 22IR2 – Amendment 2 Sebastian Inlet IMP Implementation

Mr. Gray said the grant amendment adds \$157,500 in funding, making the total grant \$1,012,250. The additional funding is for permit-required post-construction monitoring of the 2020/2021 Truck haul and Beach Placement Project. The amendment also extends the grant expiration to December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Rowland made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Under Item X

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Frazier – Nothing.

Commissioner Barney - Nothing

Commissioner Rowland – Anglers love the District’s new app.

Vice Chair Mitchell – Nothing.

Chairman Lawton Seal – Presented Mr. Kirschenbaum, who is retiring on May 3, 2024, with a proclamation honoring him for his 20 years of legal services to the District.

Under Item XI

Unfinished Business

No Unfinished business.

Under Item XII

New Business

No new business.

Under Item XIII

Adjournment — Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer

Date

 