

Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4:30 PM, March 8, 2023
North Indian River County Library
1001 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian, FL, 32958

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairman Jenny Lawton Seal, Commissioner Beth Mitchell (Vice Chair), Commissioner David Barney and Commissioner Lisa Frazier. Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer) was absent (excused). Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, Contracts & Accounting Manager Dave Kershaw, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Legal Counsel Jack Kirschenbaum, Kenneth Torres (SISP), Sam Cox (SISP), Don Deis, Donna Deis, Susan Shaw (ESA), Marie Yarbrough (Atkins), David Kriebel (Coastal Analytics), Stephen Trbovich (Atkins) and Mackenzie Gray (student).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order –Chairman Lawton Seal called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of February 8, 2023. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. **The motion carried 4-0.**

Under Agenda Item III

Presentations

A. Seagrass Update — Stephen Trbovich

Mr. Trbovich gave a PowerPoint presentation focusing on key points in the 2022 seagrass monitoring report. Aerial surveys and transect surveys show a six-acre decrease in seagrass. All zones except Zone A exhibited a decrease in seagrass coverage. Roughly half of the losses occurred in Zone D, where the water is shallow. However, an acre of seagrass was gained in Zone A. Mr. Trbovich responded to questions from commissioners and recommended continued surveying to track future seagrass loss and growth patterns. Mr. Gray said the final report will be posted on the District's website and shared with other agencies. Mr. Trbovich's entire presentation is in the recorded minutes.

Under Agenda Item IV

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Media and Information
No discussion.

B. Executive Director's Reports

1. Update on the 2022/23 Upland Sand Truck Haul/Beach Placement Project

Mr. Gray reported that the Upland Sand Truck Haul/Beach Placement Project is complete and was completed 15 days early. Mr. Gray lauded the contractor, Rio-Bak, for conducting a relatively seamless project, using quality materials and being responsive to nearby homeowners and the public. Mr. Gray said he is still working with FDEP to seek project funding toward the \$1.35 million project.

2. Discussion on the Sebastian Inlet District Local Funding Initiative Request (Senate) and Appropriations Project Request (House) for the Upcoming FY 2023/24 Legislative Sessions
Mr. Gray said the District requested a \$2 million appropriation for maintenance and safety improvements at the north and south jetty, including redoing the railing, replacing armor stone and other structural challenges due to degradation over the years. The overall project cost is estimated at \$5 million, which includes recent emergency response repairs and north jetty improvements and design work. The District's House sponsor is Representative Robbie Brackett and the Senate sponsor is Senator Debbie Mayfield. The District has high acceptance for the appropriation request. The District's lobbyist has discussed the District's request with Governor DeSantis' staff and is scheduled to discuss the request with the House side of the Appropriations Committee in a week or two. Commissioner Mitchell asked why the District only asked for 40 percent of the cost of the project. Mr. Gray said based on guidance from Lewis Longman and Walker, the District has a higher chance of funding if we provided a greater funding commitment. If the District does receive funding in July, there may be fine tuning in the 2024-25 forecast.

3. Discussion of Consent Agenda

Under Agenda Item V

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland provided an update on recent outreach activities, including a Feb 11 presentation he gave to the Democratic Women's Club of Indian River County, his attendance at the annual Indian River Lagoon Symposium on March 23 and 24, and the spike in the number of people visiting the District's website. In February, the site received more than 42,000 visits.

Under Agenda Item VI

Park Matters – Mr. Torres introduced his new assistant manager, Sam Cox, and said Sebastian Inlet State Park is continuing to make repairs throughout the park. The park is awaiting a permit needed to repair the damaged sidewalk at the south jetty and awaiting the new grates at the north jetty. He also noted that Florida law enforcement officers from various organizations will stage a two-day cleanup on April 26 and 27. Between 60 and 75 divers are expected to participate.

Under Agenda Item VII Legal Counsel Update — Jack Kirschenbaum (Gray Robinson)

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

1. No items.

B. Recommended for Approval

1. FDEP Grant Agreement No. 22IR2 — Amendment 1 Sebastian Inlet IMP Implementation
Mr. Gray said that FDEP has received an additional \$157,000 in fiscal year 2022/23 to assist the District in funding another year of post-construction monitoring of the Truck Haul Beach Placement Project completed in 2021. The Amendment to the grant agreement increases state funding to \$854,750; extends the grant expiration date by a year; updates the grant work plan and the associated Special Audit Requirements.

2. **Interlocal Agreement Between Sebastian Inlet District and the Brevard Mosquito Control District for Acquisition of Non-Beach Compatible Material**
Mr. Gray said the District would like to enter into an interlocal agreement with Brevard County Mosquito Control to remove 9,000 cubic yards of non-beach compatible material from the District's DMMA. Brevard County Mosquito Control would use the material to repair mosquito impoundments. This partnership is estimated to save taxpayers over \$200,000.
3. **One-Year Extension Memorandum of Understanding between Indian River County and Sebastian Inlet District for Coordination of Supplemental Downdrift Nourishment and Related Coastal Activities**
Mr. Gray said the purpose of the agenda item is to extend the MOU between the District and Indian River County until April 1, 2024, to allow the District to compete its Technical Advisory Committee, in which Indian River County is an active participant, and update the Sebastian Inlet Management Plan, which is expected to be completed by 2024. The current MOU is set to expire on April 1, 2023.
4. **Work Order No. 2223-012-LSS, Land and Sea Surveying 2023 March/April Hydrographic Survey**
Mr. Gray said the proposed work order continues the services contract with Land and Sea Surveying, which conducts semi-annual hydrographic beach surveys approximately 30,000 feet north and south of the inlet, as well as the inshore portions of the inlet. The data supports the District's updates to its State of the Inlet Report and permit-required monitoring. The total amount of the work order is \$96,000.
5. **Work Order No. 2223-013-ESA, Environmental Science Associates DMMA Annual Land Management and Site Engineering**
Ms. Shaw gave a presentation on the results of ESA's past year of managing the District's Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA) with a focus on "lessons learned." She provided highlights of monthly inspections, exotic vegetation treatment, mowing challenges, the condition of the DMMA and its surrounding fence, and the status of gopher tortoises burrowing on the site. Mr. Gray said this is ESA's first full year of managing the DMMA after the development of the DMMA Operations and Management Plan. The lessons learned will result in more efficient DMMA management and less use of herbicides. The proposed work order continues ESA's contract with the District. The total amount of the work order is 88,970.

Commissioner Mitchell voted to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion.
The motion carried 4-0.

Under Item X

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Barney – Thanked Mr. Gray for providing him with a recent tour of the District's Dredged Material Management (DMMA).

Vice Chair Mitchell – Praised Mr. Gray for his initiative in seeking a local funding request from the state. She also asked Mr. Gray to introduce his daughter, whose attendance at the meeting was part of a three-day internship in which she was shadowing Mr. Gray and his staff at work.

Commissioner Frazier – Nothing

Commissioner Rowland – Absent. (Excused)

Chairman Lawton Seal – Nothing.

Under Item XI

Unfinished Business

No Unfinished business

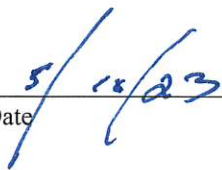
Under Item XII

New Business

Under Item XIII

Adjournment — Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.


Secretary/Treasurer


Date