

Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4 PM, October 11, 2023
Sebastian Inlet District Office
114 Sixth Avenue, Indialantic, 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: SID Executive Director James Gray, SID Contracts & Accounting Manager Dave Kershaw, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Legal Counsel Jack Kirschenbaum, Kendra Bergman (Coastal Connections) Kenneth Torres (SISP) and Sam Cox (SISP).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order – Vice Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the minutes of the regular Commission meeting of September 13, 2023; approval of the minutes of the Tentative Millage and Budget Hearing of September 13, 2023; and approval of the Final Millage and Budget Hearing of September 27, 2023. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. The **motion carried 5-0**.

Under Agenda Item III

There were no presentations.

Under Agenda Item IV

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Media and Information

No discussion.

B. Executive Director's Reports

1. FY 2024/25 FDEP Local Government Funding Request Update

Mr. Gray updated the Commission on the District's annual local government funding requests. The District requested an explanation on how the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) calculated their sand volumes under the enhanced longevity of proximate beach projects category of the funding request. Using an analysis provided by the District, FDEP increased the category by three additional points. Of 80 possible points, the District received a total of 45.92 points under the FY 2024/25 LGFR grant application. FDEP also clarified that the District would receive 100 percent cost-share for placement of sand within state boundaries. In the past, the District only received 50 percent reimbursement. Frazier expressed surprise that the District's new ranking is considered high. Mr. Gray explained that the District was fourth out of nine on the ranking list due to the three point increase the District received from FDEP. The District's elevated ranking is considered exceptionally good, he said.

2. Discussion on new concerns pertaining to North Jetty Repair Project

Mr. Gray showed an October 4, 2023, photo and discussed that the recent northeast surf coupled with the full moon has begun to undermine the area of the north jetty where emergency repairs were completed last year.

Mr. Gray said there is no structural compromise of the walkway, but he is collaborating with engineers to determine the best strategy for repairs. Mr. Barney asked whether the increased funding for beach projects can be used for repairs. Mr. Gray said funding could be used toward repairs next year. He added that FDEP's Resiliency and Beach programs might be able to assist in funding the project. Mr. Gray noted that FDEP intends to include jetty maintenance in the updated Inlet Management Plan. Mr. Gray said the District is reviewing all strategies for cost-share funding for jetty repairs. Vice Chair Mitchell asked when the larger north jetty renovation project will begin. Mr. Gray said construction will likely begin in May or June in 2024. Vice Chair Mitchell asked how the District is addressing the immediate concerns regarding the hole. Mr. Gray said the hole has been roped off and will be filled with Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA) material. Vice Chair Mitchell said she was happy with the District's quick response to last year's blow-out, but that she hopes a more substantial repair is made because the larger project won't begin until summer. Mr. Gray said he is in discussions with the District engineers. Commissioner Rowland said it makes sense to complete temporary repairs as opposed to more permanent repairs that might have to be ripped out when the larger summer project begins. Mr. Gray said structural engineers have suggested that a more permanent solution, such as a seawall, could greatly extend the life of the jetty. He estimated that 150 feet of seawall would likely be needed. Mr. Gray said he will provide an update at the November 8, 2023, meeting.

Vice Chair Mitchell handed the gavel to Chair Lawton Seal, who arrived at 4:10 PM.

3. 2023-24 Commission Meeting Schedule

Mr. Gray presented the 2023-24 Commission Meeting Schedule, noting that the September 2024 commission and budget meetings have been moved up due to a conflict with the annual Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Conference (FSBPA).

4. Discussion of Consent Agenda

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

Under Agenda Item V

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland updated the commission on recent and upcoming outreach activities, including website visit statistics, promoting the District's 2023 Economic Analysis and the publication of Part Three of the District's fish species series on its website.

Under Agenda Item VI

Park matters — Ken Torres

Mr. Torres said he had nothing new to report as Mr. Gray had already covered his concerns on the north jetty.

Under Agenda Item VII

Legal Counsel Update — Jack Kirschenbaum

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. Summerlin's Marine Construction, LLC Work Order No. 2324-003-Summerlin Channel Marker Repairs
Under the executive director's spending authority, Mr. Gray authorized Summerlin's Marine Construction to repair Sebastian Inlet Channel Marker Green 17. The work order is for \$1,600.

B. Recommended for Approval

1. Work Order No. 2324-04-CCinc., Coastal Connections Inc. FY 23/24 Beach Basket Program – North Shore Project Area
Mr. Gray said after completing the North Shore Stabilization Project last year the District contracted with Coastal Connections, Inc., on an environmental stewardship pilot project that included beach cleanup events and a beach basket program. The program was successful and Mr. Gray recommended the District continue working with CCinc. The total amount of the work order is \$3,420.
2. Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida – Amendment No. 1 – Upland Lands Easements 30257
Mr. Gray said the District has worked for the past year and a half on securing upland and submerged easements within the state park. Amendment No. 1 to Easement No. 30527 amends specific conditions with regard to allowing the relocation of gopher tortoises within the state park. Commissioner Frazier requested that in the future, Mr. Gray provide a copy of the original amendment with strike throughs along with the revised agreement. Mr. Gray offered to provide both versions of the amendment if the Commissioners would prefer to view them and delay the vote. Mr. Barney asked whether the gopher tortoise relocation would impact the planned replacement of the Sebastian Inlet Bridge. He also asked for the expiration date of the revised easement. Mr. Gray said the easement is exclusive to the DMMA and does not affect the bridge project. The easement does not expire until 2060.
3. Work Order No. 2324-005-GovApp – Development of a Sebastian Inlet District app
Mr. Garland said the District became aware of an app tailored to serving special districts. He said the app would enhance the District's existing outreach initiatives, which include a website, feature articles and a presence on social media. The app will include features found on the website, such as the webcam. Mr. Gray added that the District has expanded its outreach program greatly over the past two years and that the app will help continue its growth. Chairman Lawton Seal said she wanted to be sure the app is an app and not simply an extension of the website. She also asked whether the app could be used for educational purposes. Mr. Gray acknowledged Chairman Lawton Seal's concerns and added that the app could possibly be used for an in-kind match for grants, including coastal resiliency grants. Commissioner Barney said the app would be an excellent tool for push notifications, particularly with the significant number of inlet projects on the horizon. Vice Chair Mitchell and Commissioner Frazier asked how an app would be more beneficial than people already using their phone. Mr. Garland said the apps are simpler and more direct than the website. Mr. Gray said the app is an expansion of the District's outreach program but it is also a pilot program that can be modified as the District learns how users are using the app. Commissioner Rowland said he checks the District's webcam and NOAA weather information daily. He said this information on an app would be immensely helpful. Mr. Gray said the societal shift to using the phone as a computer will render the app as a beneficial outreach tool for the District. He said the app could be used to expand the District's

connectivity with other agencies as well. Vice Chair Mitchell said she sees the app and the website as two different tools. She would rather, for example, check the weather on her phone than the District's history, but that there is a need for both. The app should have a narrower scope. Mr. Garland noted that one benefit of the app is that the most popular features can be tracked, unlike the District's website, to quantify the usage of the District online offerings.

Vice Chair Mitchell voted to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Barney seconded the motion.
The motion carried 5-0.

Under Item XI

Commissioner Items

Secretary/Treasurer Rowland – Nothing.
Vice Chairman Mitchell – Nothing.
Commissioner Frazier – Nothing.
Commissioner Barney – Nothing.
Chairman Lawton Seal – Nothing.

Under Item XII

Unfinished Business

No Unfinished business

Under Item XIII

New Business

No new business.

Under Item XIV

Adjournment — Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.



Secretary/Treasurer



Date