

**Sebastian Inlet Tax District**  
Wednesday, September 11, 2019 4:30 p.m.  
Regular Commission Meeting  
Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum  
Vero Beach, Florida

**Minutes**

Present at the meeting were Chairman Jenny Lawton Seal, Commissioners Chris Hendricks, Beth Mitchell, Vice Chairman Michael Rowland. Commissioner Frazier was excused absent. Also in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, Contracts & Accounting Manager Dave Kershaw, Public Information Associate Michelle Malyn, District legal counsel Jack Kirschenbaum, Sebastian Inlet State Park Manager Jennifer Roberts, Kendra Cope (Indian River County) and William Ferrell (North Beach Civic Association).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order – Chairman Lawton Seal called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of August 14, 2019 – Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Under Agenda Item III

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Media and Information – There was no discussion of the contents of the media packet.

B. Executive Director's Reports

1. Post Hurricane Dorian Preliminary Damage Assessment – Mr. Gray reported conducting both a pre- and post-storm assessment at the inlet, and formally presented the detailed report he prepared for the Commissioners (*see attached report*).

The report shows before and after photos, and an analysis of damage incurred;

- 1-At the base of the South Jetty to the southern shoreline (scouring behind the rock armor stones),
- 2-To the North Jetty (scouring at the base on the northern side of the jetty under the walkway and removed/displaced grates),
- 3-Armor stone displacement along the northern shoreline in the mouth of the inlet/base of the N. Jetty,
- 4-and impacts further West along the northern shoreline at the end of Cove Road by the tide pool.

Mr. Gray also included an analysis of the beaches and erosion within the recent project boundaries, R-10-R-17. Across that 2-3 mile stretch of beach into IRC Sector 3, approximate loss of 15,000 cubic yards. Anticipating natural recovery, Mr. Gray does not recommend the Commission take action at this time. However, purchasing, transporting and placing sand would cost an estimated \$375,000.

Mr. Gray noted the upcoming hydrographic survey to include an assessment of whether the dislodged armor stones on the north shoreline in the mouth of the inlet present a navigation hazard.

This was also an ideal opportunity for engineers to conduct a formal structural assessment of the North Jetty as 19 rows of grates had been removed by SISP Rangers in advance of Dorian for safety, and allowing for easy access for Wantman Group to formally assess the structure and provide SID with a report. Wantman Group designed and has since inspected the N. Jetty. Mr. Gray further noted that removing the grates is no easy task, and SISP Park Manager Jennifer Roberts confirmed, hence the reason Mr. Gray reached out to the Commission for approval in proceeding with the formal structural assessment for efficiency.

Mr. Gray further noted his recommendations as part of the report, to include addressing the damage to the northern shoreline by Cove Road possibly in conjunction with the planned, upcoming South shoreline stabilization project. Commissioner Mitchell noted that the area at the end of Cove Road, by the northern

shoreline, is a popular recreational area and frequently used by fisherman. She asked if preserving that would be taken into consideration in repairing the northern shoreline. Mr. Gray indicated it would and referenced wanting to look into living shoreline options. Barring any structural issues identified with the North Jetty, and were the Commissioners to move forward to the north and south shoreline repairs recommended by Mr. Gray, estimated repairs are approximately \$100,000. That is based on a rough estimate of 250 tons of armor stone needed at \$175-\$200/per ton (\$50,000), and design and permitting fees. Total damage assessment currently estimated at \$475,000+ to include north/south shoreline and beaches.

Commissioner Hendricks asked about storm-related data from the wave gauge. Dr. Zarillo will be manually downloading data from the data logger to provide specific wave data to the Commission. During the storm the signal from that ACP wave gauge to the onshore shed was disrupted. Based on buoy data from Canaveral, surge was 1-2 feet, much less than anticipated. Mr. Gray reported having a period of higher tides as the storm moved past, propagating the estimated 10-foot waves onshore. Commissioner Hendricks likened this to the effects of a Cat 1 hurricane and posed the question to fellow Commissioners of how to best position the District for Cat 3+ hurricanes, proactively responding to the trend of storms of greater strength and magnitude. Commissioner Hendricks noted a \$3M reserve and that it may be prudent to bolster District maintained navigational infrastructure to Cat 4 & 5 capabilities.

Later in the meeting, Commissioner Mitchell asked how the buoys, channel markers and navigational equipment had fared. Mr. Gray reported that an assessment still needed to be conducted either as part of the survey or by he and Commissioner Rowland going out in the field. At present, we have not had any reports of down markers, nor notifications from the USCG.

2. Discussion of Consent Agenda –Mr. Gray detailed consent agenda items.

a. Authorized work for Commission Review:

1. Work Order No. 1819-018-WGI-Wantman Group, LLC

Mr. Gray reiterated reaching out to the Commission notifying them of the pending structural engineering assessment of the North and South jetties that took place yesterday, seeking advance approval via email. Additional detail was included in the above Executive Director's report.

b. Recommended for Approval:

1. Work Order No. 1819-016-SEA-Sea Diversified, Inc. – 2019 September/October Hydrographic Survey

Mr. Gray indicated the scope of work and proposal from Sea Diversified, Inc. was included in Commission packets for advance review. Hydrographic surveys are completed twice each year. Sea Diversified, Inc. in one of three surveyors currently under contract with the District. The survey data will be used by Dr. Zarillo and also satisfies our post-monitoring requirements. It will collect data 30,000 feet north and south of the inlet on the beach, as well as in the backwaters and throughout the entire inlet system as is standard. Total cost is \$94,275, and will be invoiced lump-sum. Mr. Gray reported that the District had used Land & Sea Surveying Concepts, Inc. in the past for this work for many years. Land & Sea Surveying Concepts, Inc. relayed to the District they would be unable to conduct the September/October 2019 survey and Sea Diversified was available. Commissioner Mitchell asked if there would be a change in the data collection due to changes in surveyors, and if Dr. Zarillo has been involved in the ongoing discussions. Mr. Gray indicated Dr. Zarillo had been consulted and data would be collected per FDEP specs, noting gaps and some interpolated data in some areas. Commissioner Mitchell asked if there had been any issues previously with FDEP re: the District's survey data. Mr. Gray indicated there had not. Commissioner Mitchell noted the Commission had previously been made aware of data gaps, but that data collection was sophisticated and acceptable to FDEP. She was unaware of any problems with it. Mr. Gray again noted that there are no problems with the District's data from FDEP's standpoint.

2. Work Order No. 1819-017-ESA-Environmental Science Associates-Maintenance of the Sebastian Inlet Dredged Material Management Area

Mr. Gray indicated this work order was for maintenance work in the DMMA to include creating a Nuisance and Exotic Vegetation Management Plan, as the DMMA is vulnerable to wind-blown exotics, and ongoing gopher tortoise identification, excavation and relocation services. ESA has aided the District with vegetation and gopher tortoise management in the DMMA in the past, most recently in connection with the District's 2018-19 Sand Trap Dredging, Channel Maintenance and Sand Bypass project. An optional component of this proposal is material grading and inspection of the stormwater control structures, if deemed necessary to re-direct and control runoff within the DMMA. Total cost is \$29,820, and will be invoiced on a time-and-materials basis. Commissioner Rowland asked what kind of herbicide is being used for vegetation management, is it Glyphosate. Mr. Gray was unaware of the specific herbicide being used, but given we have a State-protected species in the DMMA, he suspected it was not. Commissioner Mitchell indicated she was going to ask the same question, and would it be possible to approve the proposal expressly noting that no Glyphosate be used. Mr. Gray will follow up.

- C. Public Outreach Activities – Mrs. Malyn referred to a summary of activities in the Commission packets, and upcoming community centennial celebration at Sebastian Inlet State Park this Saturday. She further noted ongoing work on the historical coffee table book scheduled for delivery mid-November, and website migration as the major projects on the docket in the short-term.

Under Agenda Item IV

Detailed Budget Discussion-FY 2019-2020

Mr. Gray and Mr. Kershaw noted one amendment since the Commissions' last review of the FY 2019-2020 Budget. An increase in the Summer and Winter Hydrographic Survey line items on 185 and 186 to cover increase in expense associated with the hydrographic surveys by Sea Diversified, Inc. Each line item increased from \$75,000 to \$100,000. Cumulative increase of \$50,000/annual. Construction was decreased by that amount so no cumulative increase in overall budget.

Under Agenda Item V

Park Matters – Jennifer Roberts, SISP Park Manager

Mrs. Roberts detailed Hurricane Dorian damage under the Park's purview. On the northside, northern-most boardwalk with two restrooms and walkway to the beach, the end of the stairs on the beach were damaged and are currently closed for repair. Mrs. Roberts indicated some beach erosion on northside of Park and specifically seems like waves came into that pocket at the base of the North Jetty. It accumulated significant debris and there was noted scouring underneath the N. Jetty concrete walkway/base. Mrs. Roberts noted a good number of sea turtle eggs in the debris too. Mrs. Roberts reported that the North Jetty did lose 8 grates, despite the fact that SISP Rangers had removed the first 19 rows of grates (Eastern most tip). SISP has material already in shop, and spoke with the contractor who handled grate removal and installation for the District in the past - American Fence. American Fence will be reinstalling the removed grates and repairing a piece of angle iron that needs to be reattached. Mrs. Roberts hopes the North Jetty will be opened in the next few days. Because of the scouring by the South Jetty that Mr. Gray referenced, the sidewalk there was undermined, but repairs have started and the area is roped off with an OPEN South Jetty.

Mrs. Roberts noted that the Park is all set for Sebastian Inlet District Centennial Celebration and community event this weekend, cleaned up and freshly mowed, and that her staff are looking forward to it.

She also noted that they are still seeing sea turtle nesting and current nest counts are as follows; 71 Loggerhead, 659 Greens and 4 Leatherback. No crawls in last two days, however, on the Saturday following Hurricane Dorian there were almost 40 crawls.

Under Agenda Item VI

Legal Counsel Update – Nothing at this time.

Under Agenda Item VII

Public Comment Period – Nothing at this time.

Under Agenda Item VIII

Consent Agenda – Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Rowland seconded.

**Motion carried 4-0.**

Under Agenda Item IX

Commissioner Items – None noted.

Under Agenda Item X

Unfinished Business – Nothing at this time.

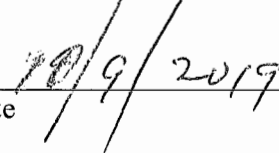
Under Agenda Item XI

New Business – Nothing at this time.

Under Agenda Item XII

Adjournment – Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

  
Secretary/Treasurer

  
Date