

Sebastian Inlet Tax District
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 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, Vice Chairman Michael Rowland, Commissioner Beth Mitchell, Commissioner Lisa Frazier and Commissioner Chris Hendricks. Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, Contracts & Accounting Manager Dave Kershaw, SID Legal Counsel Jack Kirschenbaum, Pete Seidle (ATM), Eric Charest (Indian River County) and Jennifer Roberts (SISP).

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 December 9, 2020. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. The **motion carried 5-0**.

Under Agenda Item III

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Executive Director's Reports:

1. Update on 2020/21 Sediment Bypassing Project

Mr. Gray directed the Commission to the agenda package summary noting that the contractor (Phillips & Jordan—P&J) has excavated approximately 28,000 cy of non-desirable, non-beach compatible material from DMMA. This material is being staged in the DMMA area parking lot and will be used by the Park. Also, 22,000 cy of the 30,000 cy of material to be screened has been processed to remove rock nodules. Currently, P&J is screening approximately 700 cy per day and trucking an average of 1,700 cy of beach quality sand to the beach daily, placing it above mean high water. Screening should finish in a week or so and full project completion is now estimated to be the first week of March. Mr. Gray reminded the Commission that sand hauling began on January 4th with P&J working south to north and covering about 2,000 feet per day, skipping the homes where no easement was obtained. After speaking with homeowners, Mr. Gray reported residents are extremely satisfied with the project. Commissioner Mitchell asked how much sand is going to the beach and Mr. Gray responded that the estimate is now for 45-to-50 thousand cy to be placed. Both Mr. Seidle and park manager Roberts commented on the cooperativeness and professionalism of P&J. Mr. Gray mentioned that Environmental Science Associates (ESA) has installed the Dig Defense gopher tortoise (GT) barrier completely around the DMMA; the effectiveness of it will be monitored going forward. Under the FWC permit 20 GTs have been relocated. The District is considering installing temporary parking stops at the DMMA gate to prevent GT entry. Commissioner Frazier asked about the Management Plan for the DMMA to which Mr. Gray responded ESA is on site during the truck haul project, observing the operations and continuing the deployment of the plan.

2. Update on the Sebastian Inlet State Park Easements

Mr. Gray noted that the state has received and is reviewing the recently completed mean-high-water line surveys required for the separate upland equipment shed and submerged ADCP state land areas. After discussing the matter with the District's consultant, Coastal Systems International, Mr. Gray believes the 15 easements should be issued in six weeks or so, allowing the district to move forward on other projects such as shoreline stabilization.;

3. Review of the Tentative 2021 Commission Meeting Schedule

Mr. Gray reported that the February and March meetings are confirmed for the Grant Community Center and the Fishing Museum respectively. Going forward Mr. Gray is looking at alternate Brevard County locations. Commissioner Mitchell asked Mr. Gray to consider having one meeting this year in the city of Sebastian. Commissioner Frazier also encouraged Mr. Gray to think about moving the Commission meeting locations around to make them more accessible.

4. Update on the District Administrative Support and Public Information Associate Position

Mr. Gray mentioned that an advertisement detailing the open position at the District has been sent to the Job Openings boards at Indeed, the Florida Association of Special Districts, the Florida League of Cities, the Space Coast Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association and the Sebastian Chamber of Commerce as well as being posted to the District website. The position is “open until filled” and the District is targeting to select a candidate shortly. Mr. Gray then invited Indian River County’s Eric Charest to update the Commission on the county’s current beach nourishment project. The County’s project is using sand from their upland mine and is scheduled for completion in April. Chairman Lawton Seal thanked Mr. Charest and then noted that the Commission needed to add to item III. A.5., Discussion of Consent Agenda, to the agenda.

5. Discussion of Consent Agenda

a. Authorized work for Commission review:

1. Land and Sea Surveying

Work Order No. 2021- 007-LSS– Additional Easement Survey

Mr. Gray informed the Commission that he exercised his authorized spending authority to have Land & Sea Surveying complete the additional mean high-water line survey for the state park easement at a cost of \$3,850.00 under the account, Engineering/Survey Consulting—5378-310.

b. Recommended for Approval: none

Under Agenda Item IV

Park Matters – Jennifer Roberts, SISP Park Manager

Ms. Roberts reported the Park is doing repairs and hiring back some staff. In addition, the Park is working on a fund-raising campaign secure a turtle sculpture for the park as part of a long-term interpretive project that includes space for a turtle program, bird panels and historical photos.

Under Agenda Item V

Legal Counsel Update – Jack Kirschenbaum, Gray Robinson & District Legal Counsel

Mr. Kirschenbaum had nothing to report.

Under Agenda Item VI

Public Comment Period

Chairman Lawton Seal opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment.

Under Agenda Item VII–

Consent Agenda—Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Commissioner Mitchell. Seconded by Commissioner Rowland. **Motion carries 5-0.**

Under Agenda Item VIII
Commissioner Items

Commissioner Mitchell – Commissioner Mitchell wished everyone a happy new year and acknowledged Park Manager Robert’s drive and enthusiasm. Ms. Mitchell asked Mr. Gray if he had heard any information about state’s budgeting process and projections for the next legislative session. He mentioned that nothing has been released yet, but that he is in contact with our Tallahassee representation, Lewis Longman & Walker, and reiterated the District’s priority of maintaining beach and inlet funding.

Commissioner Frazier – Commissioner Frazier asked Mr. Gray about the status of the economic study. He reported that he will be undertaking a scope review with the selected consultant shortly and will be looking at the timing of the project. Mr. Gray said the project, if it goes forward at all this year, would be a fourth quarter initiative.

Commissioner Hendricks – Nothing at this time.

Commissioner Rowland – Nothing at this time.

Chairman Lawton Seal – Nothing at this time.

Under Agenda Item IX
Unfinished Business – Nothing at this time.

Under Agenda Item X
New Business– Nothing at this time.

Under Agenda Item XI
Adjournment – Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.


Secretary/Treasurer

3/10/21
Date

