

Sebastian Inlet Tax District
Wednesday, March 10, 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), Kylie Ariotti (Indian River County), Molly Klinepeter (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 February 10, 2021. Commissioner Rowland made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mitchell 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 reported the project that started on January 4, 2021 is fully completed as of February 25, 2021. In total, approximately 60,000 cy of sand was transported from the Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA) to the beach and placed from McClarty Treasure Museum to Ambersand Beach. The beaches are now fully tilled. The recent NE swells have caused some erosion (18-inch escarpment) but is not a major concern even for sea turtle nesting. He mentioned that the DMMA material blended extremely well with the native sand and he deemed the project successful. Commissioner Frazier asked Mr. Gray what the beach areas looked like that did not grant easements to the District. Mr. Gray reported there is a visible gap in the areas without easements and that he will send photos of those areas to the Commissioners.

2. Update on the Sebastian Inlet State Park Easements

Mr. Gray noted that the initiative to renew, consolidate and modify easements, both upland (6) and submerged (8), is being finalized by the Division of State Lands. The offices involved in this effort included Survey & Mapping and Beaches and Parks. He reminded the Commission that the District has asked for the easements to have identical durations, i.e. 50 years. Mr. Gray referred the Commissioners to documents in the agenda package that track the progress of the initiative. Commissioner Frazier asked Mr. Gray about the District's control over the areas where navigation markers are located. He reported that those markers are located within easements the District already possesses.

3. Update on the 2021/2022 FDEP Beach Management Funding Assistance Program

Mr. Gray reported that Florida Department of Environmental Planning received 46 project proposals requesting more than \$70 million in state cost-share funding. There are 10 inlet specific projects asking for \$7.6 million which includes post-construction monitoring expenses. FDEP ranked the

District third out of the inlet proposals received. Mr. Gray reported that with this ranking the District would be in line for some funding of its \$1.4 million proposal (\$700,000 state funding/\$700,000 District funding). The FDEP funding recommendations have gone to the legislature for review and the awardees should be announced by the end of June 2021. Commissioner Mitchell noted that the District has been highly ranked in this process for at least 15 years. Mr. Gray responded that District's maintenance, management plan and data-driven programs result in more highly ranked proposals. Commissioner Mitchell then asked if there were any other inlets studied as well as Sebastian Inlet. Mr. Gray said he was not aware of any inlets studied to the magnitude or duration of the District's inlet.

4. Update on the District Administrative Support and Public Information Associate Position
Mr. Gray informed the Commissioners that a candidate has been selected (Mrs. Adria Carey Perez) and her start date is Monday, March 29, 2021. At the April regular Commission meeting, Mrs. Carey Perez will have an opportunity to meet the Commissioners. Office preparations and onboarding activities are underway for her arrival.

Before the Discussion of the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Lawton Seal asked Indian River County's Eric Charest to update the Commission on the county's current beach nourishment project. Mr. Charest noted that the county is halfway through the project with 160,000 cy placed and a like volume yet to be placed before April 30th. Mr. Charest mentioned that no sea turtles have been observed so far in the project areas.

5. Discussion of Consent Agenda

- a. Authorized Work for Commission Review: none

- b. Recommended for Approval:

1. Change Order No.1–Phillips & Jordan, Inc.—2021 DMMA Sand Excavation and Beach Placement Project
2. Land & Sea Surveying (LSS)
Work Order No. 2021-010-LSS–Land & Sea Surveying 2021 March/April Hydrographic Survey

Mr. Gray summarized the Consent Agenda items recommended for approval. The first item was for Change Order No.1 to the 2021 DMMA Sand Excavation and Beach Placement Project to increase the original project cost (\$948,082.29) by \$178,965.35 which allows for additional sand to the beaches (6,000 cy) and removal of clay and non-compatible material (10,000 cy) from the DMMA. Funding for this Change Order is available under two accounts: 1) 5372-311 (Sand Trap Dredging-Construction Local) for the additional sand placement, and 2) 5371-326 (DMMA Maintenance) for the clay removal. [As an aside Mr. Gray reported that he met with Brevard County Mosquito Control staff who are interested in acquiring the clay material referenced earlier for the County's mosquito impoundments. Mr. Gray will update the Commission on this matter going forward.]

LSS is the District's contracted provider for semi-annual hydrographic surveying. The data collected supports the annual management plan and required monitoring. Funding for the \$94,000.00 project is available under account 5373-310 (Winter Hydrographics).

Under Agenda Item IV

Presentation of the Independent Auditor's Report—FY 2020 Financial Statements—Christine Noll Rhan, CRI. CRI audit partner, Christine Noll Rhan, presented highlights from the fiscal year 2020 audit. She noted that no state single audit was required for the period; that the District's fund level increased \$1.3 million from last year; that revenue and expenses were down for the year; that in the government-wide financial statements zero dollars of

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability was recorded due to the District's low employee count; that all three comments from last year's audit were cleared; and that CRI had one improvement point related to the recording of tax revenue in the proper period. Ms. Noll Rhan concluded her report by mentioning the receipt of the Auditor General's financial condition assessment report on the District. The report benchmarks comparable districts based on their approximate revenues. The report gave the District an overall rating of "Favorable" which Ms. Noll Rhan said was "hard to get". She said most organizations receive an "Inconclusive" rating.

Under Agenda Item V

2020 Seagrass Monitoring Presentation—Don Deis, Atkins

Mr. Deis provided a slide presentation of the seagrass monitoring effort from May/June of 2020. He reported that the two, St. Johns River Water Management District transects on the north and south sides of the inlet have done well year-to-year. Mr. Deis mentioned that there was almost an 80% recovery of the sea grasses on the shoal. He said Zone A is not going to recover due to excessive water erosion while Zone B is almost 100% recovered. Grasses in the other zones have increased and overall there is 6.25 acre gain in the shoals from 2019 to 2020. There were no validated prop scars in 2020. Mr. Deis said there has been a shift in species. Now, post-die off, there is mainly Shoal and Johnson sea grass in the inlet zones and no Manatee grass which is the most robust species. Johnson seagrass, which reproduces asexually, now occupies about 64% of the investigated sites and is considered an important part of the shoal recovery. He reported that the grasses in the shoals are also collecting drift algae which take nutrients from the water column while grasses take nutrients from the sediment. Commissioner Mitchell asked Mr. Deis about the transplantability of the grasses. He responded that Shoal grass is the species most commonly used for transplanting.

Under Agenda Item VI

Park Matters – Jennifer Roberts, SISP Park Manager

Ms. Roberts reported the Park recently power washed the jetties, added new life rings and signage, repaired handrails and replaced missing grates. She mentioned that the park is ready to begin the construction phase of the restroom facilities by the swimming cove area. Turtle monitoring began March 1st and the park is now conducting its daily monitoring. She mentioned that Florida Today's website listed Sebastian Inlet State Park as their "favorite" beach from across Florida. Ms. Roberts then updated the Commission on the parks' turtle statute project. The park is about one-third of the way to its fundraising goal of \$10,000. She reported that marine artist Steve Diossy has agreed to design the turtle which will eventually be placed at the planned turtle museum. Commissioner Mitchell asked about the park's outreach effort on the project. Ms. Roberts responded that publicity/fundraising efforts on this project are under development. Commissioner Rowland asked about the state of clam shell debris on the jetty. She reported that the situation is a lot better than it was in part due to angler education materials on the jetty.

Under Agenda Item VII–

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

Mr. Kirschenbaum had nothing to report.

Under Agenda Item VIII

Public Comment Period

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

Under Agenda Item IX

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

Under Agenda Item X

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Mitchell – Nothing at this time.

Commissioner Frazier – Nothing at this time.

Commissioner Hendricks – Nothing at this time.

Commissioner Rowland – Nothing at this time.

Chairman Lawton Seal – Mrs. Lawton Seal thanked Mr. Kershaw for his work on the audit.

Under Agenda Item XI

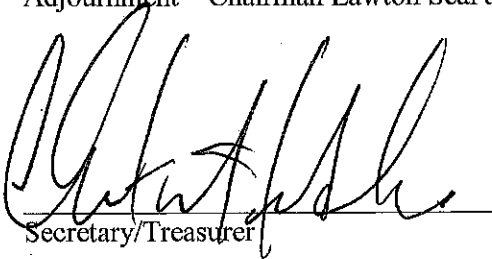
Unfinished Business – Nothing at this time.

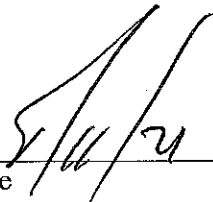
Under Agenda Item XII

New Business– Nothing at this time.

Under Agenda Item XII

Adjournment – Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.


Secretary/Treasurer


Date