

**Minutes of the Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
December 14, 2011
4:00 p.m.**

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Sebastian Inlet District Commissioners was held at the Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum, 14251 n. A-1-A, Vero Beach, FL 32963 on December 14, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Beth Mitchell. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Perry to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2011 meeting. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Executive Director's Reports:

Legislative Update: The District's bill, HB601 that is going through the legislative process to have the word "majority" changed in the charter to "plurality" has made it through its first review by the Community of Military Affairs Sub-Committee and passed unanimously. The Economic Affairs Committee will review it next on January 10, 2012. On the Consent Agenda under Item IX, B-2 is a work order for Lewis, Longman and Walker, FASD Attorneys representing the District for additional hours to track the bill and meet with the individual legislators on its behalf. The session is 90 days long, the bills will go to the Governor and he will sign the bill into law, veto the bill or do nothing which will allow it to become law. The District should have an answer by July 1st.

Update on Coconut Point Project: The District advertised for bids on Dec. 11, 2011 with a mandatory pre-bid meeting on Dec. 19th at the South Beach Community Center, 10:00 a.m. and a trip afterward to the site with the engineers for review.

Channel Realignment Permitting Update: The District has received the permit from the State but the ACOE had more requirements. They wanted to know how the material would be handled once it's dredged. ACOE also required an additional three years of monitoring the seagrass beds. All of the information was put into writing by Atkins and submitted to ACOE. Ms. Dabu with the Corps is now waiting on comments from NOAA and USFW.

November 18th Tour of Manatee Pocket Dredging: Mr. Smithson and Chairman Mitchell visited the dredging site in Martin County that was being conducted by Dickerson, Florida. Dr. Jenkins of ATM and the county engineer for the project, Kathy Fitzpatrick met for a discussion of the project which has been ongoing for over a year. 300,000 – 400,000 c.y. of muck is being removed and there have been no issues. The Martin County engineer and the consulting engineers have been very happy with the contractor.

Sand Trap and Channel Dredging Update: The District executed a contract on Dec. 5th with Dickerson, Florida to begin dredging in January 2012. Dickerson will wrap up the Martin County project and start mobilizing equipment to Sebastian. They have three months to complete the project and should have no trouble doing so. A call was received from DEP stating that \$2 million was ready to be installed into the District's cost share contract. The contract will be presented to the Commissioners at the Jan. 11, 2012 meeting. The contract is for 75% State and 25% Local.

2011 Audit and Hoyman Dobson Merger: The District's independent auditors have merged with a larger, more nationally recognized firm, Carr, Riggs and Ingram. The auditors have started the field work for the annual audit and will return one more time before completing the audit.

Additional Items: The District has received cost sharing checks from the State for the DMMA project for \$139,418.92 and \$30,462.54.

Administrator Smithson stated that the budget was cut for travel and inquired as to which FSBPA Conference the Commissioners were more inclined to go to. Mr. Smithson thought the fall conference, being less technical may be better. Chairman Mitchell stated that the spring conference gave more of a national view of what is taking place with beaches and shores. Mr. Smithson felt that some representation would be advisable but no large groups, given the current state of the economy.

Discussion of Consent Agenda: Two sets of anchor chains were ordered as the anchor for buoy 2A could not be found, the other will be used as back-up. Mr. Smithson would like to order two unmarked buoys, one green can and one red Nunn buoy for back-up. Refurbished buoys are available for about half the cost of new ones from Gilman, all costs are within the Administrator's authority. An addendum to the work order for Carr, Riggs and Ingram under Item IX, A-2 for \$3,500 is because the state cost share exceeded \$500,000, it tripped a single item audit. Item IX, B-1 is for the winter survey, Item IX, B-2 was discussed under Item III, B-1, and item IX, B-3 is for ATM subcontracts for the dredge project. Turbidity monitoring will be done by FIT, turtle nesting monitoring for the entire season will be done by Ecological Associates and shorebird activity monitoring will be done by SEA.

ECOS Undersea Observatories for Fisheries and Public Education – Dr. Grant Gilmore: Dr. Gilmore was one of the earliest pioneers of the Johnson's Sealink Submersible for Harbor Branch. Dr. Gilmore logged more than 350 dives to 3000' in the early 1970's. Dr. Gilmore's presentation consisted of phases of observing and recording fish activity at inlets and the Indian River Lagoon. Fish and Wildlife had agreed to fund an observatory at the Sebastian Inlet but with the funding cuts can no longer do so. Some of the things may still be done in a cost effective way while giving a long term picture of what the fishes are doing, using biological sound detection, acoustic energy and fish spawning calls. To be able to tie something of the sort to the District's web site could be of great interest to researchers as well as the general public. Chairman Mitchell suggested Mr. Smithson check into the cost and what it would entail to place a monitoring system at the inlet. There was a consensus of the Commission to give Mr. Smithson the authority to investigate and bring back a quote to them at the January meeting.

Sector 3 Beach Fill Update: IRC is finalizing the last phase of Sector 3 which entails placing 110,000 c.y. of sand on the beach starting in January. Currently, there are 40,000 c.y. of sand that has been screened and tested and another 15,000 c.y. that is being tested, which puts them about half way to their goal.

Park Matters: There was no update from the Park. Mr. Coulliette was out of town and Mr. Moreno had a conflict.

Legal Counsel Update: There was no legal counsel update.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda: Commissioner Lawton Seal moved to approve the consent agenda as amended under Agenda Item III, B-8. Commissioner Westlake asked that the consent agenda be voted on individually. Under Item IX, A-1 Commissioner Culberson moved to approve, **motion carried 5-0**. Under Item IX,

A-2 Commissioner Westlake moved to approve, **motion carried 5-0**. Under Item IX, B-1 Commissioner Perry moved to approve, **motion carried 5-0**. Under Item IX, B-2 Commissioner Culberson moved to approve, **motion carried 4-1** with Commissioner Westlake dissenting. Under item IX, B-3 Commissioner Westlake moved to approve, **motion carried 5-0**.


Commissioners Reports: Chairman Mitchell congratulated Mr. Smithson, Staff and Consultants on a very productive year.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business: There was no new business.

Adjournment: Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.


Secretary
Sebastian Inlet District Commission


Date Approved