

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 17, 2015

The regular meeting of the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach District was held at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida on Tuesday, February 17, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Benjamin called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Barry Benjamin, Tom Rivers and Mark Helman were in attendance. Chairman Jerry Dixon arrived at 3:10 p.m. Chuck Hennessey was absent. The meeting was also attended by Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper delivered the report. As of January, 2015, \$270 of the \$8,000 committed funds has been spent for City Police overtime. \$950 of the \$15,000 committed funds has been spent for St. Johns County Sheriff overtime. As of January 31, 2015, Fund A has a balance of \$17,850, the Harbor Bank Operating Account has a balance of \$278,025 and the Harbor Bank money market account has a balance of \$1,701,020. Of the \$394,290 expected taxes for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, \$329,195 has been received. As of February 13, 2015, Fund A balance of \$17,850, Harbor Bank Operating Account has a balance of \$274,411, and the Harbor Bank money market account has a balance of \$1,701,020. Total available funds are \$1,993,445, less committed funds of \$618,931. Net funds available are \$1,374,514.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2015 regular meeting, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Benjamin. The motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering delivered the engineering report. The channel markers for Salt Run have not been completed. They should be completed by the end of the week. An invoice will be issued by the contractor after the markers have been installed. Commissioner Helman asked about the condition of marker 6. Jim Piggott, City of St. Augustine, said that marker 6 is leaning and the contractor has been notified. The "dangerous jetty" sign is also

missing. Mr. Craig said the contractor will install a new sign and has advised straightening the piling at marker 6 instead of replacing it. Commissioner Benjamin said the District has discretionary funds to pay for replacing the piling and the marker.

A motion by Commissioner Benjamin, seconded by Commissioner Helman, to authorize Taylor Engineering to replace the broken piling at marker 6, was unanimously passed.

Mr. Craig then discussed the meeting on January 15, 2015 held by St. Johns County to discuss current renourishment issues. Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, St. Johns County and the Florida Inland Navigation District met with Commissioner Rivers and members of the public. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection did not send a representative to the meeting. Participants discussed the status of renourishment plans for areas north of the inlet and the Summer Haven River restoration. One of the goals of the meeting was to determine if there is federal interest in these areas. ACOE has adopted a new policy that any local program is required to take no more than 3 years, cost no more than \$3,000,000 and have no more than three phases of review, all in an effort to expedite local projects.

Participants were concerned whether beach renourishment plans would include utilizing all available dredge sites. They also discussed the St. Augustine Beach and pier. Depending on funding, the goal is to redesign the renourishment project to reduce volume and cost. There is federal funding available for emergency dredging this year, if necessary. The county is working with DEP to get a permit to place sand north of the inlet and will look at what steps need to be taken. Mr. Craig said ACOE will need to have a permit before work can be done on the north beaches as well as additional parking to help with public access. Commissioner Rivers said everyone present at the meeting was made aware of the various problems and understood the issues.

In response to questions by Chairman Dixon, Mr. Craig said that some entity needs to take responsibility and sponsor the permit. Commissioner Helman said he thought the county should obtain the permit and asked if anyone has asked the county its plans.

Linda Chambliss and Ervin Bullock of the South Ponte Vedra Beach Homeowner's Association said they met separately with the county to discuss options for moving forward with the beaches north of the inlet. They said the next step is to get a permit for placing sand on the north beaches. They said it will take 1-2 years to obtain a permit at a cost of about \$120,000. They said they believe the IMP makes the District responsible for obtaining the permit. They asked the District to sponsor, and possibly participate with the county in funding, the permit.

Chairman Dixon said the county is the sponsor for all beach projects in the south. The only permit the District has sponsored is the Summer Haven River restoration. The District met with the county early in the process because the county was to be the sponsor but backed out and the District took over. On the north beach issue, FDEP and the county did all the negotiations and did not include the District. He does not think the District should undertake sponsorship of the project, although he has no problem with the District contributing to it. Ms. Chambliss said the permit is just the beginning of the project and will make it possible.

Chairman Dixon said dredging the inlet would never happen if it was the District's responsibility as the District does not receive enough revenue per year to do the work. If money or modification of the permit to allow sand to go north is required, the District does not have the funds necessary to follow through. He said the county should be the sponsor, and that he did not believe it was legal for the District to be involved in a beach renourishment project.

Commissioner Helman said that if the county will not take the lead, the District should be the sponsor. Mr. Craig said that the sponsor's name will be on the permit. Ms. Chambliss said her organization wants north beaches designated a "spoil site" and said they just need a sponsor. Chairman Dixon said the county negotiated with the north beaches community without including the District. Also, DEP did not include any of the District's recommendations in the IMP. He also said that funding is a problem and that the county created this issue, so it should be their responsibility. Commissioner Rivers said he talked to Press Tompkins, County Engineer and he felt there was a sense of cooperation with the county.

Commissioner Rivers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Helman, to approve the District's sponsorship of the permitting process.

Commissioner Benjamin asked why the county had to be included. Mr. Craig said sponsorship would provide the District an opportunity to come to an agreement with the county and ACOE and is not an obligation to spend money. He said his opinion is the District should be sponsoring the permit.

Ken Krauter, District Consultant, said the District's charter sets out its purpose which is to improve its waterways. He said he thinks dredging relates to improvement of navigable waters but that beach renourishment is probably outside the District's powers.

Commissioner Rivers withdrew his previous motion.

Ms. Chambliss said they will go to the county and ask them to meet with District commissioners. Mr. Craig said he will set up a workshop with the county.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Map Update - Chairman Dixon.

Chairman Dixon said he has talked the cartographer about the inlet map update and hopes to arrange a meeting with the City of St. Augustine regarding the new map. He then distributed copies of a map showing some updated information and asked Commissioners to review it and provide him with any suggestions for additions or changes. The board discussed adding new information on the Bridge of Lions, the Vilano floating dock and the mooring fields. Chairman Dixon said it should also show the modified no-wake zone south of Vilano Beach. The chart for marinas needs to be updated and the information on the reverse side needs to be updated. Chairman Dixon said he will continue to gather information on printing costs and that he plans to meet with the cartographer at the end of

the month.

Commissioner Helman asked if they could put more information about the inlet on the map. He said boaters frequently ask him how to get into the inlet as he knows the location of the buoys. Krauter said the map should keep the phrase “not to be relied upon for navigation” boldly placed.

NEW BUSINESS

B. Contract Renewal - Ken Krauter.

The board reviewed a continuing contract for consultant services between Ken Krauter and the District.

A motion by Commissioner Benjamin, seconded by Commissioner Helman, to accept the contract with Ken Krauter was unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Piggott, City of St. Augustine said that at the last meeting when he brought proposals for dredging projects, he had miscalculated the amount of matching funds requested from the District. He requested the sum of \$187,500 but the correct figure should have been \$200,000. He also discussed the Lincolnville community’s plans to build a kayak park at the end of Eddie Vickers ramp. He asked for the District to match \$10,000 for this project.

A motion by Chairman Dixon, seconded by Commissioner Helman, to approve the three interlocal agreements with the City of St. Augustine totaling \$210,000 for dredging Salt Run and the San Sebastian River and for the Eddie Vickers Kayak Ramp, was unanimously approved.

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reported there is a sailboat grounded near Ponte Vedra beach with the keel exposed. The county court has issued an arrest warrant for the owner. There is also a 30' motor vessel near Crane Park needing repairs and the owner wants to do the repairs while the boat is still in the water. The county court has given the owner 90 days to comply with FWC’s request for removal. There are also two sailboats, one in East Creek and one in the Guana River, for which they are trying to locate owners. There is yet another boat on the eastern shore of the ICW near marker 36 and owned by the Boy Scouts which ran aground in bad weather. The Scouts advised FWC the boat will be removed soon. The Blessing of the Fleet will occur on March 29.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rivers said the District should start to discuss expanding boundaries in order to generate more revenue. Chairman Dixon said they need to find a state senator or congressman who will sponsor a bill in the legislature. On February 25, there will be a

legislative districts meeting, and he said it would be good if a District representative were present. Commissioner Rivers said he will attend and report to the board at the next meeting.

Chairman Dixon said that he was informed that there was an intergovernmental committee meeting soon and asked Commissioner Helman to attend. Commissioner Helman agreed to do so.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next regular meeting will be held on March 17, 2015 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Ken Craig will contact the county to set up a workshop with the District to discuss obtaining permitting for renourishment of the north beaches.
2. Commissioners will provide Chairman Dixon with suggestions for updating the inlet map prior to his meeting with the cartographer at the end of the month.
3. Commissioner Rivers will attend the legislative districts meeting on February 25, 2015 and will report to the board at the next meeting.
4. Commissioner Helman will attend the upcoming intergovernmental committee meeting and report to the board.