

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 22, 2016

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, March 22, 2016.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Mark Helman called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

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

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report to the Board. As of February 29, 2016, the district had spent none of the \$8,000 committed for City Police Law Enforcement overtime, spent \$6,903 of the \$20,000 committed funds for St. Johns County Sheriff Department overtime, nothing spent for derelict boats. The district received \$368,918 in tax income for this year with \$51,596 expected. Net funds available as of February 29, 2016 were \$1,824,643.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Tom Rivers moved to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2016 regular meeting, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Chuck Hennessey. The motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He provided the board with St. Augustine Inlet Buoy Summary Information. The summary details events of USCG maintenance on each inlet buoy for the past decade. Regarding the shoal south of the City Marina, a permit to mark the shoal has been issued by the Coast Guard. It has been forwarded to the ACOE and should be approved within one to two weeks. Taylor is preparing their response to the first request for additional information from DEP and is coordinating this with ACOE. Regarding the Summer Haven River restoration, Taylor has submitted a permit amendment to modify the beach dune template to accommodate more sand.

Mr. Craig then presented a resolution for consideration by the board authorizing an application to FIND for a grant of 17.2% of the entire estimated cost of \$2.9 million for the Summer Haven River Restoration Project. The application was prepared with the assistance of FIND Commissioner Carl Blow.

A motion by Commissioner Helman to approve the resolution and the application for the \$50,000 FIND grant was seconded by Commissioner Hennessey and was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

A) Map Update - Chairman Jerry Dixon

Chairman Dixon said the map revisions are not complete, but that he would have that information available by the next meeting.

B) Three Inter-local Agreements, FIND Applications - Jim Piggott

Jim Piggott, City of St. Augustine, discussed three proposed Inter-local Agreements, which form the basis for this year's request for grants from the Florida Inland Navigation District.

The first is for \$50,000 matching funds from the Port from the \$150,000 FIND grant for dredging Salt Run. The project will be started in December, 2016. Chairman Dixon said he has discussed this project with Mr. Blow and that it is part of the continuing maintenance dredging of Salt Run.

A motion by Commissioner Helman to approve the Inter-local Agreement for \$50,000 of matching funds from the Port for the Salt Run project was seconded by Chairman Dixon and passed unanimously.

The second Inter-local Agreement is for \$10,000 in matching funds from the Port for a FIND grant to install four marker pylons in the shoal south of the City Marina. He has been working with Taylor Engineering on this project.

A motion by Commissioner Helman to approve the Inter-local Agreement for \$10,000 of matching funds from the Port for the installation of pylons on the shoal south of the City Marina was seconded by Commissioner Hennessey, and passed unanimously.

The third Inter-local Agreement is for \$200,000 of matching funds from the Port for the \$400,000 sea wall project. The project will extend the sea wall from the National Guard Headquarters to the Santa Maria restaurant. The sea wall will be raised two feet to prevent flooding on Marine Street. The putting golf course will be raised 18 inches, and more pedestrian access will be created. Chairman Dixon said this project will increase the value of the land and make it more attractive and useful to pedestrians and tourists.

A motion by Commissioner Rivers to approve the Inter-local Agreement for up to \$200,000 of matching funds for the sea wall restoration and extension project was seconded by Commissioner Hennessey and was passed unanimously.

C) Summer Haven River Restoration - Linda Ginn

Linda Ginn, of the Friends of Summerhaven River, thanked the board for their financial and moral support throughout the endeavor to obtain funding for the restoration project. Several members of the FOSHR attended the meeting and extended their thanks and appreciation to the board. Ms. Ginn also thanked the local individuals and groups who contributed time and funds to the project including St. Johns County Parks and Recreation, Marineland, Marine Sea Turtle project, Avid Angler, Merwin Films, Devils Elbow Resort and several others. She read a letter from Trey Zahra, son of Ellis Zahra, which talked about the attributes of the Summer Haven area prior to 2008. Ms. Ginn thanked Taylor Engineering for moving the application through the appropriate channels. She also recognized Henry Dean who was formerly with the water management district and Jose Nunez, both of who recognized the deterioration of water quality caused by the river closure.

Ken Craig said that the \$2.9 million funding awarded by the Florida Legislature this year should cover most of the project. Ellis Zahra and the board discussed how contractors would be paid once the funding is in place. Chairman Dixon suggested the funds be wired to the Port accounts and then wired to Taylor for payment in draws similar to any construction project.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Resolution for 2016 election year - Secretary Kemper.

Secretary Kemper read Resolution 16-01 listing the 2016 election year information for the Supervisor of Elections. Commissioners Hennessey and Rivers advised the Secretary of their address changes and corrections.

A motion by Chairman Dixon to approve Resolution 16-01, with corrections, for submission to the Supervisor of Elections was seconded by Commissioner Hennessey and passed unanimously.

B) DEP Agreement - Commissioners

The commissioners were previously provided with the DEP Agreement for financial assistance for the Summer Haven River Restoration Project, and all had reviewed same.

A motion by Commissioner Rivers to accept the DEP Agreement for financial assistance for Summer Haven River Restoration Project was seconded by Commissioner Helman and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Fricke, St. Augustine Police Department, announced that on March 31, 2016, he will retire. Commander Barry Fox will take over his duties. He said that 110 derelict vessels have been removed from local waterways during his tenure. A 32-foot cabin cruiser called Cracker Jack near Crane Park will be removed and destroyed about April 1. He commended

the board for supporting the derelict boat program which is one of the most successful program in Florida.

FIND Commissioner Carl Blow said a new round of dredging of the ICW near Matanzas Inlet should start in September. About 400,000 cubic yards of sand will be placed on the beach south of Summer Haven. This should not interfere with the restoration project and they are co-ordinating the dredging with Taylor Engineering. He also said the Salt Run pipeline from the St. Augustine Inlet/flood shoal portion of the project will move sand to just north of the usual location on the beach at Anastasia State Park. DEP has agreed to the new location.

Mr. Blow discussed that the National Science Foundation and NERR are considering designating our area as a research area. FIND has requested more information before approving this designation, and may ask the Port for a letter of support.

Regarding FIND grants, the county is going to request a grant to dredge and repair the Butler Boat Ramp. The project will cost about \$120,000 and the grant should cover \$60,000 of that. The city is contracting to replace some of the concrete at the Lighthouse Boat Ramp. Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), said the derelict vessel at Crane Park should be removed before the next port meeting. He said FWC will be holding a derelict vessel training session at St. Augustine Beach to train new officers. He said the Blessing of the Fleet last Sunday was successful with the exception of a slight delay in the procession, which caused boat traffic to halt.

He said there are still several missing marker buoys near local bridges. A contractor has been hired to replace the missing buoys. FWC now has new signage for the no wake zones which will be installed soon.

He discussed the advent of motorized surfboards and paddle boards. They will be treated as vessels by FWC, and will need to have proper registration numbers and safety equipment like other vessels.

In response to a question by Commissioner Hennessey about dune preservation once the Summer Haven River Restoration has been completed, Lt. Zukowski said there will be little, if any, pedestrian traffic and no vehicle traffic on the new dunes. FWC will have natural resource officers cite violators in order to deter traffic and preserve dune integrity.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

All commissioners expressed their satisfaction with the legislature's approval of funding for the Summer Haven River Restoration Project.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next regular meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on April 19, 2016 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

wk/rg/port/minutes-2016/Minutes 3-22-16 meeting