

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 18, 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, October 18, 2016.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dixon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL

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

4. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report for the end of fiscal year 2015-2016. As of September 30, 2016, the District had spent \$104,974 in operating expenses, \$168,341 in committed funds, and \$37,150 in non-committed funds, for a grand total of \$428,026 in the fiscal year. On September 30, the District had total funds on deposit of \$1,867,375 and had collected \$421,786 in net tax income during the year.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Commissioner Helman to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 15, 2016, and the minutes of the first public hearing of September 15, 2016, and the minutes of the final public hearing on October 5, 2016, was seconded by Commissioner Rivers and passed unanimously.

6. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig introduced the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. Mike Trudnak then briefed the board on the status of the Summer Haven River restoration by explaining that Hurricane Matthew had opened another breach of the dune line between the Atlantic Ocean and the Summer Haven River south of the previous breach and within the fill area allowed by the current permit. Mr. Trudnak said St. Johns County and DEP have already given consent to plug the breach and the contractor has begun to stockpile sand for placement when the tide and surf recede enough to do so. The sand will be taken from the permitted

excavation area for the restoration project. In response to questions by Commissioner Helman, Mr. Trudnak said the river behind the dunes is mostly the same as it was before the breach but that it would in-fill with sand if the breach is allowed to remain. He said the contractor will fill the breach based on a time and material schedule similar to the existing restoration project contract. Mr. Craig added that the entire cost of the existing project and the change order needed to repair this latest breach are well within the total of funds already contained in the legislative grant provided for the project.

A motion by Chairman Dixon to approve the change order allowing Turnbull Environmental, Inc. to close the latest breach and pay for it from funds already allocated for the Summer Haven River restoration project was seconded by Commissioner Rivers and passed unanimously.

Mr. Craig added that the grant request for additional funding of \$50,000 for the Summer Haven River restoration has been approved by Florida Inland Navigation District.

He then explained St. Johns County has requested that the sand scheduled to be removed from the St. Augustine Inlet flood shoal be sent to the beaches north of the inlet rather than to Anastasia State Park. Chairman Dixon said he has also written a letter to FIND with the same request. Mr. Craig said one option is the Army Corps of Engineers, which is the permit holder, modifies its permit to move the sand north instead of south. Another option is for the Corps to use the permit now sponsored by St. Johns County to place the sand. He said St. Johns County has already agreed to use its real estate staff to obtain any easements necessary to pipe the sand which is estimated to be two hundred thousand cubic yards in volume.

Mr. Craig said the change in destination from Anastasia State Park to the north beaches will be more expensive and the Corps will not pay the added expense. Because FIND is a co-sponsor of the project and because FIND and the Corps are already parties to a contributed funds agreement, any agency contributing funds for the extra costs will need to transfer the funds to FIND, and FIND will then transfer them to the Corps.

Carl Blow, St. Johns County's representative to FIND, said he obtained permission from the board of FIND to ask the Corps to change the destination of the sand from Anastasia State Park to the north beaches. He said his board had given the request unanimous approval. He said talks are still under way among FIND, the Corps and St. Johns County about perhaps dredging more than was scheduled in order to increase the sand volume removed from the shoal.

In response to questions by Chairman Dixon, Mr. Craig said the initial sand from the Summer Haven River will go to the new breach, then to the beach dune line as previously planned. He said the Corps/FIND project is for Summer Haven and the St. Augustine Inlet flood shoal using one contractor and beginning in November, 2016.

Commissioner Rivers asked Mr. Blow if the north beaches would have to wait for a change in the Corps permit before receiving sand. Mr. Blow said yes, and that changing a federal permit was often delayed by agencies other than the Corps of Engineers because the Corps is required to obtain their approval of any change in its permit. Mr. Blow added that all of the FIND grant requests from St. Johns County have been approved.

7. **OLD BUSINESS** : NONE

8. **NEW BUSINESS**:

Regatta of Lights: Dan Floryan appeared on behalf of the St. Augustine Yacht Club to request \$9,000 for advertising in the Regatta of Lights. Board members discussed the matter and eventually agreed to give the Yacht Club \$7,500.

A motion by Commissioner Rivers to spend \$7,500 for advertising at the upcoming Regatta of Lights was seconded by Chairman Dixon and passed unanimously.

At Mr. Floryan's request, the board chose Commissioner Rivers to be a judge at this year's regatta. Mr. Floryan said his boat at Comache Cove had weathered the recent storm with only minor damage.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**:

Jim Piggott, City of St. Augustine, reported the loss of most docks in the City and many, many vessels during Hurricane Matthew. He said docks at the City Marina received over a million dollars in damage and that 21 vessels had been lost when they broke away from the south mooring field. He said only 4 boats were lost as a result of mooring device failure. He said the pier and docks at the Lighthouse Boat ramp were also heavily damaged. The total damage to city property may exceed 3.5 million dollars and the city is applying for FEMA funds.

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), said his entire command is now devoted to cataloging the description and location of every displaced vessel in the area and placing the information in a database for future use. He said they will categorize damages by hazards to navigation, damaged navigation aids, displaced vessels near water, vessels high and dry, affected land owners, and vessel owners. He said officers have been checking all displaced vessels for crew members who may be aboard, and pets and other animals.

Bing's Landing in Flagler County received heavy damage as well as Devil's Elbow, the City Marina, the Conch House, and Inlet Marine. Many waterfront homes in Summer Island are also in danger of collapse because of undermining by water and wave action. He also noted the presence of a new shoal building up north to south at the mouth of the St. Augustine Inlet. None of the markers at this inlet remain on station at this time.

Mr. Piggott said the City will begin immediately to deal with the new situation of possibly dozens of derelict and unclaimed vessels. He requested the board's assistance in this new expense. Chairman Dixon said the District would continue to support the City just as it has in the past. Mr. Piggot thanked the board for its support.

Carl Blow told the board the Corps of Engineers has begun to survey all inlets affected by Hurricane Matthew beginning with south Florida and moving north. He also said the South

Ponte Vedra/Vilano Beach property owners have agreed to withdraw their objections to the Anastasia State Park renourishment project. This will assure federal funds remain available and that the project will commence as scheduled this Winter.

10. **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:** NONE

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next meeting of the board will be held at 3:00 p.m. on November 15, 2016 in the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Room.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

wk/rg/port/minutes-2016/Minutes 10-18-16 meeting