

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 17, 2018

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, April 17, 2018.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin 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:**

Vice-Chairman Benjamin, and Commissioners Tom Rivers and Mark Helman were in attendance. Chairman Jerry Dixon and Commissioner Way were absent. The meeting was also attended by Mike Trudnak of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel Jim Bedsole and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

4. **SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of March 31, 2018, the District has spent \$6,977 of the funds committed for projects in the fiscal year, and \$77,610 for operating expenses. Special expenses, or non-committed funds, of \$184,020 have been spent, mostly for emergency expenses related to Hurricane Irma. As of that date, the District had total available funds of 1,893,893 in reserve. The District has received tax revenue of \$445,288 in this fiscal year and no more is expected.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The board considered the minutes of the regular meeting of March 20, 2018. Commissioner Rivers said the minutes omitted to mention that he had asked FIND Commissioner Carl Blow to identify the member of the St. Augustine City Commission who suggested the St. Augustine Inlet could be closed. There were no other revisions to the March, 2018 minutes.

A motion by Commissioner Helman to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018 regular meeting, as corrected, was seconded by Vice-Chairman Benjamin and passed unanimously.

6. ENGINEERING REPORT:

Mike Trudnak delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He said the marine contractor had replaced channel Markers 1 and 12 and a slow-speed sign in Salt Run. Also, he presented the board with Change Order Number 6 for the Summer Haven River Restoration project for the final contractor cost for site restoration totaling \$92,250.00.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Benjamin to approve Change Order Number 6 for \$92,250.00 was seconded by Commissioner Rivers and passed unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion regarding renewal of FASD membership - Commissioner Rivers

Commissioner Rivers discussed the benefits of the District becoming a member of the Florida Association of Special Districts.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Benjamin to join the Florida Association of Special Districts at an annual expense of \$250.00 was seconded by Commissioner Helman and passed unanimously.

9. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

Jim Piggott, Director of General Services, City of St. Augustine, reported the Lighthouse Boat Ramp is undergoing repair which should be completed by June. City workers have located two more floating dock sections from Hurricane Irma and will secure and remove them. Repair to the City Marina's docks has begun. The docks will be constructed off-site. He said city commissioners are all very appreciative of the District and its activities in support of marine projects throughout the county.

Jason Hair, project engineer for the Corps of Engineers, discussed the possibility of repairing the groin on the north side of St. Augustine Inlet. He said the sand-tight groin built in the 1940s has gradually become more porous over the decades and now allows a great deal of sand to leak through onto Porpoise Point. However, he said the Corps is reluctant to repair the groin because Porpoise Point has experienced such a huge loss of sand due to hurricanes in the last two seasons. He said the loss of sand on beaches to the north of the inlet has also played a role in diminishing the amount of sand migrating onto Porpoise Point and has exacerbated the erosion problem as have new wave patterns generated by shifts in local shoals. He said the St. Augustine Beach renourishment project will be completed by June and will result in almost 800,000 cubic yards of sand moving mostly from the ebb shoal to St. Augustine Beach. He said a renourishment project is also planned for a three-mile stretch of Vilano Beach but is still in the planning stages. He said the 1.3 million yards of sand necessary for that project will be taken mainly from the ebb shoal. In response to questions from Commissioner Helman, Mr. Hair said recent storms have diminished the amount of

sand flowing south into the inlet, and reiterated the Corps is reluctant to tighten the groin because it could cause more erosion along Porpoise Point.

Chairman Dixon arrived at this point in the meeting.

Commissioner Carl Blow, St. Johns County's member of the Florida Inland Navigation District, pointed out that the plans of the Corps to renourish the three-mile area north of the inlet are separate from plans by the county to maintain the north beaches. The county hopes to obtain the approval of oceanfront owners to levy a special tax for the benefit of beach maintenance and renourishment, but such a measure depends on the consent of an adequate number of those property owners who will bear the tax burden.

Corporal Josh Underwood, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit, reported his agency spent 128 man-hours on the water last month, fielded 52 calls, issued 2 citations and 6 warnings, found one new derelict vessel, inspected 46 vessels for waste disposal equipment and cited 3 violators.

Chris Pacetti, St. Augustine Fire Department, said his agency has taken delivery of a new fireboat and has already used it to respond to 13 calls for service in the past month.

FIND Commissioner Carl Blow said the regular meeting of FIND's board will be in Flagler County this month and invited everyone to attend the informal gathering at Bing's Landing in the Hammock on April 19.

In response to questions from Commissioner Helman, Mr. Blow said a large amount of concrete for artificial reefs remains in storage and that little has been deposited offshore in the last 2 years because of hurricanes and bad weather. He said he and Commissioner Rivers attended a recent St. Augustine City Commission meeting where a FIND grant was ceremonially awarded. He said some members of the city commission were unaware of the District's status as the local sponsor of St. Augustine Inlet, but they all know now. He said the district has contributed \$1.6 million to the city in the past decade for matching funds for FIND grants to conduct local marine projects.

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), said his unit has received a refurbished 28 foot Boston Whaler with twin 300 horsepower Suzuki engines. He mentioned the shipwreck artifact which washed ashore in Guana Park is causing parking problems as people visit the relic and park along A1A on private property.

He said boating activity is up with the warmer weather and so is the number of boating mishaps. A recent one involved two underage operators of jet skis who were injured jumping wakes of large vessels. He said younger operators need boating course certificates or adult supervision and often lack either.

Lt. Zukowski said all of the derelict vessels resulting from Hurricane Irma were removed by the Coast Guard at government expense and are being held in Green Cove Springs awaiting disposal.

Chairman Dixon said the restoration project at Summer Haven is being jeopardized by the county's refusal to repair the Old A1A roadbed which has washed into the Summer Haven River. He said FDOT gave the county \$100,000 to repair the road but the county used the money elsewhere and did nothing with the road. Now, he said, FEMA wants to withhold the money requested to reimburse the District for emergency repairs to the Hurricane Matthew breach, which repairs were requested by the county, because the Legislature has agreed to another grant for the restoration of the river. Mike Trudnak said the FEMA claim, which went to the State from the District, is for damage related to Hurricane Irma, not Hurricane Matthew, and that FEMA has apparently mixed up the two.

Linda Ginn, Friends of the Summer Haven River, said the FEMA claim made through the county is to reimburse the District for the money it spent from the Summer Haven River restoration project funds to repair the breach of Old A1A caused by Hurricane Matthew. She said FEMA money is to reimburse the project and does not represent additional money.

In response to questions from Chairman Dixon and Commissioner Rivers, Jason Hair, ACOE, said the dredge for the current beach project can usually be seen offshore at the borrow site on the ebb shoal, and that sand is pumped onto the beach near 8th Street in St. Augustine Beach and disperses from there by natural wave action.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

11. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS: NONE

12. NEXT MEETING

Vice-Chairman Benjamin announced the next meeting of the board will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, in the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Room.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

wk/rg/port/minutes-2018/Minutes 4-17-18 meeting