

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, November 15, 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, November 15, 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, Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin, Commissioner Tom Rivers, and Commissioner Mark Helman were in attendance. Commissioner Chris Way was 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. As of October 31, 2016, the District had spent none of the funds budgeted for specific committed projects, and \$6,531 had been spent on operating expenses. The District had funds on deposit with the Florida State Board of Administration and with Harbor Bank totaling \$1,861,705. Through November 14, 2016, the District has collected \$7,742 in taxes and \$449,000 more is expected this fiscal year. Ms. Kemper noted that the costs of the Summer Haven River restoration project have already exceed the amount of committed project funds for this year, but will soon be reimbursed by the State.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Commissioner Rivers to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 18, 2016, was seconded by Vice-Chairman Benjamin and passed unanimously.

6. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He began by deferring to Michael Trudnak for an update on the Summer Have River.. Mr. Trudnak reported the contractor for the restoration project had begun emergency repairs on the breach between Summer Haven and Marineland. The contractor is installing large textile tubes

which will be filled with sand to control the flow of water inland from the ocean. The breach will then be repaired and, once that is accomplished, the work on the restoration project will begin. Chairman Dixon said he had sent a letter to DEP authorizing that agency to deal directly with Ken Craig and Michael Trudnak regarding the Summer Haven restoration permit. Chairman Dixon also said FIND has authorized the use of sand from a spoil site called SJ-1 if it is needed to fill the breach caused by Hurricane Matthew.

Mr. Craig then asked the board to approve the release of eighty thousand dollars of the administrative fees set aside for the restoration project to Taylor, which the board unanimously approved.

A motion by Chairman Dixon to approve the release of \$80,000 to Taylor Engineering from funds set aside for the Summer Haven River restoration grant was seconded by Vice-Chairman Benjamin and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Craig then reported Marker R 14 in Salt Run had broken loose and was now tied up near the Lighthouse. A contractor has agreed to re-set the marker for \$1,650.00. Chairman Dixon authorized the work to proceed.

Mr. Craig also reported the South Ponte Vedra-Vilano Beach project is still on hold pending re-activation by the county. Commissioner Helman said the Coast Guard had already repositioned the markers in the St. Augustine Inlet which were lost or moved during Hurricane Matthew.

7. OLD BUSINESS :

Jim Piggott, City of St. Augustine, reported there was about seventy thousand dollars damage to the handrail at the Lighthouse boat ramp and that the City has applied to FEMA for repair money.

The City of St. Augustine sustained about \$1.5 million in damages to the City Marina during the hurricane. The city fire boat was also sunk with a loss of \$52,000 for the boat's engine. The City is now engaged in floating debris removal and Mr. Piggott requested an extra \$10,000 in funding for the debris removal.

A motion by Chairman Dixon to approve a one-time grant of up to \$10,000 for the City of St. Augustine to remove floating debris from local waters was seconded by Commissioner Helman and passed unanimously.

Carl Blow, St. Johns County's representative to the Florida Inland Navigation District, said his agency is about to begin dredging the Intracoastal Waterway at the Matanzas Inlet and St. Augustine Inlet. FIND has requested a permit modification to allow the sand intended for Anastasia State Park to be delivered instead to the severely eroded beaches north of the St. Augustine Inlet. The contractor has agreed to delay mobilization until February, 2017 without penalty, to allow the Corps of Engineers to determine the additional cost of transferring sand north instead of south to the Park. Mr. Blow said the Corps will determine the cost, and advertise for bids. He said more funding and access easements will be needed, and that the South Ponte Vedra/Vilano Beach property owners group is working to facilitate

access with private owners. He said it is uncertain whether this change in the project will be possible, but that the Corps and DEP are surveying all the inlets affected by Hurricane Matthew to determine how much damage was done by the storm. St. Johns County is attempting to obtain emergency funding from FEMA.

In response to a question by Chairman Dixon, Mr. Blow said about 300,000 cubic yards of sand will be taken from the Intracoastal Waterway at Matanzas Inlet and deposited on the beach south of Summer Haven and that the contractor may start there instead of St. Augustine.

Mr. Blow also said FIND is assisting the Port by supplying sand for the Summer Haven breach repair by allowing the use of sand from SJ-1. An interlocal agreement is being prepared for execution by the Port District and FIND. Mr. Blow also suggested the District should apply to FIND for funds for the emergency removal of debris and derelict boats from District waters because of the hazard involved. He said FIND has an emergency fund of \$20,000 per year per county for this purpose.

Commissioner Helman asked if the fund would cover any of the costs involved in changing the sand transfer destination from the State Park to the north beaches. Mr. Blow advised the board to apply for funds because FIND has authority to assist with any project of benefit to the Intracoastal Waterway. Mr. Blow also said he would like to see the beach reinforced where it now touches Highway A1A north of the St. Augustine Inlet.

In response to a question from Commissioner Rivers, Mr. Blow said Volusia, Flagler and Duval Counties also had extensive beach erosion and that many areas of the St. Johns River flooded, as well.

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), reported his staff had completed a list of vessels displaced by the hurricane. He said the list categorized the vessels according to those located on private property, those located near or attached to private property, and those in or near the Intracoastal Waterway which could potentially become hazards to navigation. He said the anchorage south of the 312 bridge had just over a dozen vessels sunken or run aground during Hurricane Matthew.

The Intracoastal Waterway at Summer Island was severely eroded by the hurricane and is receiving additional damage from the wake of larger vessels transiting south for the winter. St. Johns County has been approved to impose a temporary slow speed zone in the area to prevent further damage until repairs can be made.

Lt. Zukowski then questioned why St. Johns County does not have an engineering unit dedicated to coastal protection. He said it is a fortunate coincidence FIND and the Port District were already engaged in the restoration project in the area where the new breach occurred and were able to repair it quickly. Mr. Blow said repairs to the coastal environment are delayed by state and federal regulations. He said local governments are intimidated or prohibited from acting decisively, and simply refrain as a result.

Mr. Blow said the hurricane has also delayed delivery of concrete from the St. Augustine Airport to the Andy King artificial reef. Commissioner Helman asked why an artificial reef

has not been built within three miles of shore. Mr. Blow said building a reef in state waters is more difficult because permits have to be obtained from state agencies as well as federal, and that this takes much longer and could possibly be held up indefinitely. He said protective seawalls have been suggested to save areas of the north beaches but may be prohibited because of turtle preservation regulations.

8. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

10. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman Dixon thanked consultant Ken Krauter for updated materials for the Port Handbook.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next meeting of the board will be held at 3:00 p.m. on December 20, 2016 in the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Room.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

wk/rg/port/minutes-2016/Minutes 11-15-16 meeting