

**Sebastian Inlet District**  
Regular Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, 4 PM, August 9, 2023  
Sebastian Inlet District Office  
114 Sixth Avenue, Indialantic, FL 32903

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairman Jenny Lawton Seal, Commissioner Beth Mitchell (Vice Chair), Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer), Commissioner David Barney and Commissioner Lisa Frazier. Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, Contracts & Accounting Manager Dave Kershaw, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Legal Counsel Shawn L. Demers, Kenneth Torres (SISP), Alex Kinder (SISP), Marie Yarbrough (Atkins) and Bryan Flynn (ESA).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order –Chairman Lawton Seal called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of March 8, 2023. Commissioner Barney made a motion to approve the minutes. Vice Chairman Mitchell seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Under Agenda Item III

There were no presentations.

Under Agenda Item IV

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Media and Information

No discussion.

B. Executive Director's Reports

1. Update on the FDOT Sebastian Inlet Bridge Replacement Project

Mr. Gray presented PowerPoint slides with schematics of FDOT's initial drainage and roadway design for its planned replacement bridge. Mr. Gray said the District has been working closely with FDOT and commenting on the plans. He said FDOT is proposing to install a foundation in the middle of the District's southern revetment, which is not a concern for the District, for a proposed observation pier under the new bridge. FDOT also plans to install temporary trestles that may also impact the District's southern revetment near the proposed bridge. Mr. Gray's main concern is that the project should not impact the large granite toe stones along the inlet side of revetment. Mr. Gray also said that FDOT is proposing a heavy equipment access on the north side of the bridge for future DMMA truck haul projects because FDOT needs the location of the old District access for the new bridge project. Mr. Gray will be meeting with FDOT on August 16 to discuss the project and the District's requests. FDOT is committed to the District as a major project stakeholder, Mr. Gray noted. Commissioner Rowland asked whether bridge construction debris could be used to build artificial reefs offshore. Mr. Gray said the District has discussed the potential uses of the debris with FDOT, but stressed that the reef sites are not owned by the District. Indian River County would be the appropriate agency to work on a reef projects with FDOT.

2. FDEP Grant Funding Summary 2022/23 and Discussion on the FY 2024/25 Local Government Funding Request

Mr. Gray provided an update to the Commission on what the District has received and expects to receive from grants. Currently, the District billed FDEP \$788,746 toward a \$854,750 grant (22IR2) for the 2021/22 DMMA Truck Haul Construction Project and Post Construction

monitoring. The District has also billed FDEP about \$35,000 toward a \$75,000 grant (23IR1) for its 2022/23 Technical Advisory Committee and Inlet Management Plan Update. The District has also added an amendment to seek an additional \$782,500 for reimbursement of FDEP Grant 22IR1. The District is also in the 23IR3 grant agreement process with FDEP to receive \$690,000 for its 2022 Hurricane Ian and Nicole Recovery Project, a 100 percent reimbursement for the District. The District is also pursuing a local government funding request for pre-construction monitoring and engineering for the upcoming sand trap dredging project in 2024-25. Mr. Gray said they are working with FDEP for 100 reimbursement for the \$7.6 million project because it is located within a state park.

3. Discussion on the North Jetty Maintenance Project preliminary design considerations  
Mr. Flynn gave a presentation on the survey and design considerations for the North Jetty Maintenance Project. Accompanied PowerPoint slides, he showed areas of the north jetty where rocks are missing and deterioration has occurred. He described options for fortifying compromised areas with granite stone and stabilizing older slab decking. He responded to numerous questions from commissioners. The project could be done in phases, but Mr. Flynn said he expect the project would take at least two months to complete. Vice Chairman Mitchell said the District needs to be financially mindful of the cost of the \$4.7 million project. She asked whether less urgent portions of the project could be delayed reducing the burden on taxpayers. Mr. Gray said he and his staff have been aware of this project and anticipating it, but have also been addressing more pressing projects, such as the shoreline stabilization project completed last year. He and Mr. Flynn have also been discussing alternative designs to reduce costs. Commissioner Rowland suggested that state or federal resources would share in repair costs if a hurricane damaged the jetty. Commissioner Frazier said it is imperative for the District to move forward on the project. She also said projects can be more cost-effective if not completed in phases. Mr. Gray reiterated that he has tasked engineers to design a scaled-back project that only addresses necessary repairs to keep costs at a minimum.
4. Discussion of Consent Agenda  
Mr. Gray reviewed the two Consent Agenda items for the Commission's consideration.  
(Details are found under Item X)

#### Under Agenda Item V

##### Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland updated the commission on recent and upcoming outreach activities, including completion of a Sea Grant/Florida Friendly Angler online course, the upcoming publication of the second installment of the District's series on inlet fish species, and plans for additional underwater video and photos when water conditions allow.

#### Under Agenda Item VI

##### 2023-24 Second Budget Discussion

Mr. Kershaw said there are two minor line item increases to the proposed 2023/24 budget. The proposed budget is predicated on the proposed millage rate being 0.1240. The Tentative Millage and Budget Hearing is scheduled for September 13, 2023, at the North Indian River County Library in Sebastian. Vice Chairman Mitchell expressed concern over the increased millage rate being attributed to a single project, the North Jetty Maintenance Project. Mr. Gray said that if the project were removed from the proposed budget, it would still have to be completed at a later date. He stressed the need for the District to maintain its five-year project planning, including the state required sand bypassing of 750,000 cubic yard over a 10-year period. After an extended discussion and recognizing the need to fund the North Jetty Maintenance Project, the Commission reached a consensus to allow Mr. Kershaw and Mr. Gray to reduce the estimated total FY 23/24 tax levy by \$700,000 to account for the funding received from FDEP Grant 23IR3. Thereby adjusting the proposed FY 23/24 millage rate from 0.1240 mills to 0.1066 mills.

#### Under Agenda Item VII — Ken Torres

Mr. Torres said the State Park has received the replacement grates for the North jetty but the intense heat has delayed installation. Also, the state closed two beach access points on the south side of the inlet during a safety inspection because vehicles are parking too close to the access areas.

Under Agenda Item VIII Legal Counsel Update — Shawn L. Demers (Gray Robinson)  
Nothing to report.

Under Agenda Item IX  
Public Comment Period  
There was no public comment.

Under Agenda Item X  
Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work For Commission Review  
1. There were no items.

B. Recommended for Approval

1. Recommended Selection of Consultant for RFQ No. 2023001— Continuing Professional Hydrographic Surveying and Mapping Services

Mr. Gray updated the Commissioners on the ongoing selection process to continue Professional Hydrographic Surveying and Mapping Services. He said a selection committee comprised of Dr. Gary Zarillo (Florida Tech), Mr. Garland and himself evaluated and scored received statement of qualifications. Of the seven proposals received, the committee chose Land & Sea Surveying, Morgan & Eklund, Inc., and Olin Hydrographic Solutions as its top three ranked firms. The recommendation is for the Commission to enter negotiations with these firms.

2. FDEP Grant Agreement No. 23IR3 — Sebastian Inlet District 2022 Hurricane Ian and Nicole Recovery Project

Mr. Gray presented the Commission with a recommendation to approve Grant Agreement No. 23IR3, which commits \$690,000 in funding reimbursement to the District for the recently completed 2022/23 Upland Sand Truck Haul and Beach Placement Project.

Vice Chairman Mitchell voted to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion.  
**The motion carried 5-0.**

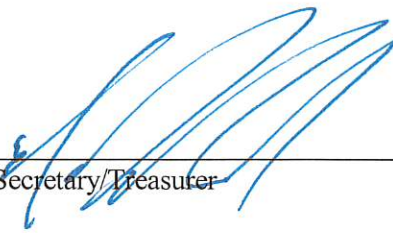
Under Item XI  
Commissioner Items

Vice Chairman Mitchell – Nothing.  
Secretary/Treasurer Rowland – Nothing.  
Commissioner Frazier – Nothing.  
Commissioner Barney – Nothing.  
Chairman Lawton Seal – Nothing.

Under Item XII  
Unfinished Business  
No Unfinished business

Under Item XIII  
New Business  
No new business.

Under Item XIV  
Adjournment — Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

  
Secretary/Treasurer

9/12/23  
Date