

Sebastian Inlet Tax District

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Regular Commission Meeting

Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum

Vero Beach, Florida

Minutes

Present at the meeting were Chairman Jenny Lawton Seal, Vice Chairman Michael Rowland, Commissioner Chris Hendricks, Commissioner Beth Mitchell and Commissioner Lisa Frazier. Also in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, Contracts & Accounting Manager Dave Kershaw, SID Legal Counsel Jack Kirschenbaum, Quintin Bergman (Indian River County), William Ferrell (North Beach Civic Association), and Chris Warn (ESA).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order – Chairman Lawton Seal called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and asked SID Legal Counsel Mr. Kirschenbaum to administer the Oaths of Office to Commissioners Lawton Seal, Mitchell and Rowland. Mr. Kershaw reported that the renewed surety bonds for each of these Commissioners have been purchased and recorded with the Brevard County Clerk of Courts. Upon the introduction of Item I.C (Election of Officers for 2019—2020) by Commissioner Lawton Seal, Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to nominate Commissioner Rowland for chairman. Commissioner Rowland declined the nomination. Commissioner Mitchell then made a motion to carry on with the same slate of current officers—Commissioner Lawton Seal as Chairman, Commissioner Rowland as Vice Chairman and Commissioner Hendricks as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frazier. There being no other nominations put forward, the **motion carried 5-0**.

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of October 14, 2020. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. The **motion carried 5-0**. Per the October minutes, Commissioner Frazier asked Mr. Kirschenbaum to clarify the location requirements for District meetings. Mr. Kirschenbaum reported that the inference from the Charter is that District meetings must be in each county and occur within the confines of the District. An email from Mr. Kirschenbaum related to the topic of meeting location will be forwarded to the Commissioners and made part of the November minutes.

Under Agenda Item III

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Media and Information – Mr. Gray brought to Commission's attention the recent article in 32963 about the upcoming beach project.

B. Executive Director's Reports

1. Update on 2020/21 Sediment Bypassing Project

- a) Beach Easements—Mr. Gray referenced a map of the easements that identified the latest easements received, easements declined and non-responses to the District's request. Mr. Gray reported that 70 easements have been recorded, three are pending in the recording process, and two more are expected to be received. This is equivalent to a 92 percent success rate. He noted that two homeowners have officially declined to provide easements and five homeowners have been unresponsive and the District will skip over them during the project.
- b) Project Schedule—Mr. Gray reported that a permit required Notice to Proceed meeting with DEP on November 10, 2020. DEP issued a formal Notice to Proceed to the District the same

day. An on-site, pre-construction meeting was held on November 17 with all parties to discuss schedule, environmental protection plan, staging, pre/post construction surveys, site prep, and project means and methods. The contractor, Phillips & Jordan (P&J), will partially mobilize in the next two-to-three weeks by bringing in screening equipment, with truck hauling of material to begin by the second week of December. P&J plans to be idle for the Christmas holiday and resume hauling operations in January 2021. Mr. Gray reiterated the project is set for completion non later than April 1, 2021 and that he will continue to provide communications to the North Beach Civic Association and other relevant homeowners regarding the project start and status. Mr. Gray reported that District consultant Environmental Sciences Associates (ESA) is removing gopher tortoises (GT) from the DMMA. Ten were removed on Wednesday, November 18th and the process is planned for completion the following day allowing for mobilization by P&J. Commissioner Mitchell asked where the GTs were to be relocated and Mr. Gray reported that the mitigation area has not been identified yet. Commissioner Rowland asked if GTs have any natural predators. Mr. Gray then mentioned the Commission-approved plans to install better fencing around the DMMA to reduce the necessity for GT relocations.

2. Update on repairs to the Inlet Web cam

Mr. Gray reported that the conduit and cabling for the camera were damaged during Hurricane Teddy. The camera system has now gone through a full retrofit and relocation, via Erdman Video Systems, which is anticipated to add 15-20 years to cable/power supply. Both Mr. Gray and Commissioner Rowland noted how important the web cam system is to the public.

3. Discussion of Consent Agenda

a. Authorized work for Commission review:

i. Work Order No. 2021-002-Loftus (Loftus Electric)

Web cam system repairs—authorized under Executive Director spending authority (\$4,700.00). Replaces cabling and power supply for the web cam system. Funding is budgeted under Account 5375-472 (North Jetty Maintenance and Repair).

ii. Work Order No. 2021-005-Erdman (Erdman Video Systems)

Purchase of a new spool of high-definition cabling—authorized under Executive Director spending authority (\$1,500.00). Replaces damaged cabling for web cam system. Funding is budgeted under Account 5375-472 (North Jetty Maintenance and Repair).

C. Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Gray reported that with reduced staffing levels, the District is doing the best it can to maintain its website and that he hopes to resume a “full” social outreach status in near future. In response to Commissioner Lawton Seal, Mr. Gray assured the Commissioners that he intends to restore the hyperlinks on the agenda for the January meeting.

Under Agenda Item IV

Park Matters – Jennifer Roberts, SISP Park Manager

Due to a conflict Ms. Roberts was unable to attend, but Mr. Gray reported on her behalf that she was pleased with both the north shore stabilization and dune repair projects. Mr. Gray noted that the dune project’s special use permit application has been submitted.

Under Agenda Item V

Legal Counsel Update – Jack Kirschenbaum, Gray Robinson & District Legal Counsel

Mr. Kirschenbaum reported that Mr. Gray had done excellent job obtaining the easements laying a foundation for all future beach projects.

Under Agenda Item VI

Public Comment Period

Chairman Lawton Seal opened the floor to public comment. District resident Willian Ferrell spoke and congratulated the District, especially Mr. Gray, for its work on obtaining the easements which will allow for extended dune repair and help property owners in the county. Commissioner Rowland asked Mr. Ferrell if he knew the motivation behind the remaining homeowners who are withholding their issuance of easements. Mr. Gray said that he has spoken with these parties and he believes they may be open to providing easements under future projects. Mr. Gray mentioned that homeowners that did not provide easements will be skipped during the upcoming dune project and easily accommodated with current construction means and methods with all the sand placed above mean high water.

Under Agenda Item VII–

Consent Agenda—Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Commissioner Mitchell. Seconded by Commissioner Rowland. **Motion carries 5-0.**

Under Agenda Item VIII

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Mitchell – Commissioner Mitchell asked for a report on the state easements. Mr. Gray mentioned the state park easements process has slowed down because of staff turn over with the Consultant and he will provide a detailed report to the Commission at the December meeting. Commissioner Mitchell concluded here remarks by saying she has a renewed focus on “gratitude”, that she appreciated the good work of Mr. Gray and staff and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Frazier – Commissioner Frazier asked about the location of the December meeting. Mr. Gray said that, because the District’s office is not suitable, there are several alternate locations that are under consideration. He will inform the Commissioners as soon as possible. Commissioner Frazier also offered to share the city of Sebastian’s Integrated Pest Management plan for parks and public spaces with the District’s consultants. Commissioner Frazier noted the excellent status of the dunes in Indialantic and Mr. Gray reported that the volume and density of the sand used in Brevard county is much greater.

Commissioner Hendricks – Commissioner Hendricks noted that he received a call from a constituent that apologized for giving the District a “hard time” with the easement request process. He wished everyone a “Happy Thanksgiving”.

Commissioner Rowland – Commissioner Rowland thanked Commissioner Mitchell for honoring him with the Chairman nomination. He also shared the news of his daughter’s graduation from veterinary school.

Chairman Lawton Seal – Commissioner Lawton Seal suggested the Grant Community Center for the December meeting.

Under Agenda Item IX

Unfinished Business – Nothing at this time.

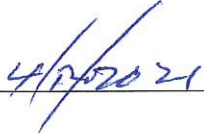
Under Agenda Item X

New Business– Nothing at this time.

Under Agenda Item XI

Adjournment – Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.


Secretary/Treasurer


Date