

Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4:30 PM, July 9, 2025
Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum
9700 South Hwy A1A
Vero Beach, FL 32963

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairman David Barney, Commissioner Lisa Frazier (Vice Chair), Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer) and Commissioner TJ Marshall. Commissioner John Campbell was absent (excused). Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Contracts and Budget Director Stacy Busche, SID Legal Counsel Shawn Demers, Ken Torres (SISP), Alex Kinder (SISP), Jennifer Miller (SISP), Robert Stephen (Friends of St. Sebastian River), Clinton Hodges (WPB), Kyle Horstman (WPB), James Towner (AGD) and Paul Amos (Rossway Swan).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order – Chairman Barney called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

The Commission discussed the minutes of the regular Commission meeting of June 11, 2025 and approved them without changes or corrections.

Under Agenda Item III

Additions and Deletions

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Under Agenda Item IV

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Under Agenda Item V

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Executive Director's Reports

1. June 30, 2025 ribbon-cutting event – 2024/2025 North Jetty Revetment Improvements Project – Phase 1

Mr. Gray invited Mr. Garland to present to the Commission. Mr. Garland gave a slideshow presentation featuring images from the District's June 30 ribbon-cutting event celebrating the completion of the 2024/2025 North Jetty Revetment Improvements Project. The event was well attended and received robust media coverage. An event video he posted on Facebook reached more than 250,000 people and was viewed more than 363,000 times. Commissioner Rowland raised concern about anglers who appeared to target goliath groupers, a protected species once the jetty was reopened that day. Mr. Torres responded that FWC does not have a rule preventing anglers from targeting this species, although there is a rule prohibiting the removal of groupers from the water. Prompted by Chairman Barney, the Commission also discussed the potential for posting signs on the north jetty warning people not to fish from the armor stone. Mr. Torres suggested that SISP and the District collaborate to post warning signs along the jetty. Mr. Gray noted that the webcam is expected to be installed at its new

location in about two weeks. The camera will have improved technology, including time-lapse capabilities.

2. 2025/26 Legislative Funding -- Sebastian Inlet North and South Jetty Maintenance and Safety Improvements Project

Mr. Gray said Governor Desantis signed the 2025/26 State budget, which included a \$1 million funding appropriation for the Sebastian Inlet North and South Jetty Project. The District received support from Senator Grall, Senator Mayfield, Representative Robert Brackett, and District lobbyist Chris Lyon of Lewis, Longman & Walker PA.

Under Agenda Item VI

2025/2026 Draft Budget

Mr. Gray presented a draft budget based on a rolled back millage rate of 0.1555 mills. Staff based the draft budget on \$300,000 on anticipated revenues from Florida Prime, \$3.1 million in anticipated FDEP grant reimbursement funding, and \$2.83 million in Use of Fund Balance monies. The draft budget, as proposed, reflects a 59 percent decrease from the District's 2024/25 budget. Within the General Fund, the proposed budget includes a 9 percent increase in the General Government category due to increases in Legal Counsel fees and Government and Tax Related Fees. The Physical Environment category decreased approximately 86 percent due to the completion of the North Jetty project and partial completion of the Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project. The proposed Project Budget increases funding for Thomas Shoal Investigations (exploring the use of offshore sand for sediment bypassing), the Coconut Point Stabilization Project and tilling downdrift beach where sand placement occurred. Chairman Barney asked about the status of the second and third phases of the North and South Jetty Project. Mr. Gray said the project design is 95 percent complete and permits have been submitted to USACE and the state. Commissioner Marshall asked staff to explain why there is a resolution further in the agenda that has a not-to-exceed millage rate of 0.1628 mills but staff is proposing to use the rolled back rate of 0.1555 mills. Mr. Gray discussed staff intends to propose the Rolled Back Rate but the not-to-exceed rate gives the District flexibility to finalize the budget and report to the Florida TRIM.

Mr. Gray shared a list of proposed projects anticipated for the next five years, including ongoing monitoring sand trap and channel dredging, supplemental truck hauling, south jetty maintenance and north jetty maintenance (phase 2 and 3). No costs have yet been assigned to the projects. Commissioner Frazier asked whether the FDOT bridge replacement project will impact District projects. Mr. Gray said scheduling projects will be challenging. However, he is in constant contact with FDOT so that the District can coordinate its projects during the FDOT project.

Under Agenda Item VII

Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review
There were no items.

B. Recommended for Approval

1. 2025-2026 Not-to-Exceed Millage Rate

Pursuant to the 2025-2026 Budget/TRIM Calendar, during the July meeting Commissioners are required to adopt a resolution on the Not-to-Exceed millage rate for the coming fiscal year. Staff is proposing a Not-To-Exceed millage rate of 0.1628.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Commission approve Resolution 07.09.25.01, adopting a Not-To-Exceed millage rate of 0.1628 for FY 2025/2026.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the proposed 2025-2026 Not-to-Exceed Millage Rate. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 4-0.**

2. Resolution Requesting Funding from State of Florida Beach management Funding Assistance Program – FY 2026/27 Resolution No. 07.09.25.02

Mr. Gray said the resolution is a funding commitment the District is required to make to the state confirming that it has funds available to entirely fund its projects for which it is requesting cost-share funding from the state. The resolution enables FDEP to consider the District's Local Government Funding Request (LGFR) for Fiscal Year 2026/27. For FY 2026/27, staff intends to submit an LGFR to FDEP for Year 2 permit required post construction monitoring of the 2024/25 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project. Chairman Barney read the resolution aloud prior to the vote.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Commission approve Resolution No. 07.09.25.02 and authorize staff to submit the FY 2026/2027 Local Government Funding Requests to FDEP on behalf of the District.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve Resolution No. 07.09.25.02. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 4-0.**

Under Agenda Item VIII

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

There was no public comment.

Under Item IX

Board Vote on Consent Agenda

Commissioner voted on the individual Consent Agenda items during the Consent Agenda portion of the meeting.

Under Agenda Item X

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland said he is working with Cumulus Media to promote the District's website on its radio stations. He also noted that the District has surpassed 10,000 followers on its Facebook page.

Under Agenda Item XI

Park Matters – Ken Torres

Mr. Torres said his staff was excited about the reopening of the north jetty. Park staff have seen an uptick in annual passes holders since the jetty reopened on June 30.

Under Agenda Item XII

Legal Counsel Update – Shawn L. Demers, Gray Robinson

The District has received a response from ATL but he cannot comment further. Discussion will take place at the appropriate time.

Under Agenda Item XIII

Public Comment Period

Mr. Stephen asked about the additional phases of improvements planned for the north jetty. Chairman Barney said there will be significant structural improvements to the north jetty. There was also discussion between Commissioners, SISP staff and Mr. Stephen about the jetty grates and armor stone at the north jetty.

Under Agenda Item IV
Commissioner Items

Chairman Barney — Asked Commissioners to bring to contribute ideas next month for possible inclusion in a proposed Commissioner Orientation Guide. He suggested that staff could aid in assembling the guide. Commissioner Marshall requested Mr. Garland to provide a transcript of the Commissioner Barney's suggested items for the guide prior to the August meeting. This will enable the rest of the Commissioner to bring their individual ideas to the next Commission meeting. All Commissioners expressed their support for the concept of the Orientation Guide.

Vice Chair Frazier— Supports the development of a Commissioners' Orientation Guide

Secretary/Treasurer Rowland — Congratulated staff on the success of the June 30 ribbon-cutting ceremony at the north jetty.

Commissioner Campbell — Absent (Excused).

Commissioner Marshall — Asked whether a sewage spill in Palm Bay impacted the inlet and apologized for being unable to attend the June 30 ribbon-cutting event at the north jetty due to personal reasons.

Under Item XV

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Under Item XVI

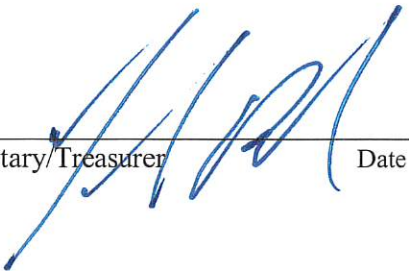
New Business

There was no new business.

Under Item XVII

Adjournment — Chairman Barney adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer



Date

8/27/25