

Sebastian Inlet Tax District
Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.
Regular Commission Meeting
Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum
Vero Beach, Florida

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairwoman Jenny Lawton Seal, Commissioner Beth Mitchell, and Commissioner Chris Hendricks. Vice Chairman Michael Rowland and Commissioner Lisa Frazier were absent (excused). Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, Contracts & Accounting Manager Dave Kershaw, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Legal Counsel Jack Kirschenbaum and Jennifer Roberts (SISP).

Under Agenda Item I

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

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of August 11, 2021. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Hendricks seconded the motion. The **motion carried 3-0**.

Under Agenda Item III

Information and Discussion Agenda

- a. Media and information
No discussion
- b. Executive Director's Reports:
 1. Introduction to Ed Garland, Public Information Associate
Mr. Gray introduced the District's new Public Information Associate, Ed Garland, who started working at Sebastian Inlet District on August 16, 2021. Mr. Garland shared his background as an outreach coordinator at St. Johns River Water Management District from 2000 until arriving at Sebastian Inlet District. Mr. Garland added that he is ramping up social media posts and plans to heighten public awareness about the work and mission of Sebastian Inlet District.
 2. Update on the FDEP 2021 Annual Inlet Report
Mr. Gray explained that the FDEP Annual Inlet Report identifies whether the Sebastian Inlet District is meeting its sand bypassing objectives. In April 2021, FDEP's draft version of the report indicated that the District was meeting about 44 percent of its objective. Mr. Gray stated that through ongoing discussions with the FDEP, the most recent iteration of the report includes the District's partnership with Indian River County on a \$4.6 million renourishment project that include 298,000 cubic yards of sand. The final report, released last week, indicates that the District has met 61.5 percent of its bypassing objective. Mr. Gray said the District is in discussions with DEP to determine whether the Inlet Management Plan could be modified or updated so that it includes more reasonable objectives. Commissioner

Mitchell stated that she is unhappy with FDEP's final number (61.5 percent) and strongly believes that if FDEP took everything into consideration that Sebastian Inlet District has more than met its bypass objective. Commissioner Mitchell pointed to 2004 when the District agreed to meet a goal of 70,000 cubic yards annually. Commissioner Mitchell also thought that FDEP's decision to change the objective to 90,000 cubic yards in 2008 was an arbitrary decision by FDEP, which provided no notice to the District about the change. Commissioner Mitchell said FDEP's actions may have helped create a false perception that the District has not been doing its job for the past 17 years. Mr. Gray said FDEP is aware that the District is looking at the numbers and updating its annual Management Plan and State of the Inlet reports. Commissioner Hendricks said FDEP should have evaluated the new standard between 2008 and 2020 because it would have shown that the District exceeded 61.5 percent. Mr. Gray agreed with Commissioner Hendricks and stated that the District has bypassed approximately 1.1 million cubic yards of sand since 2000.

3. Update on Inlet Management Plan

Due to FDEP's interpretation of bypassing objectives, the FDEP recommended that the District would need to establish a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and identify stakeholders. Indian River County would be a main stakeholder as it receives geographically the material for renourishment. Brevard County would also be a stakeholder. Mr. Bruce has requested to be a technical advisor, but he is not a coastal engineer and should not represent Indian River County. He will be invited to the meetings. Dr. Gary Zarillo has been asked to chair the committee and has accepted. Sebastian Inlet State Park will also be invited to the meeting, as well as the District's legal staff. The TAC would exist for three months to a year, depending on information that is used and is available. There would be money in the District's budget and the District will also seek cost-share funds from FDEP.

4. Discussion of Consent Agenda

Mr. Gray reviewed the four Consent Agenda items for the Commission's approval. (Details are found under item VII).

Under Agenda Item IV

Park Matters — Jennifer Roberts, SISP Park Manager

Mrs. Roberts said that the park is still working on its tide pool restroom construction. The previous weekend was busy due to the Labor Day holiday and the weather was good. Turtle nesting season is winding down, with 1,87 nests documented this season. The turtle statue is currently in a warehouse off U.S. 1 and Mrs. Roberts has been providing ideas to the artist about how it will be displayed at Sebastian Inlet State Park. Commissioner Mitchell asked whether the State Park has been limiting attendance due to COVID-19. Mrs. Roberts responded that there is a lot of misinformation circulating about the park's operating hours and that there have been no attendance reductions.

Under Agenda Item V

Legal Counsel Update — Jack Kirschenbaum, Gray Robinson

Nothing to report.

Under Agenda Item VI

Public Comment Period

No public comments.

Under Agenda Item VII

Consent Agenda

a. Authorized Work for Commission Review

1. Florida Institute of Technology
Work Order No. 1920-006-FIT – No-Cost Extension
The no-cost extension work order will enable Dr. Gary Zarillo (FIT) to install Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP). The project took longer than anticipated due to a delay in receiving permits.
2. Carr Riggs & Ingram
Work Order No. 2021-20-CRI – Amendment, Audit of Financial Statements for period ending September 30, 2021
The extended amendment authorizes Carr Riggs & Ingram to include additional information from the rules of the Auditor General. No additional funds are required for this.

b. Recommended for Approval

1. Work Order No. 2021-021-LSS, Land Sea Surveying, 2021 September/October Hydrographic Survey
On a semi-annual basis, the District surveys the beaches – 30,000 feet north, 30,000 feet south and the interior of the Inlet. This data supports the District's updates to the State of the Inlet report. Funding for the \$94,000 work order is available.
2. Work Order No. 2021-022-LLW, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., 2022-2022 Legislative
This work order authorizes Lewis, Longman & Walker to represent the District during the 2022 Legislative Session. Funding for the \$48,000 work order is available.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda commissioner Hendricks seconded the motion. The **motion carried 3-0**.

Under Agenda Item VIII

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Mitchell — Commissioner said she will be unable to attend the September 22 final millage and budget hearing. She also asked Mr. Gray to rotate the order of the Commissioners under the Commissioner Items so that she wouldn't continue to be the first to speak. Mr. Gray he expects to have a quorum on September 22 so that there will not likely be a need to move the meeting date.

Commissioner Frazier — Absent

Commissioner Hendricks — Nothing to share.

Commissioner Rowland — Absent

Chairwoman Lawton Seal — Nothing to share.

Under Item IX

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

Under Item X

New Business

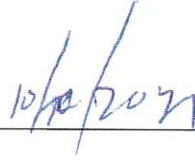
No new business was discussed

Under Item XI

Adjournment — Chairwoman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.



Secretary/Treasurer



Date