

Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4:30 PM, March 12, 2025
North Indian River County Library
1001 Sebastian Blvd.
Sebastian, FL 32958

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairman David Barney, Commissioner Lisa Frazier (Vice Chair), Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer) and Commissioner John Campbell. Commissioner TJ Marshall was absent (excused). Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray (SID), Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland (SID), Legal Counsel Shawn Demers (SID), Dr. Gary Zarillo (Florida Tech), Ken Torres (SISP), Jennifer Miller (SISP), Marie Yarbrough (AtkinsRéalís), Justin Bartusek (AtkinsRéalís), Peter Gaudion (FWC), Eric Charest (IRC), Dustin Vangeison (IRC) and Bob Auwaerter (Indian River Shores resident).

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 February 12, 2025 and approved them without changes or corrections.

Under Agenda Item III

Additions and Deletions

Commissioners did not request any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Under Agenda Item IV

Presentations

2024 Wind, Wave and Weather Presentation, Dr. Gary Zarillo, Florida Tech

Dr. Zarillo gave his annual Wind, Wave and Weather presentation of Sebastian Inlet data collected in 2024. Collected inlet data includes current, current velocity, current length and speed. He also described how the weather station located at the tip of the north jetty records water temperature, water level, air temperature and barometric pressure, wind speed and direction. He also provided publicly accessible data links that offer real-time data information. This year's presentation included data collected by the Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) from October 2021 to May 2024. Mr. Gray said the data collected by the ADCP will help the District improve its understanding of inlet flows, which will be beneficial to the District's Inlet Management Plan and project planning. Dr. Zarillo's entire presentation is in the recorded minutes.

Under Agenda Item V

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Executive Director's Reports

1. Update on the 2024/2025 North Jetty Revetment Improvements Project – Phase 1

Mr. Gray gave a slide show presentation updating the Commission on the North Jetty Improvement Project – Phase 1. A change order approved by the Commission in February will add 22 feet of additional construction to the seawall. The project cost, including the adjustment for the change order, is approximately \$2.2 million and the anticipated completion is July or August. He shared “before and after” photos of the project’s progress. The contractor will pour the concrete seawall before installing the marine mattresses and granite armor stone. The sheet pile for the 22-foot extension will be driven as early as next week. Responding to Chairman Barney, Mr. Gray confirmed that the 22-foot section of pier to be replaced has been demolished and removed offsite.

2. Update on the 2024/2025 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project
Mr. Gray gave a slide show highlighting progress on the 2024/2025 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project. About 175,000 cubic yards of dredged material will be placed on Sector 1 and Sector 2 will receive about 92,000 cubic yards of beach-compatible material via truck hauling. Under Phase 3, about 35,000 cubic yards of non-compatible material will be deposited in the District’s Dredged Materials Management Area (DMMA). The slide show included images of completed areas of Sector 2. The dredge is anchored in the inlet. Dredging has not commenced, but the in water pipe fusing is nearly completed.
The contractor has completed the placement of 80,000 cubic yards of truck-hauled sand and has placed 2,000 cubic yards of the additional 12,000 cubic yards the Commission approved in February as a change order. All beach related construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. Chairman Barney asked when dredging will begin. Ms. Yarbrough said dredging is expected to begin next week. Chairman Barney asked for the daily dredging volume to meet the contract requirements. Mr. Gray said the contractor can dredge about 4,000 to 5,000 cubic yards a day. Ms. Yarbrough said the critical element is whether the beach crew placing the sand can keep up with the dredge. However, when the truck hauling phase is complete, this crew will augment the beach crew working on the dredging phase of the project. Chairman Barney asked Ms. Yarbrough if she was confident that the 175,000-cubic goal will be met. Ms. Yarbrough said she will have a realistic answer after the dredge has been operating for a couple of days. Mr. Gray said he will update the Commission at the April meeting.
3. July 2009-September 2024 Department of Management Services Division of Retirement – Sebastian Inlet Tax District Audit
Mr. Gray said the Division of Retirement completed a limited scope audit of the District and concluded that the District’s operations related to retirement coverage comply with Florida Statutes and associated rules. Mr. Gray said the District was last audited 10 years ago.
4. FDEP Grant 24IR1 – Application For Payment No. 1 – Reimbursement
Mr. Gray said the District received a \$337,825.12 check from FDEP for the partial reimbursement of the 2022/23 Upland Sand Truck Haul and Beach Placement Project. This funding will be included in the District’s upcoming budget discussions. Chairman Barney asked whether FDEP still owes an additional \$300,000. Mr. Gray confirmed that the District is expected to receive about \$300,000 of additional funds.

He said Grant 24IR1 was amended to add funds, which means the District is eligible for about \$7 million in funds for the 2024/25 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project.

5. Update on District Staffing – Senior Contracts/Accounting Manager Position
Mr. Gray said the District has made an offer to a candidate for the District’s Senior Contracts/Accounting Manager position. The candidate has accepted the offer and is expected to join the District by mid-April. Mr. Gray declined to provide further details until he has conferred with Mr. Demers on the onboarding process for the new hire.
6. Discussion of Consent Agenda
Mr. Gray reviewed the Consent Agenda items for the Commission’s consideration/approval. (Details are found under Agenda Item X).

Under Agenda Item VI

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland gave an update on the District’s outreach activities. He noted that he has been working on a pilot project with the District’s website host, Streamline, and that the website will have a new look within the next few days. The District will also participate in a beach cleanup event on March 28, 2025.

Under Agenda Item VII

Park Matters —Ken Torres

Mr. Torres had nothing to report.

Under Item VIII

Legal Counsel Update — Shawn Demers (Gray Robinson)

Mr. Demers reminded Commissioners not to include other Commissioners on emails to Mr. Gray due to potential Sunshine Law violations.

Under Agenda Item IX

Public Comment Period

Mr. Auwaerter, vice mayor of the town of Indian River Shores and chair of Indian River County Beach and Shores Preservation Advisory Committee, speaking on his own behalf, recommended an amendment to the draft Memorandum of Agreement between the District and Indian River County to include a provision addressing potential sediment bypassing volume shortfalls.

Under Agenda Item X

Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review

1. Work Order No. 2425-011-Danbi Marine – District Boat – GPS Equipment Upgrades
Mr. Gray said that the purchase of upgraded GPS equipment on the District’s boat was the result of a recommendation by Commissioner Rowland during the February 12, 2025 meeting. The Commission directed Mr. Gray to upgrade the equipment using Danbi Marine, a preferred vendor at the marina where the District’s boat is

stored. Under his spending authority, Mr. Gray approved a contract with Danbi Marine for \$4,678 to upgrade and install a new GPS and antenna on the District vessel. Commissioner Frazier asked which line item was used for the purchase. Mr. Gray said the District's Marine Services account will fund new equipment for the District boat.

2. Change Order No. 1 – Shoreline Foundation, Inc. – 2024/2025 North Jetty Revetment Improvements Project – Phase 1

Mr. Gray said the change order, approved during the February 12, 2025 Commission meeting, authorized Shoreline Foundation, inc., to extend construction of the north jetty project approximately 22 feet east with additional sheet pile and armor stone. The extension will prevent a weak point between Phases 1 and 2 of the project. Shoreline has confirmed that the final amount for the change order is \$383,862.15, amending the overall project contract from \$1,842,329.36 to \$2,226,191.51. Staff also applied for a 50 percent cost-share grant from the state to assist in the funding

B. Recommended for Approval

1. Work Order No. 2425-013-FIT – Florida Institute of Technology, Inc. Wave, Weather, and Tide Data Collection at Sebastian Inlet, Florida, for 2025-2026

Mr. Gray said the proposed work order is a continuation of the modeling, monitoring and reporting services that Florida Tech has provided under a contract approved in 2020. Florida Tech collects wave, water level, water temperature and meteorological data necessary to document and understand the natural forces occurring in the vicinity of Sebastian Inlet.

Recommended Action: The recommendation of staff is for the Commission to approve Work Order No. 2425-013-FIT to the contract with Florida Tech and authorize Mr. Gray to sign on behalf of the District.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 4-0.**

Under Item XI

Commissioner Items

Secretary/Treasurer Rowland — Glad about the electronics upgrade to the District's vessel.

Commissioner Marshall — Absent.

Chairman Barney — Concerned about meeting the District's sand dredging and placement goal of 175,000 cubic yards. He also reminded Commissioners to brainstorm on ideas for developing an orientation package, which will be discussed during the April 9, 2025 meeting.

Vice Chair Frazier — Would like to discuss during the April meeting updating the agenda so that it flows better, particularly the need to relocate the Consent Item approval motions. She also asked if the District is among the boards or commissions that Gov. DeSantis is considering eliminating. Mr. Gray is looking into the issue.

Commissioner Campbell — Nothing.

Under Item XII
Unfinished Business
No Unfinished business.

Under Item XIII
New Business
No new business

Under Item XIV
Adjournment — Chairman Barney adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.


Secretary/Treasurer

Date

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2/19/25