

Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4:30 PM, September 10, 2025
North Indian River County Library
1001 Sebastian Boulevard
Sebastian, FL 32958

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairman David Barney, Commissioner Lisa Frazier (Vice Chair), Commissioner TJ Marshall and Commissioner John Campbell. Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer) was absent (excused). Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Contracts and Accounting Manager Stacy Busche, SID Legal Counsel Shawn Demers, Ken Torres (SISP), Marie Yarbrough (AtkinsRéalís), Quentin Bergman (IRC), Johnnie Sabin (IRC), Dr. Gary Zarillo (FIT) Clinton Hodges (ATL), 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 August 13, 2025 and approved them without changes or corrections. Commissioner Marshall, referring to Agenda Item 12 in the minutes, asked whether FDEP will cover up to 50 percent of remobilization of the Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project or if the District simply qualifies for funds. Mr. Gray said the District is eligible and does qualify for funding under the 24IR1 grant. Funds are available within the grant to fund the change order costs.

Under Agenda Item III

Additions and Deletions

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Under Agenda Item IV

Presentations

Presentation of the 2024 State of the Inlet Report, Dr. Gary Zarillo, Florida Institute of Technology, Inc.

Dr. Zarillo gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation of his annual State of the Inlet Report in which he described seasonal sand volume and shoreline changes and the inlet's sediment budget. There are periods of sand losses and gains that correlate with rising and falling sea levels, the influence of the gulf stream, and seasonal changes. He concluded that the inlet is in a long-term dynamic equilibrium under the current sand management plan. Dr. Zarillo's entire presentation is in the recorded minutes.

Chairman Barney called for a meeting recess at 5:25 p.m. so that the Commission could convene the Tentative Millage and Budget Hearing. Chairman Barney reconvened the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Under Agenda Item V

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Executive Director's Reports

1. FDEP Grant 24IR1 – Application For Payment No. 2- Reimbursement

Mr. Gray said the District received \$2,550,751.97 from FDEP for the partial reimbursement of the 2024/25 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project. Mr. Gray noted that the District received payment in record time, having billed FDEP on July 15, 2025, and receiving payment on August 18, 2025. Commissioner Frazier complimented Mr. Gray and his staff on their expeditious handling of the paperwork associated with the grant.

Under Agenda Item VI

Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review:

1. Summerlin's Marine Construction, LLC Work Order No. 2425-017-Summerline Channel Marker Repairs

Pursuant to his spending authority, Mr. Gray has authorized Summerlin to repair channel markers in the inlet. He also ordered day board markers to be used for rapid deployment. District funding is budgeted and available under Maintenance of Channel, Channel Marker Maintenance, Account No. 5373-461.

B. Recommended for Approval

1. Work Order No. 2526-003-LLW, Lewis, Longman and Walker, P.A. 2025-2026 Legislative Representation

Lewis, Longman and Walker, P.A. (LLW) has represented the District on legislative issues with good result. Mr. Gray noted that LLW was instrumental in the District receiving a \$1 million legislative appropriation for maintenance and safety improvements to the Sebastian Inlet North and South Jetties during the 2025/26 Legislative Session. The work order engages LLW to represent the District during the 2026 Legislation Session for a flat fee of \$48,000. Funding is budgeted under Legal/Legislative/Executive Account No. 5140-312.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to sign the 2026 Legislation Session Letter of Engagement with Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., on behalf of the District.

2. General Representation 2025-2028, GrayRobinson, P.A. Work Order No. 2526-005-GR

GrayRobinson has represented the District since 2004, and its current three-year contract with the District ends on September 30, 2025. Mr. Gray said. The proposed work order engages GrayRobinson to continue representing the District for an additional three-year term. GrayRobinson's rate will be \$300 per hour, a \$25 per hour increase over the previous agreement with the firm. District funding is budgeted and available under Legal Counsel, Attorney/Administrative, Account No. 5140-310.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Commission approve the renewal of services with GrayRobinson, P.A., until September 30, 2028, and

authorize the Executive Director to sign the August 28, 2025 Letter of Engagement on behalf of the District.

3. Work Order No.2526-004-FIT – Florida Institute of Technology, Inc. State of the Inlet Analysis 2025-26

Mr. Gray said the proposed work order allows FIT to continue to provide coastal engineering services related to Sebastian Inlet modeling, monitoring, and reporting. FIT's services are integral to the District's long-term management of sand resources and data analysis needed to update the 2025-26 State of the Inlet Report. The District shares its data and the final report with FDEP, which are instrumental in updating the District's sediment bypass objective. This data was instrumental in reducing the District's sediment bypass objective from 90,000 cubic yards a year to 75,000 cubic yards a year in 2023. The total amount of work order is \$136,110 and is on a lump sum basis. The fees are the same as last year. Commissioner Marshall, referring to Dr. Zarillo's 2024 State of the Inlet Report earlier in the meeting, asked whether the District's sand budget could be reduced to 50,000 cubic yards annually. Dr. Zarillo said that there is a possibility for a reduction during certain intervals, but he could not guarantee a reduction in the future. Chairman Barney said a Technical Advisory Committee reviews the District's Inlet Management Plan (IMP) every five years. Commissioner Frazier asked whether FIT's studies could be used to determine whether the District could use ebb shoal sand to help meet its bypassing objective. Mr. Gray said the IMP identifies various sources of sand sources, including the ebb shoal and Thomas Shoal, located approximately a mile east of the ebb shoal. The District and FIT are studying the potential of these sources.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Commission approve Work Order No. 2526-004 - FIT to the contract with Florida Institute of Technology and authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the District.

4. Change Order No. 4 – Work Order No. 2425-006-ATL, ATL Diversified, Inc. 2024/2025 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project

Over the past year, the District entered into a contract with ATL to truck in sand and dredge the inlet and the sand trap. There were several continuations of the project, which was not completed last season. ATL completed approximately 43 percent of the overall estimated original sand placement project volume, or about 135,000 cubic yards of sand. The proposed Change order No. 4 would allow ATL to remobilize during the 2025/26 dredging season to fully complete the project by dredging approximately 130,000 cubic yards of beach-compatible sand from the inlet channel and sand trap. Approximately 40,000 cubic yards of non-beach-compatible sand will be placed in the District's Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA). Among the provisions in the proposed change order is a \$650,000 increase in the contract amount for remobilization, Mr. Gray said. This increase is eligible for FDEP grant funding. The updated total contract amount will now be \$8,447,800. To date, ATL has been paid \$4,904,042.54 for completed work. Responding to Commissioner Marshall, Mr. Gray said ATL has the authority from SISP to begin mobilizing when state permits are approved.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Commission approve Change Order No. 4 and authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the District.

Under Agenda Item VII

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

There was no public comment.

Under Item VIII

Board Vote on Consent Agenda

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

Under Agenda Item IX

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland gave an update on the District's outreach activities. The District will participate in the annual International Coastal Cleanup event on September 20, and the District's Facebook following has grown by approximately 1,500 people since June 30, reaching more than 11,000 followers.

Under Agenda Item X

Park Matters – Ken Torres

Mr. Torres said the state park's concession building, marina and boat shop closed on July 30, but that a new vendor is expected to reopen all of the facilities by December 2025. He shared that the park intends to implement some changes by the end of year and will provide further details in a subsequent meeting

Under Agenda Item XI

Legal Counsel Update – Shawn L. Demers, Gray Robinson

Mr. Demers said he will be unable to attend the District's October 8 Commission meeting, but he has assigned another legal counsel representative to attend in his place.

Under Agenda Item XII

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Under Agenda Item XIII

Commissioner Items

Chairman Barney — Nothing

Vice Chair Frazier— Nothing

Secretary/Treasurer Rowland — Absent (Excused).

Commissioner Campbell — Nothing.

Commissioner Marshall — Asked about the status of the Commissioner Orientation Guide.

Chairman Barney said the topic will return to the agenda during the October 8, 2025, meeting.

Under Item XIV

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Under Item XV

New Business

There was no new business.

Under Item XVI

Adjournment — Chairman Barney adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.



Secretary/Treasurer

Date

Oct 8, 2025