

Sebastian Inlet Tax District

Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 4 p.m.

Regular Commission Meeting

Sebastian Inlet District Office

114 Sixth Avenue

Indialantic, Florida

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairwoman Jenny Lawton Seal, Commissioner Beth Mitchell (Vice Chair), Commissioner Michael Rowland, Commissioner Lisa Frazier, and Commissioner Chris Hendricks (Secretary/Treasurer). Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, Contracts & Accounting Manager Dave Kershaw, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Legal Counsel Lesley-Anne Marks, and Ken Torres (SISP).

Under Agenda Item I

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

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of May 11, 2022. Commissioner Rowland made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Under Agenda Item III

There were no presentations.

Under Agenda Item IV

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Media and information

Commissioner Mitchell said the Florida Today article about seagrass increases at Sebastian Inlet was a fabulous article. The other commissioners agreed.

B. Executive Director's Reports:

1. Update on the North and South Inlet Shoreline Stabilization Project

Mr. Gray gave a presentation on the current North Shoreline Stabilization Project. He said the contractor is installing filter cloth and bedding stone for the larger armor stone. He noted that there had been a delay in the project due to issues with rock gradations. Mr. Gray said he had to reject some of the rock deliveries but that the contractor has remedied the issue and is now delivering rock that meets the project specifications. Mr. Gray expects the North Shoreline component to be completed by the end of June 2022, with the project moving to the South Shoreline in July 2022 and wrapping up at the end of August 2022.

Commissioner Frazier asked whether Mr. Gray could look into obtaining free mangroves to plant along the new shoreline. Mr. Gray said that smaller mangroves, which are usually the free mangroves in one-gallon containers, can get washed away by boat wakes and are more impacted by waves. Larger, seven-gallon mangroves are better for planting in locations with wave action. Commissioner Frazier noted that the Marine Resources Council has a video

depicting a special method for installing mangroves in the rocks. Commissioner Frazier said she trusts Mr. Gray to research the topic and go the appropriate route.

Commissioner Rowland asked whether Mr. Gray knew the age of the old the old steel seawall at the North shoreline. Mr. Gray said aerial photos indicate that it was built prior to the 1960s but it is difficult to pinpoint its age. Mr. Gray indicated that he would like to establish an "Adopt A Shoreline" program at the North shoreline once the project is completed.

2. Summary of the June 1, 2022, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Mr. Gray shared key points regarding the June 1, 2022, Technical Advisory Committee meeting held in Sebastian. Mr. Gray said that the TAC Chairman, Dr. Gary Zarillo, discussed how the gulf stream influences the shoreface sediment volumes and ultimately the sediment budget calculations. Other key points were that Dr. Zarillo concluded that the area of Inlet influence south of the Inlet extends to about R-16 in Indian River County and that sand trap supplements by the District have offset sediment losses in the vicinity of the inlet. Mr. Gray said that some TAC members had concerns as to whether monitoring 30,000 feet north and south of the inlet was adequate to determine the inlets effects and erosional trends. Indian River County is tasked with reviewing data from R-30 to R-40 to better understand Sector 3 sediment losses. Mr. Gray said that some TAC members believe that the nearshore hardbottom plays a greater role in the sediment budget and that Dr. Zarillo failed to capture this. Mr. Gray said the critical members offered nothing to substantiate their claims. Mr. Gray also noted that Bob Brantly, Coastal Administrator for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), said that SID is not responsible for all of the erosion (sediment losses) along the shoreline, which is a strong message to the TAC.

Commissioner Frazier said that Dr. Zarillo emphasized during the last annual report the Gulf Stream being a bigger influence than he previously thought. Commissioner Mitchell said Dr. Zarillo has talked about the Gulf Stream in the past, but he has focused more on sea level rise. Mr. Gray said he believes some TAC members are unfamiliar with using sea level data in sediment budget calculations. Commissioner Hendricks said TAC members should accept the data and methodologies instead of waiting and criticizing it. Commissioner Mitchell said SID needs to have a good relationship with DEP and for DEP to support Dr. Zarillo's conclusions. Mr. Gray said the next TAC meeting currently scheduled for August 24, 2022. Commissioner Mitchell thanked Mr. Gray for his work to establish and work on the TAC.

3. Discussion of Consent Agenda

Mr. Gray reviewed a Consent Agenda item for the Commission's approval (Details are found under Item X).

Under Agenda Item V

Public Outreach Activities — Mr. Garland provided a brief update on outreach activities, including a May 18 seagrass tour with Florida Today reporters that resulted in a front-page newspaper article, and a social media post about an FWC-led cleanup at the North jetty that reached more than 45,000 people. Commissioners said they were pleased with the depth of the coverage by Florida Today.

Under Agenda Item VI

Draft FY2022-23 Detailed Budget and 5-Year Draft Pro Forma (FY 2022-23-FY 2026/27)

Mr. Kershaw gave a detailed presentation on the proposed FY 2022-23 budget, as well as a draft pro forma looking out five years – FY 2022-23 through FY 2026/27. Mr. Kershaw presented scenarios for a proposed

2022-23 budget at a proposed tax rate of .0784, or 14.45 percent over the rolled-back rate (uncertified) of .0685, as well as a scenario with a .0752 tax rate, representing a 9.78 percent increase over rolled-back rate. Mr. Kershaw also reviewed for the Commission selected line items in the proposed budget, including an increase in legal costs, planned but unscheduled dredging and maintenance projects. Mr. Kershaw said the \$3 million is reserved for unusual expenditures, such as natural disasters. Brevard and Indian River County certified rolled-back rates to be provided July 1, 2022.

Mr. Gray said SID is transitioning toward an emphasis on maintenance, such as the DMMA, sand trap, trucking sand and jetty repairs, and that the Commission should expect higher expenses over the next five years. Planning to budget revenues using the roll-backed millage rate, which the District has continuously adopted since FY 2015-16 may no longer be sustainable for future District expenses. He said the SID is asking the Commission for additional funding - \$400,000 – that would be raised via the proposed .0784 tax rate. If there is no increase in Ad Valorem revenues, the anticipated funding deficit is about \$7.5 million over the next five years.

Commissioner Mitchell said outcome of the TAC Committee meetings could further increase District expenditures if bypassing requirements increase. Commissioner Hendricks agreed, saying that the best-case scenario is that the District continues to be required to bypass 70,000 cubic yards of sand annually, but in the worst case the number could increase by 20 percent or more. He added that in “this tax environment, we have to do what we have to do.” Commissioners Rowland and Mitchell agreed.

Mr. Gray said he will be looking into project grants in the future to possibly defray costs. There may be opportunities through FDEP, FDOT and FIND. Commissioner Frazier said managing multiple grants could require additional staffing. Mr. Gray said the current staff is up to the challenge.

Mr. Kershaw said he will be able to provide a proposed budget based on certified taxable value numbers from the property appraisers, meaning the draft budget will include final figures during the July

Commissioner Mitchell said she supports a draft budget based on the 14.45 percent increase as presented. The other Commissioners agreed, saying they understood that the projections are based on estimates. No vote was needed, but the consensus from the Commission provided the direction Mr. Gray and Mr. Kershaw needed to move forward.

Under Agenda Item VII

Park Matters — Ken Torres, SISP Park Manager

Mr. Torres said the new bathrooms on the north side of the inlet are nearly ready to be opened. He said the new sea turtle statue will be unveiled on Thursday, June 9, and that the recent FWC cleanup at the North jetty was a success. He said SISP was closed the previous weekend due to Tropical Storm Alex.

Under Agenda Item VIII

Legal Counsel Update — Lesley-Anne Marks (Gray Robinson)

Nothing to report.

Under Agenda Item IX

Public Comment Period

No public Comment

Under Item X

Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review

1. Work Order No. 2122-021-LSS Land & Sea Surveying — Buoy 3A

Mr. Gray said the work order authorizes Land & Sea Surveying to repair Buoy 3A, which broke from its mooring and drifted to the flood shoal. Under the work order, Land & Sea collected the buoy, took it to the shop and prepped it for redeployment. Mr. Gray added that he plans to implement a maintenance plan for buoys to save the District time and money while being more proactive.

B. Recommended for Approval

No items for approval.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. The **motion carried 5-0**.

Under Agenda Item XI

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Rowland — I love the color-coded spreadsheets in the budget presentation.

Commissioner Mitchell — nothing

Commissioner Frazier — Thank you.

Commissioner Hendricks — nothing

Chairwoman Lawton Seal — nothing

Under Item XII

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

Under Item XIII

New Business

No new business was discussed

Under Item XIV

Adjournment — Chairwoman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.





Secretary/Treasurer

Date