

Sebastian Inlet Tax District
Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 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 (Vice Chair), Commissioner Michael Rowland and Commissioner Lisa Frazier (arrived after Commission voted on April minutes, hence the 3-0 vote). Commissioner Chris Hendricks (Secretary/Treasurer) was absent (excused). 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, Ken Torres (SISP), Dr. Gary Zarillo (Florida Tech), Christine Noll-Rhan (Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC), Bryan Flynn (ESA), and Marie Yarbrough (Atkins).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order – Chairman Lawton Seal called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of April 13, 2022. Commissioner Rowland made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mitchell the motion. The **motion carried 3-0**.

Under Agenda Item III

Presentations

A. Christine Noll-Rhan (Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC)

Ms. Noll-Rhan gave an Auditor's Report of the District's Financial Statements for FY 2021, calling the District's audit a "clean" audit. She noted that there were no new accounting standards that impacted the District financial audit. From an operations standpoint, the District increased its fund balance by \$239,000. The entire FY 2021 report is available on the District's website. Ms. Noll-Rhan described the audit as a "clean" audit.

B. Dr. Gary Zarillo (Florida Tech)

Dr. Zarillo presented the 2021 State of the Inlet Report. Dr. Zarillo gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation in which he described seasonal sand volume and shoreline changes, the inlet's sediment budget, and real-time and forecast models. He explained the inverse relationship between seasonal sea level rise and the resulting sand volume reductions, as well as the impacts of storms on the sand budget. Mr. Gray said the District's long-term data continues to improve, enabling the District to fine-tune the best times to place sand on beaches. Dr. Zarillo's entire presentation is in the recorded minutes.

Under Agenda Item IV

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Media and information

No discussion

B. Executive Director's Reports:

1. Update on the North and South Inlet Shoreline Stabilization Project
Mr. Gray reported that the District's contractor, Sea & Shoreline has mobilized equipment and installed security fencing in anticipation of the first shipment of rock to the site where the North shoreline stabilization project is taking place. Mr. Flynn said that once necessary equipment is mobilized, he expects that crews will install 20 to 25 feet of rock per day.
2. Update on the next Sebastian Inlet Technical Advisory Committee
Mr. Gray told the Commission that the next Technical Advisory (TAC) Committee Meeting will be held at 10:15 a.m. on June 1, 2022, at the North Indian River County Library in Sebastian. Mr. Gray said he will provide a follow-up report to the Commission.
3. Discussion of Consent agenda
Mr. Gray reviewed the Consent Agenda items for the Commission's approval. (Details are found under item XI).

Under Agenda Item V

Public Outreach Activities — Mr. Garland provided outreach activity highlights of the past month, including presentations he gave to the Sebastian Fishing Club and Melbourne Rotary, an interview with WUCF-TV regarding seagrass growth at the inlet, an upcoming May 18 tour of the seagrass site with Florida Today, and a potential meeting with News 13 regarding the shoreline stabilization project. The top Facebook post reached 16,921 people and 30,156 people visited the District's website in April.

Under Agenda Item VI

Draft Budget Summary — FY2022-2023

Mr. Gray said the FY 2022-23 budget is being refined and that he believes the District is transitioning into more of a maintenance phase in the coming years. He said the Commission should expect higher expenses in the next five years, which will require a tax levy increase to account for additional expenditures. During the June Commission meeting, Mr. Gray and Mr. Kershaw will summarize the five-year budget and anticipated maintenance projects and associated costs. District staff will also show recommended use of the current fund balance to implement the program and expected revenue shortfalls in the future. Mr. Kershaw provided the Commission with an overview of the draft budget and noted that some numbers will change as more information becomes available. In the draft summary budget presented, he said the District was budgeting about \$2.5 million in ad valorem revenue, which is about \$200,000 more than the current revenue.

Under Agenda Item VII

Park Matters — Ken Torres, SISP Park Manager

Mr. Torres said two men were rescued from the inlet after their small boat capsized in rough conditions two weeks ago. In addition, another person drowned while cast netting during a separate incident. He said that the new bathrooms on the north side of the inlet are almost completed and ready to be opened to the public.

Under Agenda Item VIII

Legal Counsel Update — Lesley-Anne Marks (GrayRobinson)

Nothing to report.

A. Executive Director Evaluation

Ms. Marks said Mr. Gray received an excellent evaluation and that all Commissioners agreed that he should receive a salary increase. Commissioner Mitchell recommended a three percent

merit increase and a five percent cost of living increase but her motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner Rowland made a motion to give Mr. Gray a three percent increase and Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1, with Commissioner Mitchell voting nay. Mr. Gray thanked the Commissioners for their confidence and support.

Under Agenda Item IX

Public Comment Period

No public Comment

Under Item X

Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review

1. Sebastian Inlet Marina License Agreement Extension

Mr. Gray said that the Sebastian Inlet Marina, where the District's boat is stored indoors, is under new ownership. The District pays \$340 per month for storage but the new rate at the end of the lease will jump to \$719 per month. Mr. Gray negotiated a price of \$525 monthly under a two-year lease that began on May 1. Commissioner Mitchell recommended exploring other boat storage possibilities before the expiration of the current lease. Mr. Gray said he will look at all option but noted that indoor storage near the inlet is extremely limited.

2. Work Order No. 2122-019-LSS, Land & Sea Surveying – Coconut Point

Mr. Gray said he authorized Land & Sea to collect survey data at Coconut point, where severe erosion is occurring. The survey cost is \$2,420.

B. Recommended for Approval

1. Work Order No. 2122-020-ESA, Environmental Science Associates – Sebastian Inlet Coconut Point Living Shoreline Design and Permitting.

Mr. Gray recommended that the Commission approve hiring ESA to design and permit a shoreline improvement project at southwestern tip of Coconut Point. There will be a cost savings because ESA is already contracted for engineering and biological services related to stabilization in areas within the inlet. The District has a Memorandum of Understanding with SISP and the District will work with SISP to explore alternatives that won't negatively impact recreation. The District will consider a breakwater or living shoreline system. The contract is for \$99,685. The District will seek various grant funding options. Commissioner Frazier asked wither IRLNEP grant dollars are available. Mr. Gray said the grants are limited to inner lagoon areas as opposed to state park areas.

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

Under Agenda Item XI

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Rowland — nothing

Commissioner Mitchell — nothing

Commissioner Frazier — nothing

Commissioner Hendricks — absent

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 6:28 p.m.



Secretary/Treasurer



Date