

Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4:30 PM, November 12, 2025
Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum
9700 South Hwy A1A
Vero Beach, FL, 32963

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairman David Barney, Commissioner Lisa Frazier (Vice Chair), Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer), Commissioner John Campbell and Commissioner TJ Marshall. 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, Mike Jenkins (ATM/GEO), Kyle Horstman (ATL), Kyle Hodges (ATL), Bob Stephen (Friends of St. Sebastian River), Marie Yarbrough (AtkinsRéalis), Bryan Flynn (ESA), Steve Sparks (public), Scott McDonald (public), Lynn Sadler (public), Richard Sadler (public), and Niko Rogers (public).

Under Agenda Item I

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

Chairman Barney opened the meeting by reading a prepared statement: “The Sebastian Inlet District works in partnership with Sebastian Inlet State Park on many projects, but we are independent from the Florida state park system. All Florida state parks are under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Sebastian Inlet District Commission meetings are open to the public. The public is welcome to attend and address the Commission on all relevant matters on the current agenda and under the jurisdiction of the Sebastian Inlet District. However, the proposed changes to the Sebastian Inlet State Park operation hours is not a decision by the Sebastian Inlet District Commission. Public discussion will not be heard.”

Under Agenda Item II

The Commission discussed the minutes of the regular Commission meeting of October 8, 2025 and approved them without changes or corrections.

Under Agenda Item III

Additions and Deletions

Commissioner Marshall noticed that the agenda item, “Park Matters,” was missing from today’s agenda and requested that it be added back to the agenda format. He said he drafted a letter to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) addressing public concerns about changes in operating hours at the south side of the state park. He had planned to bring a motion to the table under Park Matters for a vote on sending his letter to FDEP. He also planned to discuss the park’s equipment needs, assisting park staff in removing and replacing the north jetty grates in the event of tropic storms. He said Park Matters should not have been removed from the agenda if it was done to avoid discussing a controversial topic. Mr. Gray said the agenda item was removed because Mr. Torres, the park manager, would not be attending the meeting. Commissioner Rowland said the District has nothing to do with the park’s hours of operations and that sending a letter to FDEP might be encouraging an argumentative environment. Chairman Barney concurred with Commissioner Rowland. He said the park’s management is not part of the District’s charter. After additional

discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Marshall made a motion to add Park Matters back to the agenda. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Under Agenda Item IV

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Under Agenda Item V

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Executive Director's Reports

1. Update on the 2025/2026 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project

Mr. Gray, aided by PowerPoint slides, said the District's dredging contractor, ATL, has remobilized and will begin dredging later this month. ATL completed Sector 2 in March 2025. ATL will resume dredging approximately 170,000 cubic yards from the inlet channel and the 42-acre sand trap. Approximately, 40,000 cubic yards will be placed in the Dredged Materials Management Area (DMMA) between November and December 2025. The remaining 130,000 cubic yards will be placed on the Sector 1 beach. Anticipated construction for this phase will occur between December 2025 and March 2026. As part of its collaborative outreach with the District, ATL hosted a well-attended captain's meeting on November 4, which Chairman Barney and Commissioner Campbell attended. Mr. Gray said Mr. Campbell was instrumental in promoting the meeting and assisting with public outreach. ATL has also posted informational flyers at boat ramps. Commissioner Campbell said the flyers are also posted at marinas. He said the Sebastian Daily newspaper plans to publish a tutorial about navigating the dredging operation as part of the public education effort. Mr. Gray noted that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has requested to install a manatee zone sign at Channel Marker 21A to dissuade boaters from cutting a corner that is in a seagrass area. Commissioner Marshall requested staff to update marina owners on the project's progress and to post a scrolling ticker tape notice on the District's webcam site. Mr. Gray said staff has already notified the webcam provider, who was scheduled to fulfill the request today (November 12, 2025). Mr. Sparks, an area resident, asked about the location of the dredge pipe and potential impact on anglers fishing from the south side of the inlet. Mr. Gray said the T-dock will be closed during dredging and that the District and contractor are aware of the concerns of the state park and its visitors.

2. FDEP Grant 24IR1 – Application For Payment No. 3 - Reimbursement

Mr. Gray said that the District received \$539,851.64 from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on October 13, 2025. Payment came in the form of two separate checks for the partial reimbursement of the 2024/25 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project.

Under Agenda Item VI
Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review

1. Change Order No. 5 – Work Order No. 2425-006-ATL, ATL Diversified, Inc.
2024/2025 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project – DMMA Water Control
Structure Maintenance

Mr. Gray provided background on the District's contract with ATL for construction of the 2024/2025 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project and the previous change orders associated with the project. ATL began mobilizing to the DMMA in early October 2025. An inspection determined that the DMMA water control structures to be used for dewatering were blocked with sediment. Staff and the District's engineer, AtkinsRéalis, determined that ATL is not responsible for removing the sediment. To prevent project delays, Mr. Gray used his Executive Director Spending Authority to authorize Change Order No. 5 to Work Order No. 2425-006-ATL in the lump sum amount of \$6,600. The updated total contract will now be \$8,454,400. Funding is available under Account No. 5372-311 and the entire project is eligible for at least 50 percent cost-share under FDEP's Beach management Funding Assistance Program – Grant 24IR1.

B. Recommended for Approval

1. Special District Performance Measures and Standards, Sebastian Inlet District FY
2024/25 Annual Performance Report

Mr. Gray said in compliance with Florida Statutes, in September 2024, the Commission established District Goals and Objectives for an Annual Performance Report. The Annual Performance Report must be published on the District's website by December 1 of each year. Commissioner Marshall requested the Goals and Objectives be added to the Commissioner Orientation Guide that the Commission is developing. He also said that having two sets of Goals and Objectives, one shared during budget discussions and the other required by statutes, could be confusing to the public. He recommended that the Commission outline more specific goals in the report next year. Chairman Barney agreed with Commissioner Marshall and suggested staff bring back a revised Annual Performance Report for 2026. Mr. Demers said the Goals and Objectives report is a living document and can be updated at any time. Mr. Gray will work with Mr. Demers on tailoring the document to meet the Commission's request.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Board approve the annual performance report and authorize Mr. Gray to publish it on the District's website.

2. Proposed Commission Meeting Schedule and Locations for FY 2025-26

Mr. Gray presented the proposed Commission meeting schedule for fiscal year 2025-26, noting that the final Millage and Budget Hearing will occur on September 21, 2026, a Monday instead of a Wednesday, due to TRIM advertising requirements and staff scheduling conflicts.

Recommended Action: Staff recommend that the Board approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2025/26 dates and locations for regular commission meetings and budget hearings.

3. Master Services Agreements – For Continuing Professional Coastal Engineering and Biological Support Services – Amendment 1 – Extension 2025-2030

Mr. Gray said the District's negotiated new master services agreements with Geosyntec, AtkinsRéalis, and ESA for continuing professional coastal engineering and biological support services. He said the respective fee schedules reflect fair and competitive rates for comparable professional services and job classifications. The term of each respective agreement is five years with the option of five-year renewals, unless terminated by mutual consent. Commissioner Marshall questioned whether the District is meeting the competitive bid process requirements listed in Florida Statutes 287.055, adding that the optics are that the District isn't giving other companies the opportunity to bid competitively. He recommended tabling the item until further analysis is completed. Commissioner Campbell countered that the District has a specialized purpose and that qualified contract candidates are limited. The District's long-term relationships with consultants is extremely valuable due to the retention of institutional knowledge accumulated by the consultants. Commissioner Frazier agreed. She said the continuity and history the District builds with a contractor is important, especially for a small District. She said the contract renewal proposal is in line with Florida Statutes. She said Mr. Gray has done his due diligence in negotiating with the consultants. Chairman Barney said Mr. Gray does proper research, understands competitive rates, and also analyses similar contracts with other special districts. Mr. Gray confirmed Chairman Barney's assessment. Commissioner Marshall said he has seen no analyses or contractor lists and was not convinced that the District is compliant. Chairman Barney disagreed and confirmed that Mr. Gray reviewed his analysis with him. Commissioner Marshall also recommended that an indemnification clause in the contract be removed to protect the District in case of a lawsuit. Mr. Demers, noting his frequent dealings with indemnification clauses, disagreed, saying the indemnification clause is common in typical consultant contracts and will amend if the Board directs him but his recommendation is for the clause to remain. Commissioner Marshall requested that the Commission vote on Consent Agenda items individually because he would not support approving the Master Services Agreement as it stands.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Board approve Amendment 1 to the Master Services Agreements with Geosyntec, AtkinsRéalis, and ESA, and to authorize Mr. Gray to sign all agreements on the District's behalf.

Under Agenda Item VII

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

There was no public comment on Consent Agenda items.

Under Item VIII

Board Vote on Consent Agenda

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve Change Order No. 5 – Work Order No. 2425-006-ATL. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve Special District Performance Measures and Standards, Sebastian Inlet District FY 2024/25 Annual Performance Report. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Rowland made a motion to approve the proposed Commission Meeting Schedule and Locations for FY 2025-26. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the Master Services Agreements – For Continuing Professional Coastal Engineering and Biological Support Services – Amendment 1 – Extension 2025-2030. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 4-1. (Commissioner Marshall voted against the action).**

Under Agenda Item IX

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland gave an update on the District's outreach activities. He described the District's outreach campaign being conducted in advance of the 2025/26 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project. He also described the District's campaign to direct the media and public to the state park's website and phone number regarding a change in operating hours at the south side of the park.

Under Agenda Item X (added back to the agenda)

Park Matters

Following up on the request of the Commission during the October 8, 2025 meeting, Mr. Gray said he discussed with Mr. Torres (SISP manager) the potential for assisting the park in purchasing equipment for removing grates from the north jetty in advance of a storm. Mr. Gray said the park was interested in purchasing a small excavator-type vehicle with an estimated cost of \$100,000. Mr. Gray also contacted the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) for possible financial assistance or possible grants, tying the equipment use to multiple applications such as clearing sediments from the SISP boat ramp. He said he was looking for direction from the Commission on how to proceed. Commissioner Marshall suggested contracting the removal of jetty grates and to use hurricane warnings as a trigger for their removal. Commissioner Rowland said the pedestrian area and grates are the responsibility of the park through its MOA with the District. He said the District could consider possible revisions to the MOA and reevaluate the process for grate removal. On a separate topic, Commissioner Marshall distributed to his fellow Commissioners copies of a letter he drafted and addressed to FDEP. The letter expresses concern about the reduced operating hours on the south side of the park and its impact on the public. Commissioner Rowland said that the fishing groups to whom he has spoken are not upset by the change. Mr. Sparks, an area resident, said many anglers fish at the park at night and are affected by the change in hours. Mr. Campbell said he opposed sending a letter to FDEP as a group. Chairman Barney agreed. He said Commissioners are free to write and send letters to FDEP individually, but that the Commission as a whole should not involve itself with the state's business. Commissioner Frazier asked why the park changed its hours on the south side. Mr. Gray said that a number of reasons prompted the change, including budgetary and safety issues. Mr. Gray requested Commissioners copy staff if they individually send letters to FDEP.

Under Agenda Item XI

Legal Counsel Update – Shawn L. Demers, Gray Robinson

1. Election of District Commission Officers

Mr. Demers said the Charter is unclear on the election of District Commission Officers. He proposed two options to provide continuity in the future: Elect officers annually or elect officers each general election year in the first meeting after being duly elected, appointed, and sworn in for two-year terms.

Recommended Action: Mr. Demers recommends that the Board approve Option 2 and elect its officers for each general election year in the first meeting after being duly elected, appointed, and sworn in.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve Option 2 for Election of District Commission Officers. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

Under Item XII

Public Comment Period

Mr. Stephen said the District should not buy a piece of heavy equipment for the state park. Mr. Sparks asked about the timeline for constructing phases 2 and 3 of the jetty repair project. Mr. Gray said jetty design work is complete and the District intends to begin construction within two years and noted the planned Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Sebastian Inlet Bridge replacement project, which is on track to mobilize in spring 2026.

Under Item XIII

Commissioner Items

Chairman Barney — Commissioners discussed minor proposed revisions to the draft Commissioner Orientation Guide and agreed to send any revision or additions to staff prior to the December 10, 2025 Regular Commission meeting so that the Commission may vote on a final document.

Vice Chair Frazier— Nothing.

Secretary/Treasurer Rowland — Nothing

Commissioner Marshall — Nothing

Commissioner Campbell — Nothing.

Under Item XIV

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Under Item XV

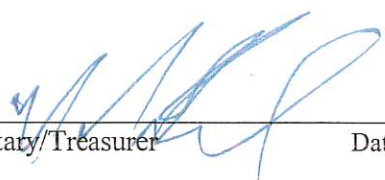
New Business

There was no new business.

Under Item XVI

Adjournment — Chairman Barney adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer



Date

1/14/2026

NOTE: A recording of this meeting is unavailable due to a malfunction in the audio equipment.