

**Sebastian Inlet Tax District**  
Wednesday, September 12, 2018 4:30 p.m.  
Regular Commission Meeting  
Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum  
Vero Beach, Florida

**Minutes**

Present at the meeting were Chairman Jenny Lawton Seal, Commissioners Beth Mitchell, Ann Perry and Michael Rowland. Commissioner Dave Pasley was absent (excused). Also in attendance were: Administrator Martin Smithson, staff members Dave Kershaw and Michelle Malyn, District legal counsel Jack Kirschenbaum, James Gray (IRC), Tuck Ferrell (North Beach Civic Assoc.), Sebastian Inlet State Park Assistant Park Manager Matt Phifer, Mike Jenkins (ATM), Lisa Frazier and Adam Tritt.

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order – Chairman Lawton Seal called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of August 8, 2018 – Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve with Commissioner Perry seconding. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Under Agenda Item III

Information and Discussion Agenda

Media and Information – There was no discussion of the contents of the media packet.

Executive Director's Reports

1. Status of Upcoming Dredge Event and Bid Response - Mr. Smithson noted a bid letting meeting had been scheduled for this past Monday, 9/10 at 2 p.m. SITD did not receive any bids for the project, and Mike Jenkins from ATM recommended we close the bid and he would follow-up with contractors who initially indicated an interest in the project to find out why no bids were forthcoming. Mr. Smithson asked Jenkins to share his informal findings with the Commission. Jenkins reported that despite robust interest and numerous questions submitted for technical review, a number of contractors Jenkins contacted indicated they had enough work on the calendar in the coming season, didn't want to overextend themselves and suspected others who had attended the pre-bid meeting at the Inlet would submit the winning bid. Commissioner Rowland asked if Jenkins thought companies may be communicating with one another to force a no-bid situation. Jenkins did not. Mitchell asked if there was great demand because of availability of state funding for projects. Jenkins thought that may be a factor and noted local governments having an abundance of small projects because of funding availability.

Mr. Smithson and Jenkins highlighted options for the Commission's consideration; 1-Re-issue a bid with quick turn-round and bid alternative(s), ie: complete the job this year or next year. 2 – Postpone the project until next season as we're not in an emergency situation needing to dredge the Sand Trap because of the expansion and extended accumulation timeframe. 3 – Complete the DMMA fill project component this year (not bound by season with beach placement), and finish the dredging/beach placement next season.

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Rowland wanted to avoid a potential high-bid situation. Jenkins reminded the Commission that they are not required to accept any bid, should something like that

occur. Commissioner Mitchell asked about the possibility of a truck haul project, sourcing sand from an upland source, to either complete the project or at minimum, place 35,000 cubic yards into the DMMA for emergency situations. She noted being uncomfortable with the fact that SITD has no reserve in the DMMA at present. Smithson, Jenkins and Gray all noted little, if any, availability of upland sand. The Commission noted that the third option may cause us to incur added mobilization costs.

Consensus to re-issue a bid now with multiple alternatives; 1 – complete both DMMA and beach placement this season (preferred), 2 – complete DMMA and beach placement next season, 3 – prioritize DMMA this year and complete beach placement next year. Further discussion around a separate bid for sand from an upland source to fill the DMMA for emergencies ensued, particularly if we were to re-issue a bid and again receive no responses. All agreed to re-issue the bid with a separate bid for upland sand to follow should a no-bid situation occur. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve bid re-issue. Seconded by Commissioner Perry. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Mitchell asked Jenkins to qualify the timeframe for the re-bid. Jenkins felt turn-around on preparing the re-bid documents could be minimal, within the next week or two. The bid package would need to be “on the street” for a minimum of 30 days. Jenkins suggested it could be feasible to have recommendations to the Commission at November’s meeting. Commissioner Mitchell asked Jenkins to confirm our job would take approximately six weeks to complete. Jenkins confirmed with mobilization/de-mobilization, six weeks was a good estimate with active pumping less than 30 days.

2. Update of Field Surveys – Bathymetric, Seagrass, Hardbottom - Mr. Smithson reported on all the field work taking place at the Inlet. Starting with the bathymetric survey completed in late August. It shows an accumulation of 5,000 cubic yards of sand in the Sand Trap since the last survey in March. Mr. Smithson pointed out this additional data shows the Inlet system has capacity for additional accumulation in the Trap. Next, an update re: hardbottom monitoring work completed by CSA Ocean Sciences. A formal report will be forthcoming, but divers were in the field in late August/early September collecting data along our transects. They were able to complete to full project so there will not be any cost savings from an abbreviated monitoring event. Mr. Smithson reported that ATM had been successful in modifying permits with DEP for monitoring protocol. Lastly, Don Deis from Atkins also completed field work surveying seagrasses on the flood tidal shoal in six zones west of the Inlet. Here too, a formal report will be forthcoming. Included in Commission packets were write-ups posted on our web, copy and photos were also posted and boosted on social media with great response, resulting in increased “followers” on SITD on Facebook.
3. Update on Public Information Activities – Mr. Smithson reported talking with 32963’s new environmental reporter, Sue Cocking. They are interested in doing a piece on the state of the seagrass in response to our reaching out to them to inform them of the recent biological monitoring projects SITD has been conducting. The story is expected to run in 32963, Vero News, Sebastian News, the Melbourne Beachsider and on VeroNews.com. *(Later, editorial choice chose NOT to run in the Melbourne Beachsider)* The creation of this position has allowed SITD to do more community outreach in educating people on the mission and work of SITD. Digitizing our historical records has been a priority with work on the document scanning completed by Pioneer Records Management and scanning photo archives planned for September. Mr. Smithson reported that Malyn is also working on an outline for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. In addition, Mike Jenkins spoke with Jackie Larson at the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA) and suggested a Sebastian Inlet specific session at February’s conference in St. Augustine. He will be submitting an abstract that includes a segment on the history and centennial anniversary featuring

Mr. Smithson, and three other speakers to talk about the technical and the science (Jenkins, Dr. Zarillo, third TBD). Media outreach has also been a focus in identifying appropriate points of contact at the Florida Today (Waymer and Berman), IR Press Journal (Adam Neal, Tyler Treadway, Colleen Wixon, Ed Killer), 32963 et al (Steven Thomas, Cocking). We also received a response from the Florida Flashbacks Columnist for the Orlando Sentinel, Joy Dickerson. She is interested in doing a feature piece on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SITD.

4. Update on Administrator's Position – Mr. Smithson reported advertising for the Administrator's position in the Florida Today, IR Press Journal and on the SITD website with a deadline for submitting resumes August 31 - September 14. Mr. Smithson will report back to the Commission once the submission window closes.
5. Additional Items – None noted at this time.
6. Discussion of Consent Agenda - Authorized Work for the Commission's review includes Item A. Recommended for approval includes Item B..
  - a. Work Order #1718-017-ESA – Gopher Tortoise survey at DMMA by Environmental Science Associates – Gopher Tortoise and land management services for the Dredged Materials Management Area not-to-exceed \$3,850. Mr. Smithson reported this work was completed last week with good news, only two new burrows identified. None on inside of DMMA, all outside of the berm. He anticipates potential relocation of 10-12 as necessary, but ESA will also work with FWC to seek approval for erecting a silt screen around the top perimeter of the work site at the DMMA.
  - b. Work Order #1718-018-CSI – With Coastal Systems International, Inc. relative to sovereign submerged lands and District easements, renewals and consolidation, at the Sebastian Inlet. Total not-to-exceed \$22,450. (Funds are budgeted under Acct. 5371-473 Engineering Services) – Mr. Smithson explained that this work order was to streamline the arduous process of getting a handle on all of the old, current, expired easements held by SITD. We have a number of easements related to SITD that need to be reviewed and CSI are experts in this kind of work.
  - c. Work Order 1718-019-XYZ (*as no bid for 2018/19 Dredging & Beach Re-nourishment Project, no recommendation, strike from agenda*)

#### Under Agenda Item IV

Budget Discussion – As the budget had previously been reviewed in detail by the Commission, no new items noted.

#### Under Agenda Item V

Agreement with DEP and North Jetty Security – Mr. Smithson reported on a recent, very positive call with David Clark, Deputy Secretary at DEP. Together, they worked through the MOA informally, on a discussion level, creating definitions and a schedule of attachments to help clarify responsibilities under the agreement and speed up the review process. Clark said he had met with his staff, issuing a directive that an embedded attitude of us versus them will no longer be tolerated. Clark assured Smithson he was interested in moving forward collaboratively. Mr. Smithson believes the MOA is in a form now that is ready for review and approval by both entities, barring any additional input from legal counsel. Commissioner Mitchell asked what the next step is, and Mr. Smithson reported it will be an agenda item at October's meeting. Mr. Smithson also reported that Brevard County Sheriff's Office deputies have been routinely patrolling the North Jetty despite not having a formal arrangement in waiting for the MOA to be completed.

#### Under Agenda Item VI

Park Matters—Mr. Phifer reported that the Jaws screening went extremely well, sold out with 400 people and no issues. The concessionaire is planning another event for Halloween, with Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> as the featured movie. Routine maintenance work around the park continues to make sure everything is trimmed up, cleaned up and functional. Mr. Phifer reported that the selection for the new Park Manager, replacing Kevin Jones, should come down in a week or so. As soon as he knows, he will inform SITD.

Under Agenda Item VII

Legal Counsel Update—Kirchenbaum indicated there was nothing to report at this time.

Under Agenda Item VIII

Public Comment Period – No public comments.

Under Agenda Item IX

Consent Agenda – Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the consent agenda with Commissioner Perry seconding. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Under Agenda Item X

There were no Commissioner items.


Under Agenda Item XI

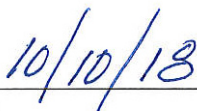
Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

Under Agenda Item XII

New Business – There was no new business

Adjournment – Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

  
Secretary/Treasurer

  
Date