Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4 PM, August 12, 2026
Sebastian Inlet District Office
114 Sixth Avenue
Indialantic, FL 32903

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, Quintin Bergman (IRC), Johnnie Sabin (IRC), William "Tuck" and Cathy Ferrell (North Beach Civic Association), Michael Slattery (USGS), Kenneth Torres (SISP), Dr. Deniz Velioglu Sogut (FIT), and Erdinc Sogut (USGS).

Under Agenda Item I
Call to Order – Chairman Barney called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II
The Commission discussed the minutes of the regular Commission meeting of July 8, 2026. Chairman Barney requested a minor correction to the minutes, noting a discrepancy in the discussion of items B1 and B2.

Under Agenda Item III
Additions and Deletions
There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Under Agenda Item IV
Presentations

A. Implementation of the Shoreline Evolution Prediction Model For Sebastian Inlet District, Dr. Deniz Velioglu Sogut, Assistant Professor, Ocean Engineering and marine Sciences, Florida Tech
Dr. Sogut gave a PowerPoint presentation proposing a pilot-scale application of the Shoreline Evolution Prediction Model (ShEPreMo) within the District's shoreline area of responsibility. The project would be a collaborative initiative between FIT and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) St. Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center (SPCMSC). The predictive model aims to identify erosion hotspots, optimize sand bypassing, and evaluate nourishment projects. The project's cost is estimated at $110,000 annually for three years. Dr. Sogut said the model would build upon the District's existing monitoring records developed by Dr. Zarillo (FIT), evaluate likely shoreline responses and test potential management scenarios to support management decisions. Dr. Sogut responded to questions from the Commissioners. Commissioner Rowland said he supported the concept and asked Mr. Gray his opinion. Mr. Gray said the model could help optimize sand placement, potentially reducing costs. Chairman Barney asked about the model's ability to predict volume loss, and Mr. Sogut (USGS) said it could provide

rough estimates. Commissioner Lisa Frazier questioned the overlap with Dr. Zarillo's data and the potential for partnerships with other counties. Commissioner Marshall recommended that the District determine whether FDEP would migrate toward this modeling protocol, but he suggested the Commission wait on a formal discussion and possible vote after the November elections due to funding uncertainties. Dr. Sogut's presentation will be made available on the District's website.

Under Agenda Item V

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Executive Director's Reports
    1. Update on the 2027/2028 FDEP Local Government Funding Request Grant Application
       Mr. Gray provided an update on the District's Local Government Funding Request Grant Application for fiscal year 2027. The application requests $6.1 million for various projects, including monitoring, design, permitting, and construction. The application is based on the district's long-term monitoring data and the need for continued funding to support these projects. The application process includes a ranking by FDEP, with an initial response expected by September 11, 2026

    2. Update on North Jetty Improvement Project – Phases 2 and 3
       Mr. Gray said the North Jetty Improvement Project – Phases 2 and 3 has advertised for bids, with a mandatory pre-bid meeting scheduled for August 18, 2026. The bids are expected to be opened on September 4, 2026, with an anticipated project construction window between November 2026 and July 2028. Mr. Gray will provide a bid tabulation summary at the September 9 Commission meeting if it is available.

    3. Update on District 2026 Monitoring efforts
       Mr. Gray gave an update on the district's 2026 monitoring efforts, including aerial photography, offshore hard bottom monitoring, seagrass monitoring, and sea turtle monitoring. The aerial photography is 100 percent complete, and the offshore hardbottom monitoring is 75 percent complete. Seagrass monitoring is about 80 percent complete, and sea turtle monitoring will continue until October 31.

Under Agenda Item VI

Second Discussion on the FY 2026/27 Budget

A. Mr. Gray and Ms. Busche gave a joint PowerPoint presentation on the proposed budget for FY 2026/27, highlighting a 21 percent increase to $16.9 million from $13.7 million for FY 2025/26. Mr. Gray said the budget includes a 4.3 percent increase in general government expenses and a 31.5 percent increase in physical environment expenses, driven by major projects like the North jetty Improvement Project. The draft budget is based on property tax revenues calculated using the certified rollback rate (RBR) of 0.1518 mills, amounting to approximately $7.77 million. The budget includes $500,000 in additional interest revenue from the Florida Prime account, $1.5 million in anticipated project cost reimbursement from DEP grants, and utilization of approximately $7.17 million from assigned Use of Fund Balance. Ms. Busche gave a detailed breakdown of funding sources, including property tax revenue, grant reimbursements, and interest income. She explained the District's funding strategy, emphasizing the importance of long-term planning for coastal infrastructure projects. She explained that taxpayers contributed $28.7 million in Ad Valorem over 10 years, while the district incurred $32.1 million in expenses. Grants have significantly extended the value of local tax dollars, but their availability is competitive and depends on state priorities. The district collected more interest in fiscal year 2023 than in the previous seven years combined, averaging over $700,000 in the last three years. Interest rates have been on a downward trend since the end of FY 2024, but she stressed that the recent level of interest income should not be viewed as a permanent revenue source. The proposed budget does not require a millage rate sufficient for the work program, highlighting the importance of assigned reserves. The district's strategy remains the same: plan for the work ahead, protect resources, leverage outside funding, and use reserves strategically. Chairman Barney lauded the presentation, saying he was completely comfortable explaining the budget to his constituents. Commissioner Marshall said he would vote "no" on the proposed budget in September unless staff provided a more granular breakdown in advance. Commissioner Frazier agreed with Commissioner Marshall on breaking down the proposed budget further, but also emphasized the importance of meeting with staff to better understand how the budget is developed. Mr. Gray reviewed the typical government budging process beginning with development at the staff level through presentation, review, and acceptance at the Commission level. Mr. Gray emphasized that the draft budget, as presented, was not arbitrary and considered adequate funding to implement the District's projects. Ms. Busche reiterated that the District cannot operate using zero-based budgeting with multi-year projects. Commissioner Campbell agreed with her assessment.

<u>Under Agenda Item VII</u>
Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review
   1. Summerlin's Marine Construction, LLC Work Order No. 2526-016-Summerlin channel marker Repairs
      Mr. Gray said Summerlin routinely performs maintenance and repairs to channel markers that are under the responsibility of the District. Under his Executive Director Spending Authority, Mr. Gray authorized Summerlin to repair Channel Markers Red 18 and Red 26, as well as install 50 solar lights on all wood pile channel markers. Summerlin completed the repairs and installation on August 11, 2026. Commissioner Marshall requested Mr. Gray to contact the Coast Guard to explain the newly installed solar lights on inlet piles and channel markers, confirm that the lighting configuration meets navigational safety requirements, and obtain any guidance or concerns the Coast Guard may have. The work order totals $8,450.

B. Recommended for Approval
   1. FDEP Grant Agreement No. 24IR1 – Amendment 4 Sebastian Inlet IMP Implementation
      Mr. Gray provided background on FDEP Grant Agreement No. 24IR1, which was amended three times since its approval in June 2024. In July 2025, the District requested $217,500 in state grant funding to assist in the implementation of the District's sand bypassing program. During the fiscal year 2026/2027 Legislative session, $217,500 was appropriated to partially fund permit required monitoring of the 2024/2025 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project. Amendment

No. 4 amends Grant Agreement No. 24IR1 by increasing total State grant funding by $217,500 to $9,255,000. The amendment also updates multiple grant attachments for consistency.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Commission approve Amendment No. 4 to FDEP Grant Agreement 24IR1 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the District.

2. Work Order No. 2425-006-ATL 2024/2025 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project Partial Release of Retainage - Pay Application 13 – ATL Diversified, Inc.
   Mr. Gray said the District's contract with ATL for the dredging and beach placement project is 100 percent complete. The final contract amount, after adjustments, is $8.2 million. Because ATL impacted 0.35 acres of seagrass, the District proposes to release only 80 percent of its retainage, or $328,312.12, and continue to retain $82,078.02 until the state determines a mitigation penalty. Mr. Gray said performance bonds are still in place, so the district has additional financial protection if the FDEP penalty is higher than the remaining retainage balance. Mr. Gray noted that the District held two "lessons learned" meetings with engineers, staff, consultants and the state park staff. Discussion ensued. The summary of the meetings are available.

   Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Commission approve the partial release of retainage, payment Application No. 13, in the amount of $328,312.12 and continue to retain $82,078.02 until FDEP determines a penalty for dredging outside the permitted template.

3. Work Order No. 2627-001 – M&E, Morgan & Eklund, Inc. 2026 September/October Hydrographic Survey
   Mr. Gray said M&E provides professional hydrographic surveying services, conducting beach and inlet surveys on a semi-annual basis. Under the proposed work order, No. 2627-001-M&E, the contractor will provide the 2026 September/October hydrographic surveys to support the District's monitoring program. The work order amount is $111,430 and will be invoiced on a lump sum basis. Funding is budgeted and available under Winter Hydrographics account No. 5373-310.

   Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Commission approve Work Order No. 2627-001-M&E to the contract with Morgan & Eklund, Inc. and authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the District.

4. Work Order No. 2627-02-CRI (Carr Riggs Ingram) Audit of Financial Statements for the Period Ending September 30, 2026
   Mr. Gray said CRI has provided independent audit services for the District since 2011. Under the proposed work order, CRI would provide audit services for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026. The total cost of the FY 2025-26 services, including software fees, are $34,050, which is $800 higher than similar services conducted for the FY 2024-25 audit.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Commission approve Work Order No. 2627-02-CRI with Carr Riggs Ingram and authorize the Executive Director to sign the letter of engagement for the required FY 25-26 audits on behalf of the District.

Under Agenda Item VIII
Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items
There was no public comment.

Under Agenda Item IX
Board Vote on Consent Agenda
Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Under Agenda Item X
Unfinished Business
No unfinished business.

Under Agenda Item XI
New Business
There was no new business.

Under Agenda Item XII
Public Outreach Activities
Mr. Garland gave an update on the District's outreach activities, including an August 4 quarterly cleanup event at the tide pool and updates to website pages. He is developing an outreach strategy in advance of the North Jetty Improvement Project, Phases 2 and 3, including a dedicated webpage that is operational. He is also coordinating with the media for the Coconut Point Living Shoreline reef installation, which is tentatively scheduled for August. 26, 2026. Mr. Gray noted Mr. Garland's fifth anniversary with the agency, acknowledging his accomplishments during his tenure.

Under Agenda Item XIII
Park Matter – Ken Torres
Mr. Torres left the meeting early, but Mr. Gray updated the Commission on the District's collaborative relationship with the state park on the North Jetty – Phases 2 and 3 and the Coconut Point Living Shoreline projects.

Under Agenda Item XIV
Legal Counsel Update – Shawn L. Demers, Gray Robinson
There was no legal counsel update.

Under Item XV
Public Comment Period
There was no public comment.

Under Item XVI

Commissioner Items

Chairman Barney — Continuing to edit the draft Commissioner Orientation Guide, with the intention of completing his edits before his current term on the Commission ends.
Vice Chair Frazier— Wants to focus on the positive. She praised staff for moving to project-based budgeting and securing many grants.
Secretary/Treasurer Rowland — Nothing.
Commissioner Marshall — Agreed with Commissioner Frazier.
Commissioner Campbell — Nothing.

Under Item XVII
Adjournment — Chairman Barney adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer Date 9/9/2026