

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUPITER INLET DISTRICT
MINUTES
May 11, 2022**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

George Gentile, Chairman
Thomas Howard, Vice Chairman
James H. Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
Michael Martinez
Gail Whipple

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Joseph B. Chaison, Executive Director
William R. H. Broome, Attorney
Kenneth Craig, PE, Taylor Engineering

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Dr. Robert Bonitzer
Kim Woodward
André Rajoo (via CMT- Zoom)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Gentile called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. Comments from Public

Dr. Robert Bonitzer of 420 West River Drive expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Jupiter Inlet District, specifically in regard to efforts to preserve the habitat and Jones Creek shoreline of the property located at 500 N. Delaware Blvd.

3. Approval of Minutes

- **April 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 13, 2022**. Vice Chair Howard noted on Page 3 that the word 'were' should be added, that on Page 5 the word 'of' should be included, and that on Page 6 the following should be added, 'Vice Chair' and 'to reflect an increase to the monthly Commissioner Fees from \$200 per month to \$500 per month'. Vice Chair Howard also noted that Page 6 should include the following sentence, 'Vice Chair Howard noted that the policy should state that remote work requires special justifying circumstances, notification, and approval.'

Vice Chair Howard so **MOVED to approve the Minutes as amended**. Commissioner Martinez **SECONDED**. Chairman Gentile called for discussion; there being none, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

4. Approval of Bills

- **Submission of April Bills** - Chairman Gentile called for a **MOTION to approve the April Bills and the additional Bills as presented**. Commissioner Davis so **MOVED**; Commissioner Whipple **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.
- **Submission of Payroll, Utility Bills and Health Insurance Invoice for May** - Chairman Gentile called for a **MOTION to approve the Utility Bills and Health Insurance Invoice for May**. Vice Chair Howard so **MOVED**; Secretary Davis **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

5. Treasurer's Report

A. Approval of April 2022 Treasurer's Report

Staff recommended approval. Chairman Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the April 2022 Treasurer's Report**. Secretary Davis so **MOVED**; Commissioner Whipple **SECONDED**. Chairman Gentile called for discussion; there being none, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

6. Executive Director's Report

Central Embayment – Main Channel Maintenance Dredging

Ahtna Marine began dredging on April 22nd. Specifics were to be covered in the Engineer's Report. The railroad bridge closures have not affected the project progress. Staff have kept in contact with Jupiter PD Marine Units.

Loxahatchee River Railroad Bridge:

The interruptions to navigation due to the replacement of the bascule section of the railroad bridge had begun. Brightline and their contractor had adhered to their proposed twice-daily opening schedules. This affected access and navigation along the Loxahatchee River, though communication has been maintained and JID had not received reports of any incidents.

Johnson's Seagrass:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) removed Johnson's seagrass from the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species, effective May 16th, 2022. They determined that Johnson's seagrass does not meet the statutory definition of a species different from currently recognized species and therefore does not qualify for listing under the Endangered Species Act. This does not remove protections for seagrasses and does not currently directly affect the JID.

Florida House Bill HB3C:

The Florida Legislature passed HB3C on April 20th. This bill does not affect the Jupiter Inlet District. The Bill states "*any independent special district established by a special act prior to the date of ratification of the Florida Constitution on November 5, 1968, and which was not reestablished, re-ratified, or otherwise reconstituted by a special act or general law after November 5, 1968, is dissolved effective June 1, 2023.*" The Jupiter Inlet District was re-ratified on May 25, 2000.

District-Relevant Permit Activity:

A Letter of No Objection from the United States Coast Guard was received in reference to the proposed informational marker buoys in the vicinity of the JID Mangrove Island restoration project.

500 North Delaware Blvd (Taylor Property):

Staff noted that they have reached out to the Jupiter Town Council to facilitate resumption of the execution of the proposed interlocal agreement for the joint ownership and management of this property.

South Jetty Walkway:

As a result of the multiple nourishment projects south of the inlet over the last three years, sand is frequently accumulating on the south jetty boardwalk. Palm Beach County Parks has been responsive in trying to keep the walkway clear.

7. Engineer's Report

General Engineering

Jetty Observation

Mr. Craig performed the monthly jetty condition assessment on May 11 and did not report any significant changes from the prior assessment.

Jupiter Inlet Sand Trap

Mr. Craig noted that at the April board meeting, the board approved Ahtna's pay application following Taylor Engineering's recommendation and that the project is now complete.

Loxahatchee River Main Channel Maintenance Dredging

Ahtna mobilized to the project site and completed DMMA preparation. Taylor Engineering approved all preconstruction submittals. Dredging operations began April 22, 2022 and continue to be underway. The projected date for completion of dredging is May 13, 2022. Weekly coordination meetings with JID, Ahtna, and Taylor Engineering staff have occurred.

On April 28, USACE staff visited the site and observed operations. JID (Joe Chaison), Ahtna (Jennifer Bistyga), and Taylor Engineering (Ken Craig) all participated in person.

Ahtna noted that the discharge pipe leading from DMMA's weir to Sims has cracked due to vegetation growth near one of the pipe seams. Taylor visually inspected the pipe and noted that all discharge water remained within the pipe at the observed discharge rate. All agreed that any repair can wait until dredging operations are complete. Repair options following conclusion of dredging have been discussed.

Loxahatchee River Mile 6 Gap Closure and Oxbow Restoration Maintenance

Taylor Engineering submitted the state and federal environmental permit applications to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). SFWMD issued the environmental resource permit on November 4, 2021. The USACE issued a request for additional information (RAI) on December 8, 2021. Taylor Engineering completed a site visit to confirm site and natural resource conditions on December 22, 2021. Taylor Engineering submitted the completed RAI response to the USACE on February 2, 2022. The RAI response remains under review by the USACE.

Jupiter Inlet Jetties Restoration

The project team is preparing for the survey and inspection of the jetties, tentatively scheduled for the week of May 16, 2022. Additionally, Taylor has started conversations with concrete suppliers regarding advancing materials and updating specifications.

8. Legal Report

Mr. Broome noted that the JID insurance policy through the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT) does contain coverage for representation and resolution of claims. He further noted that the FMIT has assigned a firm to evaluate the potential claim and make recommendations. This firm's current recommendation is to make no counter offer to the demand letter received by the JID.

Chairman Gentile stated that he felt the JID should continue to retain Mr. Jim Williams. Vice Chairman Howard made a **MOTION to continue to retain Mr. Williams as our litigation counsel in regards to the potential lawsuit.** Commissioner Martinez **SECONDED.** Vice Chairman Howard noted that costs associated with claims and potential claims can rapidly accumulate. He further directed staff to track and monitor costs associated with the potential claim. Chairman Gentile called for discussion; there being none, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Mr. Broome noted that he has begun compiling information regarding record keeping requirements and remote work policies. Vice Chairman Howard requested that additional items, such as website ADA compliance, also be reviewed.

9. Unfinished Business

None.

10. New Business

None.

11. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Whipple

Commissioner Whipple noted she had attended an Open House at Lewis Longman & Walker, P.A. While there, she discussed the legislative schedule and process with Terry Lewis. Commissioner Whipple also noted the Florida Association of Special District's (FASD) comments on the rushed legislative process for passing HB 3C.

Commissioner Martinez

Commissioner Martinez noted his concern with the size and volume of sand in the Jupiter Inlet Ebb Shoal. He and Ken Craig had reviewed historical bathymetric plots of the Ebb Shoal. Commissioner Martinez feels that it is our responsibility to understand this area and consider alternatives to address this area. A discussion ensued regarding similar inlets and historical

investigations. Commissioner Martinez recommended that we schedule a Workshop Meeting to discuss and Inlet Study.

Vice Chairman Howard

None.

Treasurer Davis

None.

Chair Gentile

None.

13. Next Meeting Date(s)

Regular Meeting – June 8, 2022

14. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Gentile called for a **MOTION to Adjourn**. Treasurer Davis so **MOVED**; Commissioner Whipple **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

George G. Gentile, Chairman



Thomas L. Howard, Vice Chairman