# REGULAR BOARD MEETING BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS JUPITER INLET DISTRICT MINUTES

September 10, 2020

## **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

George Gentile, Chairman
Thomas Howard, Vice Chairman
Michael Martinez, Secretary/Treasurer
Gail Whipple

## **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Mary Patricia Walker

## OTHERS PRESENT

Joseph Chaison, Executive Director (In Person)
William H. Broome, Attorney (In Person)
Yehya Siddiqui, Taylor Engineering (Via CMT)
Sonja Kezber, Administrative Assistant (In Person)

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Dr. Stefan Harzen and Jim Davis (in person)

## 1. Call to Order

Chairman Gentile called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M.

## 2. Comments from Public

None.

## 3. Approval of Minutes

August 12, 2020, Regular Meeting

Chairman Gentile called for discussion or changes to the minutes as presented. Commissioner Whipple noted a change on Page 1 to change "there's" to "there". Commissioner Whipple also noted a change on Page 3, to remove an extra "been" in the sentence. Chairman Gentile called for a MOTION to approve the Meeting Minutes as amended. Commissioner Whipple so MOVED and Commissioner Martinez SECONDED. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

August 26, 2020, Workshop Meeting

Chairman Gentile called for discussion or changes to the minutes as presented. There were no comments or changes. Chairman Gentile called for a MOTION to approve the Meeting Minutes as amended. Commissioner Whipple so MOVED and Commissioner Howard SECONDED. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

## 4. Approval of Bills

- Submission of September Bills. Chairman Gentile called for a MOTION to approve the Submission of Bills as presented along with the additional invoices submitted to the Board earlier that day. Commissioner Martinez so MOVED; Commissioner Whipple SECONDED. Chairman Gentile called for discussion; there being no other discussion, the MOTION CARRIED unanimously.
- Submission of Payroll, Utility Bills and Health Insurance Invoice for October. Chairman
  Gentile called for a MOTION to approve the Submission of the October Bills as
  presented. Commissioner Martinez so MOVED; Commissioner Whipple SECONDED.
  Chairman Gentile called for discussion; there being no other discussion, the MOTION
  CARRIED unanimously.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Approval of August 2020 Treasurer's Report

Staff recommended approval. Chairman Gentile entertained a MOTION to approve the August 2020 Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Martinez so MOVED; Commissioner Whipple SECONDED. Chairman Gentile called for discussion; there being none, the MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Commissioner Martinez stated that some of the funds in the BB&T checking account would be moved to the State Board of Administration (SBA) account.

# 6. Executive Director's Report

#### 2020 Sand Trap Dredging:

Mr. Chaison stated that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) expects to issue Notice to Proceed (NTP) on September 15<sup>th</sup> to Coastal Dredging Company for the Intracoastal Waterway Dredging. We (JID) had a coordination call with the Corps and the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, to discuss scheduling and our current conditions within the inlet. Mr. Chaison stated that Taylor Engineering had completed the plans and spec for the project. Currently, he is investigating leveraging the contract with the Corps to use their dredger or going out to bid. Chair

Gentile congratulated Staff, FIND and the Corps on the great meeting and noted that the public notice had been posted the next day.

## **Inlet Shoal Area**:

Mr. Chaison reported that JID has continued to monitor conditions within the inlet. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) visited the area on August 20<sup>th</sup>, and updated the Notice to Mariners and added the area to their safety broadcast. Taylor Engineering inspected on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Depths above the shoal appear to have decreased since our most recent survey on July 29. We (JID) have coordinated with USCG Navigation and are moving forward with having American Underwater Construction install temporary markers around the shoal. Mr. Chaison reported that there had been reports of groundings at the shoal. Chair Gentile asked Mr. Chaison to contact the Jupiter Inlet Colony Police Chief to keep him informed.

Chairman Gentile entertained a MOTION to approve the installation and expenditure for the temporary markers and decals. Vice Chair Howard so MOVED with a Not to Exceed (NTE) amount of \$7,500.00 with a stipulation that the Executive Director's emergency power could kick in if needed; Commissioner Martinez SECONDED. Chairman Gentile called for discussion; there being none, the MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

## **Moonshine Creek Oxbow Restoration:**

Mr. Chaison reported that the Moonshine Creek Oxbow Restoration project has been submitted for reimbursement to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The reimbursement request is under review. An amendment had been suggested by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) bringing the total expected reimbursement to \$350,000.00.

## All Aboard Florida/Brightline Alternate Channel Dredging at Railroad Bridge:

Mr. Chaison reported that the railroad bridge rehabilitation and foundation replacement design are progressing. We coordinated with their (AAF/Brightline's) engineers regarding our Alternate Channel to ensure their pilings do not interfere with navigation.

## Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Coordination:

Mr. Chaison stated that JID had been contacted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regarding our channel markers in the Northwest Fork. They are planning to increase their speed/wake enforcement in the area and wanted to confirm the presence and location of our markers. A discussion ensued regarding the speed zones in the area. Vice Chair Howard stated that he doesn't think there is one for that area. In fact, he stated that he remembered a time, approximately 12 years ago, that we (JID) wrote a letter opposing it. Chair Gentile asked Mr. Chaison to look into it further on our end.

## Oxbow Restorations:

Mr. Chaison stated that he and Mr. Craig had visited the existing and proposed Oxbow Restoration locations on August 13<sup>th</sup> and confirmed the need for including an additional gap closure into our River Mile 6 Gap Closure and Oxbow Restoration Maintenance Project. Mr. Chaison reported that he had also observed the developing short-circuit near Moonshine Creek. Chair Gentile asked that Mr. Chaison bring a map of the area to the next meeting for the Board to note the locations.

## **Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA) Offloading:**

Mr. Chaison reported that Palm Beach County Natural Areas, and possibly the South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD), are interested in the Sims Creek dredged material in our DMMA. They have previously used material from our dredging projects.

## Executive Orders - Pandemic - Special Districts:

Mr. Chaison reported that Executive Order (EO) 20-179 extends EO 20-69 to October 15<sup>th</sup>, relaxing the requirement that a quorum be "physically present" for public meetings. Staff have been following Palm Beach County Emergency Order #12, which requires facial coverings and posting of signage.

## 7. Engineer's Report

## **General Engineering**

Jetty Observation

Taylor Engineering staff (Yehya Siddiqui) performed the monthly jetty condition assessment before the September board meeting and reported no significant changes from the prior assessment.

## **Jupiter Inlet Sand Trap**

Taylor Engineering continued to coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reviewer. The reviewer posted the public notice on September 3rd which begins a 15-day comment period. Assuming she receives minimal comments, she can then write the permit. In anticipation of receiving the permit, Taylor Engineering has continued preparing the specifications package for the next bypassing project expected this fall. They have collected sand samples from the trap and are processing the data in their Jacksonville Geosciences Lab.

Vice Chair Howard asked if the contractor for the Corps was receptive to dredging our sand trap. Mr. Siddiqui responded that it looked that way. Vice Chair Howard stated that while it might be less expensive because we wouldn't have mobilization and de-mobilization charges, we would still want to see the price first.

#### Loxahatchee River Mile 6 Gap Closure and Oxbow Restoration Maintenance

At the direction of the Board, Taylor Engineering is evaluating the need for additional maintenance at two previously constructed oxbow restoration projects upstream of the current project. Taylor Engineering completed a natural resources survey of the two additional sites on September 1, 2020 to assess current site conditions. Maintenance design will require collection of new topographic

survey information. Taylor Engineering will provide the recommended survey extents to the JID executive director.

## **AAF In-Water Permitting**

The FDEP issued the state permit on September 26, 2018. The USACE issued the federal permit on September 5, 2019. JID and Taylor Engineering continue to coordinate with Brightline/All Aboard Florida (AAF) regarding project construction and scheduling. No change from the last meeting.

## **Living Shorelines Project**

Taylor Engineering is in the process of completing the final design and construction documents in preparation for project bidding and construction. They are continuing to coordinate with the Division of State Lands regarding execution of the final public easement documents and issuance of the easement (No. 42464, BOT No. 500357446).

Mr. Chaison brought up the Sedimentation Study Proposal and a discussion ensued regarding the study and what it entailed. Vice Chair Howard stated that he was not in favor of approving it at this time. There were lots of questions regarding the price, labor, samples, etc. and that he felt the Commission should have some input regarding the purpose of the study. Chair Gentile agreed. The consensus was to wait for Mr. Craig to return and discuss it in more detail.

## 8. Legal Report

Mr. Broome asked if there were any questions on his previously submitted report regarding the election results. There were none.

#### 9. Unfinished Business

None.

## 10. New Business

None.

# 11. Commissioner Reports/Remarks

Vice Chair Howard

None.

**Commissioner Martinez** 

None.

Commissioner Whipple

None.

## **Chairman Gentile**

None.

Chair Gentile acknowledged Dr. Stefan Harzen, of the Taras Oceanographic Foundation, in the audience who stated that recent lectures had been held via Zoom. He reported that in some ways it had been a better experience since they could now be recorded and viewed later. In addition, some entities, such as Max Planck, were restricted on being able to present the lectures and could now do them via Zoom. He thanked the Board for their continued support.

## 12. Next Meeting Date(s)

- September 23, 2020 Final Budget Hearing
- October 14, 2020 Regular Meeting

## 13. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Gentile called for a **MOTION** to **Adjourn**. Commissioner Whipple so **MOVED**; Commissioner Martinez **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM

George G. Gentile, Chairman

Thomas L. Howard, Vice Chairman