

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUPITER INLET DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
February 9, 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 H. Broome, Attorney  
Kenneth Craig, PE, Taylor Engineering  
Sonja Kezber, Administrative Assistant

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Jim Williams of Williams, Leininger and Cosby and Andre Rajoo via CMT

**1. Call to Order**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

**2. District Representation for 2022 – Continued from January Meeting**

**The results of the discussion of the continuing Agency Representation for Calendar Year 2022 are as follows:**

1. Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) – Commissioner Davis and Mr. Chaison as the alternate
2. Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce - Chair Gentile

### 3. Comments from Public

None.

Chair Gentile noted that Mr. Williams was in attendance and asked Mr. Broome to introduce him. Mr. Broome introduced Mr. Jim Williams of Williams, Leininger and Cosby. Mr. Williams gave a brief history and outline of his firm's practice. He suggested that he begin by talking with the employees, communicating through Mr. Broome, and then preparing suggestions for the Board. He stated he would be available to the Board and asked if there were any questions. Chair Gentile stated that it was a good way to proceed and the rest of the board agreed.

### 4. Approval of Minutes

- **January 12, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2022**. Commissioner Whipple stated on Page 5, in the last sentence, "items expressed" was awkward and should be revised to "item brought to the attention of". Vice Chair Howard asked for clarification on the height of the buoys and it was confirmed that 36" is the height requirement.

#### **January 26, 2022 Workshop Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the Minutes of the Workshop Meeting of January 26, 2022**. Vice Chair Howard noted on Page 2 that his wife is a "State" attorney and asked that his comments on Page 3 be clarified. He commented that it should state that "it was very important that any recommendation be considered by the Commission and not disclosed to either employee".

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

### 5. Approval of Bills

- **Submission of February Bills** - Chairman Gentile called for a **MOTION to approve the February 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 March -**  
Chairman Gentile called for a **MOTION to approve the Utility Bills and Health Insurance Invoice for March**. Vice Chair Howard so **MOVED**; Commissioner Davis **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, **the MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

### **A. Approval of January 2022 Treasurer's Report**

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

## **7. Executive Director's Report**

### **2022 Inlet Sand Trap Dredging:**

Mr. Chaison stated that Mr. Craig will discuss the Bid Opening and Recommendation in the Engineer's Report. We conducted an additional, planned survey of the sand trap on January 27<sup>th</sup> and measured 60,100cy in the sand trap.

Mr. Chaison stated he had also reached out to Congressman Mast's office to let them know we may need an inquiry on our behalf about our Permit Modification request, and a call has been scheduled for tomorrow.

### **Main Channel Maintenance Dredging:**

Mr. Chaison stated that Mr. Craig will discuss this during his Engineer's Report. Of note, we received inquiries from Palm Beach County Parks and South Indian River Water Control District for the sand generated from this project.

### **Channel Markers:**

Mr. Chaison reported that two channel markers were damaged and replaced this month; Red #6 for the Main Channel and Green #1 for the Southwest Fork. We coordinated with Jupiter PD Marine Unit and with Coast Guard Navigation.

### **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Permit Applications:**

Mr. Chaison reported that the FDEP has resumed notifying JID about Joint Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) applications within our district boundaries. Of note this month was an

application by the Bureau of Land Management and SFWMD to install a water quality monitoring station on the Living Shoreline Observation Pier.

Commissioner Whipple asked who owns the Living Shoreline Project and consensus was that it is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Mr. Craig stated he was under the impression that they (BLM) would be approaching the District to sign something relinquishing all rights. Chair Gentile stated that he felt that would be acceptable, as it was not a liability we would want to carry.

**500 North Delaware Parcel (Taylor Property):**

Mr. Chaison stated that Jupiter Councilmen Kuretski and Kaufer both specifically mentioned finalizing the Interlocal Agreement between JID and the Town of Jupiter as priorities during their portions of the Town's Strategic Planning Meeting. We have continued the conversation with the Interim Town Manager who stated that he would speak with the Town attorney.

**Jupiter Inlet Foundation:**

Mr. Chaison reported that he has put the Jupiter Inlet Foundation in touch with the Coast Guard to coordinate the approval, listing, and maintenance of their proposed informational marker buoys.

**Site Maintenance:**

Mr. Chaison noted that Environmental Management has performed chemical and mechanical removal of exotic and invasive plant species on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Species included brazilian pepper, carrotwood, schefflera, caesar weed, rosary pea, coin vine, sansevieria, creeping oxeye, wild balsam apple, giant reed, various grasses and sedges.

Vice Chair Howard asked if they treat the site in sections and Mr. Chaison responded that they treat the entire site at once. Vice Chair Howard also suggested that Mr. Chaison check with the Environmental Resources Management (ERM) contact at the County as far as herbicide vs burning vs mechanical, to make sure they are doing what they (ERM) feels is best. Mr.

Chaison agreed and noted that Jim Schnelle (our vendor) is also their vendor.

Mr. Chaison relayed the Legislative budget update from the LRPI meeting. The LRPI was informed that the House budget had included 5 projects, yet not in the LRPI ranked order. A discussion ensued, with all agreeing that the LRPI has been very effective at advancing local projects.

**8. Engineer's Report**

## **General Engineering**

### *Jetty Observation*

Mr. Craig stated that he performed the monthly jetty condition assessment yesterday along with Mr. Chaison and Commissioner Davis, and did not find any significant changes from the prior assessment.

### **Jupiter Inlet Sand Trap**

Mr. Craig reported that Taylor Engineering conducted the bid opening for this project on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 2PM. Mr. Craig reviewed the Bid Summary and noted that there were three bids and the companies were all represented at the opening; Ahtna (Cavache), Atlantic Gulf and Cottrell. Ahtna came in as the lowest bidder, their bid was complete, responsive and responsible. We have had great working experiences with them in the past, therefore he was recommending Ahtna for the project.

Chairman Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve Ahtna for the 2022 Sand Trap Dredge Project as recommended by the engineer.** Commissioner Whipple so **MOVED**; Commissioner Martinez **SECONDED**. Chairman Gentile called for discussion; there being none, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

The permit modification request to establish the full Jupiter/Carlin beach fill template as the authorized disposal area and extend the permit length from 5 years to 10 years is still pending review by the USACE.

### **Loxahatchee River Main Channel Maintenance Dredging**

Mr. Craig stated that, following board approval of Ahtna's bid during the last board meeting, Taylor Engineering issued the Notice of Award and began coordination with the contractor. He stated that he anticipates mobilization toward the end of the month.

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

Mr. Craig reported that 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.

### **Living Shoreline Project**

Mr. Craig stated that final review of the vegetation survival had been completed and he is recommending release of the retainage to Ferreira which will complete the project. A sign with a QR code will be installed on the dock, facing the water, and he is also discussing with Peter DeWitt, an educational sign at the pier entrance (on land). This QR code will link to the Living Shoreline page on our website. Commissioner Whipple asked what our intent was, moving forward, as far as offering help to our constituents who would like to undertake this project. A discussion ensued and it was decided that in about 6 months' time, when the vegetation had filled in, it should be discussed in further detail.

Mr. Craig stated that the proposal for jetty maintenance work will be sent out to the Commissioners in the next few days for their review, to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **9. Legal Report**

None.

### **10. Unfinished Business**

- **Commissioner Salaries**

Mr. Chaison stated that at a Board meeting one year ago, the Board had agreed to table the discussion regarding raising the Commissioner's salaries for a year. He has reviewed past salaries and found that it has been 20 years since the last increase. We seem to be on a 20 year cycle as the one prior to that was also approximately 20 years. Mr. Chaison also outlined some of the other district's commissioner compensation packages. The Florida Retirement System was also discussed.

Mr. Lewis had given an outline of the process, and his opinion on how it would be received by the legislature, last year at the meeting, along with a figure of possible costs associated with his firm handling the lobbying. Mr. Chaison reported that after a conversation with Commissioner Whipple and Mr. Broome, they felt it could be completed in house. A discussion ensued with proponents on both sides of the subject. Vice Chair Howard stated that if the Board needed to vote at the next meeting, Mr. Broome would need to be involved as the Board would need a proposal of costs associated with lobbying for us. It was discussed and decided that at this time, just a recommendation of the salary increase would be presented to the Board at the next meeting, and any discussion of the FRS would be taken up at some later date.

Chairman Gentile called for a **MOTION**. **Commissioner Whipple made a MOTION to investigate the salary increase further and come back to the Board with a recommendation at the next meeting.** Commissioner Martinez **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, **the MOTION passed with a four to one majority, with a nay from Vice Chair Howard.**

**11. New Business**

None.

**12. Commissioner Reports/Remarks**

**Vice Chair Howard**

Vice Chair Howard reported that the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council meeting at the Lighthouse had gone very well and several manatees were spotted swimming by the pier during the event.

**Commissioner Whipple**

None.

**Commissioner Davis**

None.

**Commissioner Martinez**

None.

**Chair Gentile**

Chair Gentile asked if the information sent out by Mr. Chaison via email earlier that day regarding Brightline had been directly received from Brightline or if it was a generic public update. Mr. Chaison stated it had been received directly from Brightline. Chair Gentile asked that it be forwarded to entities such as the Village of Tequesta, Inlet Colony, etc. to bring them up to speed. He also noted that his firm is donating time on the plans for the proposed museum project at the Lighthouse.

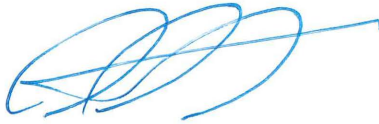
**13. Next Meeting Date(s)**

Regular Meeting – March 9, 2022

**14. Adjournment**

Jupiter Inlet District  
February 9, 2022  
Regular Meeting Minutes

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Gentile called for a **MOTION to Adjourn**. Commissioner Davis so **MOVED**; Commissioner Whipple **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.



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George G. Gentile, Chairman



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Thomas L. Howard, Vice Chairman