

Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4:30 PM, November 13, 2024
Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum
Vero Beach, FL, 32963

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer), Commissioner David Barney, Commissioner Lisa Frazier and Commissioner TJ Marshall. Commissioner John Campbell was absent (excused). Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, Contracts & Budget Director David Kershaw, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Legal Counsel Shawn L. Demers, Ken Torres (SISP), and Marie Yarbrough (AtkinsRéalis).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order – Commissioner Rowland called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

Welcome Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Marshall

A. Oath of Office

Mr. Demers swore in Commissioner Marshall and incumbent Commissioner Rowland. Mr. Campbell had already been sworn in at an earlier date in anticipation of his excused absence from the meeting.

B. Filing of Commissioner Bonds

Mr. Kershaw said the bonds have been processed and paid for, and that the District is waiting for them to arrive.

Under Agenda Item III

Election of Officers for 2024-2025

Following a discussion of the nominating and election process by Mr. Demers, Commissioner Rowland made a motion to nominate Commissioner Barney as Chairman. Commissioner Marshall said he was abstaining from voting on the elections of Board officers as this was his first meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. **The motion carried 3-0, 1 abstention (Commissioner Marshall).**

Commissioner Barney made a motion to nominate Commissioner Frazier as Vice Chair. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 3-0, 1 abstention (Commissioner Marshall).**

Commissioner Barney made a motion to retain Commissioner Rowland as Secretary/Treasurer. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. **The motion carried 3-0, 1 abstention (Commissioner Marshall).**

Under Agenda Item IV

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of September 4, 2024. Commissioner Marshall said he was abstaining from voting on the meeting minutes as this was his first meeting. Commissioner Rowland made a motion to approve the minutes. Chairman Barney seconded the motion. **The motion passed 3-0, 1 abstention (Commissioner Marshall).**

- B. Approval of the minutes of the Tentative Millage and Budget Hearing of September 4, 2024. Commissioner Rowland made a motion to approve the minutes. Chairman Barney seconded the motion. **The motion passed 3-0, 1 abstention (Commissioner Marshall).**
- C. Approval of the minutes of the Final Millage and Budget Hearing of September 18, 2024. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion passed. 3-0, 1 abstention (Commissioner Marshall).**

Under Agenda Item V

Additions and deletions

There were no items.

Under Agenda Item VI

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Under Agenda Item VII

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Executive Director's Reports:

1. Update on the 2024/2025 North Jetty Revetment Improvements Project – Phase 1
Mr. Gray said the District recently awarded a bid to Shoreline Foundation, Inc. for the North Jetty Revetment Improvement Project at \$1,842,329.36. The project will rehabilitate approximately 190 linear feet of revetment structure with 1,650 tons of granite boulders and construct a steel seawall and sidewalk along portions of the north jetty that were impacted by storms. The project is anticipated to be completed by July 2025. Mr. Gray described the District's outreach initiatives that include media interviews, website and social media updates. The webcam and weather station have been temporarily removed and are unavailable, but weather data is available on the District's website via a Florida Tech page. He responded to commissioners' questions about adding a temporary webcam, saying the District is working with Erdman, the webcam provider, to find a suitable location for a possible temporary webcam location. Mr. Gray said the granite will be dropped tested, delivered by rail and placed using a 100-ton crane. Commissioner Marshall requested monthly project updates for transparency. Mr. Gray said the District will provide updates to the Commission and the public on the website on a routine basis. Commissioner Marshall also suggested that the District assemble a short time-lapse video of the project area, which may be a useful tool when seeking state funding or grant opportunities. Mr. Gray said he will collaborate with staff to explore the time lapse video idea and provided a status on legislative appropriations and grants requested to assist the District in funding the jetty project.
2. Discussion on the FDEP 2024 Annual Inlet Report
Mr. Gray provided highlights of the FDEP 2024 Annual Inlet Report, which identifies to FDEP the inlet success in mitigating inlet erosion effects on adjacent beaches. The District's sediment bypass volume is 75,000 cubic yards annually. The report shows a cumulative bypassing deficit of approximately 829,000 cubic yards since the year 2000. Mr. Gray said FDEP acknowledges in the report that adjacent beach nourishment projects can help mitigate inlet effects. By Gray's calculation, this means that nourishment projects completed by Indian River County, the state of Florida, the state park and the District, have reduced the cumulative deficit to approximately 35,000 cubic yards, or 98 percent of objective. Referring to page 1 of the FDEP 2024 Annual Inlet Report, Mr. Gray said the District has a strong argument that the impacts of the inlet have been mitigated. Commissioner Marshall asked whether FDEP is acknowledging, in writing, the benefits of adjacent nourishment projects, which he said would

be helpful in seeking funding in Tallahassee. Mr. Gray said FDEP won't recognize the cumulative numbers in writing but that the report contains a general statement regarding the positive effects of adjacent nourishment projects. Chairman Barney said Mr. Gray successfully explained to the Indian River County Beach and Shore Advisory Committee that the District is meeting its obligation. Commissioner Frazier said the takeaway is that this information is acknowledged in the same document where the requirement is located, which will help the District support its position in the future. Commissioner Marshall asked whether the deficit listed in the FDEP report will negatively impact the District when seeking FDEP Local Government Funding Requests. Mr. Gray said that the District has not been penalized.

3. Update on the FDEP 2025/2026 Local Government Funding Requests

Mr. Gray provided an update on the FDEP Local Government Funding Requests (LGFR) for 2025/2026. He said there were 57 applications requesting a total of \$122,114,078.68 in state funding; 46 applications, totaling \$66,119,007.46 for beach projects and 12, totaling \$55,998,072.17 for Inlet projects. The District ranked number four among the 12 inlet applications. The District has requested approximately \$4.76 million for its upcoming Supplemental Truck Hauling Project and North Jetty Revetment Improvement Project. Historically, the LGFR program receives \$50 million in funding from the Legislature. Commissioner Marshall expressed concern that the FDEP has put in writing that the District will need to conduct truck hauling to meet its sand bypassing requirement. Mr. Gray explained that annually the inlet does not retain 75,000 cubic yards, so the District must buy upland sand to meet its bypassing objective. Following a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Rowland recommended that Mr. Gray and Commissioner Marshall discuss bypassing objectives outside of the meeting.

4. Discussion of Consent Agenda

Under Agenda Item VIII

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland gave an overview of the past month's public outreach activities, including the District's participation in the IRL Day event on November 9 and the District's extensive outreach efforts regarding the North Jetty Revetment Improvements Project.

Under Agenda Item IX

Park Matters — Ken Torres said FDOT has completed pothole repairs throughout the state park.

Under Agenda Item X

Legal Counsel Update — Shawn L. Demers, Gray Robinson

Mr. Demers had nothing to report.

Under Agenda Item XI

Public Comment Period

Under Agenda Item XII

Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review

There were no items.

B. Recommended for Approval

1. Sebastian Inlet Tax District Conveyance Documents (Easements) to the State of Florida Department of Transportation For Construction of the Sebastian Inlet Bridge Replacement Project

Mr. Gray described to the Commission a list of temporary and perpetual easements, as well as two subordinations, that, if conveyed to FDOT, will allow FDOT to proceed with the Sebastian Inlet Bridge Replacement Project. Mr. Gray responded to several questions from Commissioners, providing the history and purpose of each easement and subordination, and the reasons why FDOT requested them. Mr. Demers reviewed the requested conveyances with staff.

Recommended Action:

The recommendation of staff is for the Board to approve Temporary Easement – Parcel No. 701, Perpetual Easement – Parcel No. 804, and (2) Subordinations (Parcels 701 and 800) and authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the District.

Staff also recommends the Board voluntarily approve donating the lands described in Temporary Easement – Parcel No. 701 and Perpetual Easement – Parcel No. 804 to the state of Florida for the use and benefit of the Florida Department of Transportation.

2. Award of Bid — 2024/2025 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project

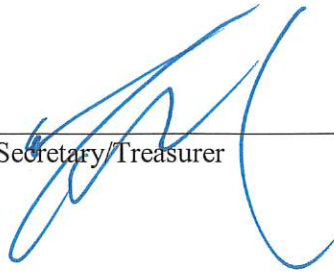
Mr. Gray said the District solicited bids in August 2024 for the project, which will excavate approximately 215,000 cubic yards of material from the District's sand trap and place an additional 80,000 cubic yards via truck hauling, and dredge and place 9,600 cubic yards of non-beach compatible material in the District's Dredged Materials Management Area (DMMA). The project must be completed by April 30, 2025 due to sea turtle nesting season. The District received one bid, submitted by ATL Diversified, Inc. for \$7,253,300.

Commissioner Frazier asked if the District has ever worked with ATL. Mr. Gray said no, however explained that Jupiter Inlet District has used ATL and that they have previously bid on past District projects. Mr. Gray explained that the project is fully funded and is eligible for at least 50% cost share under FDEP's Beach Management Funding Assistance Program. Commissioner Marshall expressed concern about the \$7 million price tag. He said Mr. Gray provided comparable projects but that they were not similar in scope or cost. Commissioner Rowland said project costs have drastically increased in recent years. Mr. Gray said the comparables he provided were the costs for other District projects that Commissioner Marshall requested. Mr. Gray added that when compared to similar projects completed by Indian River County and other entities, the project bid is extremely competitive. Mr. Gray noted that the District was appropriated a \$6.5 million legislative project grant in 2024 that is in process. Commissioner Rowland reiterated that project costs have doubled in the past five years. Commissioner Marshall said he was unaware of the \$6.5 million grant and called it "huge." Mr. Gray, with assistance from Mr. Demers and Ms. Yarbrough, responded to additional questions from Commissioner Marshall regarding turbidity monitoring, contractual protocols and truck hauling costs.

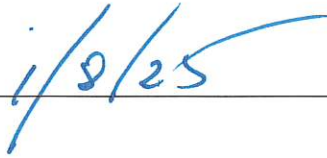
Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Commission award the 2024/2025 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project under the total bid submitted by ATL Diversified, Inc. in the amount of \$7,253,300. Staff also recommends the Board authorize Mr. Gray to execute the agreement after receipt and approval by Mr. Demers of the required Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Certificate of Insurance.

3. Work Order No. 2425-007-ATK, AtkinsRéalis 2024-2025 Sebastian Inlet Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project

Secretary/Treasurer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Date

A handwritten date '1/8/25' in blue ink, with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the '5'.