

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 14, 2017

The regular meeting of the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach District was held at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida on Thursday, September 14, 2017.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jerry Dixon called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

3. ROLL CALL

Chairman Jerry Dixon, Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin, Commissioner Tom Rivers, Commissioner Mark Helman and Commissioner Chris Way were in attendance. The meeting was also attended by Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel Jim Bedsole and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

4. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of August 31, 2017, District accounts contained a total of \$2,038,906. Of this total, \$306,122 is dedicated to the Summer Haven River restoration, and \$466,785 is currently committed to other projects, making net funds available \$1,572,121. As of August 31, 2017, the District had spent \$166,067 on operating expenses in this fiscal year, and \$163,924 on projects. All tax revenues expected for the year have been collected and no more revenue is expected until December, 2017.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Commissioner Helman to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 18, 2017, was seconded by Commissioner Rivers and passed unanimously.

6. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He said Hurricane Irma had not breached the new beach berm at Old A1A in Summer Haven but that the berm had been overwashed at several points. He said he believes some of the sand displaced by the overwash is now in the river and that about forty thousand cubic yards will

be needed to restore a minimal berm profile. The contractor of the restoration project is again working to repair the damage at the rates charged last year after Hurricane Matthew.

Chairman Dixon said the District had acted decisively to repair the breach caused by Hurricane Matthew and was assured at that time the county would reimburse the cost to the District. Mr. Craig reported the county has included the District's claim in its application for FEMA funds. Ellis Zahra, Friends of the Summer Haven River, said the FEMA application for reimbursement funds has been approved at every step of the FEMA process to date. Other sources of emergency funds are also being sought from legislators, DEP and FIND. Linda Ginn, FOSHR, said she was gratified the river had now begun to flow, but that the damage from the overwash represents another delay in completing the project.

The restoration contractor, Rich Turnbull, said the project is 95% complete, and that FWC has released the final stretch of beach for completion. Mr. Craig said the final step is replanting vegetation which will be delayed until the beach berm is stabilized and rebuilt.

Mr. Craig ended his report by saying the permit application for the Vilano-South Ponte Vedra beach renourishment project is delayed pending a post-Irma survey of the area. The Army Corps of Engineers is working on the survey which should be available soon.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Dixon asked Jim Piggott, Director of General Services, City of St. Augustine, for an update on dredging activities. Mr. Piggott said the final portion of Salt Run will be completed next week, and that this will complete all dredging for this fiscal year. He also reported one of the city's contractors had picked up a large section of floating dock in the bay and had removed it to the Vilano Boat Ramp for disposal by the county. He asked the board to pay the \$1,500.00 cost charged by he contractor.

A motion by Commissioner Helman to pay the \$1,500.00 charge to remove the floating dock from the bay was seconded by Vice-Chairman Benjamin and passed unanimously.

Mr. Piggott then reported the city needs another \$2,500.00 for debris removal in addition to the \$5,000.00 recently given by the board for Hurricane Matthew clean-up.

A motion by Chairman Dixon to give the city another \$2,500.00 for clean-up of floating debris was seconded by Vice-Chairman Benjamin and passed unanimously.

Ms. Kemper reminded Mr. Piggott the city needs to provide an invoice for this year's dredging activity, a total of one hundred thousand dollars, to the District before the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2017.

Mr. Piggott went on to relate the south dock of the City Marina was destroyed in Irma, and the center dock received extensive damage. He said four boats sank at the marina but that he expected all of them to be removed promptly. He said the city had evacuated the north mooring field prior to Irma in an effort to avoid vessels hitting the Bridge of Lions during the storm. Some vessels did break loose but all are insured and will be handled by the insurance companies. He also reported the floating dock at Lighthouse Ramp was badly

damaged.

He said the city incurred ten million dollars in out-of-pocket expenses from Hurricane Matthew and that Irma will probably cost another five million. The fuel dock at the City Marina is out of service for at least the next month, depriving the city of income from fuel sales. The city will also request FIND to allow the grants for the city police boat and the kayak launch, about one hundred fifty thousand dollars, to be used for repair of the marina. He requested the board to consent to the request and to allow its matching funds contribution to also be used for repairs. The board discussed the matter and there was no objection to the conversion of its matching funds for the police boat and kayak launch to be used for repairs of the marina. However, the board did not commit to replacing those funds should the requests for contribution to the police boat and kayak launch come before it for consideration in the future. Several commissioners were of the opinion that FIND would not allow the funds to be converted from their original purpose.

In response to questions by Commissioner Helman, Mr. Piggott said several areas of the old sea wall near the City Marina are failing and that the connectivity project has been stalled by concerns the old seawall will collapse during reconstruction. Vice-Chairman Benjamin said the District has such limited resources that contributing to the reconstruction of its marina could damage the District's ability to respond to other needs such as keeping the inlet open.

8. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

9. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

Chris Pacetti, St. Augustine Fire Department, reported his agency had removed an unoccupied vessel from the bay and moored it in a safe area after securing its engines. He also reported the department has been training with the St. Johns County Marine Unit.

Corporal Josh Underwood, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit, reported his agency had taken their boat out of the water and repositioned their floating dock prior to Hurricane Irma, so neither asset was damaged. He said last month, SJSO spent 130 man-hours on the water, conducted 21 inspections, issued 14 warnings, performed 12 resource inspections, and issued 6 citations.

He said he recently contacted FWC about adding no wake signs in the middle section of the San Sebastian River and was told the river is a "local zone" which FWC does not control or maintain. Responsibility for posting regulatory signs in the San Sebastian River remains unclear, but FWC personnel indicated to him that it was probably a county or city duty.

All of the marker buoys in the St. Augustine Inlet are off station at this time. Two are in the ocean five miles north of the inlet, and one is on the beach north of the inlet. Local shoals have moved due to the strong south winds, and are as yet unsurveyed and unmarked. FWC reports 37 boats displaced by Irma and warned boaters to expect to encounter large masses of floating debris in all areas of the county.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin Carrigan, 120 Inlet Drive, St. Augustine, said he is concerned about styrofoam waste from the destruction of concrete floating docks. He said styrofoam breaks down into small beads which may then be ingested by sea life. He asked the board to do anything within its power to promote the use of something besides styrofoam in the manufacture of floating docks.

11. **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:** NONE

12. **NEXT MEETING**

Chairman Dixon announced the next meeting of the board will be held at 3:00 p.m. on October 17, 2017, and the final public hearing on millage and budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 will be held October 3, 2017 at 5:05 p.m. in the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Room.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

wk/rg/port/minutes-2017/Minutes 9-14-17 meeting