MINUTES OF THE

**FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT**

**Board of Commissioners Meeting**

**9:00 a.m., Saturday, June 15, 2019**

**Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront**

**1550 North Atlantic Avenue (S.R. AIA)**

**Cocoa Beach, Brevard County, Florida 32931-3230**

**ITEM 1-B. Reconvened/Call to Order.**

### Chair Donaldson reconvened the Florida Inland Navigation District Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:13 a.m.

**ITEM 2-B. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Commissioner Sansom led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**ITEM 3-B. Roll Call.**

Secretary Gernert called the roll and Chair Donaldson, Vice-Chair Blow, Treasurer Netts, Commissioners Crowley, Cuozzo, Sansom and Williams were present. Commissioners Isiminger, McCabe, and O’Steen was absent. Secretary Gernert stated that a quorum was present. Also in attendance were Executive Director Mark Crosley, Assistant Executive Director Janet Zimmerman, Attorney Peter Breton and Ms. Shelley Trulock, USACE.

The following visitors were present: Mr. Matt Culver, Brevard County; Ms. Liz Alward, City of Satellite Beach; Mr. Brad Keen, City of Port St. Lucie; Ms. Beth Lemke and Ms. Kelly White, City of Daytona Beach; Ms. Michelle Vallaince, City of New Smyrna Beach; Mr. Tim Volker, City of Stuart; Sergeant Brian Bossio, City of Stuart Police Department; Ms. Katie Bowes, Martin County; Mr. Todd Foust, Martin County; and, Mr. Mike Grella and Mr. Rusty Roberts, Jupiter Inlet District.

**ITEM 4-B. Additions or Deletions.**

Chair Donaldson asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Mr. Crosley stated that he would like to add to the agenda: Item 10.46, Loxahatchee River Railroad Bridge Span Modification.

Vice Chair Blow made a motion to approve the final agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cuozzo. Chair Donaldson asked for discussion. Hearing none, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 13. Finance and Budget Committee Report.**

Commissioner Sansom made a motion to approve the recommendations of the District’s Finance and Budget Committee, April 2019 financial statements, the delegation of authority, and the expenditure and project status report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Chair Donaldson asked for discussion. Hearing none, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 14. Comments from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**

Ms. Shelley Trulock, the IWW Project Manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), stated that the maintenance dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) for the Sawpit Area in Nassau County began December 14, 2018. Over 614,000 cubic yards of beach quality material was dredged from this reach of the waterway. The project was completed on April 6, 2019 and close-out activities are underway. The final acceptance letter has been sent to Southwind Construction. Southwind Construction did an excellent job, the project went very well, and has been a complete success.

Ms. Trulock stated that two bids for the IWW Matanzas project in St. Johns County were received on May 30, 2019. Unfortunately, both bidders were 25% above the awardable range for a government contract. Staff reviewed the USACE estimate and could not justify the higher project cost. The best path forward is to cancel the procurement as it currently stands and move to negotiations with both bidders for bid clarification. Both bidders will be given an opportunity to submit a final bid to the USACE. The project should start in August 2019. Contributed funds will be required to complete this project.

Treasurer Netts stated that boats are running aground in the Matanzas Channel.

Ms. Trulock stated dredging of the IWW in Volusia County had been combined with the Ponce Inlet dredging project into one contract action. The project has been completed and close-out activities are being conducted. There has been an equitable adjustment (REA) related to staging and the undocumented debris within the channel and the Coast Guard basin. Federal funding is available for these REAs. Cavache, Inc. did an excellent job.

Ms. Trulock stated that the IWW Crossroads in Martin County channel and newly constructed widener is the highest shoaling area within the IWW. The USACE Hopper Dredge Murden is scheduled to dredge Crossroads in Martin County in mid July 2019 and will place the material within the St. Lucie Inlet settling basin. The County will remove the material from the settling basin in late summer of 2019 for a beach project. Pre and post-project surveys will be completed with federal funding. The seagrass survey will be completed in the next week. The federal funding to be used for Crossroads dredging will be redirected to the Matanzas contract. In order to accomplish Crossroads, contributed funds will be required.

Ms. Trulock stated that she has nothing new to add regarding DMMA O-23, Martin County for the May report. Ms. Trulock stated that the USACE is proceeding with the Environmental Assessment and stormwater plan. Taylor Engineering is proceeding with a Phase II HTRW investigation.

Ms. Trulock stated that the gopher tortoise removal permit has been received for the IWW Broward Reach I dredging project. The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) expedited the permit application. During the MSA 641-A pre-site visit, approximately 23 gopher tortoise burrows and three (3) gopher tortoises were found and will be relocated. The burrows were grouted. Approximately 50,000 cubic yards of material will be removed from the channel. The project was awarded to Cavache, Inc. on February 20, 2019. The contractor is on standby until the gopher tortoises are relocated, which caused a 45-day delay. Contributed funds will be required to complete this project.

Ms. Trulock stated that another USACE Project Manager was able to recover their Tier 3 funding that was removed at the federal level. FIND should work with Mr. Davenport towards recovering their Tier 3 funding that was eliminated because of federal funding cuts. She would like to meet with FIND to review and update the District’s (5) five-year dredging project schedule.

Ms. Shelley Trulock presented Work Order No. 50-2019-03 for the Maintenance Dredging Crossroad Reach of the IWW.

Ms. Shelley Trulock presented Work Order No. 51-2019.04 for Maintenance Dredging Matanzas Reach of the IWW.

Commissioner Sansom made a motion to approve Work Order No. 50-2019-03 and Work Order No. 51-2019.04 for Maintenance Dredging. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cuozzo. Chair Donaldson asked for discussion. Hearing none, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 10.-Continued. FY 2019-2020 Waterways Program Application Presentations.**

Ms. Zimmerman outlined the presentation schedule and stated that each applicant will be allowed five (5) minutes for their presentation followed by five minutes (5) of commissioner questions and discussion.

**ITEM 10.37. Merritt Island Area Spoil Disposal Site Acquisition, Brevard County.**

Mr. Matt Culver, with Brevard County presented the application to purchase 13.60 acres, 10 upland acres, of waterfront property to be used as a publicly owned dredged material spoil management area (DMMA), situated between Sykes Creek and the Banana River Lagoon. The site will be used to support regional maintenance dredging projects at public boat ramps and for the County maintained channels in the area. The site may also serve as a staging or off-loading area in support of larger environmental restoration dredging projects.

Vice-Chair Blow stated that it would be great if other communities would look for sites for this type of project.

**ITEM 10.38. DeSoto Kayak Launch, City of Satellite Beach.**

Ms. Liz Alward, with the City of Satellite Beach, presented the application to construct the first public canoe/kayak launch in the City which will be located at the DeSoto Complex. This 14.8-acre park is situated on the border of Satellite Beach and Indian Harbour Beach. The launch will be ADA accessible and connected to a paved multi-use recreational trail. DeSoto park offers restroom facilities, water fountains, a fishing pier, picnic area and ample parking.

Commissioner Sansom stated the majority of waterfront property in Satellite Beach is privately owned. This will be the only kayak launch facility in Satellite Beach and is located near a stormwater retention area.

**ITEM 10.39. Riverwalk Park Boardwalk Extension, Phase IIA, City of Port St. Lucie.**

Mr. Brad Keen, with the City of Port St. Lucie, presented a Phase IIA application to continue to construction of a 2,000 linear foot long riverfront boardwalk, and expand fishing and boating access at Westmoreland Riverfront Park. The new boardwalk will connect to an existing boardwalk and boat docking area. This project will enhance public access to the river. Future improvements include a wide promenade that will parallel with the seawall along the river. Future phases of the project will include lighting, a potable water service, a waterfront stage and terraced seating and three fishing/public viewing platforms. The park is a 43-acre recreation space located along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

Chair Donaldson stated that the City of Port St. Lucie has a beautiful waterway with limited public access points that tie into the Okeechobee Waterway (OWW). This a great project that will eventually become a public/private partnership providing residents access to the waterway.

Ms. Zimmerman noted that this is a Phase IIA and is a continuation of a multi-year funded project.

**ITEM 10.40. Riverfront Pak Seawall, Phase I, City of Daytona Beach.**

Ms. Beth Lemke, for the City of Daytona Beach and Ms. Kelly White, with the City of Daytona Beach, presented the Phase I application to design and permit a 1,400 linear foot long seawall at the City’s Riverfront Park. Ms. Lemke stated that the Esplanade Project is being expanded to include the area from Main Street Bridge to Orange Avenue. The promenade will parallel the seawall, greatly improving waterway access. The seawall needs to be completed in advance of the park construction. Manatee Island and City Island will be connected to this project providing extended waterfront destinations to the public. This is a public private partnership with funding being provided by the Brown Riverfront Esplanade Foundation for development of the park.

**ITEM 10.41. City of New Smyrna Beach Mooring Field, Phase II, City of New Smyrna Beach.**

Ms. Michelle Vallaince, with the City of New Smyrna Beach, presented the Phase II application to construct a new managed mooring field. The new mooring field will provide safe and easy access to the Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) and a decreased presence of abandoned and derelict vessels. The new mooring field will be managed and monitored by the City. Great emphasis will be placed on the care and conservation of the surrounding marine environments allowing boaters to safely secure vessels while delivering little impact on the lagoon bottom.

Commissioner Sansom stated that the best place to put a managed mooring field is where the boats are already anchoring.

Mr. Crosley noted that the IWW channel in this area is not a regulated zone and boats are still mooring here.

**ITEM 10.42. Shepard Park Improvements, Phase IV, City of Stuart.**

Mr. Tim Volker, with the City of Stuart, presented a Phase IV application to construct, reconfigure, and add supplementary parking spaces to accommodate additional waterway users. The new boat trailer spaces will provide a better boat staging area without blocking the boat ramps. This boat ramp is heavily used by the boating public and the only public boat ramp in the City of Stuart.

Commissioner Cuozzo stated that the City of Stuart provides excellent waterfront access to the public by land or boat. This new parking layout will improve the safety of the facility.

**ITEM 10.43. Stuart Police Marine Patrol Vessel, City of Stuart.**

Sergeant Brian Bossio, with the City of Stuart Police Department, presented the application for the purchase of a 24-foot rigid hull inflatable patrol boat for the Stuart Police Department Marine Patrol Unit. The marine patrol enforces boating laws, intercepts illegal immigrants and narcotics, protects marine life, and assists citizens in distress.

Commissioner Cuozzo stated that the City has seen increased waterfront growth and use. This vessel is necessary to provide boater safety and assistance.

**ITEM 10.44. Manatee Pocket Mooring Fields, Martin County.**

Ms. Katie Bowes, with Martin County, presented the application to construct 42 mooring buoys and a dinghy dock adjacent to the Crossroads section of the waterway. Because of spacing, the mooring fields will be separated into two areas. A dock will facilitate ingress and egress between the mooring fields and the adjacent uplands. The upland facility will be provided through a public/private partnership.

Commissioner Cuozzo asked if a Private-Public Partnership agreement has been executed. Ms. Bowes stated that letters of intent have been sent and the agreement will be executed after the County obtains grant funding.

Chair Donaldson stated that local business owners formed a coalition and came to the County requesting an official mooring field in this area.

**ITEM 10.45. Phipps Park Shoreline and Dock, Martin County.**

Mr. Todd Foust, with Martin County, presented the application to stabilize 500-linear feet of shoreline, construct a boat dock/fishing pier, extend the waterfront walk, and build a pavilion at the end of the pathway. This project will expand waterway access for viewing, picnicking, boating and fishing. Martin County has already stabilized 1,200 linear feet of shoreline and completed installation of a concrete pathway, irrigation, Bermuda sod, a dock, and post and rail fence.

Mr. Foust stated that this facility is located on the St. Lucie Canal with direct boater access to the Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) and the Okeechobee Waterway (OWW).

Commissioner Cuozzo noted that this is the only RV campground in the Martin County Park system. The banks in this facility have been eroding and this stabilization project will keep sand out of the channel.

Chair Donaldson pointed out the project’s stormwater treatment area. He stated that the campers and user fees will pay for the maintenance of this park.

**ITEM 10.46. Loxahatchee River Railroad Bridge Span Modification, Jupiter Inlet District.**

Mr. Mike Grella, with the Jupiter Inlet District (JID), presented the application to modify the span to a higher clearance, 7.92’ or greater above mean high water (MHW), to allow the majority of vessel traffic to pass under the railroad bridge when the draw span is in its down and locked position. The FEC Railroad bridge crossing the Loxahatchee River has a current vertical clearance of 4 feet above MHW along with a horizontal clearance of 40 feet, thus placing significant limitations on boaters when it is in the down position. Boats waiting for the bridge to open must also contend with strong tidal currents, estimated at 7 to 8 knots. This can result in difficulty avoiding being set onto the bridge, the shore, or each other.

Mr. Rusty Roberts, with Virgin Trains USA, stated that the FEC Railroad bridge is scheduled to have everything from the rail-bed up, including the hydraulics, electronics, motors and gears. The piers will not be replaced. The JID is proposing to replace one span and increase the vertical clearance. Performing this work along with the Virgin Train USA’s work is the most cost-effective way to complete this span replacement.

Vice-Chair Blow asked if the entire bridge will be replaced. Mr. Roberts answered yes. Vice-Chair Blow asked about the height increase modification costing $2.5 million. Mr. Roberts answered noted that increasing the height of the bridge will not be part of the railroad project and will be the JID project. Vice-Chair Blow noted that if this was a private sector project it would have to be brought up to the current code. He feels that this height increase should be paid for by the railroad. Mr. Roberts stated that this height increase of the railroad bridge has zero benefit to the railroad, it would provide benefit to the boaters. He stated that the railroad does not need to do this project. Virgin Trails USA is not making this request, the JID is.

Chair Donaldson stated this section of the waterway is not a Federal waterway. The re-building of this new railroad bridge meets the current code. Increasing the height of the bridge would benefit boaters

Mr. Crosley stated that he lives in Tequesta and boats in this area of the waterway. The tidal current is very strong and multiple boats are waiting when this railroad bridge is down. He is surprised that there are not more boating accidents in this area. The height increase of this bridge would provide passage to more boaters and provide for two lanes of boating traffic. This is a win-win for boaters.

**ITEM 12-B. Public Comments.**

Chair Donaldson asked if there were any additional public comments. There were none.

**ITEM 15. Washington D.C. Report.**

Mr. Crosley stated that on May 20, 2019, the House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Energy and Water Development and related agencies bill. For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (USACE) and other agencies the bill provides a total of $7.36 billion and includes the Administration’s budget request of $3.48 million for the IWW and $2.736 Million for the OWW. Overall these are very good numbers for FIND as we head into the next fiscal year and see additional funding in the FY 2020 Work Plan.

Chair Donaldson stated that the budget includes $200 million for the everglades and $63 million for water projects. This may provide an opportunity for FIND to request funding for some new construction projects.

**ITEM 16. Additional Staff Comments.**

Chair Donaldson asked if there were any additional staff comments or discussion. There were none.

**ITEM 17. Additional Commissioner Comments.**

Chair Donaldson asked if there were any additional Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Crowley thanked Commissioner Sansom for last evening’s Community Outreach event and noted that the hotel venue was very nice.

Treasurer Netts noted that a tremendous number of local elected official attended last evening Community Outreach event.

Commissioner Cuozzo thanked staff for recognizing Ms. White with the USACE for all the work she has done for the District over the years.

Commissioner Williams thanked the District staff for their organization and work preparing for this meeting.

Commissioner Cuozzo referenced the FP&L line within the District’s right of way in in Broward County. Jupiter Island had the same problem and they hired a law firm to address the issue. That action got a quick response and action form FP&L.

Vice-Chair Blow made a motion to approve authorizing the District staff to engage additional expert legal services to handle utility line issues with AT&T and FP&L. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cuozzo. Chair Donaldson asked for discussion. Hearing none, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Gernert presented the District with a plaque from the MIASF for supporting the 2019 Broward County Waterway Cleanup project and a 2018 Public-use Partnership Award from the Broward County Parks and Recreation Division.

Treasurer Netts noted that the quality of Assistance Projects has improved over the past several years. He complimented the District staff for the hard work it takes to review and qualify the assistance projects.

Vice-Chair Blow thanked Chair Donaldson for his service for the previous year and agreeing to continue as Chair for an additional year.

**ITEM 18. Adjournment.**

Chair Donaldson stated that hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Don Donaldson, Chair

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Attest: Frank Gernert, Secretary

(SEAL)