

**Sebastian Inlet District**  
Regular Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, 4:30 PM, May 10, 2023  
Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum  
Vero Beach, Florida

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairman Jenny Lawton Seal, Commissioner Beth Mitchell (Vice Chair), Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer), Commissioner David Barney and Commissioner Lisa Frazier. Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, Contracts & Accounting Manager Dave Kershaw, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Legal Counsel Jack Kirschenbaum, Kenneth Torres (SISP), Alex Kinder (SISP), and Dr. Gary Zarillo (Florida Tech).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order—Chairman Lawton Seal called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of April 12, 2023. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to amend the minutes by striking the word “admonished” on Page 3 and changing it to “advised.” Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The **motion carried 5-0**.

Under Agenda Item III

Presentations

- A. Presentation of the 2022 State of the Inlet Report, Dr. Gary Zarillo, Florida Institute of Technology, Inc.

Dr. Zarillo gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation in which he described seasonal sand volume and shoreline changes, the inlet’s sediment budget, and potential alternative sand sources from offshore shoals. He said the ebb shoal sand volume has been stable for the past few years but that there have been major seasonal variations in the flood shoals and the trend line is down.

Dr. Zarillo said that seasonal sea level fluctuations influence sand volumes on the coastline and should be considered by coastal managers for future planning. Commissioner Mitchell asked whether this information can be used to predict impacts of a storm based on the flow of the gulf stream. Dr. confirmed that it is possible to conduct a statistical analysis that makes a correlation between the gulf stream flow and coastal sea level impacts. In summary, sea level records indicated that sand losses correlate to rising sea levels.

Dr. Zarillo described two shoals about three miles off the coast — Thomas Shoal and a smaller shoal known as Little Thomas Shoal — that could potentially provide 67 million and 19 million cubic yards respectively of beach quality sand. Commissioner Barney said that Indian River County is studying alternative sand sources and noted that any entity could remove sand from the shoals. Dr. Zarillo said that there are a lot of sand sources available in state waters, including Indian River Shoals. He noted that there is no shortage of sand, but it is expensive to pump it. Responding to questions from Commissioner Barney, Dr. Zarillo described the lengthy survey and permitting processes involved in dredging offshore shoals. Dr. Zarillo’s entire presentation is in the recorded minutes.

Under Agenda Item IV  
Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Media and Information  
No discussion.

B. Executive Director's Reports

1. Update on the North and South Jetty maintenance and Safety Improvements Project  
Mr. Gray said that the District took advantage of the temporary closure of the jetty to conduct surveys at the north jetty required as part of the planned improvements at the north and south jetties. He said he expects a design to be completed in the next two or three months, with construction starting in April 2024. Mr. Gray noted that the District's \$2 million request for project funding was approved and requires only Gov. Desantis' signature. He said it would be appropriate to recognize local representation with letters of appreciation. Commissioners said they supported his recommendation.

2. North Jetty Cleanup April 26-27, 2023  
Mr. Gray, using a PowerPoint presentation, shared highlights of the April cleanup event at the north jetty. Between 50 and 70 divers from multiple law enforcement agencies participated, collaborating with the District and SISP. He said that Mr. Torres recognized the need for a cleanup event, largely due to the navigation hazards caused by debris below the waterline at the north jetty. Mr. Gray said divers retrieved about 900 pounds of debris, including aluminum jetty grates lost in storms, cast nets, monofilament and lures.

Mr. Torres read a list of the participating agencies and contributors. He said that he is working toward hosting a larger event in 2024. He said the event was successful but that murky water conditions hampered divers from collecting a larger volume of debris. Commissioner Mitchell, who attended the first day of the cleanup event, said it was good to see the collaboration among all agencies involved.

3. Draft FY 2023-24 Budget Planning Discussion  
Mr. Gray presented the Commission with a draft five-year project planning document, which includes an anticipated timeline for maintenance projects, shoreline projects and monitoring. He said the estimated revenue requirement to fulfill the five-year project objective would cost \$6 million to \$7 million annually, with sand placement projects being the largest component, along with maintenance of the north and south jetties. He noted that staff is aggressively seeking grants where available, but typically does not include in budget estimates because they are not guaranteed. Mr. Gray explained that he prepared the planning document so that the Commission would not be blindsided once the District staff begin developing the budget for next year and beyond.

Commissioner Mitchell requested a more detailed spreadsheet that identifies projects that could be removed if funds were unavailable. Mr. Gray said that he and staff are already developing a project spreadsheet and will share during subsequent budget discussions with the Commission. Commissioner Mitchell said she is concerned because the District increased the millage rate last year and that the projects costs are a large hike compared to past years. Mr. Gray said his goal was to provide the Commission with early notice that there needs to be discussion about funding sources, especially due to recent increases in overall project construction costs. He is also working with the District's lobbyist to explore potential funding opportunities and project cost savings specific to project post construction monitoring.

Commissioner Barney asked Mr. Gray how to delineate between jetty maintenance versus repairs and whether the \$2 million appropriation covers all of the repair costs. Mr. Gray said the appropriation is for a portion of the overall project costs which include both repairs and maintenance with the District funding the balance of the project costs. Commissioner Barney also asked how Mr. Gray and his staff will estimate the costs of future projects. Mr. Gray said that he and Mr. Kershaw are using current project mobilization and sand costs to estimate future budget needs. Mr. Gray said for example, an estimated \$50 per cubic yard was used for future sand project costs. Mr. Gray said he and staff are developing a number of strategies, including sand management needs, budgetary issues and lobbyist discussions to control costs.

#### 4. Discussion of Consent Agenda

##### Under Agenda Item V

###### Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland provided an update on recent and upcoming outreach activities, including the positive public reaction to the April 26-27 cleanup event, an upcoming article on the 2022 seagrass survey results, an upcoming May 19 Coastal Connections cleanup event and a series he is developing based on a lengthy interview with Dr. Grant Gilmore about fish species at the inlet.

##### Under Agenda Item VI

Park Matters – Mr. Torres said he had nothing further to share because he had already discussed the jetty cleanup event during the Consent Agenda portion of the meeting.

##### Under Agenda Item VII Legal Counsel Update — Jack Kirschenbaum (Gray Robinson)

Mr. Kirschenbaum said he tabulated the Commissioners' individual evaluations of Mr. Gray's job performance, noting that the rating legend demonstrated that Mr. Gray excelled in all categories and exceeded expectations and job requirements. Mr. Kirschenbaum provided potential salary adjustments for the Commission to consider.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to adjust Mr. Gray's salary to \$159,000 annually. Commissioner Barney seconded her motion. Mr. Rowland said Mr. Gray has done a great job and recommended a salary adjustment to \$155,000. After a brief discussion regarding a proposed salary adjustment, Commissioner Mitchell said her figure came from Mr. Gray's memorandum to the Commission, but Commissioner Rowland noted that the memo requested a salary adjustment at \$157,500 and not \$159,000. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to amend her earlier motion in support of the \$157,500 salary adjustment. Commissioner Barney seconded her motion. **The motion carried 4-0.** (Commissioner Frazier was excused at 5:37 p.m., prior to the vote.) Mr. Gray thanked the Commission for their continued support.

##### Under Agenda Item VIII

###### Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

##### Under Agenda Item IX

###### Consent Agenda

###### A. Authorized Work For Commission Review

1. No items.

###### B. Recommended for Approval

1. Work Order No. 2223-019-FIT- Florida Institute of Technology, Inc., State of the Inlet Analysis 2023

Mr. Gray said the work order permits the continuation of the services FIT provides to support the District's long-term sand resources and data analysis necessary for the annual update to the State of the Inlet Report. The total amount of the work order is \$136,110 and is on a lump sum basis.

2. PNC Muni-Plus Account/PNC MMDA Account Switch

Mr. Kershaw said the request is for the District to close its Muni-Plus account at PNC Bank and replace it with a PNC money market account as a cost-saving measure. The money market account has a lower monthly fee structure and a better interest rate at 2.9 percent.

Vice Chairman Mitchell voted to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion.  
**The motion carried 4-0.**

Under Item X

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Barney - Reminded the Commission that he will be unable to attend the June 14 regular commission meeting.

Commissioner Frazier - (Excused from meeting at 5:37)

Secretary/Treasurer Rowland - Congratulated Mr. Gray on his performance evaluation.

Vice Chairman Mitchell - Thanked Dr. Zarillo for his work for the District, including serving as chairman of the Sebastian Inlet District Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee

Chairman Lawton Seal - Nothing.

Under Item XI

Unfinished Business

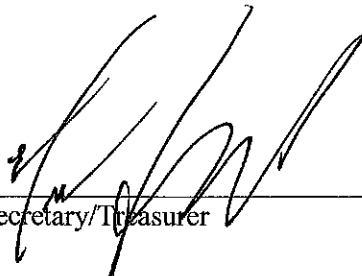
No Unfinished business

Under Item XII

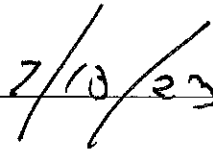
Chairman Lawton Seal recommended cancelling the June 14, 2023, meeting due to Commissioner Barney's planned absence on that date, as well as Mr. Gray's conflict due to a FASD conference he will be attending. All commissioners agreed with the recommendation.

Under Item XIII

Adjournment — Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

  
Secretary/Treasurer

Date

  
7/10/23