

**Sebastian Inlet District**  
Regular Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, 4 PM, September 9, 2026  
North Indian River County Library  
1001 Sebastian Boulevard 32958

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairman David Barney, Commissioner Lisa Frazier (Vice Chair), Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer), Commissioner John Campbell and Commissioner TJ Marshall. Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Contracts and Accounting Manager Stacy Busche, SID Legal Counsel Shawn Demers, Quintin Bergman (IRC), Johnnie Sabin (IRC), Kendra Bergman (CC Inc) Kenneth Torres (SISP), Tara Brenner (ESA), Katie Crocker (AtkinsRéalis) Dr. Gary Zarillo (FIT), and Robert Stephen (public).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order -- Chairman Barney called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

The Commission discussed the minutes of the regular Commission meeting of August 12, 2026, and approved them without changes.

Under Agenda Item III

Additions and Deletions

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Under Agenda Item IV

Presentations

- A. Presentation of the 2025 State of the Inlet Report, Dr. Gary Zarillo, Florida Institute of Technology  
Dr. Zarillo gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation of his annual State of the Inlet Report in which he described seasonal sand volume and shoreline changes and the inlet's sediment budget. An inverse relationship exists between ebb shoal volume accumulation and flood shoal volume loss, often triggered by sand trap excavations. Enhanced southward littoral transport is likely due to over two million cubic yards of sand placement from Brevard County fill projects. Short-term (2024–2026) data shows a convergence of volume gains in southern cells following the north jetty "sand tightening" repair. Dr. Zarillo's entire report is available in the recorded meeting minutes.

Under Agenda Item V

Information and Discussion Agenda

- A. Executive Director's Reports
  - 1. Update on North Jetty Improvement Project – Phases 2 and 3  
Mr. Gray said the North Jetty Improvement Project – Phases 2 and 3 involve installing 48 distress concrete piles and 1,400 tons of granite armoring stone. Bids ranged from \$2.3 million to \$8.3 million, with a construction window between

November 2026 and July 2028. Mr. Gray anticipates a bid recommendation in October.

2. Update on the Coconut Point Shoreline Resilience Project

Mr. Gray provided an update on installing a 200-foot living shoreline at Coconut Point using 22 reef units and 45 mangrove plantings. The project is in partnership with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Ocean Research & Conservation Association, Inc. (ORCA) and aims to improve shoreline resilience and reduce erosion and sediment accumulation near the Sebastian Inlet State Park. The installation is scheduled for September 10, 2026, with mangrove plantings scheduled approximately four to six months later.

3. Update on Sebastian Inlet Channel Markers

Mr. Gray said with the help of Commissioner Campbell, staff removed the recently installed solar channel marker lights because they were unauthorized by the Coast Guard. There was no additional cost to remove the lights, and Summerlin Marine has agreed to buy them back from the District. Mr. Gray said the Coast Guard has an application process for installing lights if the Commission would like him to investigate further. While removing the lights, staff conducted an inspection of channel markers and found several items missing, specifically red markers 6, 8, and 20 alongside a green can buoy recently recovered by Summerlin. He recommended a more proactive repair schedule for replacing fatigued day boards. The commission debated whether to invest in illuminating channel markers for improved navigation or if lighting would cause unnecessary safety risks or light pollution. Commissioner Marshall prioritized replacing missing markers 6 and 8 as a life safety issue due to high traffic volumes and potential hazards like shoals in narrow turns. Mr. Gray agreed and stated that he has already contacted Summerlin Marine for a proposal.

*Chairman Barney called for a meeting recess at 5:25 p.m. so that the Commission could convene the Tentative Millage and Budget Hearing. Chairman Barney reconvened the meeting at 5:59 p.m.*

Under Agenda Item VI

Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review

1. No items.

B. Recommended for Approval

1. Work Order No. 2627-003-CCinc., Coastal Connections Inc. FY 26/27 Marine Debris Management Services

Mr. Gray said the proposed work order allows for the continuation of the Coastal Connections, Inc., Beach Basket Program and quarterly marine debris management through fiscal year 26-27. The total cost is \$6,040, which includes a new service for monitoring and recycling fishing line from two tubes at the T-Dock and North Shore project areas. Funding is available under Natural Resources Programs/Public Awareness and Education, Account No. 5376-306.

**Recommended Action:** Staff recommends the Commission approve Work Order No. 2627-003-CCinc with Coastal Connections Inc. and authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the District.

2. Work Order No. 2627-004-LLW, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. 2026-2027 Legislative Representation  
Mr. Gray said the proposed work order is for the continued Engagement of Lewis, Longman & Walker for the 2027 legislative session at a flat fee of \$48,000, covering the period from October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027. Funds are available under Legal/Legislative/Executive Account No. 5140-312.

**Recommended Action:** Staff recommend the Commission to authorize the Executive Director to sign the 2027 Legislation Session Letter of Engagement with Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. on behalf of the District.

3. Work Order No. 2627-005-FIT Florida Institute of Technology, Inc. State of the Inlet Analysis 2026-27  
Mr. Gray said the work order provides for the continuation of the State of the Inlet Analysis with the Florida Institute of Technology. Led by Dr. Zarillo, this \$136,110 work order includes sediment budget updates, shoreline change data, and expanded Delta 3 modeling.

**Recommended Action:** Staff recommends the Commission approve Work Order No. 2627-005 - FIT to the contract with Florida Institute of Technology and authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the District.

#### Under Agenda Item VIII

##### Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Robert expressed concerns regarding the declining condition of the state park facilities, specifically mentioning unmaintained bathrooms, broken showers, and safety hazards like trip hazards on the jetty. Chairman Barney noted that state park funding has been slashed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Commissioner Marshall said that the District cannot manage state park facilities directly, but that it can lend support if issues are documented as they relate to the jetties.

#### Under Agenda Item IX

##### Board Vote on Consent Agenda

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

#### Under Agenda Item X

##### Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

#### Under Agenda Item XI

##### New Business

There was no new business.

Under Agenda Item XII

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland gave an update on the District's outreach activities, including the latest increase in downloads of the District's app, an international cleanup event on September 19 at the state park, and a media event on September 10 when reef arches are installed at Coconut Point.

Under Agenda Item XIII

Park Matter – Ken Torres

Mr. Torres left the meeting early, but Mr. Gray said state park officials continue to coordinate with FDOT as its bridge replacement project continues.

Under Agenda Item XIV

Legal Counsel Update – Shawn L. Demers, Gray Robinson

There was no legal counsel update.

Under Item XV

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Under Item XVI

Commissioner Items

Chairman Barney — Proposed a change to how consent agenda items are presented to allow for easier discussion of routine renewals.

Vice Chair Frazier— Advised caution regarding changes to public sector meeting procedures but agreed to discuss it at a future meeting, noting that the consent agenda should allow commissioners to pull agenda items for further discussion under new business.

Secretary/Treasurer Rowland — Nothing.

Commissioner Marshall — Told Chairman Barney he will try to work on edits to the draft Commissioner Orientation Guide prior to the November deadline Chairman Barney is trying to meet.

Commissioner Campbell — Nothing.

Under Item XVII

Adjournment — Chairman Barney adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer

Date

10.14.2026