

Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4:30 PM, May 13, 2026
Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum
9700 South Hwy A1A
Vero Beach, FL 32963

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairman David Barney, Commissioner Lisa Frazier (Vice Chair), and Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer). Commissioners TJ Marshall and John Campbell were absent (excused). 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, Ken Torres (SISP), Quintin Bergman (IRC), Dakota Whelan (IRC), Clint Hodges (ATL), Kyle Horstman (ATL), Dr. Mike Jenkins (ATM-Geosyntec), Katie Crocker (ATK), and William "Tuck" Ferrell (public).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order – Chairman Barney called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

The Commission discussed the minutes of the regular Commission meeting of April 8, 2026 and the minutes of the Administrative Policy Manual Workshop Meeting of April 22, 2026, and approved them without changes or corrections.

Under Agenda Item III

Additions and Deletions

There were no additions or deletions.

Under Agenda Item IV

Presentations

- A. Indian River County Beach Preservation Plan 2026 Update, Quintin Bergman, IRC
Coastal Resources Manager

Mr. Bergman gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the most recent updates to the Indian River County Beach Preservation Plan, which he called the foundation for the county's beach management program. This is the sixth update since the county established the plan in 1988. The plan addresses risk, such as shoreline encroachment and infrastructure exposure, as well as management strategies. The plan recommends considering structural relocation in the future, continuing its beach nourishment program, and continuing to collaborate with the District to meet bypassing objectives. Mr. Bergman fielded questions from Chairman Barney, Commissioner Rowland and Mr. Ferrell.

Under Agenda Item V

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Executive Director's Reports

1. FDOT Sebastian Inlet Bridge Replacement Project construction open house – May 19, 2026, 5-7 PM

Mr. Gray said FDOT will hold a public workshop on May 19 at the Environmental Learning Center in Wabasso to share information on the upcoming Sebastian Inlet Bridge Replacement Project. Staff will attend the meeting.

2. Update on the 2025/26 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project.

Mr. Gray said the contractor, ATL, completed the Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project on April 26, 2026. He showed surveys illustrating where dredging was completed, noting that ATL exceeded the contracted bypass amount of 253,000 cubic yards by 18,000 cubic yards. ATL placed approximately 37,500 cubic yards of sand in the Dredged Materials Management Area (DMMA), 179,000 cubic yards on the Sector 1 beach and 92,200 cubic yards on the Sector 2 beach, totaling approximately 271,000 cubic yards of bypass credits. The additional sand extended the District's bypass credit from 3.3 years to 3.6 years. The additional sand requires the Commission to vote on a change order (see Agenda Item VI, B, 1). Less than a half-acre of seagrass was impacted during dredging, and the District's project consultant, AtkinsRéalis is slated to submit a final report to FDEP by May 22, 2026. FDEP will provide a formal review of the impact report to determine whether mitigation is required. Commissioner Frazier and Chairman Barney discussed the cost of the \$8 million project, which increased over time from the original contracted amount but remained under the District's estimate of \$9 million. Mr. Gray, responding to Commissioner Frazier, said FDEP will review the estimated impact of the over-dredge findings and, once DEP's requirements are reconciled, the District will determine whether and how much of the project bond and retainage should be released.

Under Agenda Item VI

Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review

No items.

B. Recommended for Approval:

1. Change Order No. 8 (Additional Dredge/Sand Placement) – Work Order No. 2425-006-ATL, ATL Diversified, Inc. 2025/2026 Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project

Mr. Gray said ATL dredged approximately 178,893 cubic yards of sand, or approximately 3.5 percent above the contracted amount, from the inlet sand trap and channel. Change Order No. 8 increase this contracted bid item by 5,893.39 cubic yards or \$26,520.26. All other contract documents, contracted bid items, corresponding unit and lump sum costs, and construction completion schedules, remain unchanged. The updated total contract amount will now be \$8,529,239.01.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Commission approve Change Order No. 8 and authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the District.

2. Work Order No. 2526-014-GEO, Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. – Geophysical Surveys on Potential Offshore Sand Borrow Sources

Mr. Gray explained the process of investigating offshore sand sources and the potential long-term benefits for the district. The District has a USACE permit allowing for geophysical sampling of offshore shoals, Thomas and Little Thomas shoals, which may contain over 50 million cubic yards of beach quality sand if fully utilized. Dr. Jenkins responded to Commissioner Frazier's concerns about the environmental impact of offshore sand extraction. He said that the biota living in the shoals are adaptable to environmental disruptions. Under the proposed work order, Geosyntec will provide engineering services necessary to conduct a sand source study. The total amount of the work order is \$105,560 and will be on Time and Materials Not to Exceed basis.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Commission approve Work Order No. 2526-014-GEO to the contract with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. and authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the District.

Under Agenda Item VII

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

There was no public comment.

Under Item VIII

Board Vote on Consent Agenda

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 3-0.**

Under Agenda Item IX

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland gave an update on the District's outreach activities. A livestream Facebook video of the jetty inspections reached more than 43,000 people. The District also provided comments for a Spectrum News video about the Sebastian Inlet Bridge project.

Under Agenda Item X

Park Matters – Ken Torres

Mr. Torres said state park parking spaces will be reduced by about half its capacity during FDOT's replacement of the Sebastian Inlet Bridge, a five-year project. The state park will plan and implement park parking and gate operations during the bridge construction period, including blocking the north parking lot under the bridge starting around June 1 and managing vehicle entry to avoid closing the park.

Under Agenda Item XI

Legal Counsel Update

Mr. Demers said the Commissioners completed Mr. Gray's annual evaluation and that his scores averaged out to a proposed 3.92 percent merit increase. Mr. Gray thanked the Board and requested an opportunity to extend merit increases to all staff recognizing collective staff efforts.

Commissioner Rowland made a motion to give Mr. Gray a 4.5 percent salary increase. **The motion died for lack of a second.** Commissioner Frazier made a motion to give Mr. Gray a 4 percent salary increase. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 3-0.**

Under Agenda Item XII

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Under Item XIII

Commissioner Items

Chairman Barney — Jupiter Inlet District Executive Director Joe Chaisson gave Chairman Barney a tour of Jupiter Inlet and the District's facilities.

Vice Chair Frazier— Nothing.

Secretary/Treasurer Rowland — Nothing.

Commissioner Campbell — Absent (Excused)

Commissioner Marshall — Absent (Excused)

Under Item XIV

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

Under Item XV

New Business

No new business.

Under Item XVI

Adjournment — Chairman Barney adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.


Secretary/Treasurer

Date

June 10, 2026