

**Sebastian Inlet District**  
Regular Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, 4:30 PM, March 13, 2024  
Sebastian Inlet Fishing Museum  
9700 South Highway A1A  
Vero Beach, FL 32963

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, Director of Contracts & Budget David Kershaw, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Legal Counsel Shawn Demers and Jack Kirschenbaum, Ken Torres (SISP), Marie Yarbrough (AtkinsRéalis), Lt. Grant Eller (FWC), Dr. Gary Zarillo (Florida Tech), Quintin Bergman (IRC), and Melissa Meisenburg (IRC).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order – Chairman Lawton Seal called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of December 13, 2023. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Barney seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Under Agenda Item III

Presentations

2023 Wind, Wave and Weather Presentation — Dr. Gary Zarillo, Florida Tech

Dr. Zarillo gave his annual Wind, Wave and Weather Presentation. Dr. Zarillo presented a slide show which included diagrams of sensors located 1,500 feet offshore and at the throat of the inlet. The sensors collect data on parameters that include current, current velocity, and current length and speed. He also described how the weather station located at the tip of the north jetty records water temperature, water level, air temperature and barometric pressure, wind speed and direction. Dr. Zarillo's entire presentation is in the recorded minutes.

Under Agenda Item IV

Information and Discussion Agenda

A. Media and Information

FDOT letter of appreciation for the use of Sebastian Inlet Bridge Historical Account Banners. Mr. Gray shared with the Commissioners a letter of appreciation from FDOT for the use of historical account banners showcasing the history of Sebastian Inlet. The banners were a vital component of FDOT's historical display. He said the District has developed a strong partnership with FDOT.

B. Executive Director's Reports

1. 2024 Legislative Update

Mr. Gray said a bill that would have required a two-thirds vote by the commission to approve a millage increase did not survive the legislative session. House Bill 7013, which requires special districts to establish goals and objectives and also requires that they seek legislative approval for boundary changes, passed. Other bills that would have impacted the District died. He said the legislature passed a budget that includes a \$1 million appropriation for north

and south jetty maintenance improvements. Mr. Gray acknowledged and thanked the bill's sponsors, Sen. Erin Grall, Rep. Robert Brackett, and noted Sen. Debbie Mayfield and Rep. Thad Altman for their support in moving the bill through the legislature. He also acknowledged District lobbyist Chris Lyons of Lewis, Longman and Walker.

2. Update on the North Jetty Project

Mr. Gray said the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has granted the District a one-year De Minimis Exemption for rock and seawall modifications planned for the north jetty. Mr. Gray said the District is still waiting for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit. The target time for construction is June through September 2024. Commissioner Frazier asked if there is a risk in putting the project out for bid without the USACE permit in hand. Mr. Gray responded that the District could include a bid alternate for construction in 2025. Commissioner Frazier asked whether April is too late to go out to bid if construction is planned for June. Mr. Gray said scheduling to be ready for June could be tight but that the USACE permit is the holdup. The District is in frequent communication with USACE to move the permit forward.

As an amendment to the agenda, Mr. Gray asked the Commission to allow Mr. Bergman to provide an update on sea turtle nesting in Indian River County and the Sector 3 Dune Restoration Project. The commission agreed to the request. Mr. Bergman said three leatherback turtle nests have been counted in Indian River County and nighttime monitoring has now begun. In Sector 3, approximately 150,000 cubic yards of sand have been placed, the equivalent of about 21,000 feet. The project is expected to wrap up by May 1, 2024.

3. Discussion of Consent Agenda

Mr. Gray reviewed a Consent Agenda item for the Commission's consideration. (Details are found under Item IX).

Under Agenda Item V

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland provided an overview of recent and upcoming public outreach activities, including highlights about the District's most popular social media posts, recent and upcoming presentations and discussed the quarterly inlet cleanup event on February 16. Mr. Garland has been distributing small posters to area marinas and bait shop to promote the app. He said that business owners are enthusiastic about the app. Commissioner Rowland said he would help distribute the promotional posters to fishing clubs and other organizations of which he is a member. Commissioner Frazier recommended distributing promotional materials to Freedom Boat Club locations, to which Mr. Garland agreed.

Under Agenda Item VI

Park Matters – Sebastian Inlet State Park Manager Ken Torres said he is organizing an annual jetty cleanup with Florida law enforcement officers to be held May 1 and May 2, 2024. Mr. Gray said the District will again provide drinks and snacks at the event.

Under Agenda Item VII

Legal Counsel Update — Shawn Demers (Gray Robinson)

Mr. Demers did not have an update. Mr. Kirschenbaum, who also attended the meeting, had nothing to add.

Under Agenda Item VIII

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Under Agenda Item IX

Consent Agenda

A. Authorized Work for Commission Review

No items.

B. Recommended for Approval

1. Work Order No. 2324-008-M&E, Morgan & Eklund, Inc. 2024 March/April Hydrographic Survey

Mr. Gray said the proposed work order provides the next cycle of the District's permit-required hydrographic monitoring. The work order includes additional monitoring to capture the entire inlet flood shoal and adds 10 beach profile lines in Brevard County. Overall, there is 40,000 feet of monitoring conducted in Brevard County and 30,000 feet in Indian River County. The total amount of the work order is \$108,232.

2. Work Order No. 2324-009-ATK, AtkinsRéalis 2024 Post-Construction Sea Turtle Monitoring

Mr. Gray said the proposed work order is for the third year of post-construction sea turtle monitoring for the 2020-2021 DMMA truck haul project. The work is exclusively for sea turtle nesting surveys from April 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024. The total amount of the work order is \$109,794.23, and will be on a not-to-exceed fee.

3. Work Order No. 2324-010- FIT – Florida Institute of Technology, Inc., Wave, Weather, and Tide Data Collection at Sebastian Inlet, Florida, for 2024-2025

Mr. Gray said the work order is for the continuation of FIT's services that provide the District with wave, weather and tide data. Dr. Zarillo will continue to lead the work. The total amount of the work order is \$162,098.50.

4. District Public Records Request and Fee Schedule Procedures

Mr. Kershaw said the District made minor revisions to its procedures for handling public records requests and the related fee schedule, which have not been revised since 2017. The updates address District response times to public records requests and a fee structure for labor and supply costs. Commissioner Frazier recommended that the District include a provision stating that the District will not charge for electronic copies of records. Mr. Demers supported Commissioner Frazier's recommendation to add a provision regarding electronic copies.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Under Item X

Commissioner Items

Chairman Lawton Seal – Nothing.

Commissioner Rowland – Nothing.

Vice Chair Mitchell – Nothing

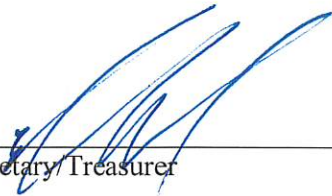
Commissioner Frazier – Nothing.


Commissioner Barney – Nothing.

Under Item XI  
Unfinished Business  
No Unfinished business.

Under Item XII  
New Business  
No new business.

Under Item XIII  
Adjournment — Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date