

**Legislative Committee
Meeting
February 14, 2014**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT'S
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

8:00 a.m., Friday, February 14, 2014

**Hilton Garden Inn at PGA Village
8540 Commerce Centre Drive
Port St. Lucie, (St. Lucie County), FL 34986**

Committee Members

Chair?? ,

Commissioners Carl Blow, Tyler Chappell, Spencer Crowley, Charlie Isiminger & Jerry Sansom.

Item 1. **Call to Order.**

Commissioner Chappell will call the meeting to order.

Item 2. **Roll Call.**

Assistant Executive Director Janet Zimmerman will call the roll.

Item 3. **Election of a Committee Chair.**

The Committee will nominate and elect a Committee Chair.

RECOMMEND: Approval of a Committee Chair.

Item 4. **Additions or Deletions.**

Any additions or deletions to the meeting agenda will be announced.

RECOMMEND: Approval of a final agenda.

Item 5. **Public Comments.**

The public is invited to provide comments on issues that are NOT on today's agenda. All comments regarding a specific agenda item will be considered following the Committee's discussion of that agenda item. *Please note: Individuals who have comments concerning a specific agenda item should make an effort to fill out a speaker card or communicate with staff prior to that agenda item.*

Item 6. Tallahassee Report.

Jon Moyle, Jr., of the District's Tallahassee government relations firm, will be providing a status report on their activities on the District's state issues. This information will be distributed at the Board meeting.

Item 7. Washington D.C. Report, 2015 Federal Funding Request.

The District's Federal governmental relations firm submitted a status report on their activities on the District's federal issues. In addition, staff has prepared a 2015 Federal funding request package to distribute during our Washington D.C. visit.

(Please see back up pages 3 - 10)

RECOMMEND: Approval of a recommendation to the full Board of the 2015 Federal funding requests.

Item 8. Additional Staff Comments and Additional Agenda Items.

Item 9. Commissioners Comments.

Item 10. Adjournment.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

ALCALDE & FAY

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONSULTANTS

January 31, 2014

MEMORANDUM**TO:** Mark Crosley, Executive Director**FROM:** Jim Davenport**SUBJECT:** Federal Legislative Report**FISCAL YEAR 2014 APPROPRIATIONS**

On January 17th, the President approved the fiscal year (FY) 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3547), which is a \$1.012 trillion spending package incorporating all 12 annual appropriations bills into one "Omnibus" bill.

The Omnibus bill is reflective of the budget agreement that passed in December which set overall discretionary spending levels for FY 2014 and 2015 and partially restored funding cut by sequestration. The measure would provide a 2.6 percent increase in discretionary spending from the \$986.3 billion, sequester-set level for FY 2013. Under pressure from leadership, the measure keeps a tight rein on new funding.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is funded at \$5.5 billion, an increase of \$487 million above the FY 2013 enacted level. Under the Operations and Maintenance account, the bill includes a "Remaining Items" subcategory which funds several USACE programs, including Inland Waterways (funded at \$42 million) and Navigation Maintenance (funded at \$25.72 million). Projects in the Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) and Okeechobee Waterway (OWW) would be eligible under both accounts. In addition, the Intracoastal received \$250,000, which reflects the Administration's budget request.

Now that funding is available for Navigation Maintenance and Inland Waterways, the USACE has been given 45 days to finalize its work plan for FY 2014. The USACE has told us that they should finish the work plan in early March. The work plan will then be sent over to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and House and Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittees for final approval.

We are working to secure funding for FIND projects in the work plan, and have done the following:

- Coordinated a package of project requests with FIND and Shelley Trulock that will be sent to the Jacksonville District, South Atlantic Division and Corps Headquarters. The project requests include: (1) \$2.05 million for Indian River County Reach 1; (2) \$1.8 million for Broward County Reach 1; (3) \$2.3 million for Brevard County Reach 2; and (4) \$1.8 million for construction of Dredge Material Management Area O-7 in Martin County for the OWW.
- Prepared a letter from FIND's congressional delegation to USACE Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy seeking the funding, and have secured Representatives Bill Posey (R) and Lois Frankel (D) as the lead sponsors.
- Arranged and attended meetings on January 23rd and 24th, to seek support for the congressional letter, with staff for the following members: Representatives Bill Posey, Lois Frankel, John Mica, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Patrick Murphy, Tom Rooney, Ted Deutch, Alcee Hastings, Frederica Wilson, Ron DeSantis, Mario Diaz-Balart, Ros-Lehtinen, Corrine Brown and Joe Garcia.

We are now in the process of circulating the letter to the congressional delegation, and also scheduling meetings for FIND Commissioners for your February 24 – 26 Washington trip.

We will continue to update you on our work.

MAGNUSON STEVENS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

The House Resources Committee and Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee have begun the process of reauthorizing the Magnuson Stevens Act, which was last reauthorized in 2006. The Committees have begun hearings on the reauthorization.

House Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA) released a draft proposal to reauthorize Magnuson Stevens just prior to Christmas. The bill in its current form is 30 pages with a focus on promoting flexibility and transparency, creating jobs, and giving predictability to the coastal communities that depend on stable fishing activities.

The bill would be an appropriate vehicle to address the issues pertaining to the mitigation of Johnson's seagrass for maintenance dredging activities in the Intracoastal Waterway.

We attended a meeting with Mr. Dave Whaley, Majority Staffer for the House Natural Resources Committee - Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, to discuss the bill. Dave remembered FIND's particular issues from the last reauthorization bill, and offered to meet with FIND during your February trip. We will also plan to meet with the Senate Commerce staff and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as well.

We would ask that FIND be prepared to discuss how mitigation of Johnson's seagrass has impacted FIND's maintenance dredging projects. We will need these examples to illustrate the problem and help make our case to the House Resources Committee, Senate Commerce Committee, NMFS and FIND's congressional delegation.

WATER RESOURCES AND REFORM DEVELOPMENT ACT

While progress on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) has slowed, the House and Senate conferees for WRDA are continuing negotiations to work out differences between the House and Senate versions (H.R. 3080 & S. 601). As you know, the House WRDA includes Section 218, which authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to perform an assessment of the needs of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

Please contact us with any questions.

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CORPS OF ENGINEERS - OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

| | BUDGET REQUEST | FINAL BILL |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| PROJECT CONDITION SURVEYS, WI | 288 | 288 |
| STURGEON BAY HARBOR AND LAKE MICHIGAN SHIP CANAL, WI | 20 | 20 |
| SURVEILLANCE OF NORTHERN BOUNDARY WATERS, WI | 540 | 540 |
| WYOMING | | |
| INSPECTION OF COMPLETED ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS, WY | 10 | 10 |
| INSPECTION OF COMPLETED WORKS, WY | 123 | 123 |
| JACKSON HOLE LEVEES, WY | 2,374 | 2,374 |
| SCHEDULING RESERVOIR OPERATIONS, WY | 121 | 121 |
| SUBTOTAL, PROJECTS LISTED UNDER STATES | 2,411,388 | 2,408,468 |
| REMAINING ITEMS | | |
| ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ONGOING WORK | | |
| NAVIGATION MAINTENANCE | --- | 25,720 |
| DEEP-DRAFT HARBOR AND CHANNEL | --- | 128,000 |
| INLAND WATERWAYS | --- | 42,000 |
| SMALL, REMOTE, OR SUBSISTENCE NAVIGATION | --- | 40,000 |
| OTHER AUTHORIZED PROJECT PURPOSES | --- | 35,000 |
| AQUATIC NUISANCE CONTROL RESEARCH | 690 | 690 |
| ASSET MANAGEMENT/FACILITIES AND EQUIP MAINT (FEM) | 4,750 | 4,750 |
| BUDGET/MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR O&M BUSINESS PROGRAMS: | | |
| STEWARDSHIP SUPPORT PROGRAM | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| PERFORMANCE-BASED BUDGETING SUPPORT PROGRAM | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| RECREATION MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM | 1,650 | 1,650 |
| OPTIMIZATION TOOLS FOR NAVIGATION | 392 | 392 |
| COASTAL INLET RESEARCH PROGRAM | 2,700 | 2,700 |
| COASTAL OCEAN DATA SYSTEM | 3,000 | 5,000 |
| RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AT CORPS PROJECTS | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| CULTURAL RESOURCES (NAGPRA/CURATION) | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| DREDGE MCFARLAND READY RESERVE | 11,840 | 11,840 |
| DREDGE WHEELER READY RESERVE | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| DREDGING DATA AND LOCK PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM | 1,150 | 1,150 |
| DREDGING OPERATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH (DOER) | 6,450 | 6,450 |
| DREDGING OPERATIONS TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (DOTS) | 2,820 | 2,820 |
| EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM | 270 | 270 |
| FACILITY PROTECTION | 5,500 | 5,500 |
| FERC HYDROPOWER COORDINATION | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| FISH & WILDLIFE OPERATING FISH HATCHERY REIMBURSEMENT | 4,700 | 4,700 |
| GREAT LAKES TRIBUTARY MODEL | 600 | 600 |
| INLAND WATERWAY NAVIGATION CHARTS | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| INTERAGENCY PERFORMANCE EVALUATION TASK FORCE/HURRICANE PROTECTION DECISION CI | 8,125 | 8,125 |
| INSPECTION OF COMPLETED FEDERAL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| MONITORING OF COMPLETED NAVIGATION PROJECTS | 6,920 | 6,920 |

150

CORPS OF ENGINEERS - OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

| | BUDGET REQUEST | FINAL BILL |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | | |
| INSPECTION OF COMPLETED WORKS, DC | 115 | 115 |
| POTOMAC AND ANACOSTIA RIVERS, DC (DRIFT REMOVAL) | 875 | 875 |
| PROJECT CONDITION SURVEYS, DC | 25 | 25 |
| WASHINGTON HARBOR, DC | 25 | 25 |
| FLORIDA | | |
| CANAVERAL HARBOR, FL | 4,398 | 4,398 |
| CENTRAL & SOUTHERN FLORIDA, FL | 14,791 | 14,791 |
| ESCAMBIA AND CONECHU RIVERS, FL & AL | 34 | 34 |
| INSPECTION OF COMPLETED WORKS, FL | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, JACKSONVILLE TO MIAMI, FL | 250 | 250 |
| JACKSONVILLE HARBOR, FL | 9,014 | 9,014 |
| JIM WOODRUFF LOCK AND DAM, LAKE SEMINOLE, FL, AL & GA | 8,117 | 8,117 |
| MANATEE HARBOR, FL | 3,365 | 3,365 |
| MIAMI HARBOR, FL | 4,355 | 4,355 |
| OKEECHOBEE WATERWAY, FL | 2,467 | 2,467 |
| PALM BEACH HARBOR, FL | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| PANAMA CITY HARBOR, FL | 2,070 | 2,070 |
| PORT EVERGLADES HARBOR, FL | 300 | 300 |
| PROJECT CONDITION SURVEYS, FL | 1,465 | 1,465 |
| REMOVAL OF AQUATIC GROWTH, FL | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| SCHEDULING RESERVOIR OPERATIONS, FL | 35 | 35 |
| SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, FL | 9,053 | 7,270 |
| TAMPA HARBOR, FL | 10,400 | 10,400 |
| GEORGIA | | |
| ALLATOONA LAKE, GA | 8,165 | 8,165 |
| APALACHICOLA, CHATTAHOOCHEE AND FLINT RIVERS, GA, AL & FL | 1,324 | 1,324 |
| ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, GA | 164 | 164 |
| BRUNSWICK HARBOR, GA | 5,311 | 5,311 |
| BUFORD DAM AND LAKE SIDNEY LANIER, GA | 8,971 | 8,971 |
| CARTERS DAM AND LAKE, GA | 8,128 | 8,128 |
| HARTWELL LAKE, GA & SC | 10,728 | 10,728 |
| INSPECTION OF COMPLETED ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS, GA | 15 | 15 |
| INSPECTION OF COMPLETED WORKS, GA | 180 | 180 |
| J STROM THURMOND LAKE, GA & SC | 9,939 | 9,939 |
| PROJECT CONDITION SURVEYS, GA | 161 | 161 |
| RICHARD B RUSSELL DAM AND LAKE, GA & SC | 8,707 | 8,707 |
| SAVANNAH HARBOR, GA | 24,065 | 24,065 |
| SAVANNAH RIVER BELOW AUGUSTA, GA | 202 | 202 |
| WEST POINT DAM AND LAKE, GA & AL | 7,518 | 7,518 |

MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY (IWW) PROJECT IN FLORIDA

ISSUE: In 2015-2016, maintenance dredging of three areas of the Intracoastal Waterway in Florida is required to maintain its safe navigability.

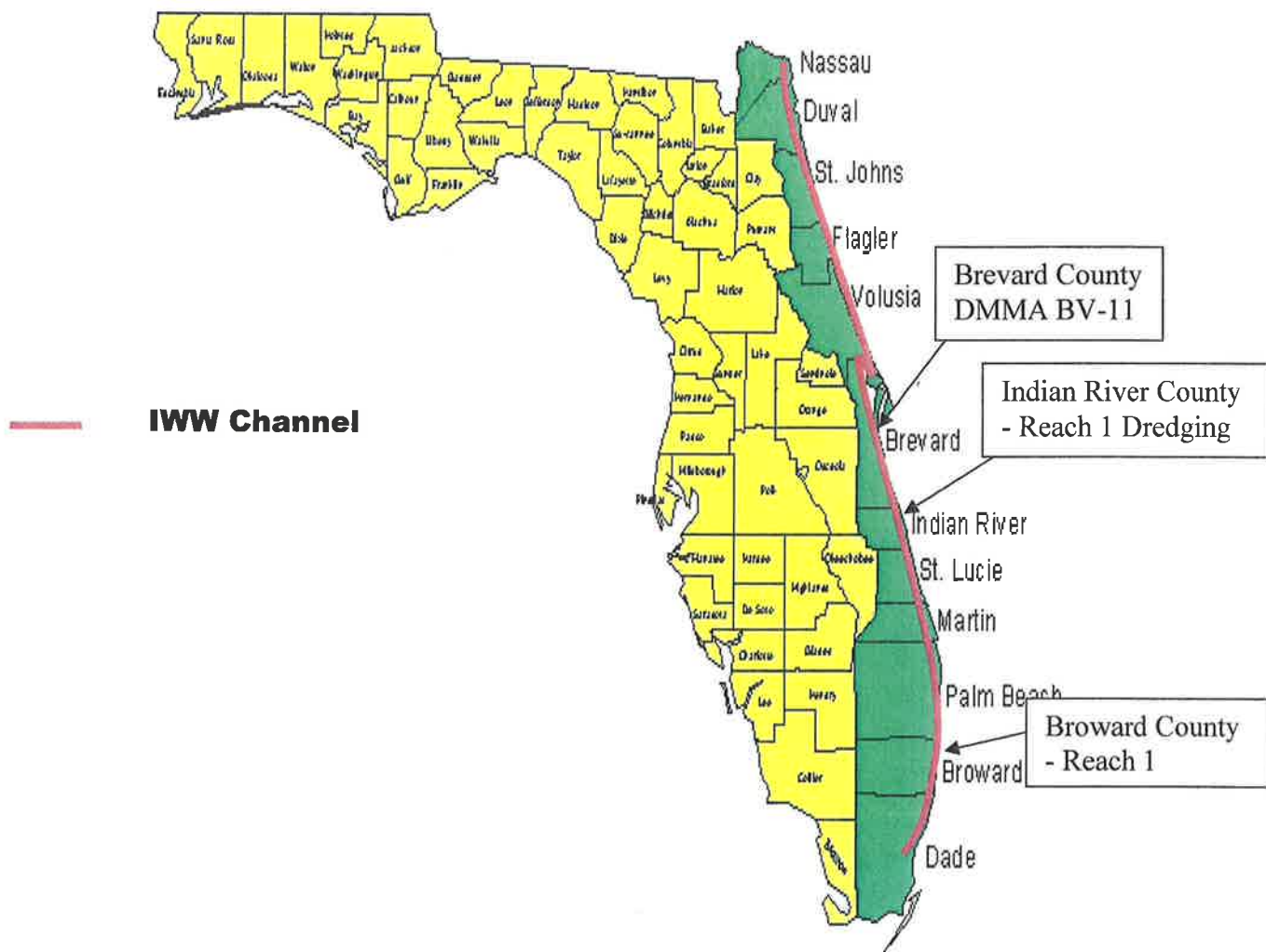
- Indian River County Dredging Reach 1, near Sebastian Inlet, has not been dredged in over 30 years (see map on page 2). Shoaling has been documented by hydrographic surveys, and areas of the waterway are as shallow as 7 feet within the federal 12-foot authorized channel. The local sponsor, Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), recently completed construction of the necessary Dredge Material Management Area (IR-2) for this reach, at a 100% local cost of \$3.3 million. This dredging project is estimated to cost \$4.1 million. **Congress is requested to provide 50% cost-share funding of \$2.05 million for this important navigation project.**
- Dredging is necessary to maintain safe navigation in Broward County Dredging Reach 1, located near Hillsboro Inlet (see map on page 2). Shoaling has been documented by hydrographic surveys, and areas of the waterway are as shallow as 7 feet within the federal 10-foot authorized channel. FIND has secured the necessary lands to complete this project. The expertise of the USACE is necessary to successfully complete this project. The project cost estimate is \$3.6 million. **Congress is requested to provide 50% cost-share funding of \$1.8 million for this important navigation project.**
- Maintenance dredging of Reach 2 is necessary for safe navigation in Brevard County (see map on page 2). This project will have the added benefit of water quality improvements by removing fine sediments in the channel that are constantly re-suspended through storm and boating activity. To complete this project, additional Dredge Material Management Areas will need to be constructed within the county. FIND has purchased all 7 land areas identified in the Long-Range Dredge Material Management Plan to receive material from the IWW. Federal funding is needed to construct the Dredge Material Management Areas to facilitate dredging. Funding for construction of DMMA BV-11 in Brevard County is requested. Shoaling has been documented by hydrographic surveys, with approximately 434,000 cyd³ of material to be removed from the federal channel. Site construction is estimated to cost \$4.6 million. **Congress is requested to provide 50% cost-share funding of \$2.3 million for this important navigation project.**

BACKGROUND: Operation and maintenance of the Intracoastal Waterway in Florida is a Federal (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) responsibility. FIND is required to provide the lands for dredged material management. Inadequate federal funding creates a maintenance backlog, decreasing the reliability and safety of the waterway for use by commercial and recreational vessels.

OTHER ISSUES: The local sponsor (FIND) has purchased and provided the lands necessary for project completion.

BENEFITS: The Intracoastal Waterway in Florida annually transports tons of commercial cargo and over 500,000 recreational vessels; provides \$12 billion in economic output, which includes \$3 billion in personal wages and 66,631 jobs; generates \$540 million in tax revenues and increases property values by \$19.4 billion. Studies have shown that these benefits would be reduced by 45% to 50% if the waterway is not properly maintained.

LOCATION MAP FY 2015 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY PROJECTS



MAINTENANCE DREDGING OKEECHOBEE WATERWAY (OWW) PROJECT, FLORIDA

ISSUE: In 2015, construction of Dredge Material Management Area (DMMA) O-7 in Martin County is necessary for maintenance of the Okeechobee Waterway. This project is estimated to cost \$3.6 million. The DMMA is necessary and identified in the Long-Range Dredge Material Management Plan to receive material from the Okeechobee Reach IV dredging project. Shoaling has been documented by hydrographic surveys and areas of the waterway are as shallow as 5 feet. This causes severe navigation problems for all size classes of commercial and recreational vessels on the waterway. The local sponsor of the project, the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), is willing to provide the lands required for the project and 50% of the project costs. **Congress is requested to provide \$1.8 million (50% cost-share) in funding for this necessary and important project.**

BACKGROUND: Operation and maintenance of the Okeechobee Waterway in Florida is a Federal responsibility. The local sponsor is required to provide the lands for dredged material management. FIND has purchased the land necessary to construct the required DMMA. Federal funding assistance is requested to construct the DMMA containment facility prior to dredging of this reach. The navigation channel has not been maintained for many years.

BENEFITS: The Okeechobee Waterway in Florida annually transports tons of commercial cargo, has recreation visitation by 6.6 million people and a National Economic Development (NED) value of over \$55 million. The Corps of Engineers has estimated the average annual National Economic Development impact to navigation and recreation through the loss of operation and maintenance activities to be \$22.7 million.

