

**FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF AGENCY ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION**

This statement of agency organization and operation has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 28-101.001, Florida Administrative Code and shall be provided by the Agency Clerk to any person upon request.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND" or "District") is an independent special district existing under the laws of the State of Florida.

II. MISSIONS OF THE FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT

The Florida Inland Navigation District has two primary missions: (1) to perform the functions of the "local sponsor" of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway project and a portion of the Okeechobee Waterway project in Florida, both of which are State/Federal navigation projects, and (2) provide assistance to other governments to develop waterway access and improvement projects. As the local sponsor of the Waterway, the District provides all lands required for the navigation project including rights of way and lands for the management of dredged materials removed from the waterway channel during dredging activities.

III. HISTORY OF FIND

The Florida Inland Navigation District was created by the Florida Legislature in 1927 through Chapter 12026, Special Acts of 1927. The District was created to meet the conditions of the Rivers and Harbor Act approved by Congress on January 21, 1927 authorizing the construction, operation and maintenance of Intracoastal Waterway in Florida. These acts required the District to: serve as the "local sponsor" of the Waterway; acquire the necessary rights of way and the privately owned waterway known as Florida East Coast Canal and transfer them free of cost to the United States, and; furnish suitable areas for deposit of dredged materials in connection with the work and its subsequent maintenance.

The Florida Legislature subsequently passed several other acts and laws granting various authorities to the District as follows:

Chapter 14723, Special Acts of 1931.

This Act re-enacted the 1927 Act and added the authority to provide lands for a wider and deeper waterway, limited the amount to be paid by the District for rights of-way and spoil disposal areas to \$1,037,000, and established an ad valorem tax limit of 1 mill.

Chapter 17020, Special Acts of 1935.

This Act authorized the District to expend funds for publicizing the completion of the waterway and its availability to watercraft, to print and distribute information

regarding the waterway, and to promote its use in navigation by watercraft of all kinds.

Chapter 19122, Special Acts of 1939.

This Act authorized and empowered the District to collect, compile and furnish to the United States data, statistics and other appropriate information as to the advantages, benefits, desirability and usefulness of the further improvement of the waterway from Jacksonville to Miami and authorized and empowered the District to acquire and convey to the United States, free of cost, any lands, easements, rights-of-way and spoil disposal areas as might be required by the United States for the improvement of the waterway to a depth of twelve feet and a width appropriate to such depth.

Chapter 20430, Special Acts of 1941.

This Act authorized and empowered the District to be the “local sponsor” of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from the St. Mary’s River (the Florida/Georgia Border) to the St. Johns River and to acquired and conveyed the necessary spoil areas and furnish the necessary rights-of-way to the United States for a waterway with a depth of twelve feet and a width of one hundred and twenty-five feet.

Chapter 65-900, Laws of Florida.

This law established an ad valorem taxing limit of 0.1 mill and directed that the Commissioners from each of the eleven counties be appointed by the Governor in lieu of the former requirement for local election of Commissioners.

Chapter 85-200 Laws of Florida.

This law, amending Chapter 374, Florida Statutes, recognized the continuing need for inland navigation districts, re-authorized the District until 1990, and created the District's Assistance Programs.

1990 Amendment to Chapter 374, Florida Statutes.

This amendment to Chapter 374 re-authorized the District for an additional five years and expanded the duties to include the installation of boat speed regulatory signage for the protection of manatees.

1995 Amendment to Chapter 374, Florida Statutes.

This amendment continued the District indefinitely and required District commissioners to be confirmed by the Senate after their appointment by the Governor.

1996 Amendment to Chapter 374, Florida Statutes.

This amendment rewrote all District authority into Part II of Chapter 374, FS. “The Florida Inland Navigation District Law” and provided authority to the District to assist the United States with the maintenance of the Waterway or perform such work themselves.

2004 Amendment to Chapter 374, Florida Statutes.

This amendment expanded the District’s taxing boundary by adding Nassau County and providing for a commissioner to be appointed from Nassau County.

2005 Amendment to Chapter 374, Florida Statutes.

This amendment expanded the District’s responsibility as “local interest sponsor” for the sole purpose of maintaining navigability over that portion of the Okeechobee Waterway located in Martin and Palm Beach Counties.

2008 Amendment to Chapter 374, Florida Statutes.

This amendment transferred the duty for the installation of boat speed regulatory signage for the protection of manatees to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF AGENCY HEAD

The agency head of FIND is a collegial body known as the Board of Commissioners of Florida Inland Navigation District (“Board of Commissioners” or “Board”). The Board is comprised of one commissioner from each of the following twelve counties along Florida’s east coast: Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade. Each commissioner must be a qualified elector residing in the county he or she represents. Each commissioner is appointed by the Governor in accordance with Section 374.983(2), Florida Statutes. Commissioners are appointed for a four year term or until their successors are duly appointed. Each new commissioner must be confirmed by the Senate.

The Board generally meets once each month to conduct the District’s business. On the same day as the Board meeting, several committees also meet. The location of meetings of the Board and committees rotate among the twelve constituent counties so that members of the public and local officials within the District will have an equal opportunity to attend. All meetings of the Board and committees are noticed in Florida Administrative Weekly and are open to the public. A quorum of the Board is six (6) members and the vote of a majority of such quorum is necessary to the transaction of business. The Board and committees are authorized to conduct meetings utilizing communications media technology, pursuant to s. 120.54(5) (b) 2, Florida Statutes.

The Board annually elects from among its members the following officers: one chair, one vice chair, one secretary and one treasurer.

V. DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS AND SUB-UNITS

FIND employs an administrative staff to carry out the functions of the District. Currently there are seven (7) full-time employees. The Executive Director,

appointed by the Board, is the chief administrative officer of the District. There are no sub-units.

The District derives its statutory authority from Chapter 374, Florida Statutes, in particular, Part II "Florida Inland Navigation District Law." The District has adopted Rule Chapters 66B-1, 66B-2 and 66B-3, Florida Administrative Code, to implement its statutory authority.

The administrative office of the District is located at 1314 Marcinski Road, Jupiter, Palm Beach County, Florida.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANNER BY WHICH PUBLICATIONS, ETC. MAY BE OBTAINED

Publications, documents, forms, applications for licenses, permits and other similar certifications or rights granted by the agency, or other information, may be obtained by contacting the District at:

Florida Inland Navigation District
Attn: Assistant Executive Director
1314 Marcinski Road
Jupiter, Florida 33477
Telephone: (561) 627-3386
Facsimile: (561) 624-6480

Many of the publications and other documents may be downloaded from the District's website: www.aicw.org

VII. IDENTITY OF AGENCY CLERK

The Agency Clerk is the Assistant Executive Director, 1314 Marcinski Road, Jupiter, Florida 33477, Telephone: (561) 627-3386. The Agency Clerk's duties include record keeping of all documents filed with the agency pursuant to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, responding to public records requests, indexing and filing of all final agency actions and orders. Except for documents that specifically indicate an alternative filing location, all documents required to be filed with the District shall be filed with the agency clerk. Documents may be filed during regular hours of operation, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

VIII. FILING BY ELECTRONIC MAIL OR FACSIMILE

Documents may be filed by electronic mail or facsimile transmission. The email address for such filings is: mcrosley@aicw.org. The facsimile number is (561) 624-6480. Please be advised that the filing date for a document transmitted by electronic mail or facsimile shall be the date the District receives the complete document. Any document received by the office of the Agency Clerk after 5:00 pm shall be filed as of

8:00 am on the next regular business day. The original physically signed document will be retained by that party during the duration of the proceeding and of any subsequent appeal or proceeding in that cause, and the party shall produce it upon the request of other parties. The District is not responsible in the event of any delay, disruption, or interruption of the electronic signal, and the transmitting party accepts the full risk that the document may not be properly filed with the agency clerk as a result.

IX. INFORMATION REGARDING VARIANCES AND WAIVERS

The appropriate person at the District to contact for information about variances from or waiver of agency rules is the Agency Clerk.

X. AGENCY INDEX OF FINAL ORDERS

The agency index of final orders may be accessed by contacting the Agency Clerk.