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**JACKSONVILLE
WATERWAYS
COMMISSION**

JACKSONVILLE WATERWAYS COMMISSION
June 2, 2005

The monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission was called to order Thursday morning, June 2, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber by the Chair, Council Member Lynette Self.

The minutes for the May 5, 2005 Waterways Commission meeting were approved.

David Roach, Executive Director of the Florida Inland Navigation District, made a presentation on the Economic Analysis of the District's Waterways in Duval County. Mr. Roach discussed the background/history of FIND and the Intracoastal Waterway. The respective roles of the local jurisdictions and the federal government were explained: the locals providing the land, the federal government providing the necessary financial resources for maintenance. There have been problems recently with the Congress's failure to provide adequate funding. FIND is currently receiving no funds from the federal government. There has been a reduction in the resources available for maintenance. Commissioner Bryan asked if there was an alternative to the federal funds. FIND is paying the whole maintenance bill, currently. In weighing its funding, the federal government looks at commercial rather than recreational impacts. Assistant General Counsel Greg Radlinski was asked to draft a resolution to be submitted to Duval County's Congressional delegation seeking assistance in restoring funds for Intracoastal maintenance.

(David Roach subsequently apprised the Chair, C/M Self, that the U. S. Senate's version of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill incorporated \$4.5 million for maintenance dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway, though

the legislation had not yet cleared the Conference Committee phase.)

Dan Cronrath, Recreation Planner with the Parks, Recreation & Entertainment Department, provided the Commission with a FIND Project Update. Printed copies of a report on the status of projects were distributed. It was reported that FIND funds that had been earmarked for the Ortega River dredge project had to be returned. Commissioner Bailey raised the Goodby's Creek issue, warning that once the boat ramp is opened, the number of boats at the facility would double, that there would be an impending disaster with manatees in the creek. Commissioner Bailey said that there are boaters out there who are not aware of the presence of manatees and that they know little or nothing about an idle speed zone. Was there any way to expedite the dredging of Goodby's? The ramp is scheduled to open in July; dredging is not scheduled until 2007.

On Pending legislation, the Commission continued to defer any action on **Ordinance 2003-1132**, Amending the Ordinance Code, changing Manatee Protection Motorboat Speed Zones from Year-Round to Seasonal. The Commissioners voted 0-8 not to recommend approval of **Resolution 2005-633**, Urging JSO to Patrol Designated & Undesignated Fishing Locations & Strictly Enforce Litter Ords & Requirements. The Commission voted to approve **Ordinance 2005-699**, Appropriating \$177,000 from Fla Boater Improvement Prog for "Mandarin Park Boat Ramp" Proj.

Waterways Coordinator, Steve Nichols, reported that Commissioner Grey's BIG Grant subcommittee is continuing talks with LandMar regarding the feasibility of sites for a downtown marina.

The next scheduled meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission is August 4, 2005.

John J. Jackson
Council Research Division