

**MINUTES
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018**

**DESTIN CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
4200 INDIAN BAYOU TRAIL
DESTIN, FLORIDA**

I. OPENING

Mr. Neilson opened the regular meeting of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority at approximately 9:00 a.m. with the Invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were: James D. Neilson, Jr.
 Gordon E. Fornell
 Parker Destin
 Robert Griggs

Member absent was: Bryant Paulk FDOT Ex officio, non-voting

Once Authority position has been vacant since September 21, 2017

Also present: Van Fuller Executive Director
 Dawn Stuntz Legal Counsel
 Cathy Demoreski Administrative Assistant

II. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Neilson welcomed visitors and members of the press. In attendance was William "Sandy" Pizzolato, Eglin AFB Natural Resources; Brad Colling, HDR Engineering; Jade Rung, Figg Bridge Engineering; and Jacob Fuller, The Bay Beacon.

A. Eglin AFB SR293-SR85 Interchange Landscaping Update-Sandy Pizzolato, 96th Civil Engineer Group. Mr. Fuller introduced Mr. Pizzolato who explained that he has been with Jackson Guard since 1995 and is responsible for erosion control on the 464 thousand acres of Eglin AFB. The landscaping at the interchange was funded by grants through the Department of Defense Legacy Fund and the National Public Lands Day which is a volunteer organization responsible for clearing, refurbishing, and planting. A meeting between Jackson Guard, the FDOT, and the MBBA was held on June 14, 2017 to kick off coordination of this effort. The project was approved by Resolution in September 2017 and the FDOT Permit was issued in November 2017. Mr. Pizzolato reported that the permit process was a learning experience.

Soil tests revealed the area was infertile which resulted in the need to bring in 224 cubic yards of soil which was donated from the Anderson Branch Pond restoration stockpile. In December the soil was graded, 220 bales of straw mulch were broadcast, and 1,665 pounds of fertilizer was spread. In January 2018, wildflower seed was delivered and broadcast and 565 longleaf pines and 57 saw palmetto seedlings were planted by volunteers from Eglin AFB. The pollinating flowers were selected to support bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and moths with colorful flowering expected annually from early spring through late summer.

This project was completed at no cost to the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority as a gift from the Nationals Public Lands Day long-term sustainment and beautification process and will be maintained by the City of Niceville. The total time attributed to this project for FDOT permitting, site preparation, volunteer setup/planting, and project coordination was 281 hours (11.7 Days) at a cost of \$7,930.20 which was funded by a NPLD/NEEF Grant of \$5,808.60 and In-Kind Match of \$2,121.60.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – January 18, 2018

A motion to approve the January 18, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Fornell with a second by Mr. Destin and a 4-0 vote was taken for approval.

IV. TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Destin presented the Treasurer’s Report for January 2018. Account balances were:

FNBT.com	\$	180,162.05
Regions	\$	39,224,194.69

Mr. Destin made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for January 2018 with a second by Mr. Fornell and a 4-0 vote was taken for approval.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A. Traffic Operations. Mr. Fuller reported both traffic and revenue on the System are in line with the traffic engineer’s projections.

Mr. Fuller also reported that the on-going Okaloosa County initiative to install “Gateway” signs and landscaping in the median just south of the bridge approach in Destin is still in design. The intent is to welcome southbound visitors to the area.

Discussion included the concept the Authority developed for landscaping in this same area. Mr. Fuller reminded the Board that in 2015 the Authority engaged HDR to provide a concept for enhancement of the north side of the Bridge, specifically a redo of the toll plaza, and landscaping on the south side. The board’s intent was that the costly project should be put on-hold, especially since it had just completed the Bond refinancing and opted to engage the Okaloosa County TDC, which didn’t get any traction. Trees on the Coast, a private organization led by Allen French, attempted to secure grants for plantings in the same area as well, but couldn’t secure an entity to cover the ongoing maintenance. The problem with maintenance was there was no entity on the south side to accept that responsibility as the area is outside the Destin city limits, the FDOT doesn’t support items outside its standard, and the MBBA relies on FDOT for maintenance in accordance with its lease-purchase agreement.

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

None

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Jacob Fuller was introduced as a freelance reporter with the Bay Beacon.

Mr. Fornell noted that the Air Force Enhanced Use Lease (EUL)/Value Based Transaction (VBT), of \$26M, is nearing the end with the last of approximately 50 projects on Eglin AFB almost finished. He suggested a press release recognizing this effort as the largest transaction in the Air Force by explaining exactly what in-kind projects the Authority provided on Eglin. There are a number of similar EUL/VBT agreements in the tri-county area as a result of the success achieved by Authority in offering this type of in-kind contracting as opposed to waiting for the Air Force contracting office. Mr. Fornell intends to brief the Tri-County Community Partnership group at their meeting on February 28, 2018 on the success of the Authority by recognizing the partnership between the FDOT, Niceville, Destin and Eglin.

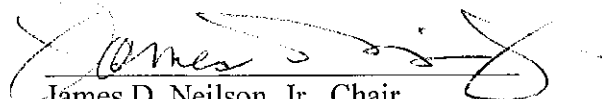
VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The next regular meeting of the Authority will held on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Niceville City Hall Council Chambers, Niceville, Florida

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 a.m.

Approved this 15th day of March 2018


James D. Neilson, Jr., Chair