

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL SESSION  
JUNE 22, 1982

The Board of County Commission met this day in special session for a public hearing on removing the natural rock shelves from the Apalachicola River with the following members present, to-wit: Bobby Varnum, Chairman, Donnell Whitfield, Jack Bowman, Monroe Cox and Clayton Shiver.

Clerk Willie D. Wise was present and acting. Chairman Varnum called the meeting to order followed with prayer by Commissioner Cox.

Approximately 200 people were present for the meeting.

Mr. Larry Greene with the Corp of Engineers made a report to the group on the rock removal procedures.

Dr. Marvin Collins and Susanne Walker with the Department of Environmental Regulation met with the Board, and Ms. Walker made a report.

Mr. Neal Eicholz and Logan Agers with the Game and Freshwater Fish Commission met with the Board. Mr. Eicholz made a report on the fish study that was being done at this time. He also stated that they were not in favor for the rock removal at this time. Mr. Agers also made a report on the fish study.

Mr. Woody Miley with the Department of Natural Resources stated that the Department had not made a study nor had taken sides, but he wanted the bay and oyster beds to be considered.

Mr. Richard Musgrove with the Northwest Florida Water Management District also stated that more information was needed before a decision could be made by his department. Mr. Jeff Wagner with N.W. Florida Water Management also stated more data was needed.

Ms. Sylvia Gates, Don Stephens and Mike McMillian with Rysco Shipyard were present. Ms. Gates made a statement concerning the industry she works for, and stated that a payroll of \$3,000,000.00 was realized from Rysco and the river was the livelihood of their industry.

Mr. Don Humphrey of Chattahoochee made a statement in opposition of the rock removal.

Mr. Bill Peacock with Altha Farmers Coop, speaking for the farmers, made a report of the coop's usage of the river, and that he supported removing the rocks.

Several local people made statements supporting the corp and Rysco.

Mr. George Atkins asked a few questions of each department, and stated that the Corp of Engineers was the worst enemy we had concerning the river. Mr. Atkins stated he supported Rysco Shipyard and the rest of the industry up and down the river, but he was opposed to the removal of the rocks.

Mr. Woodrow Williams was present at the meeting and stated that since the Corp of Engineers had started dredging the river it had been polluted, poisoned and fishing was to become a thing of the past. He said if this continued there would be nothing left for our grandchildren.

C. L. Capps and Jack Dykes, local well drillers, were present and stated they were concerned about the removal of rock by blasting might lower the ground water level for the people who live up and down the Apalachicola River Valley by opening up dry holes and might affect the flow of water from the spring into the river through the rocks.

Gary Cox was present and questioned the Corp of Engineers as to whether the river would be navigable to heavy river traffic when the river was low even if the rock removal project was done. The Corp answered that they would not be able to do any good with the dredging after the river got below 3 ft.

Mrs. Addie Summers, Secretary-Treasurer of Tri-Rivers Waterway Development Association, was present.

Commissioner Whitfield stated that he was for dredging, and if it took removing the rock to keep Rysco and other industry that he was for it.

Commissioner Monroe Cox stated that Calhoun County does not have an official vote on the project of removing the natural rock ledges from the river channel, and therefore, should not be asked to vote. However, he said that the information that came out of the hearing indicated to him that the adverse effects on the river and its' environment could be great, and for the overall benefits for heavy river traffic small, especially during low water. Therefore, his vote would be "no" to the removal of the natural rock ledges in the river channel with the use of demolition.

Commissioner Shiver stated that he was for keeping Rysco in business so he would be for removing the rocks. He was convinced by the Corp of Engineers that it would not bother the water level by the rock being 150 ft. deep. He stated it has also been proven that rock had been cut that much above there and did not affect the water level in the area it was cut in and was also convinced by proof that placing rock in the Apalachicola River would build fish habitats.


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Chairman Varnum stated that he was elected to serve the people, and that he felt like a public hearing should give a good cross section of the people and he felt like the vast majority of the people wanted the rock removal so he wanted the same thing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitfield, seconded by Commissioner Shiver and duly carried to adopt a resolution supporting the Corp's maintenance dredging and the removal of the rocks in support of County Farmers River Grain Terminal and Rysco Shipyard. Commissioners Shiver, Whitfield and Varnum voted "yes" and Commissioner Cox voted "no". Commissioner Bowman abstained. (FOR RESOLUTION, SEE SUPPLEMENTAL MINUTE BOOK 1, PAGES 36-37, SECTION D)

There being no further business, the Board did then adjourn.

ATTEST:

  
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Willie D. Wise  
Clerk

  
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Bobby Varnum  
Chairman

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF JULY 6, 1982

The Board of County Commission met this day in regular session with the following members present, to-wit: Bobby Varnum, Chairman, Donnell Whitfield, Jack Bowman, Monroe Cox and Clayton Shiver.

Willie D. Wise, Clerk, Sheriff William G. Smith and Attorney Bill Corbin were present and acting. The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Smith followed with prayer by Commissioner Bowman.

Mr. Gene McClellan made a report to the Board on the HUD Program.

Representative James Harold Thompson met with the Board and stated he and his family appreciated the Resolution presented to him on the 1/2 cent sales tax, and that he would continue to support the small counties.

Commissioner Bowman stated that the Board and citizens of Calhoun County appreciated his outspoken voice in Tallahassee for the people of his district, and we hope we can play a part in seeing that we can help him in getting elected so he can represent Calhoun County as well.

Mr. Jack Mashburn met with the Board to discuss a resolution supporting purchase of Emerald Spring 1,000 plus acres by the State of Florida. Motion by Commission Shiver, seconded by Commissioner Bowman and duly carried to adopt the Resolution. (Supplemental Minute Book 1, Page 38, SECTION D)

Mr. Bill Atkins, County Engineer, made a report to the Board on the Wrennie Moody Road and Highway 274. The Board agreed for Mr. Atkins to examine both roads and report back to the Board what is needed to be done to each.

Attorney Bill Corbin presented a joint Petition by Frank Guilford and Howard Johnson for the County to vacate and abandon any rights they may have in and to the following described street known better as Jackson Street and described as follows:

A 45 ft. right-of-way South of Highway 20 as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 3, in the Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court, Calhoun County, Florida, Halley Subdivision, lying and situate in the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 32, T1N, R8W.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cox, seconded by Commissioner Bowman and duly carried to table the petition from Frank Guilford and Howard Johnson and to have the County Engineer survey and determine ownership and boundary lines on Jackson Street.

Clerk Willie D. Wise made a report on the Weatherization Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shiver, seconded by Commissioner Bowman and duly carried to accept modification on the Weatherization Grant from \$22,343.00 to \$49,686.00 and to 55 houses instead of 20 houses.

(FOR RESOLUTION, SEE SUPPLEMENTAL MINUTE BOOK 1, PAGE 10, SECTION H).