

City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



Meeting Minutes

Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

2:00 PM

**Lynwood Roberts Room,
1st Floor, City Hall**

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Ken Amaro, Chair

CM Mike Gay, Vice Chair

CM Jimmy Peluso

CM Matt Carlucci, Alternate

Jon Michael Barker

Robert Birtalan

General Public Rep - Vacant

Representative Kiyan Michael - Excused

Mark Devereaux

Andrew Fraden

Marc Hardesty

Richard Hartley - Late Arrival

General Public Rep - Vacant

Jill Haskell - General Public Rep

Charles Garrison, Ex-Officio

Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio

Barbara Ireland Hobson, Legislative Assistant II

Shannon MacGillis, Office of General Counsel

Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University

Brandon Russell, Council Research

Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator

1. Call To Order

Meeting Convened: 2:02 p.m.

Chair Jon Michael Barker called the meeting to order, and led the subcommittee in the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review of Potential 2026 FIND Projects

Brian Burket, Waterfront Project Manager, provided an overview of the FIND grant process. He explained that counties can apply each year for up to \$2.75 million in grant funding to support the design or construction of a project. He explained that the subcommittee will select the projects for which FIND grant funds will be requested. The subcommittee's selection is sent to the full Commission for approval, then to the City Council. From there, project presentations are held in June, and Mr. Burket stated that almost all past projects have been funded.

He provided handouts showing the progress on prior approved projects. He anticipated that the Wayne B. Stevens Boat Ramp Improvements project would be before this subcommittee next year for approval. He indicated that JEA's work in the area has hindered its ability to complete the project. Mr. Hoyles asked whether they had been asked to review site plans; Mr. Burket stated that they had not. He said that, to salvage the grant dollars, they plan to change the project's scope to create a small fishing pier, kayak launch, and picnic facilities.

He stated that they anticipate the Pottsburg Creek project from last year's recommended projects will be completed. He also explained that Hopkins Creek withdrew its request for FIND funds and plans to complete the project without those dollars.

Mr. Burket identified the Sisters Creek Dock Extension & Bathhouse and the Downtown Dredging projects as the recommended projects to pursue for FIND funding. He explained the Downtown Dredging project, stating that seven sites along the St. Johns River need to be dredged to a depth of at least -7 feet to provide better access. The seven sites include the mouth of the Arlington River, A. Philip Randolph Dock, St. Johns Marina Boat Ramp, Friendship Fountain Dock, Riverplace Tower Dock, Dinner Cruise Dock, and Chart House Dock. He said that the dredging should enable reliable access for about 20 years.

Mr. Hartley asked for clarification on how the remaining funding for the project would be covered. Mr. Burket explained that they would request \$1.5 million in FIND funding, with a match, bringing the total to \$3 million. He also described the Council approval process, which would involve amending the CIP to allow for appropriation of the match dollars.

Mr. Hoyles asked if there were still plans to turn the Metro Park Marina into a marsh. Mr. Burket stated that they removed it from the project to accommodate other parts of the plan.

Mr. Burket then moved on to explain the Sisters Creek project. He stated that a bathhouse will be constructed in the area east of the ramp, along with parking spaces for transient boaters. He also said there will be a sidewalk system and a wooden boardwalk that will terminate with a gangway to the floating docks. He added that the floating docks underwent significant debate and review by regulatory agencies to prevent silting. He said the price tag for all the work is \$6.4 million, and after deducting the amount of FIND dollars to be used for Downtown Dredging, \$1.25 million remains. Because of this, not all components of the project can be built. He recommended phasing construction and moving forward with requesting funding for design. He stated the dock alone is \$5 million. He also suggested building the bathhouse, sidewalk, and access pier with an observation point, with the remaining components phased in over time.

Mr. Burket explained that the bathhouse would include laundry facilities, showers, and a lounge area.

He also stated that he anticipated returning to the FIND Subcommittee next year to recommend requesting funding to complete the project.

Chair Barker asked what the demand for this project was. Mr. Suber stated that demand was high because it is on the Intracoastal Waterway, would be free, have fresh water, and would be first-come, first-served. He also noted its location between other stopping points, further away, as in demand. He also anticipated high usage for fishing tournaments.

Chair Barker asked if either Mr. Burket or Mr. Suber was involved in locating the facility. Mr. Burket stated they were part of those conversations, adding that the design team created options to consider. Mr. Suber said that boat sizes were considered when designing the facility.

Mr. Hoyles asked whether there would be access to water and electricity for the boats. Mr. Burket said spigots would be available, but that there would not be water at each boat slip. He added that it was a docking station, and to provide more services, they would have to charge a fee, for which there is no operational capacity. Mr. Hoyles suggested that having electricity would be beneficial from an environmental perspective and that remote access capabilities could reduce the administrative burden of providing electricity at the facility. Mr. Suber stated that it could be an objective in the future. He also indicated that Big P grant funding could be an option to consider.

Mr. Hoyles asked if Mr. Suber and Mr. Burket were aware of the condition of the J. Carlucci bathroom. Mr. Burket stated that bathrooms are always a concern. He added that the Waterways Special District would address it, but funds were redirected to the construction of a fishing pier. Mr. Suber added that cleaning services were contracted out.

Mr. Burket stated they would request \$1.25 million for the Sisters Creek project, with total costs equaling \$2.75 million. Mr. Hartley asked if FIND funds could be used for acquisitions. Mr. Burket stated that it comes from the same pot of money, but the money doesn't go as far for acquisitions. He said there were other grants and programs with better matches. He stated that the Dredging and Sisters Creek projects add up to the soft cap of funding from FIND. He added that it is always a good idea to have one design project each year to always have something moving forward. He said that because they have never received pushback on their requests, he recommended having a backup design project. He suggested the TK Stokes Bulkhead replacement project because they would only request \$125,000.

Chair Barker questioned whether CBA projects will need FIND money for stadium waterfront-related projects. He stated that the Metro Park project includes a dock replacement, for which the design will be funded through the CBA. Jill Enz, Parks Department, added that there is a lot of private development along the river, such as River's Edge.

Mr. Burkett explained the TK Stokes project, stating that it was not large, but the ramp was used. He continued, stating that they wanted to maintain a standard across the City.

3. Prioritize and Rank Projects

The subcommittee moved to recommend requesting FIND funding for the following projects, from highest to lowest priority: Downtown Dredging, Sisters Creek, and TK Stokes Bulkhead Replacement. The motion was approved 3-0.

4. Public Comment

John Nooney thanked the members for keeping Pottsburg Creek acquisition on the recommended list of projects. He also spoke about 2025-0522, and asked if electric vehicle charging stations could be sources of revenue.

5. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned: 2:56 p.m.

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Minutes: Brandon Russell, Council Research

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Posted: 10/29/25, 1:49 p.m.