

MEMORANDUM

TO: Authority Members

FROM: General Manager

DATE: March 29, 2004

RE: Minutes of March 10, 2004 Operations Committee Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Operations Committee was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2004. Members present were Mr. Don Ayres, Mr. Thom Blas, and Mr. Bill Griffith serving in the absence of Mr. McGuire Martin. Also present was board member Dr. Thomas Campanella. Board member absent was Mr. Jimmie Perkins. Mr. Ayres, chairman of the committee, called the meeting to order and presented the following item:

Item #1 – Vandalism at Pensacola Beach

The Manager reviewed a report on the recent vandalism at Pensacola Beach involving theft of surf warning signs and flags, stating that staff recommended that the SRIA seek a change in the state law to raise the penalties for the theft or vandalism of beach safety signs and surf condition signs and flags to the same as those established for the theft of other public safety signs such as traffic signs. A discussion followed.

Upon motion of Mr. Blas, seconded by Mr. Griffith, the committee unanimously recommended seeking a change in the state law to raise the penalty for theft or vandalism of beach safety signs and surf condition signs and flags to the same as those established for the theft of other public safety signs such as traffic signs. (3-0)

Additional discussion followed during which the committee encouraged the Manager to pursue the change immediately with the expectation of full board approval on April 14, 2004.

Upon motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Blas, the committee unanimously recommended concurrently pursuing a county ordinance to establish the maximum possible penalty for theft or vandalism of beach safety signs and surf condition signs and flags. (3-0)

Mr. Blas and Mr. Ayres commended the Public Safety employees for their recent life saving actions. A brief discussion was held on pursuing an investigation into extending the visas for the Polish lifeguards.

Minutes
Santa Rosa Island Authority
Operations Committee
March 10, 2004

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Monte E. Blews
General Manager

MEB:mks

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