

Letter: Vote to proceed to seek permit for Oslo Ramp betrays the public trust

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County Commissioners Peter O'Bryan, Bob Solari and Wesley Davis have betrayed the public trust. Solari actually had the audacity to claim at the same meeting to be concerned that public trust in elected officials is on the decline at the same meeting.

Last year scientists testified that the Oslo Ramp project would harm the lagoon. Activists attended meetings, rallies and wrote letters to express their opposition. In October the commissioners voted 3-2 to table the project. The public celebrated, thinking the project was dead for three to five years.

In February, due to a Freedom of Information Act request, we learned that the county did not intend to withdraw the Oslo project — despite leading the public to believe otherwise. In a letter dated Nov. 21, 2014, from county employee Michael Nixon to Corps of Engineers Branch Chief Irene Sadowski, on behalf of county manager Joe Baird and the commission, stated that "Indian River County does not plan to withdraw the project." The letter went on to state "the permit should be issued at this time."

On March 10, Commissioners Tim Zorc and Joseph Flescher voted to cease all activities on the Oslo Ramp project, while Solari, O'Bryan and Davis voted to pursue the permit. They claimed it was to save \$5,000. Since we still do not know who actually wants this destructive project besides the commissioners, I think it is sad that they think betraying the public's trust is worth \$5,000.

At the meeting Commissioner Solari claimed he wanted to vomit when unelected bureaucrats moved forward on an unrelated lagoon project. I felt the same when I watched three commissioners try to trick the public and then create a ridiculous excuse for doing so — and make an unelected bureaucrat (Baird) take the blame for them.

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