

## Minutes

### Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m., September 14, 2021

Attendance: Jim Tobin, Harry Schiffman, Steve House, John Ponton, Russ King, Bob Peele

#### 1.0 Review Minutes- July 13, 2021

Jim Tobin called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Russ King made the motion to adopt the minutes. John Ponton seconded the motion. All in favor.

#### 2.0 Welcome guests

Jim thanked everyone for joining.

#### 3.0 NCDOT Division I update

Barton Grover updated the Task Force on the DOT Bonner Bridge demolition project. DOT has two remaining barge dumps. They have completed 68 to date. Next scheduled dump is Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> to AR160. Debris from span 145 has been removed. Divers are in the water looking for broken piles. DOT will be removing piles from the north end that were originally cut due to scouring over recent years. Rub rails have been installed in the navigation section. DOT anticipates completing the demolition work during October.

#### 4.0 Update on buoys placement in & around O.I. by USCG ANT, Wanchese

John Ahlen with the Coast Guard said they will be moving 17 farther out and placing a 16A west of the bridge to mark shoaling. They will also be moving 14, 15, and 16 to widen the channel. Russ commented that he's spoken to the fleet and they have mentioned they have to hug up near 17 so they are not bumping bottom. John Ahlen stated the Coast Guard is looking to get rid of lights that are no longer in use, specifically the Oregon Inlet jetty light, and asked the Task Force if there would be any issues removing that light. It would not be a quick process, removal would most likely not occur for a year. Harry Schiffman commented that the charter boat captains should be contacted. Sometimes that route opens up on the point and they may go through there.

#### 5.0 Dredging Summary Report

John Ponton stated the Murden was here for four 24 hour days at the end of the month. The Murden dredged 8,500 cubic yards. 25% from west of the bridge and 75% from the bar. The account is billed the 26<sup>th</sup> of each month, so the cost for this event has not been reflected on this report. Joen Petersen with the Corps responded that total cost was \$182,400 for one 18 hour day, 3 24 hour days, and one 6 hour day.

## **6.0 O.I. Survey & Channel reports**

Steve Shriver said they are looking to get a survey of west of the bridge sometime this week and the bar next week.

## **7.0 Corps Dredging Schedule**

Joen Petersen updated the Task Force that the Murden is expected to be in Oregon Inlet at the end of the month for ten 24 hour days. Two weeks later the Merritt will be in Oregon Inlet for three to four weeks. Jim commented that west of the bridge should be the priority when dredging. Joen explained that the Murden needs 9 foot when fully loaded, so it can only work at certain times of the day west of the bridge due to shallow conditions.

## **8.0 Corps Private Dredge Contract**

Todd Horton with the Corps said they have advertised for a private dredge to operate west of the bridge and bid opening will be October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **9.0 EJE Dredging Construction Update**

Jim provided an update on the construction of the dredge. A hurricane recently made landfall in Louisiana, but did not cause any damage to the shipyard. They are checking with suppliers to see if there will be any issues. Many of the people who work for Conrad live in Houma, which was severely impacted by the storm, so there is currently a shortage of workers due to employees being displaced by the storm. Conrad was unable to work on the dredge for 8 days, but started back on construction this past Monday. The dredge is about 33% complete. A company has been found that should be able to provide a drag head design that meets all the criteria. The hopper section, two stern sections, and one of the bow sections have been moved out into the yard.

## **10.0 Permit Updates**

Ken Willson with CPE updated the Task Force that the National Park Service permit was received yesterday. He has spoken to Josh Pelletier with the Corps today to clarify one minor detail in one of the drawings. There is no timeline yet for when they will issue the permit, but they have already completed one review. The CAMA permit is also on the same track and is under review. Hopefully final decisions will be made by the next meeting. Ken also spoke about the drag head design and the requirements of the design so there are no pockets or cavities to trap sea turtles. While other Corps approved dredges have screens internally, the Corps is asking the Miss Katie to mimic the drag heads of the Currituck and Murden that have a history of not causing turtle takings.

## **11.0 Additional comments**

### **11.1 Current Budget**

11.1.1 Non- Federal Funds with Corps, estimated \$764,000

11.1.2 FY2022 President's Budget remaining- \$3,296,000

11.1.3 FY2022 Work Plan Budget - TBA

11.1.4 Remaining FY2021 Dare Budget- \$100,846 (Total available with State Grant \$302,538)

11.1.5 Proposed Dare County FY2022 Budget- \$3,000,000

**12.0 Administrative comments**

Barton Grover stated he placed the placard from CAMA at Oregon Inlet stating comments will be accepted through September 22, 2021 concerning the request to increase permitted dredge depth to 14 + 2 in Oregon Inlet and allow limited use of sidecast dredging.

**13.0 Adjourn**

Steve made a motion to adjourn, Bob seconded. All in favor.

DRAFT