

Dare County Waterways Commission

Minutes

Monday, January 10, 2022

7:00 PM (Virtual Meeting)

Call to Order

Roll Call: Steve Coulter, Natalie Kavanagh, Michael Flynn, Danny Couch, Kermit Skinner, KP Scott

Acceptance of Minutes: December 13, 2021

- Steve Coulter made a motion to approve the minutes. Natalie Kavanagh seconded the motion. All in favor.

Welcome: Chairman Steve Coulter

- Steve thanked everyone for attending.

Public Comment

- No public comment

New Business

USCG Report

- John Ahlen informed the Commission the Coast Guard is planning to be down in South Ferry Channel later this week to move buoys that were shifted due to dredging or the recent storm. Due to reports of a ferry bumping bottom, the Coast Guard will be looking to move buoys 4 and 6.

Corps Report

- Brennan Dooley updated the Commission on the Rollinson realignment. The agencies had some concerns about any time of year dredging and the Corps is working the best they can to address those comments. Todd Horton said they will be asking for an extension until February 5th to respond. The primary issue from the agencies is the impact of sidecasting on SAV and fisheries. Natalie asked if they would allow a different kind of dredge in the summer months. Todd responded they are working on getting that answer. KP asked the difference between sidecasting during the summer in Oregon Inlet versus Hatteras Inlet. Brennan was uncertain of the data, which would be a question for the environmental section of the Corps. Steve commented that those permits at Oregon Inlet have been in effect for many years whereas the realignment is seeking new authorization and seems to be subject to stricter review. Brennan said the Corps is working to receive approval for anytime dredging

because it benefits operations and inlet conditions require the dredge to respond anytime of the year.

- The dredge was able to get into South Ferry Channel for three days, but weather prevented the dredge from operating as many days as planned. Rollinson was dredged during the days of high winds. Steve asked when the dredge would return. Joen responded the dredge will be working in southern North Carolina for the next 5 weeks. Joen and Jim reported there is some concern about the conditions in Rollinson for the ferries. Brennan reported the Long-Term MOA meeting will be on Wednesday at 10 a.m.
- Natalie asked about the status of the MOA. Brennan stated it expired on the 7th and is currently sitting in the Division office waiting on signature. The reason it is taking longer is the Corps added language to the MOA to allow work to be completed in Sloop Channel in addition to South Ferry Channel while the Corps waits for approval on the realignment.

NCDOT Ferry Report

- No report from the Ferry Division
- Barton has reached out to the Ferry Division concerning the installation of pilings at South Dock. The Ferry Division and the Corps are not moving forward with dredging the emergency ferry channel in Rodanthe because the channel is already at authorized depth. The Corps did survey the Dare County spoil site in Rodanthe, which has approximately 5,000 cubic yards of capacity.

Old Business

- None

Administrative Business

- Current Budget
 - Non-Federal Funds with Corps for SFC: \$527,995 (before January event)
 - President's Budget FY2022 for Rollinson Channel: \$30,000
 - Dare County FY2022 Budget: \$250,000 (\$0 remaining)
- MOA/Permit Status
 - MOA- Expires 01/2022
 - CAMA – Expires 12/2024
 - Department of the Army Permit – Expires 03/2027
- Ken reported that all application materials have been submitted for the modification of the CAMA permit and the Department of the Army Permit to allow the Miss Katie to dredge in South Ferry Channel. Those permits should be received in February.
- Barton stated approximately 21 days of funds are left for dredging the remaining of the fiscal year. When the realignment occurs, we hopefully will have additional federal funds to access. Danny commented that he doesn't foresee any issues if emergency funds are needed from the Dare Board of Commissioners.

Board Member Business

- Steve asked if there were any updates from the NC 12 Task Force in reference to the conversations had at last months meeting. Danny responded that the Dare County Waterways Commission was brought up at the meeting and primarily they wanted to make sure the Commission is aware Ocracoke is in need of sand when the next pipeline project occurs near South Ferry Channel. Barton commented the NC 12 Task Force subcommittee is meeting later this week.
- Danny spoke about a letter of support for the Ferry Division for their Federal Lands Access Program grant application. The Ferry Division is seeking to improve the ferry terminals and pilings in both Hatteras and Ocracoke. Randal Mathews commented that the support letters were due to Catherine Peele with the Ferry Division by the 12th. Steve saw no issues supporting the application. Natalie said the FLAP grant is highly competitive and any support would help, therefore she would support submitting a support letter. Michael Flynn motioned to submit a letter of support for the Ferry Division's Federal Lands Access Program grant application to improve ferry transportation between Hatteras and Ocracoke Island. Natalie Kavanagh seconded. All in favor.
- Steve appreciated everyone's efforts to keep the South Ferry Channel open this winter.

Adjournment

- Danny made the motion to adjourn, KP seconded. All in favor.

Next meeting is February 14, 2022 at 7:00pm. The meeting will be virtual.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Barton Grover
Grants & Waterways Administrator

APPROVED By: _____
Steve Coulter, Board Chair
Dare County Waterways Commission