

Minutes

Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

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

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

1.0 Review Minutes- October 12, 2021

Jim Tobin called the meeting to order at 9:30am. John Ponton made the motion to adopt the minutes. Steve House 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. One more barge dump remaining, tentatively scheduled for January. Approximately 13 broken or fallen pilings remaining to be removed and a similar number of mooring piles still need to be removed. They are currently finishing off solar platforms and weather stations will be installed next week. Will be installing navigation lights in the spring. Jim asked if the weather station will be online. Barton was unsure, but will reach out to DOT and PCL.

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

John Ahlen said they moved 16A, and put back in 16, 13, and 15. Now that dredging has been completed, they will return to move 19, 17, and 16A. 6A and 7A will now be 6 and 7. Jim commented that the north channel in that area has held up well.

5.0 Dredging Summary Report

John Ponton updated that the report shows the tail end of the October event and the November event. A total of 8,365 cubic yards were dredged west of the bridge. The cost was approximately \$102,000. John asked the Task Force about what information they need concerning costs, because we are not getting from the Corps the cost for dredging using federal funds. Jim stated that we need to know the cost per cubic yard and how those costs change in the upcoming years. Jim clarified that there is a base rate for the Miss Katie and whatever percentage the Corps rate changes in the future, the percentage from our base rate changes. John stated when we started this process 5 years ago, we got on a routine basis of receiving information of every day that dredging occurred, what dredge was used, how many cubic yards, how many hours were charged, and cost. We stopped getting that 2 to 3 years ago when the Corps went to a new process. Jim responded that he will be meeting with the Corps in February, which would be an opportunity to discuss items such as this. John and Barton will discuss with Brennan about what information can be accessed. Barton stated that what he has heard from the Corps is that non-federal costs can

be reported to Dare County, but federal cost reports must first be authorized by Corps General Counsel before being provided.

6.0 O.I. Survey & Channel reports

Todd Horton reported west of the bridge survey was completed December the 6th after the dredging event was completed. It looks like there are some issues near 21A and 21. Jim said there is a pinch point just past 17 near 23. A survey on the Bar was performed on November 18th, depths primarily are 10 to 11 feet.

7.0 Corps Dredging Schedule

Joen said the Merritt is working in the Wilmington area, then will be heading up to South Ferry Channel the first or second week of January before arriving in Oregon Inlet. 30 days are scheduled with the Merritt in Oregon Inlet. Jim asked where the Murden was located. Joen answered that it is in the shipyard for emergency repairs, but will be heading to the northeast after that.

8.0 EJE Dredging Construction Update

Jim provided an update on the dredge. Construction is going well. They've had a few minor change orders on items such as the walkway. The dredge as of today is 68% complete. There have not been any supply chain issues to date, Jim said we were blessed to have ordered a lot of these items before those issues appeared. The propulsion skids, the outdrives, and generators are all on site. The date we take possession is in late April, in Morgan City, if everything is on schedule. It will go through ABS and preliminary Coast Guard review before going through sea trials. The local Coast Guard will also need to certify the vessel. Jim expects with travel time, sea trials, and certifications, it will most likely be mid-June before the Miss Katie begins dredging. There was a legislation change. The original legislation did not specify funds could be used for the purchase of a survey vessel, but a technical change was made to include the survey vessel as an allowable expense. Jim noted that Harry has been diligently working on acquiring the survey vessel and appropriate equipment. Harry said there will be a meeting this afternoon to discuss dredge construction and any projected changes to the construction schedule.

LT Greg Kennerley asked if LT Chris Fisher had been contacted in Nags Head. Jim responded he would ask EJE Dredging. John Ahlen said he had spoken with Chris about it. Greg said to send all pertinent documents and applications to Chris as early as possible. Jim asked how long it usually takes to be certified. Greg estimated a week for the whole process.

9.0 Permit Updates

Ken reported that CPE submitted all the permit modification information a couple months back. We have not heard too much from Corps Regulatory, so that should be good news. Usually we hear from them quickly if they hit a snag. There were some comments from state agencies, including DMF. We drafted a letter addressing their comments and they have now reconsidered after further discussion and have withdrawn their request. We did

get a letter from the State stating they are okay with buffers around wrecks and there is no requirement to go back to do another full cultural resource survey. Existing surveys and 100 foot buffers are sufficient. CPE is updating the permit drawings to show wreck coordinates and buffers and will submit to DCM.

10.0 Additional comments

11.0 Administrative comments

11.1 Current Budget

11.1.1 Non- Federal Funds with Corps, estimated \$170,250

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

11.1.3 Dare County FY2022 Budget- \$3,000,000

Barton stated DEQ has reached out to work on modifying the DEQ contract to reflect the addition of the survey vessel to legislation. Barton is working with DEQ and the Corps to transfer \$1.18 million from the private dredge account with the Corps to the Oregon Inlet maintenance account, with the remaining funds being returned to DEQ and Dare County. Harry spoke about digitizing the Oregon Inlet historical data that he has and that is stored in the Administration Building. Barton informed the Task Force that Courthouse Computer Systems had provided an estimate of around \$22,000 to scan the documents in the Admin Building in the folders they are currently in, but that cost would not include searchable terms or the documents that Harry maintains. Steve House spoke about how the Courthouse documents are scanned and organized. Harry will be reaching out to Courthouse Computer Systems to see if they can provide an estimate for the Oregon Inlet files he has.

Barton presented to the Task Force the 2022 meeting schedule, which reflected the Task Force will continue to meet in the Dare Administration Building on the Tuesday after the second Monday of each month at 9:30 am.

12.0 Adjourn

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