

Minutes

Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m., April 12, 2022

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

1.0 Review Minutes- March 15, 2022

Jim Tobin called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Harry Schiffman made the motion to adopt the minutes. Bob Peele 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. All remaining broken or fallen pilings have been removed. DOT was able to get barge through Oregon Inlet after recent Corps dredging event. Project expected to be completed by next month's meeting.

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

John Ahlen reported they will be moving buoy 10 north to provide more room. On west side of bridge, they will be moving the buoys where dredging was recently completed.

5.0 Dredging Summary Report

John Ponton reported the Merritt arrived on the 11th of March and dredged approximately 28,000 cubic yards in March and one day in April. We have not received any cost information yet from the Corps as requested. The dredging event cost about \$307,000 and utilized federal funds.

6.0 O.I. Survey & Channel reports

Todd Horton stated that they performed one survey on March 23rd west of the bridge, depths between buoy 17 and 21 were six to seven feet. Another survey was conducted on April the 7th, conditions were seven feet between 17 and 21. A survey was completed yesterday at the Bar and it appears a shoal is beginning to appear, depths of 7 feet. The southern access route over the Bar will be surveyed to determine if that is a better option.

7.0 Corps Dredging Schedule

Todd provided the dredge schedule. The Murden will be up north for the next couple months. The Merritt is in Hatteras at South Ferry and then will be working an emergency at Sloop Channel for DOT before returning to finish the dredging event at South Ferry. After that, there is a backlog of projects which need to be completed.

8.0 EJE Dredging Construction Update

Donnie Potter provided an update to the Task Force. The Miss Katie was launched on April 4th. Now the crews are continuing to work on it dockside, hooking up the cooling system and a majority of the work is on electrical wiring. Harry said the survey boat is here and will have radar arches installed this week. More equipment will be installed over the upcoming weeks.

9.0 Permit Updates

Ken Willson said once the Miss Katie arrives, it will be permitted from the end of the Bar all the way under the bridge to Old House Channel 1. There have been some discussions about scheduling the first of the required quarterly meetings with the agencies. CPE is continuing to work on permitting the Miss Katie from Manteo to Oregon Inlet. We are probably a few weeks away from submitting permit applications and four to six months away from having those permits in hand. Harry asked if there have been any discussions about a widener west of the bridge. Ken responded that the agencies have stated that if we go beyond what the Corps required, more documentation and a new permit could be required. The agencies would like to see how the Miss Katie is working and would need proof that the Miss Katie cannot keep up and a widener is necessary. Jim reported that the Coast Guard inspections should only take one day. Bob Peele reported the Wanchese Industrial Park has allocated dock space for the Miss Katie.

10.0 Additional comments

Barton received the cost share amendment from the State for additional permitting costs related to permitting the Miss Katie’s operations. Barton also submitted the cost share application for the Island H project, which will provide capacity for the upcoming pipeline project in Wanchese. Next week, Barton will be requesting the Board of Commissioners authorize the submission of a shallow draft application for state cost share for Miss Katie operations in Oregon Inlet in FY23.

11.0 Administrative comments

11.1 Current Budget

11.1.1 Non- Federal Funds with Corps, estimated \$1,350,250

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

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

11.1.4 Infrastructure Bill (Wanchese to Oregon Inlet) - \$6,400,000

12.0 Adjourn

Steve made the motion to adjourn. Harry seconded.