

# Dare County Waterways Commission

## Minutes

Monday, June 13, 2022  
7:00 PM (Virtual Meeting)

### Call to Order

**Roll Call:** Steve Coulter, Natalie Kavanagh, Kermit Foster, KP Scott, Michael Flynn

**Acceptance of Minutes:** May 9, 2022

- Michael Flynn made the motion to approve the minutes. KP Scott seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Welcome:** Chairman Steve Coulter

- Steve thanked everyone for attending.

### **New Business**

#### **USCG Report**

- John Ahlen reported the Coast Guard renumbered the Connector Channel, 1 to 15. They also have been working in Hatteras Inlet Channel and Barney Slough. Steve Coulter commented the Connector Channel is marked well and has held up well over the last month. The Coast Guard will be moving 3B in Sloop. Steve mentioned 5 in Sloop is in very shallow water and may need to be moved out. John Matuska stated the Connector Channel is holding up well and they feel comfortable going through with the 47.
- Eugene Diotalevi from Coast Guard NAVCEN spoke about a subscription service for broadcast notice to mariners where boaters can receive live updates directly to their phone rather than just via radio. The next version will be georeferenced with lat and long.

#### **Corps Report**

- Jeremy Smith reported the Merritt has been in the Hatteras Inlet Channel and Barney Slough area working for DOT before moving to Bigfoot Slough for DOT. Todd reported they would be surveying the Hatteras Inlet Channel area tomorrow. Brennan stated they would be providing a new estimate for FY23 to Barton so that additional funds can be transferred for future Corps dredging events.
- Jeremy stated they are continuing to work on revisions in house for the Rollinson Realignment. They anticipate the agencies will not take 60 days to review, since the only modification is the Connector Channel. Worst case is October for the realignment. Steve asked about the Murden. Jeremy said it is in New Jersey for the next month.

## **NCDOT Ferry Report**

- Catherine Peele said they had to change their departure schedule due to shoaling at Bigfoot Slough and understaffing in Hatteras. The Ferry Division has done 6 career fairs to get more applications in the door.
- Marine maintenance will be dredging in the South Dock basin at the end of the month.
- Steve asked if DOT had revisited the pilings at South Dock. Catherine said the situation remains the same and for Dare County to obtain the services of a private contractor to install the pilings if they would like to move forward.
- The Ferry Division has received a \$3.5 million grant to replace the passenger ferry docks in Hatteras and Silver Lake. The General Assembly did allocate funds to be used for replacing Hatteras and Silver Lake dolphins during FY23.

## **Public Comment**

- Brian Patteson spoke about the recent surveys of Sloop and the realignment. It seems like in the long run, it would be better to cut the corner at Sloop channel in a shorter route across rather than maintaining the dogleg. He was also curious about the solution to the area at the south end of Barney Slough, which is shoaling quickly, and for an update about the Miss Katie. He thanked everyone for what they've done, he has been able to get out to sea over 20 days during the last month.
- Steve said the Environmental Assessment the Corps has worked on for Sloop Channel is along the current route. If they attempted to permit a channel directly across, they would need to redo the EA. Brennan confirmed that to be the case. The Corps is using the same confines as the DOT permit. Next winter, there will be a pipeline project for Rollinson Channel to remove material.
- Barton responded the projected date for the arrival of the Miss Katie is early August. They are experiencing some supply chain issues, but the work is moving along.
- KP asked about how the funding will be worked between the Miss Katie and the Corps dredges. Barton responded the Board of Commissioners provided \$250,000, which with state cost share provides \$1 million total for dredging. With a possible fall project required to be performed by the Corps, Barton will be moving \$200,000 into the Corps accounts with the remaining funds allocated to the Miss Katie.

## **Old Business**

- None

## **Administrative Business**

- Current Budget
  - Non-Federal Funds with Corps for HCC: \$20,000
  - Infrastructure Bill for Rollinson Channel: \$1,430,000
  - Dare County FY2022 Budget: \$250,000 (\$0 remaining)
- MOA/Permit Status

- MOA- Expires 02/2023
  - CAMA – Expires 12/2024
  - Department of the Army Permit – Expires 03/2027
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- Ken Willson stated they would, weather permitting, be out there next week to begin their cultural resources survey to expand the South Ferry Channel Corridor to include the Hatteras Connector Channel.

**Board Member Business**

- No comment.

**Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barton Grover  
Grants & Waterways Administrator

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