

Dare County Waterways Commission

Minutes

Monday, July 11, 2022
7:00 PM (Virtual Meeting)

Call to Order

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

Acceptance of Minutes: June 13, 2022

- Steve Coulter made the motion to approve the minutes with correction to attendance. Danny Couch 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 has not moved any buoys in Hatteras Connector Channel since the last meeting. Buoys are marking good water. Steve commented that we made it through the tournament last week with no incidents, everyone had high praise for the Coast Guard for helping them navigate through the inlet. John did say they would move buoy 2 south towards South Dock to avoid confusion when entering the Connector Channel. Additional buoys will be moved or placed in Sloop. In addition, the ferry channel near buoy 16 is getting tight due to shoaling. John Matuska said they went out Saturday at dead low and stated they had 7 foot under them in the narrowest spot. Steve asked about Oregon Inlet. John Ahlen commented they would be moving buoy 19 closer to the bridge to mark the bridge span between 31 and 32 as the channel.

Corps Report

- Jeremy Smith stated they are still tracking that the realignment will be finalized in early October. Natalie asked for confirmation that the Connector Channel is the only item being considered during the revision, Jeremy confirmed. Steve said the cultural resource survey has been completed and is with the marine archaeologist. Barton commented that the marine archaeologist should be complete with the survey interpretation within the next couple weeks. Afterward, Ken with CPE will submit to the agencies for review. Jeremy asked for Barton to pass along the information to the Corps when finalized.
- Jeremy Smith said the Connector Channel has been holding up over the last month. Steve said there are a couple areas near the entrance and the southern end of the Connector that are

getting shallower, but they are not immediate issues. Jeremy stated they will continue to monitor the situation. Due to issues by buoy 16, DOT has requested the Corps return. The Merritt will be sent up there once work at Carolina Beach is completed. Steve asked if Rollinson Channel proper will be surveyed soon. Todd Horton reported that Steve Shriver, Corps surveyor, has retired so they are short staffed until a replacement for Steve is hired. Steve Coulter asked Todd to relay our thanks to Steve Shriver for the work he's done, and wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

- Joen reported the Snell replaced two clusters near the Coast Guard dock last month.

NCDOT Ferry Report

- No report
- Steve commented the ferry dredge has been working in South Dock. Steve wanted to ask if the emergency ferry route is in good condition. Barton will check with DOT if they had completed a test run this summer before hurricane season. Barton said the Ferry Division had completed a run in the spring and the channel was already at authorized depth.
- Steve asked about Stumpy Point and Avon. Barton said work on those projects will be during the next fiscal year 2024.

Public Comment

- Woody Joyner, North Carolina Watermen United President, thanked the Commissioners for their efforts. He has been approached from his members about the Miss Katie and if there is a framework for when the Miss Katie will dredge in Hatteras Inlet. Steve said the Oregon Inlet Task Force will be in charge of where it goes and when it goes, and he has been assured by the County Commissioners that we will get the Miss Katie when we need it. As far as a formal procedure, there is not one. Danny Couch said the Task Force has reached out to talk with the Waterways Commission and it would be a good opportunity to discuss scheduling.
- Danny, Steve, and Todd discussed the channel between buoy 12 and the gorge and if dredging would still be allowed there after realignment. Todd believed it would. Barton stated the Miss Katie is only permitted to dredge in the South Ferry Channel corridor and the current cultural resource survey work will permit it in the Hatteras Connector. Once the realignment is complete, Dare County has a contract with CPE to permit the Miss Katie to work other areas near Hatteras.

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 FY2023 Budget: \$250,000
 - Miss Katie Remaining Funds: \$800,000
- MOA/Permit Status
 - MOA- Expires 02/2023

- CAMA – Expires 12/2024
- Department of the Army Permit – Expires 03/2027
- Barton reported Finance has sent \$48,875 to the State. With State match, a total of \$195,500 will be sent to the Corps. This process usually takes about a month.
- WRC will be replacing a no-wake zone buoy at Scotch Bonnet Marina. Dare County will be restriping and fixing other minor issues at the Kitty Hawk Boat Ramp.

Board Member Business

- Steve, Danny, and Michael spoke about the good progress being made with beach nourishment in Avon and Buxton.

Adjournment

- Michael made the motion to adjourn, Natalie seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Barton Grover
Grants & Waterways Administrator

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