

## Minutes

### Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m., August 9, 2022

Attendance: Harry Schiffman, John Ponton, Steve House, Russ King

#### 1.0 Review Minutes- June 14, 2022 & July 12, 2022

Harry Schiffman called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Steve House made the motion to adopt the June minutes. John Ponton seconded the motion. All in favor. Russ King made the motion to adopt the July minutes. John Ponton seconded the motion. All in favor.

#### 2.0 Welcome guests

Harry thanked everyone for joining.

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

John Ahlen reported they were out yesterday to move buoy 15 to mark the shoal which is moving to the south. 19 was moved up to span 30. Harry commented the deeper water is moving southward. John stated the bar is looking good.

#### 4.0 Dredging Summary Report

John Ponton stated there was no dredging performed in July.

#### 5.0 O.I. Survey & Channel reports

Todd Horton reported they are scheduled to perform a survey of the bar next week. That channel has remained relatively stable. A survey of the alternate channel and the bridge was performed last week. Permission was received yesterday to dredge the alternate route to 8ft +2. Joen Petersen stated it will be a fixed channel until the NEPA process is finalized. Todd said once that is completed, it will be authorized to 12 + 2ft. Harry asked if the Miss Katie will be authorized to dredge in this channel until the NEPA process is finalized. Todd replied yes.

#### 6.0 Corps Dredging Schedule

Joen Petersen stated the Snell mobilized yesterday and will arrive tomorrow. Thursday they will change out equipment and should be dredging Saturday. The Snell will need 10 days to clear through the shoal. The Merritt will dredge behind the Snell.

#### 7.0 EJE Dredging Construction Update

Jordan Hennessy said the crew is going down Thursday to Louisiana and EJE will take ownership soon thereafter. He expects the dredge to arrive in Wanchese next Thursday or Friday. Coast Guard drills and Corps inspection will be completed that next Monday and

Tuesday. The DQM system will be inspected by the Corps later this month. EJE shared photos of the dredge with the Task Force and other attendees.

## **8.0 Permit Updates**

Barton reported a meeting with the regulatory agencies was held recently to discuss the upcoming dredging event by the Miss Katie this quarter. The Corps directed Dare County submit a letter requesting the Miss Katie be authorized to work west of the bridge in the alternate channel.

## **9.0 Additional comments**

Russ King reported they had a productive meeting with the Park Service for the Miss Katie to dock overnight at the fishing center near the fuel dock. EJE will be able to install pilings and sub-lease under the fishing center's current lease agreement. The other possible locations at the fishing center would impede the Coast Guard and the kayak launch. Michael Flynn commented the Park Service will hold a public meeting next Thursday from 6 to 7pm at the Dare Administration Building concerning the no-wake zone near the fishing center.

Harry asked the Corps how often surveys will be performed. Todd stated if the Miss Katie is maintaining the channel, conditions of the channel will remain the same and surveys will not need to be completed on the same intervals. Russ and Harry stated the boaters, especially those using the public boat ramp, rely on those surveys. Brennan commented the Corps will only be surveying the alternate channel when it becomes the authorized federal channel. The channel the fleet is currently using will only be surveyed when the Corps is looking for alternate routes to the ocean. Funds the Corps receives are to maintain the federal channel, not to survey anywhere in the inlet system. Harry commented that in the past the Corps has surveyed Oregon Inlet consistently and often outside the federal channel.

## **10.0 Administrative comments**

### **10.1 Current Budget**

10.1.1 Miss Katie Remaining Funds - \$9,000,000

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

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

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

Barton reported the county received a bid within budget for the Island H modification project. This will allow the channel out of Wanchese to be dredged to 12 +2 ft. Project will be awarded at the next Board of Commissioners meeting in September.

Related to the Miss Katie budget, legislation had been passed as of July 1<sup>st</sup> which changed cost share from 2 to 1, to 3 to 1. However current DEQ interpretation is that any applications submitted before July 1<sup>st</sup> will remain 2 to 1 cost share even if the contract effective date is July 1<sup>st</sup> or later. Therefore, it appears the budget for the Miss Katie will remain \$9 million.

## 11.0 Adjourn

Steve made the motion to adjourn. Russ seconded.

DRAFT