

## Minutes

### Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m., September 13, 2022

Attendance: Harry Schiffman, John Ponton, Bob Peele, Russ King, Jamie Reibel

#### 1.0 Review Minutes- August 9, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 9:30am. Bob Peele made the motion to adopt the August minutes. John Ponton seconded the motion. All in favor.

#### 2.0 Welcome guests

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

John Ahlen reported that the shoal has encroached on the west side of the bridge and shoaling has appeared around buoy 15. Some buoys are off station at the bar after the recent blow. Once the alternate channel is opened, the Coast Guard will mark that channel.

#### 4.0 Dredging Summary Report

John Ponton reported on dredging by the Miss Katie, Snell, and Merritt. The Corps does not provide reports for the Snell. The Merritt worked a total of 14 days west of the bridge and dredged 26,190 cubic yards. John was happy to report on Miss Katie's first month of dredging. The Miss Katie dredged 7,835 cubic yards over 5 days at a cost of \$121,521.

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

Todd Horton and Joen Petersen noted there was a survey completed on September 6<sup>th</sup>, which showed shoaling near buoy 15. Joen stated the alternate channel will not be surveyed until at least Friday. Todd said when weather allows, they will survey the Bar also.

#### 6.0 Corps Dredging Schedule

Joen Petersen stated the Merritt is currently working the alternate channel. The Snell has been there longer than expected. King tides have affected what time they can dredge. It is a dry shoal during low tide and they need water for their submersible pump. Then during high tide, water is coming over the shoal and shifting the boat. The Snell has 100ft left to dredge to get through the shoal. The Merritt is working from the beginning of the channel to the stern of the Snell and has dredged that area to approximately 8 to 9 feet. The Merritt is scheduled to depart Thursday and the Snell will complete its work soon thereafter. The Snell will need to do one day of vibracoring. Bob asked when that channel will be marked. John Ahlen said as soon as the Corps has the channel opened up. Ken Willson asked if they believe the Miss Katie could access the channel when the Merritt departs or are they

expecting to stick around to continue opening it up. Joen responded the Miss Katie would have no issues transiting the channel.

## **7.0 EJE Dredging Update**

Jordan Hennessy reported that the Miss Katie has performed 6 days of dredging. On the last day, the drag arm was overheating. It appears water had entered into the hydraulic fluid tank during construction, so the vendor was contacted. Salt water was located in the tank. The vendors have sent the systems to Alabama and Texas for repair. Jordan also noted the survey boat is up and running and will soon perform a survey.

## **8.0 Permit Updates**

Ken Willson said he spoke to Josh Pelletier concerning the permit to authorize the Miss Katie to work in the alternate channel. Josh had stated it was off his desk and he expected to receive the authorization soon. Jordan asked if there would be permission to dispose west of the bridge near the Bonner Bridge Pier. Ken confirmed there would be. The alternate channel will be in a fixed position until the Corps NEPA work is completed. Ken also mentioned that the quarterly meeting with the agencies for Q4 will need to be held before the end of the month.

## **9.0 Additional comments**

None

## **10.0 Administrative comments**

### **10.1 Current Budget**

10.1.1 Miss Katie Remaining Funds - \$8,879,000

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 is still having conversations with DEQ about amending contracts to reflect the new legislation which changed the local match for shallow draft projects from 33.33% to 25%. DEQ has stated a new contract is required and existing contract must be terminated. There was a pre-construction meeting for the Island H dike embankment modification, which will begin soon. Jordan asked about permits for Walter Slough. Barton stated those are being submitted soon for the agencies to review. Jordan asked if west of the bridge can be dredged. Barton stated the Corps permit only allows for one federally authorized channel to be dredged and our permit follows their permit. Dare County is looking at obtaining a separate permit to maintain the route the fleet currently uses.

## **11.0 Adjourn**

Bob made the motion to adjourn. John seconded.