

Dare County Waterways Commission

Minutes

Monday November 14th, 2022

7:00 PM Manteo

Call to Order

Roll Call: Steve Coulter, Natalie Kavanagh, Ernie Foster, Kermit Skinner, Danny Couch, Michael Flynn

Acceptance of Minutes: October 11, 2022

- Michael made the motion to approve the minutes. Kermit seconded the motion. All in favor.

Welcome: Chairman Steve Coulter

New Business

USCG Report

- John Ahlen reported the Coast Guard is adding and moving buoys in Sloop, Barney, and Hatteras Connecting Channel. Natalie asked about the conditions of Oregon Inlet, she had received some messages concerning buoy placement. John commented the buoy was moved to correctly mark the shoal.

Corps Report

- Coley Cordeiro reported the Environmental Assessment will be signed by the end of the month. The issue with the power lines needed to be addressed in the EA before being finalized. Steve asked what restrictions are expected due to the power lines. Jeremy responded they need confirmation of the depth and then they will need to determine if a buffer is needed. Steve asked if the Corps will confirm the depth. The Corps stated they are reaching out to Tideland. Jeremy Smith believes the buffer will be 100ft on either side of the cable. Ernie asked when they will confirm the depth. Jeremy did not know when Tideland will confirm the depth of the cable. Ken Willson stated Tideland speaks confidently that the depth of the cable has not changed and they believe it is between 8 to 12ft deep. Tideland feels comfortable that the armoring on the cable will prevent it from being harmed by dredging, that it would more likely harm the dredge. Jeremy said both the energized and inactive cables are a concern. It is all about safety to the crew and ensuring power is not disconnected to Ocracoke. Joen Petersen said the inactive cables would be a concern if the dredge snagged on it. Ernie asked if the cable is 12ft deep, how deep could the Corps dredge over it if at all. Joen responded they are looking into it.

- Steve asked about the dredge schedule. He knows Ken and Barton have obtained a 7-day one-time modification to allow dredging. Joen responded the Merritt is in Oregon Inlet, but it will need to go to Manns Harbor because there is a bent rudder. Once the Merritt is repaired, it will spend 7 to 10 days dredging in Oregon Inlet before going to Hatteras Inlet to dredge for DOT and dredge in the Connector Channel. A survey will be performed before the Merritt arrives.
- Barton Grover asked Coley about available federal funds for Rollinson Channel. She responded \$580,000 is available in IIJA funds and \$1 million in FY23 for O&M.

NCDOT Ferry Division Report

- Catherine Peele announced as previously mentioned the Ferry Division has multiple vacancies and is looking for applicants.
- A new vessel, the Salvo, is coming online in the next few weeks. It will be going to Cherry Branch. Division One is looking at how to improve the stacking lanes at South Dock to allow for two lanes. Also, Division One is using material from the disposal site for sand bags and sand dunes which will provide additional capacity. Some of the South Dock piling work was completed but the Skyco engine failed, so has been sent to Cherry Branch for repair.

Public Comment

- No comment

Old Business

- Ernie and Steve spoke to the Corps concerning dredging the shoaling near the entrance to Hatteras Harbor. Historically that area has been pipeline dredged. Joen will look into it. Michael asked if an additional bird island had been permitted. Ken confirmed it had. Barton commented we will also be pursuing permits for the Miss Katie to be able to dredge in the area.

Administrative Business

- Current Budget
 - Non-Federal Funds with Corps for HCC: \$217,000
 - Infrastructure Bill for Rollinson Channel: \$1,430,000 (\$580,000 remaining)
 - Dare County FY2023 Budget: \$250,000 (\$0 remaining)
 - 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
- Steve asked about the MOA status. Jeremy and Coley responded that the EA will be completed and a short-term MOA will not be needed. Barton commented the long-term MOA expires September 2026.
- Steve asked Ken for any other updates. Ken believes the Hatteras Connector modification will be approved in a month. We do have the 7-day permit for a dredging event until that modification is

received. Steve asked if the Miss Katie could work under that permit. Ken commented they could. Steve said last month we had asked for the Miss Katie to arrive after the Merritt completes dredging. Barton had brought that request to the Task Force, but the issue with the vibracore sample stalling work in the alternate channel has affected the Miss Katie schedule and the Merritt is still up in Oregon Inlet.

- Barton commented the Board of Commissioners approved a grant application for disposal facility improvements in Stumpy Point. Barton asked Coley if DOT has provided funds for the emergency ferry channel. Coley responded funds have not been provided as of yet.
- Also, as for the Avon dredging project, DOT is onboard with seeking permits for the placement of material at the Haulover to protect the road, water line, and electrical poles. Further discussions will need to be had on trucking, costs, and vibracores.
- The Avon no-wake zone was approved by WRC and buoys will be placed. Also, the Scotch Bonnet no-wake zone buoy was replaced.

Board Member Business

- Michael stated he attended a climate adaptation workshop last week with state and federal agencies concerning endangered and threatened species. Dredge islands were discussed as habitat and the Hatteras Inlet permitted bird island was discussed.
- Danny Couch spoke about concerns from Hatteras Village residents over the Slash Creek Bridge project and the kayak access on the northwest side of Slash Creek. Danny stated he would look into if there is an opportunity to repairing the bulkhead and creating a kayak launch.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Barton Grover
Grants & Waterways Administrator

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