



Minutes

Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m., June 13, 2023

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

Staff: Barton Grover

Others in Attendance: Ken Willson, Jordan Hennessy, John Ahlen, Todd Horton, Trey Lewis, Doug Shipley

1.0 Review Minutes- May 9, 2023

- Meeting was called to order at 9:30am. Steve House made the motion to approve the minutes. Russ King seconded the motion. All in favor.

2.0 Welcome guests

- Harry Schiffman welcomed guests to the meeting.

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

- John Ahlen stated this will be his last meeting. He will be relocating to a new station on the west coast. Harry appreciated all the time John has dedicated to helping us out and wished him good luck.
- Harry reported that he had received reports that the second green buoy from the north in the alternate channel is not lit nor does it have a reflector. Also buoy 55 needs to be relocated closer to 54. Shoaling is occurring in the area. John said they would look at it this week.

4.0 Dredging Summary Report

- No Corps dredging during May.

5.0 EJE Dredging Update

- Jordan Hennessy commented the Miss Katie is in Lockwood Folly Inlet. They have established a pilot channel and have made good progress. Dredging should be completed in the next week and a half
- Steve House asked about the Topsail Beach request submitted. Doug Shipley, Town Manager for Topsail Beach, responded that Topsail Beach was unable to get their permits situated, but he wanted to thank the Task Force for considering their request. Harry said if we can ever help in the future and we are able to, please reach out.

6.0 O.I. Survey & Channel reports

- Todd commented they are doing a survey of the Bar today and the interior channel west of the bridge will be surveyed later this week.

7.0 Corps Dredging Schedule

- No anticipated dredging by the Corps within the next 90 days.

8.0 Permit Updates

- Ken Willson said we are coming up on the next Quarterly meeting at the end of the month with the agencies. CPE is also working on permitting deeper placement of dredged material offshore of Pea Island during sea conditions of 3 foot or higher. That modification request will be submitted within the next couple of weeks.
- Ken said he has continued to receive updates from Gregg Bodnar from DCM. DCM, WRC, and DMF are having internal conversations based on the feedback received after the draft conditions were presented to the Task Force.
- The language originally presented in the draft conditions stated the permittee shall not dredge the channels if the Corps determines a placement event will occur in the upcoming dredge schedule. In the event of infilling due to a storm event requiring immediate action, the permittee would coordinate with the agencies. That language was unclear in terms of what upcoming schedule

meant. The Task Force proposed to clarify that condition with a limit on dredging if a Corps dredge event was to occur within 3-months. Ken said based on his conversations with DCM, WRC did not approve of that proposal. WRC has sent amended draft conditions to DCM. Russ asked Ken what timeline WRC was looking for. Ken said early indications was more than 6 months. Russ said that was too long. Ken is waiting for a call to determine what those conditions are.

- DMF also provided a table that was provided by the Corps during the permitting of Rollinson Channel. This table showed the number of dredge events, days, and cubic yards dredged by the Corps historically. DMF asked if something similar could be provided by the Task Force. Ken said this would be hard to provide since we do not have historical data on Miss Katie operations to rely on. The only information we can provide is historical dredging performed by the Corps during the environmental moratorium. DMF has requested a moratorium for all interior channels, but is predominantly concerned with the Crack and Walter Slough.
- Harry asked John Ahlen if the Coast Guard kept records of buoy relocations. John said he could easily provide that information. Harry said that information could help in showing how often these channels may need to be dredged to maintain the channel position.
- Harry asked if we could obtain a copy of the emergency authorization the Corps is working on in the alternate route. Todd said a FOIA request would be needed. It is not necessarily a permit, but a series of communications with the agencies. Barton said a FOIA request would also be required according to the Corps to obtain the vibrocore data. Harry confirmed they would like to see that information also.
- Jordan asked on the status of the interior channel. Todd said the draft copy of the EA would be internally released later this week before being released to the public. He believed September would be when the EA has been signed and the Corps would have authorization to dredge throughout the corridor.

9.0 Administrative comments

9.1 Current Budget

9.1.1 Miss Katie DEQ Contract Remaining Funds - \$2,636,727

9.1.2 Non- Federal Funds with Corps - \$383,762

9.1.3 Federal Funds for OI - \$464,700

9.1.4 Dare County FY2022 Budget- \$3,000,000 (\$690,000 remaining)

9.1.5 President's Budget and Omnibus - \$7.2 million

- Barton commented the new fiscal year budget begins July 1st. DEQ is continuing the review the 4 separate DEQ cost share contract applications.

10.0 Additional comments

- None

11.0 Adjourn

- Steve made the motion to adjourn. Russ seconded.

DRAFT