



Dare County Waterways Commission

Minutes

Monday July 10, 2023

Call to Order

Roll Call: Steve Coulter, Natalie Kavanagh, Ernie Foster, KP Scott, Danny Couch, Michael Flynn, John Berquist

Acceptance of Minutes: June 12, 2023

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

New Business

USCG Report

- Patrick Tallant introduced himself to the Commission. He has replaced John Ahlen as the OIC in Wanchese. The Commission welcomed him. Patrick stated the 49 boat has replaced the 55. The 49ft has higher lifting capacity and can handle larger seas, but it is half the speed. They are monitoring the pinch point between 12A and 13. Ernie spoke about the need for an additional buoy between the Connector Channel and the Bar to better show the channel location and asked if the 49 could place a buoy there. Patrick stated he would look into it. Natalie and Steve thanked the Coast Guard for supporting the emergency dredging event in Rollinson Channel.

Corps Report

- Todd Horton said they have collected multiple surveys including the Hatteras Connector on June 28th. The Merritt has been working in the ferry channel for the last week and will be returning in a couple weeks. The Corps will perform a survey to determine progress made.

- Steve asked if the Corps could survey north from 3A next time to determine if another route is opening up. Todd said they would survey the entire area near Sloop.
- Steve said originally the Corps had stated they did not want to expand the corridor near Sloop, because it would have delayed the EA for the entire Rollinson channel. Now that the realignment process is over, has the Corps began looking at that. Todd said they have collected some data, but are not currently pursuing expansion of the corridor. John said it is really dangerous in the dog leg, you can see where the ferry is kicking up sand. It seems fuel savings from modifying the permit would greatly exceed permitting costs for DOT. Steve asked how long it would take the Corps to modify the corridor. Todd said it would depend on any issues with SAV and Cultural Resources. The EA could be drafted in less than a year, but then the agencies would need to review. Danny said if it takes that long to modify, then it needs to be started as soon as possible.
- Steve and Danny thanked the Corps for performing the dredging near the breakwater. KP and Steve said there is plenty of water there now to pass through.

NCDOT Ferry Division Report

- No report

EJE Dredging Report

- Jordan said the Miss Katie arrived back in Dare County June 21st from dredging in Lockwood Folly. Miss Katie should begin dredging in Oregon Inlet starting tomorrow. Steve said the entrance to the Connector Channel could be touched up, but the channel is holding up well. The shoal south of buoy 9 has begun extending further into the channel.

Public Comment

- Bianca Aniski submitted a public comment that the sand berm in Avon Harbor has migrated towards the north basin.

Old Business

- Barton stated that DOT and their Geotech indicated they may be able to utilize the material, but their maintenance yard does not have the capacity to hold the material if Avon Harbor was dredged. Now, identifying a permanent location for the material is the next step. Danny mentioned there may be private entities in Buxton that have bermed areas to accept dredged material.

- CPE is continuing to work on the Stumpy Point design. Barton asked Todd if the Corps determined the necessary capacity the disposal site needed. Todd said 150,000 to 160,000 cubic yards. The DOT channel that will not be dredged was approximately 20,000 cubic yards.
- The Miss Katie permits were submitted in early June. All adjoining property owners have now been contacted, therefore it is expected that the agencies will now begin their review.

Administrative Business

- We have started the new fiscal year, therefore there is \$1,000,000 in the budget for the Miss Katie for FY24.
- Todd reported the Corps will receive a \$1,000,000 for Rollinson dredging.
- Steve asked what the total cost for the emergency dredging event was. Todd does not yet have that information. Steve asked where the material was placed. Todd reported it was placed in Barney Slough.
- Steve asked about modifying the EA for Sloop, since mother nature is opening up another route. Todd said until the pipeline project is completed and the channel is dredged to authorized depth, internally there is not a discussion about modifying. If the channel does not hold up after the project, that may change.
- Barton asked about the pipeline project. Todd said they will be looking to bid in September due to needing to resolve the placement location for material on the Hatteras side.

Adjournment

- Danny motioned to adjourn. Natalie seconded.