



Minutes

Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m., August 15, 2023

Attendance: Harry Schiffman, Bob Peele, Steve House, Russ King

Staff: Barton Grover

Others in Attendance: Ken Willson, Jordan Hennessy, Coley Cordeiro, Patrick Tallant, Carl Hendrickson, Todd Horton, Michael Flynn, Joen Petersen, Kyle Ward

1.0 Welcome guests

- Meeting was called to order at 9:30am. Harry Schiffman welcomed guests to the meeting.

2.0 Review Minutes- July 11, 2023

- Steve House made the motion to approve the minutes. Bob Peele seconded the motion. All in favor.

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

- Patrick Tallant stated the Coast Guard completed buoy reestablishment of 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 east of the bridge. The Coast Guard also moved buoy 10. Buoy 53 was added and buoy 55 was moved north and east to better mark the shoal.
- The Maple will be primary on 1 and 2. Smilax used to be primary on 3 to 11, but the new 49 will handle those buoys now. This will allow for more continued maintenance with the 49 being local.
- In the next few weeks, Patrick will provide historical buoy maintenance records as requested by the Task Force.
- Harry asked if reflectors and lights were ever placed on buoy 25. Patrick stated 26 and 27 are lit and does not feel it is appropriate to place a light on 25. Reflectors have been placed. Harry said we have had requests to place on buoys between

buoys 16 and 17, and 26 and 27. Harry asked if buoy 23 could be lit, that would solve some of their concerns. Patrick said he feels placing a light on buoy 23 would be more appropriate.

4.0 Dredging Summary Report

- No Corps dredging during July.

5.0 EJE Dredging Update

- Jordan Hennessy stated the Miss Katie dredged a total of 99,837 cubic yards in Oregon Inlet during the month of July. She was on 24 hour shifts for two weeks.
- Michael asked if all the material was placed nearshore Pea Island. Jordan responded some material was placed inside.

6.0 O.I. Survey & Channel reports

- Todd commented they conducted updated surveys west of the bridge and of the Bar. West of the bridge they are seeing depths of 9 to 12ft. On the Bar, a survey was conducted on the 8th and there is a minimum of 14ft in the channel.

7.0 Corps Dredging Schedule

- Joen reported no anticipated dredging events by the Corps within the next 60 days.

8.0 Permit Updates

- Ken Willson said the only real update he has is the permit modification to dispose in deeper waters off of Pea Island. The Corps Regulatory received comments from the navigation section recommending approval to dispose in depths from 11ft to 17ft regardless of sea state. If you all remember, we had requested disposal depths be increased from 14 ft to 18ft if sea states were 3ft or greater. Ken stated his recommendation would be to accept this condition if the Task Force is comfortable with this depth and feels it would allow for safer operations by the Miss Katie. Jordan stated EJE concurs with that condition. The Task Force all agreed. Harry asked Ken to relay the Task Force's concurrence to the Corps.
- Barton asked the Corps for an update on the NEPA process for the alternate channel. Coley said it is in project delivery team review currently and has not gone out for official public review. It should be going out for public review soon.

It is currently expected to be finalized in the December/January timeframe. There were some delays with cultural resource surveys. They were able to reduce DQC review from one month to 2 weeks. SHPO has approved the cultural resources survey.

- Harry asked why there has been such a significant delay. Coley commented the cultural resources survey was delayed by weather. Harry asked if there could be a written report to update the Task Force on the process and timeline.

9.0 Administrative comments

9.1 Current Budget

9.1.1 Miss Katie DEQ Contract Remaining Funds

9.1.1.1 Oregon Inlet - \$7,936,738

9.1.2 Non- Federal Funds with the Corps - \$46,796

9.1.3 Federal Funds

9.1.3.1 Earmark - \$5,706,600

9.1.3.2 IJA – \$4,067,100

9.1.3.3 O&M - \$300,000

9.1.4 Dare County OI FY23 Budget- \$3,000,000

- The budget only shows the DEQ funds for the Miss Katie to dredge in Oregon Inlet. There is still an additional \$3.5 million for additional channels that may be permitted.
- The budget amounts listed on the agenda reflect updated information from the Corps. Harry asked about the non-federal funds. Barton commented those are funds transferred before the Miss Katie arrived to pay for any dredging by Corps plant dredges when federal funds were depleted. These funds include the 66.66% State match. Harry asked if there was a refund process. Barton stated there was and funds were returned last year for a contract dredge event that did not occur. Bob Peele motioned to request the non-federal funds be returned to Dare County. Steve House seconded. All in favor.
- Coley reported the Earmark and IJA funds would be used towards next fiscal year's contract dredging.

10.0 Additional comments

- Jordan discussed proposed amendments to the EJE contract. Existing language states the EJE dredging rate adjusts up and down annually on October 1st by the same percentage as the Corps daily rate for the dredge Murden. However, the Corps rate may change at other times during the year, such as last year when the rate adjusted up on October 9th. Also proposed is matching the Hatteras Inlet

rate to the outside rate due to distance to disposal site. Last is the removal of the requirement to obtain and maintain a written agreement with the North Carolina Ferry Division for use of the dry dock at Manns Harbor. The Ferry Division has indicated they do not have the capacity to maintain their own ferries and are having to send to private shipyards, so could not ensure the Miss Katie would be able to be maintained at the Manns Harbor shipyard. Bob and Harry said it makes sense to remove the October 1st language and change rates at the same time the Corps changes rates. Bob Peele motioned to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the proposed amendments to the Dredge Work Plan and Forgivable Loan Agreement. Russ King seconded. All in favor.

11.0 Adjourn

- Steve made the motion to adjourn. Bob seconded.