



Minutes

Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m., October 10, 2023

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

Staff: Barton Grover

Others in Attendance: Jordan Hennessy, Ken Willson, Patrick Tallant, Joen Petersen

1.0 Welcome guests

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

2.0 Review Minutes- September 12, 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 49 ft boat is back online. The issues with the hydraulics have been fixed. Lighted buoy 3 is missing and lighted buoy 5 is off station. They plan on going out tomorrow morning to address. A light has been added to Oregon Inlet buoy 23. Buoys 12 to 16 near the bridge have been moved to better mark the channel. Buoy 9 will be moved north to make for a straighter line.
- Patrick reported he was able to pull the electronic records for buoy relocation for the interior channels. All other information is in archives. Harry Schiffman asked if a paper copy could be provided. Patrick said he needs to put that together and he will send over.

4.0 Dredging Summary Report

- No Corps dredging during September.

5.0 EJE Dredging Update

- Jordan Hennessy reported for September 1st to the 15th, there was 32,626 cubic yards removed primarily from inside the bridge. From the 16th to the 30th, roughly 19,000 cubic yards were removed. The Miss Katie was at the dock from the 26th to the 30th for maintenance or due to weather.
- The Miss Katie is currently in Hatteras operating on 24hrs. Bob Peele asked if Jordan estimates they will be down there for about one week. Jordan said they will do a survey on Thursday, but most likely will return to Oregon Inlet between Saturday and Tuesday depending on weather.

6.0 O.I. Survey & Channel reports

- Barton Grover reported the Corps recently did a survey of the inside channel on October 3rd, but the last Bar survey is from August 8th. There have been recent storms, so Barton asked Jordan Hennessy if he had noticed any changes since the last Bar survey. Jordan responded there have been some minor changes, especially on the eastern end where the Bar is moving further out.
- Barton also included in the packet the Wanchese survey that was performed recently in late September. There is a significant shoal on the northern end of the federal channel and 8ft depths outside the federal channel. Bob Peele asked if the Miss Katie is permitted to work there. Barton said not yet, but it is part of the permit application. Bob said the Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park Board had a meeting last Wednesday and directed Bob to express their concerns on the Wanchese Channel via a letter or any other method the Task Force feels would be appropriate. Harry Schiffman said a letter would be helpful and to send to Barton. Russ King asked wasn't it the case that there were a few trawlers that recently wanted to dock in Wanchese, but did not because they needed 10ft depth. Bob confirmed.
- Joen Petersen said they hope to get a survey of the Bar in the next couple weeks.
- Barton also reported that the Oregon Inlet Environmental Assessment was recently sent out for public comment and Barton has sent the link to the assessment to the Task Force. Harry Schiffman asked if we will meet before public comments are due. Barton said it is a 30 day review period, so comments are due before our next meeting. Harry mentioned the Task Force should review the EA and provide any comments they may have.

7.0 Corps Dredging Schedule

- Joen commented they are planning to have the Merritt and Murden in Rollinson later this month to address issues for the ferry division. The Murden is expected to leave the shipyard on the 23rd. They will need to address some projects in Virginia first.

8.0 Permit Updates

- Ken Willson said they had a quarterly meeting with the agencies at the end of September to address dredging plans for the last 3 months of 2023. We also received the permit modification to allow for disposal in up to 17ft off Pea Island and extended the disposal area an additional 5,000 ft. A bathymetric survey was conducted west of the bridge around the scour hole.
- Ken commented on the previous discussion about the Wanchese Channel. Ken said the best avenue to dredge that channel is via the current permit application. There is not really a mechanism for non-federal entities to obtain an emergency permit. The Corps has that ability.
- Ken said the survey crew will be arriving today to perform Shellfish surveys in the Crack & Walter Slough. Because those are non-federal channels, the agencies have requested that data along with a cultural resources survey. The agencies will be requiring a buffer.

9.0 Administrative comments

9.1 Current Budget

- 9.1.1 Miss Katie DEQ Contract Remaining Funds
 - 9.1.1.1 Oregon Inlet - \$5,221,341.10
- 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

- As mentioned previously, there is still an additional \$3.5 million in funds available for additional dredging.
- The letter has been submitted for the return of the \$46,796 in non-fed funds.

10.0 Adjourn

- Steve made the motion to adjourn. Bob seconded.

DRAFT