



Minutes

Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m., November 14, 2023

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

Staff: Barton Grover

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

1.0 Welcome guests

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

2.0 Review Minutes- October 10, 2023

- Steve House made the motion to approve the minutes with the clarification that federal channel in Section 6.0 be changed to entrance channel to Wanchese. Harry Schiffman seconded the motion. All in favor.

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

- Patrick Tallant reported buoy 5 is off station and will be addressed when weather lightens up. Buoys 14 and 16 were relocated to mark the shoaling as boaters approach the turn west of the bridge. Lighted buoy 25 moved off station and was placed back and a light was placed on 23 in the channel west of the bridge. Old House light 7 is destroyed and a buoy was placed there.
- Patrick stated he is putting together the report on past buoy maintenance and relocations.

4.0 Dredging Summary Report

- No Corps dredging during October. The Murden has departed the shipyard in Norfolk and will be having maintenance performed in Manns Harbor.

5.0 EJE Dredging Update

- Jordan Hennessy reported 42,681 cubic yards were dredged during the month of October in Oregon Inlet. The Miss Katie dredged Hatteras for 6 days from the 8th to 14th.
- There were approximately 10 days of maintenance. Drag arms were taken off and seals replaced. Hydraulic systems were placed below deck, fuel tanks were drained to put in sensors, and multiple welding projects performed.
- Currently on 24-hour operations and have dredged approximately 45,000 cubic yards so far this month. There will be a few additional maintenance days before the end of the month.
- Jordan stated the area between buoy 14 and 16 has shifted significantly south and discussions will need to be had on relocating the channel with the Corps.

6.0 O.I. Survey & Channel reports

- No Corps attendees. Barton will reach out to the Corps for an update on the Oregon Inlet EA status. Last update was that it would be finalized in January. Agency comments were due around the time of this meeting and the Corps will respond to those comments.
- The Oregon Inlet Bar survey was performed October 26th and the Bridge survey performed October 3rd.

7.0 Corps Dredging Schedule

- No Corps attendees.

8.0 Permit Updates

- Ken Willson said they have made progress on the permits. A week and a half ago Dare County was issued the CAMA permits. One permit from Wanchese to 17 Extension. Another permit covers Old House 2. The third permit includes the Crack and Walter Slough.
- Comments were received from Corps Regulatory. Responses were submitted yesterday morning. Wildlife Resources Commission, National Park Service, and Fish & Wildlife only provided comments on the non-federal channels, which includes the Crack and Walter Slough. Ken hopes that Department of Army permit is received by the holidays.

- Harry Schiffman asked about the CAMA condition that in no case excavation will exceed the depth of the connecting channel. Ken said the Division of Coastal Management is trying to prevent dredging activities that dig a channel to nowhere or connect with a channel multiple feet shallower. All channels from Wanchese to the Bridge will be allowed to be dredged to 12 +2ft.
- Harry commented that #9 of the maintenance clause has an error. It states the Division of Coastal Management shall be notified and receive authorization in advance of a maintenance event. Ken agreed and said it sounds like the Division of Coastal Management needs to receive authorization. Harry asked if Ken could look into cleaning that up. Ken will reach out to DCM.
- Barton mentioned that because the Crack and Walter Slough are non-federal channels, they have not been pre-screened for cultural resources down to 14ft and require SAV and Shellfish surveys. CPE performed that work last month and is putting the report together for submittal to the agencies. Therefore, those channels may not be allowed to be dredged as soon as the other existing federal channels. The surveys should be submitted to the agencies before the end of December.
- Harry asked Ken about the potential issues with submerged aquatic vegetation near the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center. Ken displayed a map which showed historic SAV surveys. When CPE performed a recent survey, there are some patches of SAV to the south of the fishing center. It is within 300ft of the channel, and we will need to request relief from the agencies. Ken believes we will receive that relief and the agencies have stated they will provide an answer within two weeks upon request. Harry commented there is language in the permit allowing for dredging within 300ft of SAV if the 300ft buffer is not practicable.
- Harry asked if there were any questions on the CAMA permits and if there were none, asked for a vote on approving the permits. Bob Peele motioned to approve the permits upon review by the County Attorney. Russ King seconded the motion. All in favor.

9.0 Administrative comments

9.1 Current Budget

- 9.1.1 Miss Katie DEQ Contract Remaining Funds
 - 9.1.1.1 Oregon Inlet - \$4,245,296.80
- 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

- A request has been sent to the Corps to have the non-federal funds returned.
- Barton will present the 2024 meeting schedule at the next meeting to reflect the meetings continuing to be held on the Tuesdays at 9:30 am the week after the Board of Commissioners meeting.
- Harry Schiffman inquired about the IJJA and Earmark funds. Barton said those funds are for pipeline projects, but the Corps has not yet identified the location. Harry asked what the timeline was for repairs to Island H. Barton responded funds were needed to repair, approximately \$2.3 million to install riprap to stabilize the island.
- Bob Peele stated it is statutorily allowed for the Wanchese Industrial Park to request funds for improving navigability of waterways connected to the Park. A request to make improvements to Island H has been sent to the state construction office for review before it can move forward to be included in the R&R budget. Bob is unsure of the odds to receive the funds, but it sets the stage in the future for additional requests.

10.0 Adjourn

- Russ made the motion to adjourn. Bob seconded.