



## Minutes

### Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m., February 13 , 2024

Attendance: Steve House, Harry Schiffman, Bob Peele, Russ King, Greg Mayer, Brownly Douglas

Staff: Barton Grover

Others in Attendance: Jordan Hennessy, Brad Rosov, Patrick Tallant, Erin Weller, Todd Horton, Michael Flynn, Carl Hendrickson

#### 1.0 Welcome guests

- Meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Commissioner House. Commissioner House welcomed Greg Mayer, a new member of the Task Force.

#### 2.0 Review Minutes- January 9, 2024

- Bob Peele made the motion to approve the minutes. Russ King seconded the motion. All in favor.

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

- Patrick Tallant reported they are still missing buoy 3 and 6 from the inlet. They have reset the other buoys in the last 30 days. 12, 14, and 16 west of the bridge have been moved out to better mark the shoal. Old House Channel between 1H and 3 has seen some shoaling, so buoys have been shifted in that area also.
- Harry Schiffman stated there have been reports of boats running aground near 14 and 16. Greg Mayer said there is good water on the green side, but the red buoy was not in the typical location. It seems to have been straightened out now. Russ King noted he had received reports that there were issues in Old House 2. Patrick said if boaters take 1H on the wrong side, it is 5ft deep.

#### **4.0 EJE Dredging Update**

- Jordan Hennessy reported 49,792 cubic yards were dredged in January inside and at the Bar. There has been no dredging at the Bar since January 8<sup>th</sup>, because we are still waiting for the Corps to provide a dredge box that satisfies the conditions of the permit and avoids the required state buffer around a historical wreck.
- Bob Peele asked how many cubic yards EJE expects to dredge per month. Jordan replied the most they have done is around 90,000 to 100,000 cubic yards in a month.

#### **5.0 U.S. Army Corps Update**

- Erin Weller reported a multibeam survey will be performed on the Ocean Bar when there is a weather window to identify any wrecks.
- Todd said the last Bar survey was performed on January 19<sup>th</sup> and we were seeing depths of 16 to 20ft in that particular section. On the alternate route, there was a survey on January 11<sup>th</sup> and depths were 8 to 9ft to 11 or 12ft inside and outside the designated channel.
- The Alternate Channel EA has not been signed, the Corps is waiting on the 401 certification from the State. Once signed that will allow for dredging down to 12 plus 2ft.

#### **6.0 CPE Update**

- Brad Rosov said the 3 CAMA permits had been issued back in early December. There are a couple stipulations on those permits for Walter Slough and the Crack with a cultural resources survey required and a submerged aquatic vegetation buffer. The surveys have been submitted to the agencies and are currently being reviewed.
- We have received the Corps permits for the federal and non-federal channels in the last couple of weeks. The conditions have been reviewed internally and edited after discussions with the Corps Project Manager. The final versions will be signed and returned to the Corps.
- At the Quarterly meeting in early January, the interior channels were discussed but at that point the Corps permits had not been received. Therefore, the agencies asked for another meeting once the federal permits were in hand. That meeting will be held later this month.
- Harry Schiffman asked Brad if the non-federal channel Corps permit has the same language as the State permit, which stated if it is not feasible to have a

300ft buffer, then dredging would be authorized. Brad said that condition was requested in the Corps permit and he received confirmation it would be in there.

## 7.0 Administrative comments

### 7.1 Current Budget

#### 7.1.1 Miss Katie DEQ Contract Remaining Funds

7.1.1.1 Oregon Inlet – 1,618,306

7.1.1.2 Wanchese to 17ext. - \$1,600,000

7.1.1.3 Crack & Walter Slough - \$1,500,000

7.1.1.4 Old House 2 - \$400,000

#### 7.1.2 Federal Funds

7.1.2.1 Earmark - \$5,706,600

7.1.2.2 IJA – \$4,067,100

7.1.2.3 O&M - \$300,000

#### 7.1.3 Dare County OI FY23 Budget- \$3,000,000

- Barton Grover stated as he had mentioned last month, the Task Force may need to consider adding funds to Oregon Inlet. The budget was \$8,500,000 at the beginning of the year and is now approximately \$1.6 million. The agenda reflects the funds allocated to each of the channels. Barton said it takes approximately 30 days for a contract to be modified.
- Jordan Hennessy asked Brad Rosov how many cubic yards were in the Crack and Walter Slough. Brad said he thinks 269,000 cubic yards was the number. Jordan asked about the Wanchese to 17ext. total. Brad said Wanchese A, B, and C was just over 100,000 cubic yards. 17 is 21,000, 16 is 25,000, 15 is 70,000, 14 is 160,000 cubic yards. Russ King asked for confirmation that these numbers reflect to authorized depth. Brad confirmed. Brad said the cubic yard total for Old House 2 is 327,000.
- The Task Force reviewed surveys between Wanchese and Oregon Inlet. Jordan commented that the Crack & Walter Slough will be an area prioritized because it is shallow, highly traveled, and will be used frequently by the Miss Katie in addition to being close to the disposal sites. Wanchese is an issue and will need to be addressed, but it is an hour and a half to the disposal site so work will not be as efficient. The Crack will need to be deep enough for the Miss Katie to take loads through from channels farther north. Range 16 will need to be addressed due to frequent shoaling concerns. Harry Schiffman asked which funds will be reduced to shift to Oregon Inlet. For right now, \$1,500,000 will be added to Oregon Inlet. For planning purposes, that would reduce the Crack/Walter Slough budget to \$1 million and the Wanchese Budget to \$600,000. Old House 2 will remain as is. Barton stated for the Task Force's awareness, the DEQ cost share contracts for the other channels will not change which allows for some flexibility if unexpected

shoaling occurs later this fiscal year. Russ King motioned to move \$1.5 million to the Oregon Inlet fund. Bob Peele seconded. All in favor.

- Barton commented that budgeting for FY25 will need to occur at next month's meeting so that contracts are in place before July 1st.
- The Waterways Commission has requested the Miss Katie dredge the Connector Channel in March. Their permit still has a moratorium that begins April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Ocean Bar will be added to the Connector Channel, and as part of that modification process the Waterways Commission will request the moratorium be removed now that the State law has been changed.
- For awareness, the Corps has submitted an emergency declaration in the ferry channel to dredge outside the corridor. That declaration was denied by SHPO until a cultural resources survey is performed. DOT will be looking to do a survey as quick as possible due to shoaling concerns in the existing Sloop Channel.

## **8.0 Adjourn**

- Bob Peele made the motion to adjourn. Steve House seconded.