



Minutes

Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m., April 9, 2024

Attendance: Harry Schiffman, Russ King, Brown Douglas

Staff: Barton Grover

Others in Attendance: Jordan Hennessy, Brad Rosov, Adam Preiser, Todd Horton, Joen Petersen, Michael Flynn, Kyle Ward, David Hewett

1.0 Welcome guests

- Meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Vice Chairman Harry Schiffman. He announced the Board of Commissioners had a special meeting, therefore Commissioner House could not attend.

2.0 Review Minutes- March 12, 2024

- No quorum

3.0 USCG ANT Wanchese Update

- Adam Preiser from Station Oregon Inlet stated Patrick Tallant was working in Hatteras today and could not be here. He said the aids to navigation team are planning to set 3 and 6 at the Bar next week. They have reset buoys in the Crack that were off station.
- A meeting will be set up with NCDOT, Dare County, NPS, District 5, and Sector North Carolina on a directional light or range. Harry Schiffman asked if there was a meeting date set. Barton Grover responded it would likely be next week, but he is waiting for confirmation on Coast Guard availability.
- Harry Schiffman asked which buoys ANT Wanchese could address. Adam responded from the bridge to buoy 4. They could address lights on buoys east of

there, but moving those buoys would require the 225ft cutter from Morehead City to service. Those cutters like to operate in 25ft of water minimum.

4.0 EJE Dredging Update

- Jordan Hennessy reported the Miss Katie returned from Hatteras on the 18th and began dredging on the 19th. A total of 32,297 cubic yards was dredged in Oregon Inlet during March. Permission to dredge the Ocean Bar was received, with a buffer around the Townsend, and the Miss Katie has been able to dredge a few days on the bar. The Miss Katie will start working in the Crack as soon as tomorrow.
- Barton Grover mentioned that the Waterways Commission was appreciative of the dredging performed by the Miss Katie last month and reports were that the Hatteras Connector Channel was in good condition.

5.0 U.S. Army Corps Update

- Todd Horton commented Joen Petersen was also on the line. The latest surveys of the bar and west of the bridge were performed in mid-March after the last meeting. There is some shoaling of the bar channel near buoy 4.
- For the Environmental Assessment, the Corps was working with the Division of Water Resources on the Water Quality certification and they have resolved the issues. They are now waiting for the amended Water Quality Certification, which they hope to receive later this month so that the EA can be completed by the end of April. Harry Schiffman asked Todd for the language on deepest water. Todd said he would coordinate with Office of Counsel who has the authorizations in hand to get that language.
- Barton Grover referenced an email received from the Corps of Engineers concerning proposed pipeline dredging. Todd Horton stated the Corps is looking at the Alternate Channel and Old House 2 for pipeline dredging. The Corps needs to know the quantities the Miss Katie is expected to dredge to determine if the channels should be included in the contracts and if so, how much material will be left for the pipeline dredge. Harry Schiffman asked if it would include Old House 1. Todd said the majority of Old House 1 is at depth, but the southern portion of Old House 1 may be included. Brad Rosov commented the volume of Old House 2 was approximately 327,000 cubic yards to get to authorized depth.
- The Task Force reviewed the Corps surveys. Harry Schiffman mentioned there had been some groundings in Old House 2. Adam Preiser confirmed there have been near 1H. Harry stated we may not be able to wait a year for a pipeline dredging event in that area and if the Corps could address areas to the south. Todd said

they would dredge the entire channel. Harry said they would need to discuss it further and get an answer to the Corps. Harry asked when the Corps would perform the dredging. Todd answered the bid would be solicited in June, awarded in August, and dredging could not begin until November when bird island placement was allowed.

6.0 CPE Update

- Brad Rosov said Dare has received 4 CAMA Major Permits, 4 Water Quality Certifications and 3 Department of Army permits. As you all know, the ocean bar channel had migrated over top of the Townsend wreck. The Corps performed a multibeam survey and did not identify any remnants of it. A letter was sent to the State Historic Preservation Office noting that survey amongst other pertinent information as to why a buffer was not needed around the Townsend. SHPO agreed. A request was submitted to remove the buffer language from the CAMA permit, DOA permit, Water Quality Certification, and the National Park Service permit.
- Once the Corps Alternate Channel Environmental Assessment is modified, we will request to match the conditions of the EA allowing for dredging to 12 + 2ft and expanding the corridor.
- A minor modification for the disposal area has been issued to allow for placement of dredged materials from interior channels to be placed adjacent to the former Bonner Bridge. A post dredging SAV survey will be required if dredging occurs within 100ft of SAV in Walter Slough. Most of that channel adjacent to SAV is within the National Park Service boundary by the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center. The National Park Service must issue a SUP for dredging within their boundary, which is expected to take 6 weeks. Harry Schiffman thanked Brad for his efforts with all these permit actions.

7.0 Administrative comments

7.1 Current Budget

- 7.1.1 Miss Katie DEQ Contract Remaining Funds
 - 7.1.1.1 Oregon Inlet – 1,650,331.09
 - 7.1.1.2 Wanchese to 17ext. - \$600,000
 - 7.1.1.3 Crack & Walter Slough - \$1,000,000
 - 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 IJJA – \$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 the Oregon Inlet budget reflects the additional \$1.5 million in funding added to the cost share contract.
- The Board of Commissioners approved the Resolutions for the FY25 dredging cost share contracts and applications will be submitted for cost share.
- The leftover non-federal funds, approximately \$45,000, with the Corps were returned to Dare County

8.0 Additional Comments

- David Hewett, Town Manager of Holden Beach, spoke of the conditions of Lockwood Folly Inlet and current shoaling they are seeing. The Corps is anticipating sending the Merritt in soon and Holden Beach is seeking to have the Miss Katie return to follow up on the Corps dredging. The Miss Katie was successful last year in dredging a channel and it held up fairly well through the summer. They have their engineer mobilized to coordinate with the agencies. A shallow draft funding contract will need to be set up if the Task Force approves the request.
- Russ King asked what the timeline is for the project. David replied before Memorial Day is preferable, but with the outer bar shoaled in, any dredging will be helpful. Harry Schiffman said without a quorum, we can't decide anything officially. Harry asked for a letter of request to be sent for Barton Grover, so that the item can be placed on the agenda at the next Task Force meeting to be considered. Harry asked if anyone would have any concerns sending the dredge there. Russ responded he would not have any concerns sending the dredge to Lockwood Folly next month. Harry informed David that unofficially it is approved for the Miss Katie to dredge in Lockwood Folly. Dare County has just received permits for the interior channels, so the Task Force will need to find an appropriate time to send the dredge away with those interior channels needing to be addressed. David Hewett thanked the Task Force.
- Jordan Hennessy asked when the Corps would be dredging down there. David responded that they had planned to dredge with the Merritt for the first two weeks of May. Joen Petersen stated that schedule is in flux due to dredging in the ferry channel, so it is now looking like the end of May. That will also be dependent on the tide, because they want the high tide to be late morning when dredging shallow channels. Jordan said the Miss Katie would likely follow up after the Merritt completes dredging.

- Adam Preiser mentioned that they have 12 new vessel examiners to inspect boats. The Coast Guard is encouraging the fleet to call them when they encounter issues. They will stand by, escort, set up aerial flairs, or turn their lights on for navigational aid. The purpose of the program is to inspect the boat. If it is good to go with their gear, it gets a sticker that shows the Coast Guard that the boat has been inspected within the last year. Many boaters have mentioned they are worried by calling the Coast Guard for assistance, they may get boarded. Russ King said they will have a captain's meeting and that may be a good opportunity to talk about the program.

9.0 Adjourn

- Russ King made the motion to adjourn. Harry seconded