



Minutes

Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building
Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m. July 9, 2024

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

Staff: Barton Grover

Others in Attendance: Jordan Hennessy, Brad Rosov, Patrick Tallant, Woody Joyner, Carl Hendrickson, Erin Weller

1.0 Welcome guests

- Meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Chairman House.

2.0 Review Minutes- May 14 & June 11, 2024

- Russ King motioned to approve the May 14th meeting minutes. Bob Peele seconded. All in favor. Harry Schiffman asked Patrick Tallant to confirm with Adam Preiser how the U.S. Coast Guard performs the hazardous bar observations.
- Bob Peele motioned to approve the June 11th meeting with a modification that the meeting occurred at the Dare Administration Building, not the USCG ANT Wanchese. Harry seconded. All in favor.

3.0 USCG ANT Wanchese Update

- Patrick Tallant stated the buoy boat is still down, it did not pass a weight test. They found a bent rod. They are working on it diligently, so that they can address the buoys at Oregon Inlet and Hatteras Inlet.
- Old House 2 was dredged by the Miss Katie last month. Patrick stated they would reach out to the Corps to determine if there will be a survey performed so the Coast Guard can relocate buoys if needed.
- Patrick Tallant asked if there had been any feedback on virtual ATON and asked that people please contact him with those comments. Steve House stated the

Public Information Office put out an announcement on virtual ATON and there had been good feedback on Facebook. Barton Grover commented some local publications had picked up the announcement also. Harry Schiffman stated it was really important feedback is provided because if the Coast Guard does not get feedback that captains are using the virtual ATON, the Coast Guard will turn them off here and turn them on somewhere else. Virtual ATON is a great thing during bad weather or at night. Russ King said he will discuss with the captains at the next Oregon Inlet Fishing Center meeting and he will also reach out to Pirates Cove.

4.0 EJE Dredging Update

- Jordan Hennessy reported the Miss Katie dredged over 60,000 cubic yards during June. Approximately 23,000 from the Bar and 39,274 West of the Bridge. Breaking down that total, EJE dredged 7,779 cubic yards from Ranges 14-16, 18,756 from the Wanchese Entrance, 11,151 cubic yards at the Crack & Walter Slough, and 1,586 from the Alternate Channel. They have continued to dredge in July on the Bar, West of the Bridge, in the Alternate Channel, and at Old House Range 2.
- Hyde County has requested the Miss Katie dredge the new cut through at Sloop Channel. Jordan Hennessy stated the Merritt is currently there, but will be departing soon. Erin Weller confirmed it will leave Friday. Jordan said there would be a pre-construction meeting for a Miss Katie dredging event next week with the agencies. The Corps and Division of Water Resources permit have been received and the Division of Coastal Management reported their CAMA modification should be sent by the end of the week. Jordan commented they would be ready to mobilize whenever permits are in hand.
- Jordan mentioned the Waterways Commission also requested the Miss Katie dredge the Connector Channel. A permit modification is needed for the Connector Channel to remove the moratorium which the Commission is waiting for, but the Commission can also submit a request for relief if those amendments have not been received.
- Harry Schiffman made a motion to approve the Miss Katie dredge Sloop and Connector Channels for up to 30 days when all permits and funding are in place. Bob Peele seconded. All in favor.

5.0 U.S. Army Corps Update

- Erin Weller reported they received the letter from the Task Force concerning the Oregon Inlet Authorization and the request is with the Office of Counsel. Erin

Weller stated they will be advertising the pipeline contract for Old House 2, Stumpy Point, and it will include the Alternate Channel as an option.

- Harry Schiffman said we spoke at the last meeting about the Corps discussing Island H with us, so the Task Force can get more information about the issues and why we cannot place a small amount of material in there. Erin said that is on her list and she will touch base with her team to discuss. Brad said that CPE has some additional information that can be provided about Island H.

6.0 CPE Update

- Brad Rosov said we have submitted the permit modification to match the Corps authorization, which is 12 + 2ft and includes a larger dredging corridor, now that the Corps EA is finalized. When the Alternate Route Emergency was declared, Dare County was limited to dredging 8ft plus 2ft even though Dare County had a permit to dredge 12ft. However, we were informed once the Corps EA was finalized we would be able to immediately revert back to our originally permitted depth of 12ft. That has not occurred, the Corps Office of Counsel is continuing to review. Therefore, we are waiting to be authorized to dredge to 12ft as our original permit dictated while we wait for that 12 + 2ft modification.
- Brad reported we continue to wait for the National Park Service modification to allow for dredging adjacent to the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center. We were informed that should be received by early August.
- Brad Rosov said we had a quarterly meeting with the agencies for 3rd quarter dredging. We looked at the channels where they intersected with other channels at right angles. This required boaters to make 90 degree turns. The Corps has historically used funnels to widen the channel to make it more of a 45 degree turn at the juncture of two channels. The funnel at the juncture of the Entrance to Wanchese Channel is included in our original drawings, but not at Walter Slough or the Crack. We requested to include those funnels on the plans, but the agencies decided that would need a permit modification due to those funnels increasing square footage dredged. This is a minor modification request that was submitted last week.
- The Task Force and Brad also discussed the funnel at Range 4 that connects with the State channel to Shallowbag Bay. The State channel is not permitted for the Miss Katie to dredge and the funnel is not permitted. Brad Rosov detailed that the type of material in the channel was not easy to be dredged and the material had to be trucked to the landfill previously. Harry Schiffman stated when the Elizabeth II needs to get out of there for maintenance, the State channel and the juncture will be too shallow. Harry commented we need to eventually have the capability for the Miss Katie to take a load or two out of there. Brad said adding

that channel would not be a heavy lift, but finding a disposal area will be harder to permit. Harry commented there may be an area off the north end of Roanoke Island to dispose of material.

7.0 Administrative comments

7.1 Current Budget

7.1.1 Miss Katie DEQ Contract Remaining Funds

7.1.1.1 Oregon Inlet – \$10,000,000

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 (Pipeline Dredging & Operations & Maintenance)

7.1.2.1 Earmark - \$5,706,600

7.1.2.2 IJJA – \$4,067,100

7.1.2.3 O&M - \$300,000

- Barton Grover stated the Dare budget reflects the new FY25 budget

8.0 Additional Comments

- Woody Joyner commented concerning notifying the Board of Commissioners about the Right Whale Vessel Strike Reduction Rule open comment period, which was discussed at last night's Waterways Commission meeting. The Division of Coastal Management public comment period is currently open. Steve House stated a Resolution was passed by the Board of Commissioners several months ago against the proposed rule, which was sent to everyone, but he will look into it.
- Steve House said we do have an application from someone to join the Task Force and asked the Task Force to review the application before the next meeting.

9.0 Adjourn

- Steve House motioned to adjourn