



The Town of Fenwick Island

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DREDGING/ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 15, 2018 AT 2:30 PM

MINUTES

In Attendance

For Dredging Committee:

Bernie Merritt, Gardner Bunting, Vicki Carmean, Alex Daly, Charlie Hastings, Bud Tingle, Mark Tingle, Bill Weistling

For Environmental Committee:

Mary Ellen Langan, Andrew Adkins, Alex Daly, Virginia Childers-Davidson, Betsy Henifin, Buzz Henifin, Dave Van Kavelaar, Amy Kyle, Roy Williams

Absent

Karin Lakin (for Dredging Committee), Colleen Wilson (for Environmental Committee)

Also in Attendance

Representative Ron Gray, Jason Lindsey (John D. Hynes & Associates), Mayor Langan, Craig Lakin, Chris Bason (via teleconference)

Bernie called the meeting to order at 2:31 PM.

Discussion

Bernie introduced Jason Lindsey, who discussed the survey conducted on the south end of the channel. Jason explained that samples were collected from 6 locations, then combined into 1 sample. The sample contained no contaminants.

Bill asked how deep and wide the samples were taken at the 6 locations. Jason replied that the samples were taken 3' below the mud line and 6" across.

Dave questioned how the samples were taken since the cover letter states "skiff" but the report states "hand auger". Jason confirmed that the samples were taken by hand auger.

Alex asked if there was a summary of the samples that states no hazardous materials were found. Jason replied that it was on the first page of the report. Bill questioned if all 6 samples similar. Jason replied yes, and the samples were mostly sand. Since the north end samples will be taken in the future, Bernie asked if Jason felt the samples would be similar in that area. Jason responded that they should be the same or similar, depending upon the silt.

Amy asked if there was a way of telling where the soil came from due to the composition. Jason replied no. Amy added that she is concerned about the value of the sediment and reporting of the NDL's since the data shows a lot of non-detects. Jason responded that the data should show the lowest number detected and he will speak to the lab about the RL reading and see if that is just a minimum reading.

Vicki asked Jason if he had any objections on putting the spoils some place like Seal Island. Jason responded that there should be no problems using the spoils on Seal Island.

Bill asked if our study was similar to the recordings that John Hynes completed in Ocean City. Jason responded that yes, they were very similar. Vicki questioned if Ocean City had any problems with agencies when they dredged. Jason responded not that he knew of.

Bernie confirmed that the next steps are to provide DNREC with the study results and get a survey completed. Bill agreed that the Town needs to contact DNREC to see where the material can be placed and also get permission to restore the wetlands. Alex suggested getting the survey completed to see how much material needs to be dredged then determine how to move the material and where to move it to. He also feels that the survey needs to be completed on both the south and north channels.

Mark asked if the marsh areas mostly sand. Jason responded yes.

Amy commented that the Town should contact someone who knows the wetlands and where the material could benefit the most. Bernie responded that the Town is already in contact with Chris Bason who is helping with rebuilding the wetlands and obtaining funding for the project. Terry stated that we should contact DNREC first. Also, if the contract is signed with Tony Pratt, the Town could consult with him too on the project.

Vicki noted that there are 2 options available for the dredge spoils: for the south, the wetlands near the bridge can be used and in the north, Seal Island could be built back up.

Amy questioned if navigational access is an angle that should be used for the project. Bernie responded that it was already discussed with DNREC and due to lack of funding, Chris Bason suggested we approach dredging as an environmental project.

Representative Gray commented that he is in favor of making this project an environmental project and rebuilding Seal Island and the wetlands. Recently, the cost of boat registration was doubled to help out with dredging costs. Only \$1.3 million has been raised so far, which will help out with the dredging of Massey's Landing. He feels that conferring with Tony Pratt is an excellent suggestion as well. Representative Gray gives his full support for the Town's dredging project and asked if the Town would like for him to reach out to someone in DNREC. Bernie responded yes.

Bernie asked if any Federal money was available to dredge the Bay. Representative Gray responded not for the Bay since Federal money is only available if the waterway is used for commerce.

Gardner stated that a few years ago it was told that money was set aside to rebuild Seal Island. Now he has heard that regulations have changed and there are no plans to rebuild the Island.

Craig commented that property owners who wrote letters for dredging are wondering the status of the project and what more can be done. Mayor Langan said that property owners can write letters to DNREC and the Town will coordinate sending copies of the letters to State and local representatives. Representative Gray suggested the letter be put in the owners own words instead of using a form letters, since form letters are usually ignored. Terry suggested that all boaters write letters with their concerns of the Bay. Mary Ellen questioned if it was possible to do an online letter like what was done for B.O.E.M. Terry responded that she would check on the procedure and cost, but another possible way for letters to be sent in would be to set up a separate Town email for owners.

Chris joined the meeting via telephone and suggested that the next step would be to determine the amount of spoils that need to be dredged and where to put the dredge material. Chris asked if the Town has found an upland disposal site location. Bernie responded not yet, but the property on the left hand side of the bay (that was previously discussed at the last Dredging Committee Meeting) could possibly be used as a disposal site, or the material could be placed directly in the wetlands for restoration. Alex asked if that doesn't work with the area not available if the Fenwick lagoon would still be a viable area to recommend. Chris responded yes, but the Town needs to check to see who owns the wetland area.

Chris stated that there are several options available for funding for the project, such as the Community Grant, which requires a 50/50 match, or possibly working with the Army Corp. of Engineers with the Planning Assistance Program which would also require a Town match. Chris commented that the permit process for the project will