



# The Town of Fenwick Island

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## **DREDGING COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 7, 2018 AT 10:00 AM**

### **MINUTES**

#### In Attendance

Bernie Merritt, Gardner Bunting, Alex Daly, Charlie Hastings, Karin Lakin, Mark Tingle, Bill Weistling

#### Absent

Vicki Carmean, Bud Tingle

#### Also in Attendance

Dr. Evelyn Maurmeyer, Richard Mais, Gene Langan, Terry Tieman, Roy Williams

Bernie called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

#### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Charlie, seconded by Gardner, to accept the minutes from the August 13, 2018 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Presentation by Dr. Maurmeyer

Dr. Maurmeyer noted that approvals for dredging are needed from DNREC, the Army Corp. of Engineers, and the Delaware Coastal Management Program. The body of material to be dredged, the location, the nature of the material, and identifying the disposal of the material are required on each application. In previous DNREC projects, an upland disposal facility would have to be submitted as well, but recently a spray disposal for wetlands was used at the project at Pepper Creek, and is currently being used at the project at Henlopen Acres. This disposal of dredge material uses geotubes to pump out the sediment and spray onto the marsh areas to build up the wetlands.

A Joint Permit Processing Meeting is held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in Dover to review plans. Prior to the meeting, a survey would need to be completed to see if the marsh is in healthy condition to receive the dredge material and also confirm that the contractor that will be doing the work is state-certified. The disposal site should also be finalized prior to the meeting.

Charlie questioned since Delaware has only had one successful project building up the wetlands, are there other states that are using this process. Dr. Maurmeyer replied that for years, Florida, as well as New Jersey and Maryland, have had success using this process.

Dr. Maurmeyer noted 4 potential sites for the spray disposal:

- Area owned by Joe Balsamo (off of Route 54, north of Town)
- Parcel known as "the ditch" that is to be bought by Freeman
- Restoration of eroding beach areas on the bay
- Seal Island (although, per Chris Bason, this would be the most costly option since the island has been depleted for over a decade, it is owned by the State so we would need the State's approval, and a berm would be needed to hold the dredge material in)

Out of those 4, Dr. Maurmeyer stated the area owned by Joe Balsamo would be the best option.

Charlie questioned how our material that was tested by John Hynes compared to others that she has reviewed. Dr. Maurmeyer responded that our samples were sandier, however, marsh grass can grow on sand.

Dr. Maurmeyer suggested when the north channel is tested then dredged, the area off of Schultz Road could be used. Charlie also suggested the property owned by Adkins.

Although Dr. Maurmeyer would like DNREC to perform the dredging, she will look into private contractors since DNREC may not be available. Bill suggested Greenland Landscaping could be used.

Per her research through DNREC, dredging of the bay would cost:

- Channel 1 (7,400 cubic yards): \$170,000-\$180,000
- Channel 2 (5,260 cubic yards): \$125,000-\$135,000

Total for the project would be approximately 12,000 cubic yards and cost \$200,000-\$225,000.

Dr. Maurmeyer contacted Chris Bason who suggested using State funding from DelDOT for a portion of the project and also applying for other grants as well.

Bernie confirmed the next steps of the project: to review the proposal submitted by Dr. Maurmeyer, make a presentation at the January Council Meeting, then submit plans and attend the meeting in Dover either in February or March. Dr. Maurmeyer added that she will talk to Joe Balsamo as well as Freeman for potential disposal sites.

#### Discussion on Presentation

Bernie presented Dr. Maurmeyer's proposal of \$5,000 for the first channel (\$6,200 max). He noted that there will be additions to the project cost that Dr. Maurmeyer provided, to include a study of the north channel sediment which will be conducted by John Hynes. Gene added that we also need to include Tony Pratt's services as well, which will be around \$15,000.

A motion was made by Charlie, seconded by Gardner, to forward the proposal, including the additional costs of the John Hynes survey and Tony Pratt's consultation, to the Town Council for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 24, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

#### Adjournment

A motion was made by Bernie, seconded by Alex, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.