

Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterway Committee

**ESRNWC January 20, 2022 Minutes**

A meeting of the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via the virtual meeting platform ZOOM.

Members Present:        John Joeckel, Chair  
                                  John Tavoraro  
                                  J.T. Holland  
                                  William J “Billy” Tarr  
                                  George (Danny) Bowden  
                                  Andy Dunton

Members Absent         Dixon Leatherbury  
                                  Donald Hart  
                                  John Coker

Others Present:         Jessica Steelman, A-NPDC  
                                  Joseph Bettit  
                                  Jeff Deem  
                                  Michael Anderson, USACE Norfolk District  
                                  Chris Turner, USACE Norfolk District  
                                  Clara Vaugh, Rep. Luria  
                                  Virginia Hagerott, Rep. Luria  
                                  Ira Brotman, Moffatt & Nichol  
                                  Chris Guvernator, Accomack County  
                                  Richard Harr, USACE

## Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterway Committee

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman John Joeckel called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### **Old Business:**

- a. *NOAA* – None.
- b. *USACE*- Chris Turner, Michael Anderson and Richard Harr reported out the following on Norfolk District Civil Works Program updates on Projects pending or under Construction

#### *Chincoteague Inlet Federal Navigation Project:*

Chincoteague Inlet is scheduled to receive \$680,000 in the FY2022 President's Budget for annual maintenance dredging.

Government Plant Special Use Dredge Murden completed a 14-day maintenance cycle on 7 September 2021 along the inner channel by realigning the channel framework between buoys 26 and 29 and straightening the approach into the Town docks of Chincoteague Island.

A full channel project condition survey is scheduled for late January to identify shoaling areas that may be impacting navigation from the entrance buoy inbound to the VA-175 State Highway Bridge.

The dredge Murden is tentatively scheduled for 10-12 days in late February / early March dependent on the results of the project condition survey and if there's a need to perform maintenance dredging.

#### *Sector Field Office Eastern Shore Maintenance Dredging Project:*

On December 30, 2021, Salmon's Inc., under contract to the Norfolk District through a "Work for Others" project completed maintenance dredging operations of the facility's boat basin, access channel and transient mooring area to a depth of 10 feet MLLW. The contractor removed approximately 9,000 cubic yards of dredged material by bucket method and transferred the material in leak proof dump trucks for disposal into the Curtis Merritt placement site at the south end of Chincoteague Island.

#### *Tangier Channels Federal Navigation Project:*

\$1.72M in FY21 workplan funds were identified for the Project. On 5 March 2021, the Town of Tangier, Virginia notified the Norfolk District indicating that recent storms have resulted in severe shoaling impacting community support and subsistence operations. The dredge MURDEN mobilized to Tangier, Virginia on 29 May, and performed dredging operations to restore navigation in the East channel between 29 May and 1 June. The dredging scope of work included full channel maintenance dredging from station 15+00 thru station 39+00 to a required depth of - 8 feet MLLW. Demobilization occurred on 1 June. In total, the dredge MURDEN removed and placed nearshore (adjacent the beach, Northwest of the Uppards) approximately 6,000 cubic yards of dredged material. A maintenance dredging scope of work was developed to restore the entire project to maintained depths with beneficial placement of dredged material occurring within the nearshore zone of the Uppards beach area. The dredge Murden removed approximately 13,000 cubic yards of material between 31 October and 8 November 2021, the Norfolk District was notified that the MURDEN required an emergency repair which delayed completion for maintenance dredging of the channel. The PDT met with the Town of Tangier on 13 December 2021 to discuss areas of the channel that require additional dredging and other navigation and environmental considerations related to the Federal project. Wilmington District will be contacted to schedule the MURDEN to finish up the maintenance dredging after 30 January 2022 once a dredging plan has been developed.

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### *Cedar Island, CAP, Section 204, Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material:*

**(No significant updates since last meeting)** Cedar Island is a barrier island located within the Delmarva Peninsula in the Virginia Coast Reserve, the largest expanse of protected coastal habitat in the United States. Cedar Island is located centrally within the barrier island chain with the Metompkin Inlet separating Cedar Island from Metompkin Island to the north and Wachapreague Inlet separating Cedar Island from Parramore Island to the south. The western side of Cedar Island (referred to as the back-barrier) is flanked by channels, tidal wetlands and marsh islands, lagoons, and mudflats. The Atlantic (eastern side of Cedar Island) is comprised of beach and dune habitat and relic wetlands. The coastal mainland Town of Wachapreague is located on the mainland, west of the Cedar Island back-barrier. The purpose of the project is to beneficially use the dredged material from the Finney Creek Channel and the Bradford Bay Channel for enhancement, expansion, and protection of the Cedar Island back-barrier shoreline wetlands and marsh islands. The thin-layer spraying will be done via a hydraulic cutterhead dredge equipped with a pipeline that will spray the material from the Federal navigation sites.

Total Project costs are estimated at \$11,258,000, which are to be cost shared on a 65 percent Federal and 35 percent non-Federal basis. The USACE NAD concurred with the Norfolk District's recommendation on 24 October 2019 concluding the feasibility phase of the project. Next phase is design and implementation phase, which requires a non-Federal Sponsor.

<https://www.nao.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/Cedar-Island-CAP-204/>

### *Fiscal Year 2022 Presidents Budget:*

The FY 2022 President's budget identified \$680,000 for the Chincoteague Inlet Navigation Project.

Potential \$128,000 Reprogramming:

Quinby. Develop a dredge material management plan for the continuous use of the Peeler Point dredged material placement area.

Federal Navigation Project Priority List for Appropriated Funds:

Maintenance dredging Tangier Channels w/beneficial use of dredge sediment

*Little Machipongo River (moved up in list position)*

**Quinby Channel (added to list due to earlier than usual shoaling)**

Construction of an upland placement site at Deep Creek in preparation of dredging Maintenance dredging of other components of the WCV

Maintenance dredging of Parker Creek Maintenance dredging of Deep Creek

Maintenance dredging of Onancock River including development of placement site Maintenance dredging and upland placement site rehabilitation for Starlings Creek (Harbor of Refuge w/USCG facility)

c. *USCG* – None.

a. *VA Commonwealth WMF* – PDC Staff, Jessica Steelman, provided the following update on the following:

#### FY2020 Projects & Contractual Progress

- i. Quinby Channel – Documentation for the County is expected early February.
- ii. King's Creek – Bid docs are being compiled; VMRC has approved the permit for public comment and it will be posted 1/21/2022; per Tracie West, ACE, there is no need for a 408.
- iii. **Staff will be contacting VPA regarding carry-over of funds.**

#### FY2021 Projects & Contractual Progress

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- i. Wachapreague/VIMS – Hydrographic survey of Area 1 and north section of Area 2 is upcoming, weather permitting with the goal of late January/early February.
- ii. Folly, Hungars, Nassawadox, and Red Bank Creeks– DMMA/DMMP planning is in progress; from completing the sediment sampling, Folly & Red Bank have fine grained sediment (silts and clays); Nassawadox and Hungars contain more sands, which will allow a focus on beach (if appropriate, with respect to land ownership) and nearshore placement; public meeting #3 is tentative for second week of February.

### FY2022 Projects & Progress

- i. King's Creek Dredging – VMRC approved the permit for comment with modification of removal of section of property that was contested; ready to go out to bid once documents are compiled at conclusion of public notice; notice will be going out 1/21/2022.
- d. *Congresswoman Luria Staff* – Virginia Hagerott reported out the following  
Congress is beginning WRDA process, which authorizes projects for USACE. Rep. Luria's office receives feedback from her district on which projects/studies/construction/modifications to studies they want to see authorized.
- The portals for Congressional offices to submit their requests opens Jan 31-Feb. 25 (tentatively). Projects must solely focused on USACE.
  - Transportation & Infrastructure Committee said its helpful for local Corps to sign off on projects.
  - WRDA does not appropriate funding-- it is essentially the first step to initiate a new project.
  - Rep. Luria can support authorized projects during the appropriations process & authorization process.
  - Requests for authorization should be sent to Rep. Luria's office. Her staff is working on a portal where these can be sent & plans to distribute this next week.
  - Some ESVA priority projects (Cedar Island/Wachapreague CAP 204) are authorized but need funding.

### New Business:

- a. *VPA WMF FY2023 Application*  
General consensus from the Committee was to apply for Nassawadox Creek Phase 2, Dredging. **Staff to develop and present application to VPA on 2/8/2022.**
- b. *Various Correspondence, federal/state project funding, WMF increase status, BOS legislative priorities/General Assembly*  
Current status is a proposal in the General Assembly in SB 30 Budget, to increase the WMF to \$3.5 million in 2022 and \$5 million in 2023.
- c. *Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF)*- PDC Staff, Jessica Steelman, provided a brief review of applicable projects and how to seek this funding.

### Other Matters:

At the next meeting election of Committee Chairman & Vice Chairman must be completed.

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**Public Comment:**

Joseph Bettit – inquired about follow up regarding data request.

**Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.**

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John Joeckel, Chair

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Jessica Steelman, Secretary

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Date

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