

Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterway Committee

ESRNWC July 21, 2022 Minutes

A meeting of the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee was held on the 21st day of July, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at The Enterprise Building, A-NPDC, 23372 Front Street, Accomac, VA 23301.

Members Present:

Accomack

John Joeckel, Chair
John Tavolaro
William J “Billy” Tarr
Danny Bowden

Northampton

John Coker
J.T. Holland
Andy Dunton
Dixon Leatherbury

Members Absent

Donald Hart
Robert Harris

Others Present:

Jessica Steelman, A-NPDC*
Ashley Mills, A-NPDC
Joseph Bettit, Accomack Citizen
Clara Vaughn, US Representative Elaine Luria
Nadia Cortez, US Representative Elaine Luria*
Kim Huskey, Cherrystone Aqua Farms*
Ann Gallivan, JCWB
Michael Anderson, USACE Norfolk District*
Chris Turner, USACE Norfolk District*
757-398-4745, *call-in*
386-690-6360, *call-in*

*participated via the Zoom platform for facilitation & presentation purposes.

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1. Call to Order:

Chairman John Joeckel called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. Old Business:

NOAA –
None.

USACE –

Chris Turner & Michael Anderson, Corps of Engineers Norfolk District, 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 \$800,000 in the FY2023 President's Budget.

Government Plant Special Use Dredge Murden completed a 12-day maintenance event 22 March 2022 along the inner channel. The dredging included clean-up along the recent channel alignment and removal of a shoal near the mouth of the ocean inlet to restore safe navigation for commercial and recreational vessels transiting the waterway.

The next maintenance dredging event is tentatively scheduled for the September 2022 in advance of the reopening of the fall commercial trawler fishery.

Chincoteague Harbor of Refuge Federal Navigation Project:

Chincoteague HOR is scheduled to receive \$250,000 in the FY2023 President's Budget. Funding will be utilized for maintenance dredging the entrance channel into the harbor basin with Government Plant Special Use Dredge Murden. Dredging activities will be coordinated with the Curtis Merritt harbormaster in advance of all scheduled work.

Waterway on the Coast of Virginia (WCV) Federal Navigation Project:

WCV is scheduled to receive \$2,160,000 in the FY2023 President's Budget. Funding will not be available until a FY2023 appropriation bill is passed. The project delivery team will coordinate with the ESRNWC to identify which element of the WCV should be dredged.

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 2021, and performed dredging operations to restore navigation in the East channel between 29 May 2021 and 1 June 2021. 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 2021. 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 returned to Tangier between 31 October 2021 and 8 November 2021, removing approximately 13,000 cubic yards of dredged material. After completing an emergency repair, the MURDEN returned to Tangier

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end of September, 2022). The funds requested (\$375,000) will go to developing an Eastern Shore Regional Community Resilience Plan.

Potential to apply for maintenance dredge funds in future rounds; see Round 2 award to MPPDC for *Middlesex County Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material for Flood Prevention and Protection at Jackson and Broad Creeks* (\$336,000). Projects must reference *some* form of resilience project plan or document.

VPA Award	Project Name	Status	Notes
FY20	Kings Phase 1	Awaiting final invoice	
FY20	Quinby Phase 1	Being closed out	
FY21	Nassawadox Phase 1A	Awaiting final invoice	
FY21	Red Bank Phase 1A	Awaiting final invoice	
FY21	Folly Creek Phase 1A	Awaiting final invoice	
FY21	Hungars Creek Phase 1A	Awaiting final invoice	
FY21	Wachapreague Phase 1	Being closed out	
FY22	Kings Phase 2	Rebid for 2023	Tentative budget: \$1M
FY22	Nassawadox Phase 1B	Contract negotiations ongoing	
FY22	Red Bank Phase 1B	Contract negotiations ongoing	
FY22	Folly Creek Phase 1B	Contract negotiations ongoing	

Congresswoman Luria Staff –

Nadia Cortez, US Representative Elaine Luria, provided updates regarding potential NOAA IJA Funding for FY2022-2026 (see chart) and provided program highlights for each.

Potential NOAA IJA funding FY2022-2026 (amounts are \$ in thousands)

Provision	Total	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
National Oceans & Coastal Security Fund Grants Program	492,000	98,400	98,400	98,400	98,400	98,400
Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants	491,000	98,200	98,200	98,200	98,200	98,200
Coastal Zone Management Grants	207,000	41,400	41,400	41,400	41,400	41,400
National Estuarine Research Reserve System Grants	77,000	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,400

3. Public Comment:

Ann Gallivan – Parting Creek & Little Machipongo desperately need dredging for economic reasons; Quinby Harbor Channel is very hazardous (*opinion*) and needs dredging.

4. Other Matters:

Next meeting: October 20, 2022

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5. Committee Business

Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman –

Committee Member Tarr moved to nominate John Joeckel for Chairman; seconded by Committee Member Dunton, the motion carried unanimously. **John Joeckel was elected Chairman (position term expires 7/2024).**

Chairman Joeckel moved to nominate Andy Dunton for Vice Chairman; seconded by Committee Member Holland, the motion carried unanimously. **Andy Dunton was elected Vice Chairman (position term expires 7/2024).**

Executive Committee Members –

John Joeckel, Chairman
Andy Dunton, Vice Chairman

(Project) Selection Committee Members –

John Joeckel, Chairman
Andy Dunton, Vice Chairman
John Tavolaro

Appointment of (2) Accomack County Representatives –

At its June 15th meeting, the Board of Supervisors (Accomack County), voted to reappoint Mr. William “Billy” Joe Tarr and Mr. Hart to the ESRNWC for an additional 3-year term to begin 7/1/2022 and expire 6/30/2025.

Committee Member Tarr moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Committee Member Coker, the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

John Joeckel, Chair

Jessica Steelman, Secretary

Date