



Edgartown Dredge Committee Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Dredge Committee was called to order at 4:00pm on Thursday, October 14th, 2021 via Zoom teleconference.

II. ROLL CALL:

The following persons were present:

Members: Ed Handy, Richard Hamilton, Peter Vincent, Dudley Levick, Ryan Smith

Advisors: Jane Varkonda

Guests: Julie Pringle (GPF), Tara Marden (WHG)

III. OPEN ISSUES:

- a) Motion placed on the floor by Peter to approve the 9/30/21 draft minutes. Dudley seconds, no discussion, vote taken and passed 4-0. Ryan abstains.
- b) The Committee discussed the Left Fork projects. Ed met with a contractor on site who said the cost estimate to truck the sand is not accurate, and that it will likely cost more. In order to make up for the added cost, the Committee could cover the cost to dewater the sand and free up money for trucking. Peter asked how much it would cost to dewater. Ed estimated around \$20k to hire an excavator. Ed reminded the Committee that they had already agreed to help for the first couple weeks, to maximize the time in the water for the dredge, if the project was not yet ready for the sand. Jane stated that she had not received the specs for moving sand from Tara yet but should have them by early next week. With the requirements for bidding, Ed said the earliest start date would be around November 9th; the dredge is scheduled to be mobilized the first week of November. He asked the Committee if they were willing to contribute funds to the project to ensure it gets done this winter, otherwise it might not happen. Peter said that as long as the funds were available, he didn't see a problem. Rick asked if the Town Administrator should weigh in. Ed stated that there really was nowhere else to get the money and that the Committee has been spending about this amount for dune restoration over the past few seasons. Peter asked if there was a benefit to the Trustees in doing this, to which the answer was yes. Peter then asked if they could split the cost.
- c) Ms. Marden, the project engineer, joined the meeting and asked the Committee to share their concerns with the budget. Ed summarized the situation, stating that the Contractor he met with would not use the same trucks to haul over sand as he would to haul on the road. He would use two sets of trucks, one to truck the sand from the pond to the parking lot, where he would unload and reload into trucks that would take the sand from the parking lot to the project site. Tara said she was under the impression the Dredge Dept was going to dewater and load the trucks. Ed said the Committee had just been discussing that, and while they had agreed to dewater initially, doing it for the whole project was an additional consideration. Tara said if the Committee was not willing to

cover the dewatering, that changed the plan she was working from. The Committee then discussed other factors driving up the cost of the work, such as prevailing wage.

- d) Dudley stated that he felt even though the Committee was not part of the original cost estimating, it's part of the team and should contribute to make sure the project gets completed. Rick and Ryan agreed. Peter stated that he would be in favor of having the Trustees pay some portion of the dewatering invoices to offset dredge costs.
- e) Tara stated that she had been in touch with the GPF and they are on board. Ed said the Committee had not received permission for over-sand access yet, which would be needed to do this work. The Committee has until the first week of November to decide where the dredge is going.
- f) Tara stated that the Committee needs to decide if they will cover the cost of the dewatering. Ed said that the consensus was, yes, they would. Dudley suggested that the cost of the sand should increase with increased production costs. Tara said that any additional sand the Trustees need for dune restoration outside the scope of the grant would be billed out at the rate the Committee typically charges for the sale of sand.
- g) Motion placed on the floor by Peter to perform the dewatering and loading of the haul trucks if the bids exceed the contract price, and provided that the beach is accessible by truck. Rick seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed, 5-0.
- h) Ed stated that the condition of the beach will need to be assessed within the next week or two. Tara stated that it looked fine last week.
- i) The Committee then discussed the Katama Bay grant. Tara told the Committee she needs them to decide on the desired scope and size of the expansion of the comprehensive permit. WHG will do bathymetry surveys and install tide gauges from Lighthouse Beach through the harbor and into Katama Bay. They will not be able to do eel grass surveys or sediment cores until a design exists, and to put together a design, Tara needs to know which areas the Committee wants to research. Ed said he was under the impression the goal was to widen the channel to the boat ramp and to clear the channel near the oyster beds to increase water quality. Tara said she needs to know more specific areas of interest and to narrow it down to 3 or 4 acres as she cannot perform testing throughout the entire bay. She also said there was an option to cover a larger area with shallower dredging. Ed said the Committee was relying on WHG to offer guidance on what the most efficient and effective areas to permit are. Tara suggested collecting the data from the bathymetry and tide gauges, analyzing it and then WHG could offer a recommendation. Ed asked Ryan to bring this up at the next Shellfish Committee meeting and ask them for recommendations on areas they would like to see permitted. Tara recommended that the Committee focus on investigating a larger area for dredging, and not to concentrate on the channel to the landing as that probably won't be an issue to get dredged. The WHG will start the data collection process and should have it completed within the next 4 weeks.
- j) Dudley stated that he thinks the Committee should work on getting permits to create eel grass beds throughout the bay to help with the decline of shellfish habitat. He said that if new channels could be dug, the bay could be regenerated and what used to be there could be recreated. Tara said that was a potential option.
- k) Regarding the FY22 dredge season, Ed stated that there was a plan A, but the Committee should have a plan B, just in case. Plan B could be either Katama Bay (where already permitted), or Eel Pond to Fuller Street Beach.

- l) Ed informed the Committee that the crew was back to work; they pulled the clutch apart to be fixed and new parts are on the way. The dredge will be ready to go the first week of November.
- m) Ed asked about permit renewals. Jane said the Ch, 91 person finally got in touch after a month of vacation, but other news at this time. The ACOE is not extending the permit expirations like the other agencies are.
- n) The Committee reviewed the invoices and authorized payment of the bills.
- o) Jane stated that the Parks Dept would like to take possession of the dredge truck when the new one arrives. The Committee had no objection.
- p) Juliet informed the Committee that the signed insurance proposal has been submitted to MMA.
- q) Dudley shared some comments on the opening schedule for the Great Pond. He stated there should be 4 openings and the problem with dredging is that it upsets the ecology of the pond and it does not increase flow. Further, it makes only two openings possible, as they are much longer than nature intended, which prevents species from entering/exiting the pond at certain times of year. Ed stated that the Dredge Committee does not have any control over the opening schedule for the pond. Dudley said he was aware of this, but wanted to point out that dredging has consequences: it bleeds the groundwater and affects the wetlands. He said the dunes used to be 30 ft high and now they are 8 ft high. He stated that it was just something he wanted the Committee to think about.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare