



## Edgartown Dredge Committee Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2021

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting of the Dredge Committee was called to order at 4:00pm on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 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, Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines & Rob Morrison (Shellfish Dept.)

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

### **III. OPEN ISSUES:**

- a) Motion placed on the floor by Peter to approve the 10/14/21 draft minutes. Ryan seconds, no discussion, vote taken and passed 5-0. Dudley noted that he had said the dunes used to be 30 feet high, not 45 feet, as stated in the minutes. Juliet will make the change.
- b) The Committee discussed the Left Fork projects with Jane and Tara, specifically how much sand is needed for the Town portion of the project (the bathhouse relocation). Tara stated that it was much less sand than was needed for the Trustees portion of the project. Ed asked Tara to put together a number for the minimum amount of sand needed for the projects. He also stated that the Committee still needs approval from the HCF LOA for over-sand access, but the beach may not be passable, so Katama is looking like the more viable option for the dredge; he said there would be enough sand in Katama for Jane's bathhouse project without question.
- c) Jane asked, if the dredge goes into Katama, will the dewatering happen in the parking lot or on the beach. Ed stated that it would be much easier to pump to the beach directly and only have to move the sand once.
- d) Tara stated that she has been working with the HCF LOA all day and is unsure as to why permission has not been granted. She will speak with the president and let him know that their legal representation has been unresponsive on the issue.
- e) The Committee discussed the status of South Beach and the feasibility of getting trucks across the beach. Tara said it's mostly ok but there are some problem areas that would need to get filled in. Ed said that, ultimately, it will be up to the contractor whether or not they want to drive trucks over the beach.
- f) Ed asked again about the Trustees portion of the project and the minimum amount of sand that would be needed. Tara said the entire project requires about 11k cubic yards and about 7k of that is for the Trustees. She asked what amount of sand could be dredged from Katama; Ed stated definitely 5k, but 10k might be pushing it. Tara also asked about going into Sengecontacket. Ed responded that it was still depleted from the last time the dredge was there and would need a few more years to build back up.

- g) Ed suggested to the other Committee members that Katama and possibly Eel Pond should be plan B for this season, and that when sand runs out in Katama, that's it for the Left Fork projects and the dredge will head to Eel Pond and pump to Fuller Street Beach. Rick stated that there is plenty of sand in the Katama channel, his boat has been hitting the bottom. Ryan agreed.
- h) Jane asked Tara if the Trustees would be able to cover the cost of any additional sand that was needed. Tara responded that the County, as the owner of the beach, has a stake in this project as well.
- i) Ed stated that the Committee had made a commitment to Jane to make the bathhouse project work. There is a large benefit to dredging in Katama as it clears the channel ahead of the upcoming ramp rehabilitation, and the sand goes directly to the town. He said the Committee will work with the Trustees as much as possible.
- j) The Committee moved on to discuss specific areas of study for permitting Katama Bay. Representatives Paul B., Warren and Rob from the Shellfish Dept. were present to offer suggestions. Paul stated that most of the sand build up was at the end of the channel and the turning basin where the shellfish boats are tied up. Both would be good areas to clear. Rob added that the middle flats contained a lot of sand not being utilized as a shellfish bottom and was an area without a lot of quahogs. He said it would be beneficial to dredge around that flat to create a buffer zone for the farms; additionally, that area would provide an endless amount of sand. By dredging around the flat, there would be more water flow through the farms and the existing dreins would pull the water through.
- k) Tara suggested that after the initial data collection she spoke about at the previous meeting is completed, everyone should sit down together and map out the shellfishing areas that would benefit from dredging the most. She said this would also help with the alternatives analysis that will be required by MEPA. Paul added that the alternatives are important when demonstrating the multiple benefits of dredging the area, not just the acquisition of sand.
- l) Jane stated that there was no update on permit renewals.
- m) Ed reported that the dredge will be ready to be launched the first week of November. The parts for the clutch arrived and the crew has reassembled it.
- n) Ed asked Juliet to reach out to the Trustees and the County to ask for permission to dewater on South Beach.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare