



## Edgartown Dredge Committee Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2023

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

The meeting of the Dredge Committee was called to order at 4:00pm on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 via Zoom teleconference.

### **II. ROLL CALL:**

The following persons were present:

**Members:** Ed Handy, Dudley Levick, Ryan Smith, Michael Shalett

**Advisors:** Kara Shemeth, Joel Kubick

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

- a) The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the 11/2/23 and the 11/16/23 meeting. *Motion placed on the floor by Dudley to approve the 11/2/23 draft minutes. Mike seconds the motion, no further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously (4-0).* *Motion placed on the floor by Dudley to approve the 11/16/23 draft minutes. Ed seconds the motion, no further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously (4-0).*
- b) Juliet reported on her meeting with Natural Heritage and the Woods Hole Group on the permitting process for Lighthouse Beach and Katama Bay. For Lighthouse Beach, the discussion was mostly about whether or not the project would be considered a conditional no-take, in which case nourishment of Little Beach would not be required annually, versus needing a Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). From her initial review, Ms. Hoenig said it looked like the project would not require a CMP and could allow for annual maintenance dredging but she needs to review further to confirm. For Katama Bay, Ms. Hoenig stated that the dredging areas look OK, and Woods Hole Group did a good job making modifications to the dredging channels based on her previous feedback. Her area of concern with this project is the nourishment location and how the proposed volume of nourishment material would impact habitat on Norton Point. Juliet informed Ms. Hoenig that the Town can utilize the sand elsewhere if needed and that the Katama Bay dredging was requested by the Shellfish Department to restore historic Eel Grass channels and improve the water quality in the pond to aid the aquaculture program, as well as improve navigation. Ms. Hoenig said her concerns are directly related to the proposed nourishment area, not the dredging areas; if Norton Point is not directly associated with the project, her concerns about that area are not applicable to the dredging permit.
- c) Juliet also reported on her meeting with Steve McKenna at CZM. She reached out to Mr. McKenna to discuss difficulties with the permitting process. He said the issues Edgartown is dealing with are consistent with issues that towns on the Cape have expressed when trying to obtain dredging permits. He said the biggest issue seems to be with the ACOE and their ability to review applications in a timely manner. He also said that because these permitting delays and expenses have become problems for so many towns, Barnstable County has organized a Dredge Summit to bring all the regulatory

agencies together to see if the permitting process can be streamlined. The Summit will take place in a couple weeks, he will send Juliet an invitation.

- d) The Committee discussed the status of each of the permit applications. Joel stated that the Lighthouse Beach application is 80% complete, Katama Bay is 70% complete and they are halfway through putting together the plans for the Comprehensive Permit. The next step is to put together the Sampling and Analysis Plans for the Corps. Jane stated that the Woods Hole Group might as well submit an application to the ConCom now, to get that process going.
- e) Ed provided an update on dredging: it was a bit of a slow start at the Gut but dredging has now been completed. The dredge will move over to the Narrows next week and the crew will get set up, with dredging to start at the end of the week. Jane stated that the Trustees have scaled back their project but will still take as much sand as they can. She stated that their budget to move the sand is limited and noted that it's unfortunate that they can't muster additional funds to move the sand, especially when they're getting it for free.
- f) The Committee discussed who should conduct the post-dredge survey once dredging is completed.
- g) The Committee discussed the 5 Year Capital Plan: Ed stated that he got quotes for two options for a custom trailer. The first option is a hydraulic trailer that can change height and requires a loader or truck to move for \$118k. The other option is a self-powered trailer that can transport the dredge without other equipment for \$280k. The Committee discussed the options and decided that the cost of the self-powered trailer was not justified. The Committee reviewed the other items on the capital plan, which include \$50k for permitting in FY25 and a new front end loader in FY26.  
*Motion placed on the floor by Mike to approve the 5 Year Capital Plan. Dudley seconds the motion, no further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously (4-0).*  
Ed stated that he will firm up the quote for the trailer before warrant article requests are due in a couple weeks.
- h) The Committee reviewed the invoices and authorized payment of the bills.
- i) Ed stated that the crew is having some issues with the pipe breaking as it is now quite old; he would like to plan to purchase some replacement pipe after this dredging season. He anticipates the costs of new pipe to be around \$25k and suggested that it could be included in an EOHED grant application this spring.  
He is also working on the specs for the outboard motors and intends to have that ready for the next meeting.
- j) Jane stated that Mr. Gammill will be dredging again this year and will have sand for Fuller Street. There are still CPC funds available to transport the sand.
- k) The Committee asked Juliet to get hourly rates for equipment rental for the next meeting.

At 5:00pm, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare