



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

DREDGING COMMITTEE MEETING

December 4, 2024, at 2:00 PM

Town Hall

Minutes

APPROVED

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

W. Rymer and J. Pyne at Town Hall

A. Emerson, S. Ross and J Armstrong via Zoom

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (in person or via zoom):

Various via zoom and in person

Rymer called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM and the Committee did the Pledge of Allegiance. The committee reviewed and approved the Draft Minutes from the November 8, 2024 meetings (unanimous 4-0, A. Emerson joined the meeting after this vote).

Rymer then provided the committee updates on the following topics:

Dredging:

- The North Channel was dredged to an average of 4 feet, 9 inches below Mean Low Water ("MLW"). The South Channel was dredged to an average of 4 feet, 6 inches below MLW. The contract called for channels to be lowered to at least 4 feet below MLW with an overdredge allowance up to 5 feet below MLW.
- The final volume of material dredge (14,300 cubic yards) was less than original estimates (18,500 cubic yards). Ultimately, some of the material on the top layer was softer and more "silt" than originally anticipated. Therefore, the bathymetric surveys overstated anticipated volume (material is compressed at time of dredging and therefore would result in lower actual volume). This does not impact channel depths since the final surveys confirmed the depths previously mentioned.

Demobilization:

- Demobilization was fully completed on Wednesday November 20. All equipment and pipes have been removed from the property. Basically, there is the lined dewatering location with the large geobags filled with material and the super silt fencing surrounding the bag field.

Dewatering:

- When the dredge firm demobilized, they also stopped the daily dewatering process. Water continues to slowly collect in the bag field from the continued seepage of water from the bags as well as any rain events or possible ground water infiltration. About ten days, Rymer and one of the Public Works employees pumped water from the bag field back and into the Bay. We followed all procedures required by the permits including



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performing multiple turbidity monitoring events. All went well but the water has returned.

Soil Testing and official Hand-off:

- The last batch of sample results were received back from the lab this morning. All preliminary results for all samples taken are consistent with expectations and are equal to or better than the results of the samples related to the tests performed in 2021 and 2023 using material from the bottom of the channels (in-situ). We are awaiting the formal findings from the consultants with their conclusions and final analytics. We don't expect any issues or any required remediation based on the preliminary results.
- Over the next few days, we will meet with the property owner to formalize the steps necessary to complete the final hand-off of responsibility for the bag field and geobags. Prior to that formal hand-off, we will have to perform one last dewatering event which may require the hiring of a third-party to handle to increased volume of water in the bag field as well as to ensure an efficient process. When this happens, we will continue to perform the necessary steps as required by all permits such as turbidity monitoring.

Channel Markers

- The town is responsible to install channel markers along the newly dredged channels. The construction and placement of these markers need to be approved by the US Coast Guard and DNREC. Permits will also have to be amended to reflect the installation of these markers. Progress has been slow since we have received limited support from the US Coast Guard. After some delays, we have received excellent feedback and support from DNREC. Have a good idea of construction/design but need to finalize all locations. Since we will require multiple reviews by different regulatory agencies, we expect this process will take a few months. Our goal is to have all markers in place in the next few months and before the summer boating season. We expect to place 8 pairs of new markers (4 pairs in North Channel and 4 pairs in the South Channel). S. Magdeburger has been instrumental in the progress that we have made.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

There was no Public Participation.

At 2:21pm, J. Armstrong made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by S. Ross. All voted in favor to adjourn.