Meeting Date:
February 14, 2022

Wellfleet Dredging Task Force Committee
Minutes of Meeting
February 14, 2022 – 7:00 pm

Meeting held via Zoom conference call

DTF Present: Co-Chair Joe Aberdale, Co-Chair Chris Allgeier, Charles Annett, Kevin Coakley, Alfred Pickard, Jr.

Others Present (DTF Committee Participants): Janet Reinhart.

Others: David Stamatis


2. Administrative.
   2.1. Roll call was taken to confirm attendees.
   2.2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting, from the January 10, 2022 meeting.
      2.2.1. Time was allocated for people to review the Meeting Minutes from the 01/10/2022 DTF meeting.
      2.2.2. A motion to accept the Minutes was made by Kevin and seconded by Charles. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.
      2.2.3. Chris advised there are two additional administrative reminders pertaining to documents recently issued by Rebekah Eldredge. Any comments to the documents should be submitted to Rebekah by February 28, 2022:
          2.2.3.1. Code of Conduct – was circulated to the DTF on January 14;
          2.2.3.2. Comprehensive Financial Policy – was issued to the DTF on February 10.

3. Update on permit and lobbyist activity, Area 2.
   3.1. Joe noted there was a recent notice from USACE stating that in 2 weeks they may withdraw our application if certain conditions are not met.
   3.2. Chris stated there was a recent call on this issue with USACE, GEI, and Will Sullivan. It was a working call and USACE explained various positions we could take with questioning the calculations on the mitigation credits and how that credit was derived.
   3.3. Alfred noted that we do not get information on time from the engineer and is concerned we might have to start all over again. Chris agreed the timeliness concern is certainly legitimate; he also noted that having had Will and GEI engaged in a conversation with USACE has opened up an opportunity for moving forward. We still must push the issue and not kick the can down the road since we do not have the luxury of time. Dialog has been established but we need to expedite it.
   3.4. Alfred reiterated his concerns about GEI timeliness.
   3.5. Chris suggested that in conjunction with Will Sullivan we reach out to GEI management to help expedite GEI responses. Charles noted it is up to us to expedite GEI to make sure they are making progress.
   3.6. Joe stated that in a meeting last summer with the Interim Town Administrator and Assistant Town Administrator, he (Joe) and Alfred expressed concern with GEI timeliness.
   3.7. Joe further stated that a global view is important if we are going to accomplish our goals.
      3.7.1. GEI has not yet responded to the USACE letter and the likelihood of doing so in 2 weeks is small.
      3.7.2. Joe stated that March 17 is the submittal deadline for an EOHED Grant application.
      3.7.3. GEI also has to update the dredging design drawings for 2022 Dredging scope.
3.8. Charles reiterated contacting GEI management.
3.9. Chris will get up with Will Sullivan, Rebecca Roughley, and Charlie Sumner to seek assistance with the GEI issue. Charles agreed we should do this.
3.10. Dave Stamatis asked why Will and the engineer are not at this meeting. Chris responded that Dan is not normally on these calls and was not specifically invited to tonight’s meeting. Will had accepted the invitation but something must have interfered. David stated his opinion that the engineer should be at future meetings.
3.11. Joe repeated his concern about the time it takes to respond to the USACE and that the process itself is time consuming as information is exchanged back and forth with the USACE.

4. 2022 Dredging Plans
4.1. Chris posed the question: do we want to dredge all of Area 2 this coming year or split it into 2 seasons, which would give us an extra year to seek additional funding.
4.2. Joe said he had explored the possibility of multiple year grants with our state representative and with Secretary of Economic and Housing Development (sic) who actually reviews the grants and they both confirmed that they have no problem with us doing it over 2 years to be eligible for $5 million in grants instead of $2.5 million. Additionally, completing all of Area 2 (24 acres) in a single season is challenging.
4.3. Additional discussion ensued and the consensus was we should dredge Area 2 over 2 seasons.
4.4. Joe stated that the lobbyist’s latest discussion with USACE suggests that mitigation will be required, and the paperwork associated with mitigation requires significant effort by the engineer.
4.5. Joe further stated that in the past he had been in contact with the lobbyist but that has recently changed. A reminder was recently issued to Joe that the lobbyist points of contact are Will Sullivan and Rebecca Roughley, consistent with a Selectboard motion that was passed last April that designated Will Sullivan as the primary contact for dredging issues.
4.6. Additional discussion ensued about various past communication discussions including the Selectboard motion from last year.

5. Funding Grants
5.1. Chris advised that the EOHED 2022 Dredging Program application is not yet available. Although it is a very lengthy application, most of the information will be the same as last year. We’ll get updates on the appropriate sections such as shellfish information from Nancy. As soon as the application is available, we’ll begin work on it.
5.2. Joe noted that the application will still require updating the engineering data specific for Area 2.

6. Long Term/Future Plans to reduce sedimentation rate and future maintenance dredging.
6.1. A call was held with Herring River Restoration Project (HRRP) on January 28, 2022. They are very interested in receiving/utilizing the black mayonnaise; the volume they could use is far in excess of what we expect to have over the next few years.
6.2. Preliminary indication of respective work scope is:
6.2.1. HRRP will determine how much black mayonnaise they need, when they need it, and where to place it, starting sometime in the next few years.
6.2.2. DTF mission will be to determine how to get the black mayonnaise to them.
6.2.3. Charles said that state regulations currently prohibit placing black mayonnaise in marsh. Chris noted that the issue came up on the call with HRRP but there seems to be increased interest/acceptance on the part of the state for using black mayonnaise on marshes.
7. SEC Grants
   7.1. Alfred asked if there are deadlines on SEC grants and if we are limited on the number of requests.
   7.2. Chris confirmed there are specific submittal dates but there are no restrictions on how many grants you can apply for.
   7.3. Alfred suggested that we investigate applying for additional (non-dredging) SEC Grants.

8. Sand/shoaling area at the breakwater.
   8.1. Clean sand at the end of the breakwater - a call with Hillary is tentatively scheduled for later this week to discuss what permits would be required to dredge (and place) the sand for beach nourishment.

9. Miscellaneous Items
   9.1. Charles suggested we re-implement the Action Item List to capture the follow up items.

10. Next Meeting – it was agreed the next DTF meeting will be held on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

11. Motion to Adjourn – a motion to adjourn was made by Kevin and seconded by Charles. The motion was approved, 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Joe Aberdale and Chris Allgeier