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C. Maes

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ORLEANS DREDGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON JANUARY 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carlson at 5:30 p.m. All members present and several members of the public attended. The meeting was conducted through ZOOM.

The Chairman welcomed all members and audience attendees.

First order of business was to vote to accept the minutes of the past two meetings on November 2 and November 23, 2020; unanimously accepted on both.

The Committee then discussed DREDGING METHODS, DISPOSAL ARRANGEMENTS and DISPOSAL SITES for all proposed dredging projects within the Pleasant Bay estuary and voted to accept the methods (hydraulic or mechanical dredging) and disposal arrangements and dredge material disposal sites as proposed by the Woods Hole Group (WHG). The preference is for hydraulic dredging of the Narrows as well as Quanset and Pah Wah ponds and mechanical dredging of Arey's and Lonnie's ponds. All votes were unanimous. The discussion included the need to have permitting for both hydraulic and mechanical dredging in several dredging locations in case hydraulic dredging turns out to be impossible. Beach nourishment with sand via hydraulic dredging would be appropriate for certain locations if the property owners grant permission. Dredge spoils of lower quality materials or sand that is not accepted for beach nourishment would be trucked away after barging to and dewatering at one or more landings in Orleans. The Committee agreed to work with WHG to seek permissions from a large number of property owners for nourishment of their beaches via hydraulic dredging.

The next topic for discussion was the draft report on the DREDGE FEASIBILITY STUDY undertaken by Woods Hole Group. The Chairman walked the Committee through the many issues raised by the draft report and a long discussion of these issues occurred between Committee members and the Woods Hole Group scientists. Some of the issues were narrowing the focus of the financial model to the more limited hydraulic dredging that now seems appropriate for a town owned dredge, costs of equipment purchase and operations, length of usable life of the equipment, fuel costs, types and use of booster pumps, and labor costs. The result was agreement that a revised financial model will be prepared by WHG to incorporate suggestions from the Committee and reflect a "reasonable alternative" to the one presented in the draft report.

The Committee then discussed the appropriate use of the Barnstable County Dredge (BCD) in the initial dredging of Nauset Estuary. The Committee agreed it would be appropriate to use the BCD on the backside (behind the barrier beach) for the first round of work but a Town owned dredge should be considered for work in the more distant reaches of the channel (i.e., between Hopkins Island and the backside). However, it's possible further investigations will conclude that the BCD should dredge these more distant reaches as well.

There was a brief mention of the Mill Pond dredging study. WHG advised they have a contract for the study and are preparing to begin work.

The discourse throughout the meeting was thoughtful and relevant to the issues. The meeting was very long, partly due to the length of time since our last meeting but also due to the need to further flesh out costs of dredge ownership. The DAC feels it is imperative we not only make the right decisions based on accurate figures, but also get the right figures in the first place.

The annual report for the DAC was prepared by the Chairman to be presented to the Town for inclusion in the Town Annual Report. One member offered "advice" on how to improve the report. The Chairman took it under advisement.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted, William Amaru