

Memorandum for the Sunset Beach Town Council and Town Administrator
Subject: Dredging Issues to be Addressed at the 2d Scoping Meeting.
From: John Corbett, Town Councilman

April 29, 2017

The information provided by the Environmental Resource Committee (ERC) prior to the mass resignation of the members on April 19, 2017 identified a number of issues that should be addressed at the Scoping Meeting.

In the Town Council discussion concerning the ERC on Monday, May 1, 2017, under "Old Business item 6e. Acceptance of ERC Member Resignations and Discussion Concerning ERC", I propose that the Council review the issues identified below, add to or delete from the list as appropriate, and instruct the Town Administrator to direct our consultants at Moffit and Nichols to ensure these issues are fully addressed at the Scoping Meeting.

The issues include, but may not be limited to:

1. The impact of dredging on adjacent wetlands currently designated as primary nursery areas (PNA).
2. The impact of dredging on shellfish beds.
3. The impact of dredging on submerged vegetation.
4. The impact of dredging on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.
5. The impact of dredging, if any, on Tubbs Inlet, the western end of Ocean Isle Beach OIB), and the eastern end of Sunset Beach.
6. Identification of suitable dredging spoils disposal areas as well as local areas not suitable for dredging spoils.
7. Compatibility of dredging spoils for use in beach re-nourishment.
8. Permissibility of using dredging spoils for beach re-nourishment in OIB, should OIB determine it is interested in getting the dredging spoils.
9. Guidelines as to where the dredging channels, if approved, should be located.
10. Determination if dredging will have a negative impact on water flow velocities.
11. Determination as to whether dredging additional areas would be beneficial, assuming they are environmentally acceptable.

In addition, there are a number of important steps that need to be taken before the Town Council is sufficiently informed and in a position to begin to make policy decisions. These include but may not be limited to:

1. Determination by responsible government agencies included in the Scoping Process of what areas are permitted to be dredged and what areas are not permitted to be dredged.
2. Determination of estimated cost to dredge each of the specified areas that are permitted to be dredged.
3. Determination of whether or not OIB wants to purchase compatible dredge spoils.
4. Determination of approved areas for the dredge spoils and the estimated cost.
5. Determination of dredging options and associated costs, in terms of speed, timing, large or small scale dredging companies, and other contracting factors.

When it is determined what areas are permitted to be dredged and the costs involved, the Town Council will then be in a position to address policy issues such as what areas the Town actually wants to dredge, and how the Town proposes to pay for the dredging, if any dredging is approved as suitable for dredging. The Sunset Beach Community will be a key part of the policy decision process.