

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH  
2016 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT AND PRE-DREDGE ANALYSIS  
PERMITTING

PROGRESS REPORT DATE  
JANUARY 20, 2021

**Report Period: December 01 thru December 31, 2020**

The items below provide a description of key elements related to the current progress, including outstanding items and anticipated resolutions, for completing the work known as the Town of Sunset Beach, 2016 Shoreline Management and Pre-Dredge Analysis, Phase 3 - Permitting.

**Acronyms:** CRC – North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission  
DCM – North Carolina Division of Coastal Management  
DMF – North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
DWR – North Carolina Division of Water Resources  
M&N – Moffatt & Nichol  
NCAC – North Carolina Administrative Code  
NMFS – National Marine Fisheries Service  
OIB – Town of Ocean Isle Beach  
SP – Standard Permit  
WRC – North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.  
USACE – US Army Corps of Engineers (Wilmington District)

**Phase 1 – Feasibility Analysis** (100% complete)

**Items Previously Completed:** (100%)

The Town of Sunset Beach (Town) and M&N initiated a contract on February 19, 2016 to study the feasibility of conducting approximately 3.5 miles of navigation dredging within the Town limits. The work areas include Mary’s Creek, Turtle Creek, Jinks Creek, the Feeder Channel and adjoining finger canals, and the Bay area. The results of the analysis were positive, and the Town elected to move forward with the design and modeling of the proposed work on June 7, 2016

**Phase 2 –Design** (100% complete)

**Items Previously Completed** (100%)

M&N completed the design phase for the project in August 2017. The work included identifying a dredge alignment and determining the volume of dredge material. M&N also completed a shellfish survey for Mary’s and Turtle Creeks and identified material placement locations for the compatible and non-compatible material. The design will continue to be refined as new information becomes available from the environmental studies proposed through the permitting process.

**Phase 3 –Permitting** (98.16% complete)

**Items Previously Completed:** (97.27% complete)

1.0 CAMA Major Permit Review & USACE IP Review

- DCM issued the CAMA Major Permit for the maintenance dredging of Mary’s & Turtle Creek on December 11, 2018.
- DCM issued the CAMA Major Permit for South Jinks Creek, the Bay Area and Feeder Channel systems on October 28, 2019 and the CRC granted the Town’s variance request on

February 12, 2020. The variance grants State approval to dredge to -5-ft (+1) MLW in South Jinks Creek, the Bay Area, and the Feeder Channel.

- Multiple residents voiced concerns regarding beach placement of the dredge material from South Jinks Creek on Sunset Beach. Based on the comments received, M&N recommended identifying a new beach placement site.

The Town and M&N selected a nearshore material placement site to address the residents' concerns. An agency coordination meeting was held on June 30, 2020 to review the alternative. As a result of the meeting, no significant impacts or concerns were identified. Comments were voiced over the need to monitor the project performance and identify where the material will migrate. M&N addressed these issues through analysis of historical transport patterns and proposing a 3-year physical monitoring approach.

M&N provided a modification to the S. Jinks Creek CAMA permit and DCM concluded their completeness review on September 4, 2020. DCM requested some information to be removed from the submittal and a revised submittal was provided by September 9, 2020. The public commenting period for DCM concluded on October 26, 2020.

- M&N submitted a revised federal permit application based on the concerns of placing beach material on Sunset Beach. The federal application included an alternative analysis to document the options evaluated by the Town to develop the maintenance dredging project. The federal application was submitted on August 21, 2020. However, due to issues with the federal FTP site, the application was re-submitted on August 31, 2020 and confirmed as received. The federal commenting period concluded on November 19, 2020. DWR (a commenting agency on the USACE IP permit review, issued a letter requesting additional time to review the federal permit application on November 25, 2020. DWR requested a total of 6-months to review the nearshore placement option. This could push the permit issuance back to April 2021. M&N will continue to coordinate with DWR to address their concerns and expedite permit approval.

### 3.0 Update Construction Cost & Monitoring

- M&N completed a preliminary assessment of the monitoring data and identified an approximate shoaling rate of 2,200 cy/yr in south Jinks Creek. The additional volume may increase the project cost to approximately \$1.8M for the Town and local residents. M&N will review the monitoring data with the Town in mid-December and will provide a written report in January 2021.

**Progress this Period:** (0.89% of total task)

#### 1.0 Project Coordination

- The USACE and DWR met on-site with Town staff and M&N on December 15, 2020 to discuss potential dredging impacts to wetlands. M&N used the opportunity to show the project conditions at low tide and to help explain the project's purpose and need. The agencies indicated they would need confirmation from the Town that a 10-ft buffer would be provided for any marsh habitat and also indicated they would consider the site conditions when making the permit decision.

The agencies stated a permit decision could be expected within 30-days of M&N satisfactorily addressing the comments received as part of the application process. M&N provided a written response to the public comments on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

2.0 Update Construction Cost & Monitoring

- Efforts to complete the monitoring analysis were diverted to concentrate on completing the response to the USACE public comments. Completion of the analysis is anticipated in February 2021.

**Outstanding Items and Anticipated Completion Dates:**

1.0 Project Coordination

- A permit decision from DCM and the USACE is anticipated in early February 2021. If the decision is favorable, the project could move to construction during the current dredge season (Nov 16 – March 31).

2.0 Update Construction Cost & Monitoring

- A final report on the monitoring analysis is anticipated in February 2021.

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2016 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT & PRE-DREDGE ANALYSIS  
DESIGN & PERMITTING**

**PROGRESS REPORT  
January 20, 2021**

**Progress Schedule**

Tasks	2020												2021											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pre-Dredge Analysis Design Phase																								
Project Coordination												▶												
USACE Permit Review												▶												
CAMA Major Modification Review												▶												
Update Construction Cost & Monitoring												▶												



- Indicates anticipated timeframe to complete respective task.
- Indicates anticipated overrun in the timeframe to complete respective task.
- Indicates work in progress (WIP) timeframe to complete respective task.
- Indicates the completion time for the respective task.