

Roberta Thuman

From: Cliff Ogburn
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2010 6:47 PM
To: All Mayor and Commissioners
Cc: Roberta Thuman
Subject: FW: Progress Update - Nags Head Beach Nourishment Project

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Kana [mailto:tkana@coastalscience.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2010 3:59 PM
To: Cliff Ogburn
Cc: Steven Traynum; Haiqing Kazcowski; Philip McKee; Trey Hair - CSE
Subject: Progress Update - Nags Head Beach Nourishment Project

Dear Cliff,

This is to update you on CSE's activities the past two weeks in connection with the Nags Head Beach Nourishment Project.

Project Management

CSE continues to respond to comments as they are forwarded from town officials or residents regarding the scale and scope of the project, easements for construction, or post-construction evolution of the profile. Some of these comments related to the question of fairness of assessments if a particular reach receives less sand than another reach. Other comments have related to ownership and control of the nourished beach (by the state, or otherwise). CSE has tried to respond immediately to such questions including direct correspondence with property owners. We will continue to address any technical questions that arise, or pass along contact information for others who may be in a better position to answer a particular question.

Engineering and Design

CSE has finalized a fill plan by reach and anticipates developing bid documents for "Base Bid" quantities and "Alternate Bid" quantities. This approach has worked well for other projects which are budget-limited. We are still evaluating the dredging market and waiting for confirmation of the total funds available before establishing the "Base Bid" quantities. To illustrate: We may use a factor of 80% of the Design volume as the Base Bid volume. Thus, for a design volume of 4.0 million cy, the Base Bid would be for 3.2 million cy. Alternate bid quantities would be requested in increments of, say, 400,000 cy. Thus, the Base Bid plus Alternate 1 plus Alternate 2 would total the 4 million cy preliminary design volume on which the project planning has been based. We use this approach to increase the chance of having a viable bid. In some jurisdictions, a rebid is required if the Base Bid is over the available budget. Rebids, of course, take time and delay projects. Once bids are received, the town can then determine what alternates can be added to match the funds available.

CSE obtained quotes for controlled aerial photography of the shoreline and anticipates obtaining these images in early November (We will need the Town's concurrence on one of the two options for coverage - town limits only, or town limits to Oregon Inlet. The latter is recommended for post-project monitoring which is a condition

of the CAMA permit. Quotes for the two aerial overflight options were forwarded previously).

Last week, CSE successfully retrieved a gauge that had been placed in the borrow area to measure waves and currents for one month (late August to late September). This period included passage of Hurricane Earl just offshore of Nags Head. The data have been downloaded for analysis, but no summary statistics are yet available. We are using these data for the final design and to present wave information to prospective bidders.

Liaison with Contractors

CSE met informally with contractors at ASBPA 2010 in Charleston last week and discussed the status of the permits and funding (to the limited extent we understand it without providing many details), and the planned schedule of construction. The fact that we will have permits for summer dredging via hopper dredges is highly significant and attractive to the two companies that attended ASBPA (Weeks Marine and Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co.). We know through a friend of Norfolk Dredging, who we also saw last week, that they are also very interested in the Nags Head project.

Benthic Monitoring

CSE assisted the town with preparation of the RFP for benthic monitoring per request of the town. The RFP was made available to companies and institutions with demonstrated expertise in the area of biological monitoring. Proposals are due 29 October. CSE has assisted the town in answering queries regarding the scope of work.

CSE also received and reviewed the first pre-dredging sampling event report last week. The report will be submitted in draft form to the state resource agencies this week for their review, as per special conditions of the CAMA permit.

Permitting

I anticipate hearing that the federal Record of Decision is complete and the "10-day" review period has passed this week. This was the final waiting period the Corps required so as to give NMFS one more opportunity to review the draft special conditions of the federal permit. CSE reviewed the conditions and believes they are workable, although there will be significant costs associated with the required turtle trawling. Open-net trawling ahead of the hopper dredges will be required so as to stir up the bottom and encourage turtles to vacate the borrow area while dredging operations are underway. This is a recent approach recommended by NMFS and used in other jurisdictions. We're not sure how costly trawling will be, but the plan is to make it a separate bid item and incorporate the expense under the contractor's budget. The additional cost is expected to be in the range \$500,000 to \$1 million based on past experience. While costly, it is considered much lower than the impact winter dredging would have on the overall budget.

Please call us anytime if you have questions about CSE's progress on the project. Thank you for your consideration.

Tim Kana
Project Director

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Tim Kana PhD

President

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10/20/2010

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