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Subject: Menemsha Federal Navigation Project - Jetty and Dredging Update

Date: Thursday, October 09, 2014 3:38:50 PM

Good Afternoon Gentlemen,

I know it's been a few weeks since I spoke with each of you individually. Thank you for helping the Corps secure the needed Rights of Entry for both the Jetty and Dredging projects. That being said I'd like to provide an update on the status of each project.

Repairs to East and West Jetties

- The Rights of Entry were the last piece of information we needed to secure before going out to solicitation. We have completed the contract package and its currently under the final review by our Office of Counsel. This is the last step prior to the Corps putting the contract out for bid.
- It is our expectation to release this contract to sometime early next week (week of Oct 13).
- The bidding period is open for 30 calendar days. I will provide each of you a direct link to the solicitation in case there is a qualified contractor the Towns/Tribe know of which might be interested in the solicitation.
- A bid opening will be scheduled on the 30th day, or first business day after the closure of the 30 day period. At this point we will have a perceived low bidder our office will then review their bonding, contracting status, and the equipment they intend to use on the job to ensure we are getting a qualified and capable contractor. Assuming they pass those requirements we will award the contract and schedule a Pre-Construction meeting.
- Pre-Construction meetings are an opportunity for the Corps and the local entities to meet and discuss some of the particulars of the project with the contractor. Things like the intended schedule from the contractor, safety requirements, review of some initial submittals, questions/answers from the Corps and Locals can be accomplished at this meeting. This is something that each of you individually, or representatives from your specific groups would want to attend. This is also something we will be looking to coordinate a meeting location. Typically there are 4-5 Corps staff, 2-4 contractor representatives, and a couple of local representatives from each community. So if one of you have a conference room that will hold 15-18 people (or know one you can point me to) I'd be very appreciative.
- My best guesstimate given the bid open period, and award times is that we'd probably looking to have a Pre-Construction meeting in early December maybe even the first week.
- Depending on how long it takes the contractor to complete the necessary submittals (Safety Plan, Construction Plan, etc) and mobilization of equipment to the area I would expect them to start actual work moving stone/repairing jetties just after Christmas or beginning of the new year.
- So everyone is aware of the windows Construction on the West Jetty (Aquinnah) must be completed by March 31st due to migration of Piping Plovers. On the East Jetty (Chilmark) construction can continue through May 21st until the town needs full access of its parking lot again.
- Work will be under operation 24/7 in order to finish during the limited construction window. However we have a requirement that all work lights be focused immediately down on the work area and un necessary noises like heavy construction back up signals be turned off assuming it doesn't compromise safety.

I'd also like to offer up that I can provide additional information to the Town/Tribe administration

via an informational Jetty meeting if that might be a better way to answer questions/get input. This might be done best during the bid opening period over the next 30 days to help prepare folks and set expectations. I'd prefer to keep this to a single meeting to encompass the three groups and keep it Jetty – only related. (As much as I enjoy the Vineyard traveling down and back from Concord, MA in a single day can be a bit of a logistical nightmare given our fed govt travel requirements.) Also, I expect to have an informational meeting on the dredging project so we can focus on them individually and not get bogged down.

Dredging

- We had to satisfy some additional requirements from the State and Federal Resource agencies and have yet to receive our Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management permits. Based on conversations with those agencies we expect the permitting sometime next week, and will finalize the contracting package at that time.
- Unfortunately because of the extremely limited window to complete dredging Oct Jan we are not going to be completing the dredging project this year.
- We had set a hard deadline to put the contract solicitation out by end of last week to give the contractor enough time to safely and effectively complete the project. The tough decision to delay the project until next year was made yesterday after no workable solution for this season was found. We simply couldn't fit what we expect to be 2 2 ½ months of work into a 1 ½ month period left after contract award and mobilization of equipment.
- In addition, we were concerned about receiving bids on the project in the first place. Due to all the Hurricane Sandy work from other Districts and states in the mid Atlantic and northeast we are finding a saturated market in the hydraulic dredging sector. This is a phenomenon we've not seen before and led directly to a Hurricane Sandy funded project in Cohasset, MA not getting a single bid this September. Cohasset is a very similar project to Menemsha essentially the same cubic yardage and pump distances.
- We still expect to push forward with the solicitation in Feb/March 2015 to have things prepped and ready to go for next dredge season (Oct 2015).

If you have additional questions please get in touch. Be sure to let me know if you know of a location which could assist us in the Jetty Repair Pre-Construction meeting.

Thanks,

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