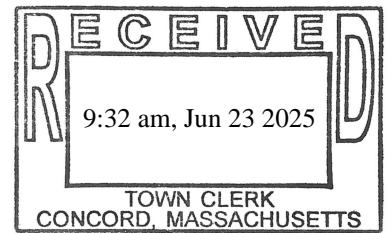


Warner's Pond Task Force
Dredging Subgroup Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2025, 4:00 pm



Pursuant to the notice filed with the Town Clerk, a public meeting of the Warner's Pond Task Force Dredging Subgroup was held on Wednesday, February 12, at 4:00 p.m., via Zoom. The following members were present: Paul Boehm, Christine Denaro, Keith Hannon, and Delia Kaye. Members Bruce Curliss and Jeff Quick were absent.

Visitors: Mike Bissonette (Charter Contracting), Elissa Brown, Mark Joyce (Charter Contracting), Ed Nardi.

Discussion on Charter dredging estimate with Charter representatives

The group welcomed Mark Joyce and Mike Bissonette and provided a background to why the dredging RFI had been issued, noting the high cost in particular of the sediment transport and disposal, and why the Task Force was now evaluating two additional volumes (50,000 cy and 100,000 cy) in addition to the original volume. Mike noted that the 100,000 cy dredge could be challenging. Pond sediments are pumped into geotubes and a polymer is added to help with the dewatering process, but it takes time. He is comfortable with the 50,000 yard dredge volume but was unsure if the first 50,000 yards would be dewatered enough to allow the second 50,000 yards to be brought in, given the limited size of the North Field. Mark asked whether there was a timing restriction on the North Field and Delia responded that there was not. Delia asked that the revised proposal note the difficulty with the 100,000 yard volume. Paul felt that wasn't necessary given the high costs already associated with that volume.

Keith asked why geotubes would be required if the North Field was the final placement location. Mike explained that the geotubes were necessary to contain the material for dewatering, and then would be stacked.

Delia asked if geotubes were the most cost-effective method. Mike explained that other technologies exist, but in Charter's experience, geotubes were the most cost-effective approach. He mentioned a firm called Material Processing Systems that was recently bought by a national firm. The owner develops other innovative technologies for dewatering. Delia asked if they were cheaper and Mike responded that he didn't think so.

Keith asked about the excavation and transportation costs identified in the bid. Delia noted that these costs were expected to be covered by Starmet and should be identified but not included in the costs. Mark agreed to remove them, noting that they are a subcontractor on the Starmet project.

Paul asked that the 10% design escalation be removed from the estimate which Mark agreed to do. Mark asked whether Mike had included any escalation costs in the bid and Mike responded no, the quote was developed as if it would be done now. Mike worked on the 2022 dredging bid that was submitted to the Town and was familiar with the launch location at the Commonwealth Ave access, as well as other items. Keith felt the design escalation was confusing, arbitrary, too early in the process, that other proposals didn't include them, and the Task Force had agreed that they wouldn't be included. Mark noted that Charter works with the Army Corps, EPA, and

municipalities and on bids Charter responded to between 2022 and early 2024, they were the low bid eight times, but projects were not awarded because of insufficient funds. Cost estimates were developed two to three years before the bids were issued and not revisited. He was happy to take out the escalation but cautioned that this RFI assumed 2025 dollars and if it proceeded, it wouldn't occur until 2027.

Keith asked what was in the erosion control cost item, which was high. Mike ran through the included items. Keith said it was helpful to understand and asked that it be included in the revised bid which Mark agreed to do.

Paul asked what was in the mobilization/demobilization item and Mike listed the included items, with Mark adding that they would add bulleted items to each of the cost items in the revised bid.

Chris asked why the RFI didn't substantially change on some items from Charter's 2022 bid. Mike responded that they worked with two firms to develop the 2022 bid, a dredging subcontractor and a chemical technician, and both agreed to hold their 2022 number for this RFI. Geotubes, fuel, and labor costs increased between the 2022 bid and this RFI.

Mark said that they could submit the revised RFI by Friday.

Review and approve January 10, 2025 Minutes

On a motion by Chris and seconded by Keith, the minutes were approved as amended. Chris AYE, Keith AYE, Paul AYE.

Public Comment

Elissa Brown, Concord Greene, asked if the design escalation was just an escalation based on 2025 dollars, or included a contingency given the low level of design of the project. Delia confirmed that it was the former.

With no further business, Chris adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Delia Kaye