

News Flash from Lagoon Point

August 12, 2009

Dredging Update – Aaron Lowin

More progress, finally. We have received and reviewed first drafts of the various permit applications we must submit to get county, state and federal permissions to dredge our central basin and dispose of the dredged 'spoils'.

Recall that we are proposing to dredge the basin with a hydraulic dredge, pumping the resulting slurry through a pipe extending to a large barge moored offshore, where the slurry would be 'dewatered.' Much of the solids should settle in the barge; even more captured as the much-clarified water spills through filtration cloth before it goes over the sides of the barge. The barge, when sufficiently full, would be towed and the solids dumped at an approved open-water location, then returned for further filling. Turbidity around the barge would be monitored to assure we maintain water standards. The entire dredging should take under two months, we're told.

The permit application first drafts were reviewed this week by our three-person dredging committee: Bill Brown for LPCA, Andy Messer for the Div 234 Architectural Committee, and Aaron Lowin, liaison between ourselves and our contractors. The committee found the first draft reasonably good, though much more work is needed in some areas to fully and correctly describe what we are proposing to do and why. The committee identified specific improvements needed in the drafts. These will be consolidated into one and passed on to our permitting contractor, Grette & Associates.

Per schedule a second draft of the permit applications is to be prepared for our review by end-August, the redraft to incorporate our feedback and all needed technical supplemental data, drawings and documentation. We should be reviewing that draft in early September. We intend to submit the permit applications by early October.

The three-person committee reported to the LPCA board and Arch Committee that the first drafts were on schedule and reasonably satisfactory, and that the drafting appears on course for submission as scheduled.

On the advice of the committee, the LPCA board and Arch Committee then approved a contact modification with Grette, to add funds sufficient (per estimate) to get us through permitting – till all our permits are issued. We needed to add these funds as we unexpectedly had to spend close to eight months and considerable original permitting money to identify dredging and disposal alternatives and their feasibility and costs, and from the analysis select our preferred strategy. This work was needed when earlier we determined that owners would not go along with our original strategy, which was to

dispose of the spoils by using them to rebuild those owners' eroded beaches south of the inlet channel.

We believe the funds should be sufficient to get us through permitting provided the permit agencies accept our proposed dredge and dispose strategies. But, if the proposed strategies need to be significantly revised, or if they are rejected by the agencies, we will need to go back to our drawing-board, and our engineering and permitting costs will increase again.