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NARRAGANSETT TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE: October 7, 2024

FROM: Ewa M. Dzwierzynski, President

CO-SPONSOR: Jill A. Lawler, President Pro Tem

DEPARTMENT: Town Council

SUBJECT:

A MOTION TO APPROVE Dredge Alternative 4 for the Narrow River Dredging Project land based mechanical dredging with dredged material to be placed at location in proximity to the dredge site that is acceptable to regulatory agencies as determined during the permitting process as the selected short term alternate, being fully contingent on the availability of funding (estimated construction cost range \$771,040 to \$1,252,940), and DIRECT the Town Manager to seek financing options for the project, continue to coordinate with Foth Engineering on the next steps for obtaining licensing permits, and engage with key stakeholders to move forward with the project.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

A work session was held on August 5, 2024 with the Town Council and Foth Engineering. The report and recommendations for the dredging of Narrow River were reviewed with three (3) options provided by Foth. The cost estimates for the three (3) options were substantial. It was evident that there is significant community interest on this topic and this initial work session provided an opportunity to continue discussions. The second work session was held on September 16, 2024, wherein Foth provided two (2) additional options to be discussed following the August 5, 2024 work session. Both Work Sessions explored ideas, alternatives, and financing options for the dredging of Narrow River. There are multiple stakeholders involved in this project that include, but not limited to, the State of Rhode Island, the Town of Narragansett, DEM, CRMC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Dunes Club, Narrow River Preservation Association, the Town of South Kingstown, and taxpayers. Some key stakeholders were present and spoke at the second work session.

On September 27, 2024, the Town participated in a meeting conducted by representatives of FWS to review the project and discuss the alternatives presented at the second work session. FWS identified conditions that would bear upon the permitting process as conducted through ACOE. Dredge Alternative 4 with dredged material placement to be determined subject to regulatory agency approval during the permitting process is proposed as the selected short term alternative based on discussions

with FWS. Approval will allow this portion of the project to advance to the permitting phase now so that construction could proceed in a timely manner pending available financing.

ATTACHMENTS:

[09-16-2024 Town Council Work Session Agenda Packet.pdf](#)

[Narrow River Dredging Preliminary Engineers Opinion of Probable Cost.pdf](#)