

## Whittaker Creek Dredging Information- Qs and As

**Q:** What is the Whittaker Creek Dredging Project?

**A:** A state-awarded funding of the dredging of Whittaker Creek. It is a \$328,133 project which requires a \$109,389 match to the State's \$218,744.

**Q:** Who is responsible for the match and how is it raised?

**A:** The Town is acting as the Administrator for the project- all donations can be made payable to Town of Oriental, with Whittaker Creek Dredging in the memo line. Those donations are in a reserved restricted fund that can only be used for this capital project. The "Friends of Whittaker Creek" (those interested in donating to the effort) applied for and are the sponsor for the project.

**Q:** What is the suggested donation?

**A:** The Tourism Board, assisting the "Friends" in collecting funds- suggested donations from developed property owners at \$400, businesses at \$6,000. Undeveloped properties and slip owners on the creek are encouraged to contribute to the effort as they are able, as are property owners not on the creek.

**Q:** Why would I contribute if I am not on the Creek?

**A:** The Creek is a primary nursery to hatch and raise juvenile species that support our commercial and recreational fishing opportunities, and it also supports the two boatyards in town. Without those entities having navigable channels, boaters here and visiting will use other services not in town, resulting in loss of income, property value, and jobs. In turn, these downturns will affect noncontiguous properties in terms of tax collection needs. Visitors are also welcome to contribute to the effort as they benefit from the services available.

**Q:** How often will the dredging need to be done?

**A:** Normally, dredging is on 8-10 year cycles, but the need is accelerating as the creek is shoaling as the Pointe is eroding.

**Q:** What are you doing about the Pointe?

**A:** The Town is working on grant funding to restore the Pointe and slow, stop, and reverse the erosion and overwash at the Pointe to assist the Creek in maintaining navigable channels. We should know about our efforts in the August- September timeframe.

**Q:** When will the project(s) happen?

**A:** This is a hard one- permitting, engineering, and fundraising affect these projects. The dredging requires permitted spoils site, dredging permits, and is only allowed during the winter months. According to the grant agreement, match money must be spent prior to the State funding kicks in, so the match must be raised FIRST. Then the dredging needs to be coordinated with the restoration project so that hopefully the spoils/site can work following the dredging and the overwash will be stopped.