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TO: STEVE SMITH
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FROM: CONNIE WISLON

SUBJECT: APRIL MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE: APRIL 25, 2018

Short Session Starts in Two Weeks

May 16th is the start of the short session that is forecasted to adjourn by the end of June. To make sure the session doesn't drag on or consume valuable campaign time, the leadership has met and agreed to no expansion of the budget. The few study commissions that have met in the interim have avoided controversial recommendations to further ensure a quick adjournment. The focus is on campaigning with all districts having general election challengers. Not only is 2018 an off year election where the majority party in D.C. usually loses seats, but there is also no U.S. Senate race this year to help drive voter turnout. Both parties are working hard at raising money and organizing their campaigns. It's too early to tell which way the political winds will be blowing by November.

Recent Dredging Discussions

April 2, 2018 both DEQ and DOT released combined dredging studies that were required in last year's budgets. The two departments hired the same consulting firm, Moffatt & Nichol, to research their separate studies. The "Study of Acquisition of Dedicated Dredging Capacity" looked at the historic and future dredging demands for both shallow draft and deep draft and recommended dredges and equipment required based upon three need levels. The minimum need cost was \$159M, the average need cost was \$216M and the peak need cost was \$342M. There was no recommendation from the study commission to consider legislation in the short session for the purchase of dredges to deal with the state total needs. Here are the links to the reports:

- Dredging Report

[https://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/JLTOC/2017-18 Biennium/4-5-18 Meeting/2.%202018%20Dredging%20Studies.pdf](https://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/JLTOC/2017-18%20Biennium/4-5-18%20Meeting/2.%202018%20Dredging%20Studies.pdf)

- Dredging Presentation

[https://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/JLTOC/2017-18 Biennium/4-5-18 Meeting/2b.%20Dredging%20Presentation.pdf](https://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/JLTOC/2017-18%20Biennium/4-5-18%20Meeting/2b.%20Dredging%20Presentation.pdf)

The Dare County legislative delegation is requesting that the General Assembly appropriate \$15M from the Shallow Draft Inlet Fund to purchase 50% of a hopper dredge for Oregon Inlet. The remaining amount for the purchase will come from a private dredging company. They estimate that \$6M will be needed for yearly operating costs for the state's portion of the 50% local match requirement. Currently there is \$45M in the fund, with \$20M being encumbered. A request for additional fund information has been sent to Coley Cordeico at DEW. There seems to be support in the Senate for the appropriation. We are still researching the House's position.