



October 15, 2021

York County Commissioners
York County Government Building
45 Kennebunk Road
Alfred, ME 04002

Re: Dredge Equipment Purchase

Dear Commissioners:

Please accept this letter as confirmation of the Town of Scarborough's interest in a York County purchase of dredge equipment infrastructure. Harbor dredging and mitigating shoreline damage has been a regional priority for decades. Our working waterfront and tourism industries are heavily dependent on navigable waters and sandy beaches. Combined with climate change, dredging becomes even more vital to the southern Maine environment, as well as to our economy and workforce.

While Scarborough is not part of York County, we are part of the dynamic Saco Bay system. As such, we experience the need for periodic dredging of our rivers and harbors to remove sediment accumulated from the coastline to our south. Scarborough supported the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission's 2018 feasibility study to assess local ownership of a dredge. Results of that study indicate that communities would likely experience significant cost savings and fewer delays if a locally-owned and operated dredge were available.

If a dredge is purchased and subsequently hosted by York County or a York County municipality, we would consider a pay-for-use arrangement as part of a regularly scheduled dredge program. We hope this opportunity will provide cost savings for the Saco Bay communities and allow us to continue to benefit from the economic opportunities afforded to us by our beautiful coast.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile dredge.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hall,
Town Manager

Office of the Town Manager

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