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MAY 31, 2024, SANDY POINT DREDGE STATUS UPDATE

For more than 7 years Sandy Point Improvement Company has been working on a project for the maintenance dredging of the harbor entrance in Sandy Point. This project has been a collaborative effort with the owners of the bed lands below the water way and a non-profit organization comprised of local landowners with an interest in the completion of the dredge.

In 2017, Ocean Properties, LLC (one of the owners of the bed lands below the waterway) submitted a permit with Whatcom County for the maintenance dredge of the harbor entrance. The project would allow for the safe entrance and exit from the harbor entrance in Sandy Point to the Salish Sea. The permit was approved by Whatcom County; however, Lummi Nation appealed the decision of Whatcom County to approve the permit.

Since the appeal was filed, Sandy Point Improvement Company and Ocean Properties have been negotiating with a committee of Lummi Nation members to resolve the concerns of Lummi Nation so the dredge could move forward. After several meetings over many years, the committee of Lummi Nation members and Sandy Point Improvement Company agreed in principal to the terms of a settlement agreement. During the negotiations, Sandy Point Improvement Company was patient with Lummi Nation and understanding of issues that continually delayed the process.

Recently the Lummi Indian Business Council met to discuss the settlement agreement. After that meeting, legal counsel for Sandy Point Improvement Company was informed that the settlement agreement was rejected, and that Lummi Nation is no longer willing to negotiate regarding the settlement of the appeal. This is a disappointing and frustrating development after years of good faith negotiations with Lummi Nation.

As a result of the position taken by Lummi Nation, Sandy Point Improvement Company is working with Ocean Properties to move forward with the appeal process. Sandy Point Improvement Company is still willing to consider reasonable settlement with Lummi Nation but currently that does not appear to be a viable option.

Sandy Point Improvement Company is working on scheduling a town hall so that the executive committee can address any questions you may have about the dredge. Sandy Point Improvement Company will provide more information shortly about the time and place for the town hall meeting.