



COM2026-09 – Award of Single Source Contract – Meaford Harbour Dredging

Date:	Monday, July 27, 2026
From:	Bradey Carbert, Director of Community Services
Roll Nº	N/a

Recommendation

That Council of the Municipality of Meaford:

1. Approve the single source award of a contract to Weatherall Dock and Dredge in the amount of \$351,072, including a contingency allowance and the non-refundable allocation of H.S.T., for the Meaford Harbour Dredging project; and
2. Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the necessary Agreements.

Executive Summary

Engineering related services have been completed to submit for approvals and permits for the dredging of the Meaford Harbour in 2026. Based on a review of the soil characterization report, bathymetric survey results, harbour operations, and consultation with Cliff Richardson Boats Limited, the scope of work for the construction component of this project has been identified. As a result of the permit and approval process, and the requirements for all in-water works to be completed by September 15, 2026, the ability to conduct competitive procurement has been deemed impractical. Staff have requested a quotation from a qualified vendor to complete the work within this required timeframe.

This report is being included on the agenda under Items for Consideration to ensure that the project can be awarded and the necessary agreements signed so that the dredging work can be completed within the required timeframes.

Background

Project Update

The dredging of the Meaford Harbour has been deemed a priority project by both staff and Council and is included in the 2026 tax-supported operating budget.

Staff have completed engineering related work on this project, including soil characterization and a bathymetry survey to get a better understanding of the sediment accumulation and to determine priority zones for the dredging, recognizing that the Municipality will be unable to dredge the entire Harbour area and that there is still further consultation to be undertaken on mitigating against continued inflow of sediment from the Bighead River.

Based on the work completed above, the harbour has been organized into four areas:

Priority A –Channel and River Docks

This area includes the channel that allows access from Georgian Bay down to the fuel docks at Cliff Richardson Boats Limited and across to the Municipality's river docks.

The dredging of these areas will ensure access to core Harbour operations.

Priority B1 –Cliff Richardson Boats Limited

This area includes access to the marine lift at Cliff Richardson Boats Limited and is sub-leased from the Municipality. The Municipality has reviewed the potential for dredging in this area with Cliff Richardson Boats Limited and it has been decided by both parties that dredging will not be completed in this area in 2026.

Priority B2 – Commercial Mooring Area & Public Access Docks

This area includes the Cliff Richardson Boats Limited commercial boat mooring section subleased from the Municipality, as well as to the public access docks located at the end of Nelson Street East.

The Municipality has reviewed the potential for dredging in this area with Cliff Richardson Boats Limited and it has been decided by both parties that dredging will not be completed in this area in 2026.

Priority C – River Outlet

This area includes the area where the Bighead River outlets into the Harbour. While this area includes the shallowest depths, it is not core to the Harbour operations and will not be considered for dredging until additional consultation with external agencies has been completed to gain a better understanding of the contributing factors and mitigation measures that are available to address the increased infilling of this area.

Priority D – Area West of Harbour Walkway

This area includes the area adjacent to the Harbour walkway leading towards the break wall. While this area also includes the shallowest depths, it is not core to the Harbour operations and will not be considered for dredging until additional consultation with external agencies has been completed to gain a better understanding of the contributing factors and mitigation measures that are available to address the increased infilling of this area.

Staff have submitted applications to all applicable agencies for work to be completed in 2026 for Priority Area A, subject to the award of an Agreement for construction contract by the Municipality. Also included in the submissions is Priority Areas B1 & B2 in the event that this work could also be completed in 2026, however, this will be difficult to complete within the current timelines. All in-water works must be completed between July 15, 2026 and September 15, 2026, resulting in a short window to complete the necessary work. Staff anticipate having approval from the remaining agencies within the coming weeks, which will allow the in-water component of this project to be completed within this timeframe.

Single Source Procurement

The Purchasing of Goods, Services and Construction Policy includes provisions for single source procurement where there is more than one vendor able to supply and a purchase order is issued or contract awarded without a competitive bidding process.

For the purposes of this report, the following circumstances from the Policy apply:

- when competitive procurement may be found to be impractical; and

- when an urgent procurement is necessary for fulfilling a statutory order issued by a federal or provincial authority (i.e. compliance order)

By virtue of not receiving all of the required permits until after the July 15 in-water working commencement date and recognizing all required in-water work must be completed by September 15 completion date, staff do not have the opportunity to complete a competitive bid process and have negotiated with a vendor that has availability within these dates to ensure that the work can be completed within the required timeframe.

Analysis

Staff have received a quotation from Weatherall Dock and Dredge for the dredging, dewatering, and removal of materials from Priority Section A.

The proposed work includes the removal of approximately 1,000 cubic metres of materials, which equates to approximately 65 dump trucks of material that will need to be dredged, de-watered, and disposed. The work will include the construction and reinstatement of a de-watering area in the Harbour parking lot between the fish cleaning station and the Harbour house and will result in increased dump truck traffic on roads surrounding the Harbour. Weatherall Dock and Dredge has arranged for a receiving site in accordance with excess soil disposal regulations.

Weatherall Dock and Dredge has completed similar work for the Municipality in the past, as well as for other harbour and marinas. They are familiar with the requirements that have been identified in the various permit approvals.

Financial Impact

The 2026 tax-supported operating budget includes \$500,000 in funding for this project. Approximately \$70,000 will be spent on engineering and inspection requirements in 2026.

The quotation received from Weatherall Dock and Dredge is \$351,072, including the Municipality's non-refundable allocation of H.S.T. and includes a \$45,000 contingency allowance that can be expended by authorization from the Director of Community Services to address any unforeseen circumstances.

Additional expenses to be incurred to support this project are approximately \$5,000 and include communication and signage, dock relocation, parking lot adjustments, etc.

The remaining funds will be allocated to the Harbour Reserve to contribute towards future dredging needs.

Strategic Priorities

This report supports the mission, vision and values of the Municipality of Meaford, as well as the goals and objectives set out in Council's Strategic Priorities, particularly with respect to:

- Investing in Infrastructure

Community Well-Being

Effective Asset Management ensures the well-being of customers and other stakeholders using municipal assets by balancing desired levels of service, risk, and compliance to legislated standards. Lifecycle cost management for municipal assets attempts to minimize the cost of maintaining the asset for its entire lifespan, while delivering the desired levels of service, and if done effectively can allow for the Municipality to make other investments in community service and well-being projects.

In the case of this project the dredging will allow for the Municipality to provide core Harbour services.

Consultation and Communications

Staff have consulted with or submitted applications to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Saugeen Ojibway Nation, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Transport Canada – Navigation Protection Program, Canadian Coast Guard office and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Small Craft Harbours office. Staff have also confirmed the proposed work with Cliff Richardson Boats Limited.

Upon the award of the project, the contractor will be required to submit a schedule to confirm construction related activities that will impact Harbour users. Staff will provide project information via the Harbour registration software, social media, website updates, and on-site signage.

Attachments

1. Appendix 1 – Meaford Harbour 2026 Dredging Key Map

Approvals

Submitted by:

Bradey Carbert, Director of Community Services

Prepared with:

Rod Willis, Manager of Cemeteries, Harbour, and Memorial Park

Jarred Dodd, Purchasing, Risk, and Insurance Agent

Approved by:

Shawn Everitt, CAO



Meaford Harbour Dredging Minimum 2m Depths Key Map

 No Removal Required
 Removal Required

0 50 100
Metres