Smooth Sailing

The project to remove the old Navy Pier at Mitchell Field appears to be moving along smoothly. Reed & Reed, the prime contractor, has been working some Saturdays to catch up for the days they lost due to weather conditions. They are still on track to complete the in-the-water work by the middle to end of June. Here is an update on a couple of key elements:

South Mooring Dolphin – Reed & Reed has completed removing the stone fill from the inside of the cell. That material was transferred ashore and has been hauled off-site. They removed the top portion of the steel sheet pilings that was deteriorated and have started to "pull" the remainder of the steel sheets individually. Using the larger crane they grab a sheet piling, the crane operator shakes it loose and then pulls the entire length of steel out of the water and stacks it on the breasting platform for later transfer ashore – see the pictures below.

Breasting Platform – Reed & Reed has begun to work on removing the central structure of the pier – the breasting platform where tankers and barges tied up to unload. Reed & Reed has completed the removal of the concrete deck over the three cells that make up the breasting platform. That material has been transferred ashore and removed from Mitchell Field. They have started removing the stone fill from the cells. Reed & Reed plans to start using both cranes to remove the fill from the cells shortly. This will increase the amount of truck trips removing the material from the site.

Usable Stone Material – The contract with Reed & Reed allows the Town to keep stone material that is suitable for future projects at Mitchell Field and have it stockpiled at Mitchell Field. The Town's marine engineer Barney Baker has been monitoring the material that is being taken out of the cells. He has taken samples of the material that came out of the lower part of the mooring dolphin to determine if it has any value for use in future projects and should be stockpiled. The material is being tested to see what percentage of the material is large enough to be useful. It is also being tested to see if it will stand up to heavy use and in an underwater environment. We are awaiting the results of the testing and we should know soon whether there is any material that should be retained and stockpiled for future projects.

MJE 4-12-18