

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL BACK BAY COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

MONTHLY PLANNING MEETING

Date:	May 18, 2023
Time:	1:00PM - 2:30PM
Meeting Location:	WebEx Virtual Meeting https://usace1.webex.com/meet/jason.s.harrah

IN ATTENDANCE: 48 ATTENDEES IN TOTAL

USACE

- Jason Harrah, Martin Durkin, David Ruderman, Glorimar Torres, Jackson Hooten, Joel Belsterling, Kathryn Lebow, Katie Bailey, Katie Gwin, Kevin Wittmann, Lindsay Brantley, Luan Esteban, Michael Hollingsworth, Michelle Vieira, Patrick Snyder, Samantha Borer, Vongmony Var, Zuzana Chovanec, Mitchell Moore

City of St. Augustine

- Caitlyn Sargent, Amy Skinner

FDO:

- Terri Newman, Pete Winkler

GTMNERR

- Lia Sansom

NPS

- Kurt Foote

St. Johns County

- Mark Nelson, Eddie Creamer

Public

- Alba Meang, Bonnie Hayflick, Carl Demes, Doug White, Dodiyy Trey, Jen Lomberk, Kaitlyn Dietz, Kevin Priester, Mary Tappouni, Nikki Dix, Silas Tanner, Wes Brooks, Wolfgang Schau, Zorana StormSensor, cajacoby, darrell, Erin, ns, 9042****40, 9046****36, 7577****40, 9048****13

OPENING REMARKS

- These meetings are posted on our website, social media, and those of the City of St. Augustine
- Let everyone know that these meetings are happening and how to attend – feel free to share the invites and information
- The city will be having meetings with the individual neighborhoods/areas and the USACE will be participating in those as well

STUDY OVERVIEW

- Large study area – covers the entire city
 - 17 distinct neighborhoods (2 of which are environmental justice communities (i.e., socially, or demographically disadvantaged))
- Very comprehensive and complex study which has led us to a longer and more expensive study
- Objectives are based on a 50-year period of analysis
 - Manage risk of coastal flood damages
 - Manage risk to health and life safety
 - Preserve cultural and natural resources and maintain aesthetic quality
 - Manage flooding impacts to the local economy
- The non-federal sponsor is the City of St. Augustine
- Local Considerations
 - Avoid or minimize adverse effects to cultural resources.
 - Consideration of local affordability.
 - Consider local responsibilities for technical operations and maintenance.
 - Avoid or minimize designs that do not conform to the city's historic character.
 - Avoid or minimize encroaching on navigational or recreational features.
 - Avoid environmental impacts.
 - Avoid or minimize impacts to community cohesion.
- Geology & Topography of the area
- Flooding Scenarios
- Sea Level Change Considerations
- Cultural Resources
- Environmental Resources
- Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA)
- Economic Resources/Federal Interest
- Critical Infrastructure
- Local Resiliency Efforts
- Initial Alternatives
 - Walls, levees, or dune features would physically stop flooding at the back bay shoreline.
 - Surge barrier or gate feature would physically stop flooding before it gets into the back bay water bodies in the study area.
 - In BLUE: Interior drainage features would get flooding out of upland areas. Interior drainage features would be implemented in conjunction with wall, levee, or dune features to ensure that flood waters would not get trapped behind those structures.

- Nonstructural features would get structure out of the way of flooding without physically altering the flooding processes or extent.
- Breakwaters or Natural and Nature Based Features (NNBFs) would function to reduce wave energy and wave contribution to total water levels before it reaches the back bay shorelines. These features would likely be implemented in conjunction with a wall, levee, or dune feature. It should also be noted that levees or dune could be considered an NNBF themselves depending on their design.
- Plan Formulation Strategy

KEY ONGOING ACTIVITIES

SCHEDULE REVIEW:

- 5 years and 9 months, \$7.3M
 - 3 years and 9 months to be spend on Alternative Evaluation and Analysis
- Key components of the study scope
 - Entire City of St. Augustine (COSA)
 - Compound Flooding
 - Full Array of Alternatives & Comprehensive Benefits
 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Likely
 - Robust Community Outreach

Activities Completing in the next 60 Days	
Initial Flood Driver Screening	17 May 2023
Develop Environmental and Cultural Resource Subgroups	26 May 2023
Data Gathering and Digital Elevation Model (DEM) Creation	30 May 2023
Activities Starting in the next 60 Days	
Delineate Study Area into Model Areas	17 May 2023
Develop Modeling Strategy for Comprehensive Benefits	17 May 2023
Engineering Inputs for G2CRM Modeling (including Coastal Hazards System (CHS))	17 May 2023

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Caitlyn Sargent (City of St. Augustine) – Reiterate that public works quarterly update is upcoming on 27 May 2023, and public meeting with Ravenswood neighborhood went well
- Zorana (Storm Sensor) – Smart St. Augustine from FDOT, is this tied in with this study?
 - We are familiar with the DOT efforts; however the DOT is taking measures at a faster pace than we are. This study is more of an umbrella study that will look at comprehensive solutions for the entire city.
- Wolfgang Schau – First, I appreciate this project being done, we need it. Shouldn't we look into a much broader scope, including tidal gates at inlets at Matanzas, entrance of St. Johns River, etc.? We would secure 240 miles of NEFL from being flooded.
 - Our team will look at Matanzas, St. Johns River as a part of the modeling approach as a more comprehensive approach. That will make it a more global study, outside of the city limits but will be looked at.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS/ENGAGEMENTS

- 27 May 2023: SARNA Ravenswood Quarterly Meeting
- 15 June 2023: Monthly Planning Meeting
- 20 July 2023: Monthly Planning Meeting
- 30 July 2023: COSA Neighborhood Council Meeting