

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

## MONTHLY PLANNING MEETING

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Date:	August 17, 2023
Time:	1:00PM - 2:30PM
Meeting Location:	WebEx Virtual Meeting <a href="https://usace1.webex.com/meet/martin.t.durkin">https://usace1.webex.com/meet/martin.t.durkin</a>

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### IN ATTENDANCE: 38 ATTENDEES IN TOTAL

#### USACE

David Ruderman, Glorimar Torres, Jackson Hooten, Kathryn Lebow, Marty Durkin, Lindsay Brantley, Michelle Vieira, Peggy Bebb, Sheila Arias-Roman, Zuzana Chovanec

#### City of St. Augustine

Caitlyn Sargent, Jessica Beach

#### Agencies and Public

##### GTMNERR:

Kaitlyn Dietz, Nikki Dix

##### NPS:

Kurt Foote

##### Public:

Allison Edwards, Doug Dycus, Doug White, Eve Cooke, Lisa Sterling, Nicole McClain, Pete, Rachel Rhode (Environmental Defense Fund), Roderick Scott, Terri Newman, Silas Tanner, Tom Frick, Wendy Laurent, Ashley K, Jamie Driggers, Jimmy Marlow V, Molly O'Connor, Sandy Flowers, Steve Blair, Jackie Brower, Carol, 2396\*\*\*\*00, 9046\*\*\*\*36, Todd Grant

## OPENING REMARKS

- Next month's meeting will go back to Jason Harrah's WebEx and the invitation will include the correct address (this will also be posted to the public website)
- Presentations and notes from past month's webinars at  
<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Shore-Protection/St-Johns-County/City-of-St-Augustine-Florida-Back-Bay-Feasibility-Study/>

## 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))
  - Upcoming modeling effort will cover entire area within red geographic boundary.
- 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
- 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.

## KEY ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Where are we now?
  - In the Alternative Evaluation & Analysis portion of the schedule
    - This is scheduled to take 3 years and 9 months just to complete when the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) is selected and presented.
  - The Scope, Schedule, and Budget plan is with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for final approval now, was approved by Headquarters this past week.
  - G2CRM Model
    - Generation II Coastal Risk Model is a probabilistic life-cycle model used to evaluate the interaction between the driving forces (storms) and economic assets (infrastructure) over the 50-year period of analysis.

- Planning Updates
  - Working to get a landscape architect to work with our team for Visual Resource Assessment
- Engineering Updates
  - Working to validate the HECRAS model to send out for model runs soon.
- Environmental Updates
  - Subteam meeting kickoff held on August 4<sup>th</sup> and notes/slides posted on the website.
  - Will send out meeting invites for future upcoming meetings.
- Economics Updates
  - NSTR
- Cultural Resources Updates
  - NSTR
  - Still in process of collecting information and modeling that to determine additional data needs.
- Real Estate Updates
  - NSTR
  - Until we have clearly defined alternatives and footprints, there aren't a lot of updates to provide.
- Office of Counsel Updates
  - NSTR
- Public Input Workshop Discussion Meeting – October 4<sup>th</sup> in St. Augustine, FL
  - Start at 6:30PM in the Lightner Museum

## SCHEDULE REVIEW:

- 90 Days Schedule Window:

AMM Milestone Meeting	5/1/2023	5/1/2023
Complete/Review/Send SAD VTAM (to cover 3x3x3 exception package) to Headquarters (HQ)	5/2/2023	5/9/2023
TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN (TSP) PHASE	5/9/2023	2/2/2027
TSP Phase Supervisor Support	5/9/2023	2/2/2027
General PDT Coordination & Participation	5/9/2023	2/2/2027
Neighborhood Outreach Meetings	5/9/2023	2/2/2027
Ongoing Draft Report Writing and Preparation to have complete draft report and appendices by the TSP.	5/9/2023	2/2/2027
Environmental Surveys	5/9/2023	2/2/2027
GIS Support (Web Mapper, Figures, Story Map, etc) through	5/9/2023	2/2/2027
Future Without-Project (FWOP) Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System (HEC RAS) Modeling for Generation 2 Coastal Risk Model (G2CRM) Hydrographs	5/17/2023	10/5/2023
Characterize Systems Protective System Elements (PSEs)	5/17/2023	10/19/2023
Coordinate with H&H as needed to characterize storms and any other H&H data	5/17/2023	10/27/2023
Delineate Study Area into Model Areas	5/17/2023	10/27/2023
Develop Modeling Strategy for Comprehensive Benefits	5/17/2023	10/27/2023
Engineering Inputs for G2CRM (including Coastal Hazards System (CHS) based storm suite from Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC))	5/17/2023	12/5/2023
Characterize Assets	8/1/2023	11/17/2023
Develop First Floor Elevations	8/14/2023	11/17/2023
Develop/Verify/Update Structure & Content Values	9/5/2023	11/17/2023
Develop/ Verify Damage Functions	9/11/2023	11/17/2023
Develop/ Verify Damage Function Matrix	9/18/2023	11/17/2023
Populate G2CRM Model Representation	10/2/2023	11/17/2023
Public Input/Discussion Session #1	10/4/2023	10/4/2023

- The currently ongoing tasks are primarily associated with getting the G2CRM model set up and running.

### Upcoming Key Dates

Dates	Events
September 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	Monthly Planning Webinar
October 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Public Workshop (6:30 pm, Lightner Museum - Alcazar Room)
October 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Monthly Planning Webinar
November 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Monthly Planning Webinar
December 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	Monthly Planning Webinar
January 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Monthly Planning Webinar

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Rachel Rhode: EDF strongly suggests an EIS be done and not deferred until PED. The Norfolk study is getting major backlash for doing just that.
- Rachel Rhode: So, are the 4 plans the 4 alternatives that will be in the draft report with the identified TSP?
- Rachel Rhode: New Orleans district has a great landscape architect that has been involved in Miami.
- David Ruderman: Environmental Focus Group presentation and notes are already on the Feasibility Study webpage -  
<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Shore-Protection/St-Johns-County/City-of-St-Augustine-Florida-Back-Bay-Feasibility-Study/>  
As are all previous presentations and minutes of these monthly meetings -  
<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Shore-Protection/St-Johns-County/City-of-St-Augustine-Florida-Back-Bay-Feasibility-Study/>
- Rachel Rhode: Instead of or in addition to a public workshop why not do a charrette with subject matter experts and stakeholder reps?
- Jessica Beach: Gearing up for the workshop/public meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and this will continue to evolve throughout the process.
- Kurt Foote: Castillo hosted an interagency meeting with FDOT, CoSA, and USACE on various seawall projects in the works and next month there is a site visit with the national project planning team and the contractor that will be working on the Castillo's section of the seawall
- Katie Lebow: We can't officially declare the EIS yet because it starts our "clock" of how quickly the document and NEPA process must be completed, so this won't happen until later in the planning process when we have more information, but we are planning on completing an EIS for this project during the feasibility process.
- Marty Durkin: We will identify all of the plans we have based on the alternatives we investigate, and these will be identified in the draft report, but one will be selected to move forward as the TSP.
- Rachel Rhode: Try to identify the locally selected plan in advance to prevent problems moving forward – i.e., don't wait until the TSP to identify the locally selected plan.
- Rachel Rhode: Has the Engineering with Nature team been invited to be part of this team?
- Marty Durkin: We have reached out to them, but we don't have any specifically engaged and assigned person as part of the team. However, the environmental and engineering leads and teams are working with EWN as we identify alternatives and move forward in the planning process.
- Rachel Rhode: The EWN team was formally part of the team for Miami and some other projects.
- Marty Durkin: Once we get our official FWOP results, we'll be able to discuss charrettes and other workshop/meetings for the alternatives discussion.
- David Ruderman: The September meeting information will be posted to the webpage.