

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

## MONTHLY PLANNING MEETING

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Date:	January 18, 2024
Time:	1:00PM - 2:30PM
Meeting Location:	WebEx Virtual Meeting <a href="https://usace1.webex.com/meet/jason.s.harrah">https://usace1.webex.com/meet/jason.s.harrah</a>

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### IN ATTENDANCE: 51 ATTENDEES IN TOTAL

USACE: Katie Lebow, Jason Harrah, Amanda Bredesen, Barbara Nist, Christopher Bukolt, Darren Pecora, David Ruderman, Del Cabeche, Glorimar Torres, Katie Gwin, Marty Durkin, Matt Trammell, Mike Hollingsworth, Mike Simmons, Michelle Vieira, Patrick Snyder, Samantha Borer, Zuzana Chovanec, Hunter Bredesen, Sheila Arias-Roman, Joel Belsterling, Sabrina Collins Gloria Mitchell, Katherine Tyson, Tony Ledford, Patrick O'Donnell

City of St. Augustine: Caitlyn Sargent, Jessica Beach, Todd Grant, Amy Skinner

Agencies and Public: Brendan Myers (USFWS), Kaitlyn Dietz, Lia Sansom (FDEP), Amanda, Carol, Caroline Walker, Cathy Foerster, Darrell Locklear, Doug Dycus, Eve Cooke, Kevin Priester, Michael Del Charco, Rachel Rhode, Roxane Dow, Sandy Flowers, Silas Tanner, Steph Jones, Tom Frick, 9046\*\*\*\*36

### OPENING REMARKS

- Jason Harrah provided some opening remarks to provide the general background and purpose of the meeting. Encourage continued public participation and for people to spread the word about the study to anyone interested.

### PRESENTATION

- Jason Harrah presented slide deck that provided an overview of the study status and potential alternatives.
- Jason Harrah gave a live demo of the study experience website.
- Presentations and notes from past webinars available at:  
<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Shore-Protection/St-Johns-County/City-of-St-Augustine-Florida-Back-Bay-Feasibility-Study/>

- Official Study Experience Site:  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/06bb9c98d9184bd9a374a244f6d27474/>
- Non-Federal Sponsor Pages: <https://www.citystaug.com/1046/Back-Bay-Feasibility-Study-with-the-Army>

## **KEY ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

- Plan Formulation: In coordination with engineering and economics on the G2CRM modeling. Looking forward to getting the FWOP results.
- Engineering: Working on model runs and updating engineering appendix
- Economics: Coordination with Engineering to get all the G2CRM model runs setup
- Cultural Resources: No specific updates at this time – will have more input when the models are setup and run. Cultural team is setup and having meetings.
- Environmental: Very similar to cultural resources – will have more input once we have the information from the model runs. Planning environmental subgroup meeting in the coming months (potentially April-May timeframe).
- Landscape Architecture: Will survey the study area and compare with alternatives to evaluate the visual resources. Currently working on the initial steps of the visual resources analysis with USACE and City staff but will be seeking public input on visual resources as the study progresses.
- Real Estate: No updates currently.
- Office of Counsel: No updates currently.

## SCHEDULE REVIEW:

Key Schedule Activities: Look Ahead (Green – Complete, Yellow – Ongoing)

Key Activities	Finish Date
FCSA Executed	1/9/2023
AMM Milestone Meeting	5/1/2023
Initial Flood Driver Screening (Scope Decision Point)	5/17/2023
End of FY23	9/30/2023
G2CRM FWOP Production Runs	2/21/2024
Establish Initial Array of Alternatives	8/21/2024
End of FY24	9/30/2024
G2CRM FWP Initial Alternatives Production Runs & Post Processing	5/15/2025
Establish Final Array of Alternatives (Scope Decision Point)	6/4/2025
G2CRM FWP Final Alternatives Production Runs & Post Processing	9/22/2025
End of FY25	9/30/2025
Identify National Economic Development (NED) Plan	12/22/2025
Identify Comprehensive Benefits Plan/Locally Preferred Plan (LPP)	3/17/2026
Identify the TSP	5/18/2026
End of FY26	9/30/2026
Exceptions/Waivers Approved by Assistant Secretary to the Army (ASA)	11/20/2026
TSP Milestone Meeting	2/2/2027
Release Draft Report for Concurrent Reviews	4/2/2027
End of FY27	9/30/2027
ADM Meeting	11/3/2027
Final Report Submittal Package to HQ	5/22/2028
Chief's Report Signature	9/15/2028

## Upcoming Key Dates

Dates	Events
January 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Monthly Planning Webinar
February 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Monthly Planning Webinar
March 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2024	Monthly Planning Webinar
April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	In Person Public Workshop

\*April workshop likely will not take place in the Lightner Museum as the meetings have outgrown the space available in the museum

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Jessica Beach:
  - ongoing coordination with FDOT on their seawall project. Upcoming public meetings for that FDOT project.
  - State vulnerability assessment ongoing that will also have a public meeting next Wednesday. A survey will be going out associated with the vulnerability assessment.
- Brendan Myers USFWS:
  - question about tidal gates shown. Is there any examples of these in the southeast? - *A couple examples of places where these have been considered were given, but none have been constructed in the region.*
  - Is dredging anticipated? – *It is too early to say.*
  - TSP? - *That is the Tentatively Selected Plan, which is the plan proposed in the draft report that would be released for review in April 2027.*
- Rachel Rhode:
  - 1. There is often an assumption that the public understands what nature-based and hybrid solutions are, but when it is thoroughly explained it's often too late in the process. Would request on an upcoming/future call with the public that we have Engineering with Nature present nature-based solutions as an idea for this study to inform/educate the public. Would also like to stress that they need to be involved as part of the PDT and on these calls if they are not already. Simply "consulting" them as needed is not enough. – *We can get something like this set up with the EWN group.*
  - 2. Would strongly urge the City to request WRDA 2022 Section 8106 formally even though compound flooding is being addressed in this study. This holds everyone accountable and does not impact budget or timeline. – *We have discussed this with the sponsor and don't have a problem with the sponsor requesting this.*
  - 3. Some of these images are deceiving as they are looking at solutions in isolation of one another and not working together through a multiple lines of defense approach. Could be seen as a bit misleading to the public. – *The example shown are just to give an example of the types of things that could be considered, but multiple measures can be used in conjunction with each other to form an overall plan.*