

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

MONTHLY PLANNING MEETING

Date:	August 15, 2024
Time:	1:00PM - 2:30PM
Meeting Location:	WebEx Virtual Meeting https://usace1.webex.com/meet/jason.s.harrah

IN ATTENDANCE: 42 ATTENDEES IN TOTAL

USACE: Jason Harrah, Christopher Bukolt, Marty Durkin, Brennan Banks, Brooke Warlinter, Katherine Tyson, Katie Lebow, Patrick Snyder, Zuzana Chovanec, Hunter Bredesen, Katie Bailey, Katie Gwin, Kristen Donofrio, Samantha Borer, Sheila Arias-Roman, John Paul Rebello, Michael Hollingsworth, Kim Vitek, Tony Ledford, Patrick O'Donnell

City of St Augustine: Caitlyn Sargent, Jessica Beach

Agencies and Public: Chris Farrell, David Tyler, Doug Dycus, Doug White, Jen Lomberg, John Ellingson, Kaitlyn Dietz (GTMNERR), Kurt Foote, Michael Brock, Rachel Rhode (EDF), Roxane, Carol Knightly, James Taylor, Vanessa Trujillo (NPCA), Giselle, Amanda Bredesen, Silas Tanner (Matanzas Riverkeeper), Christine Angelini, Nikki Dix

OPENING REMARKS

- Jason Harrah welcomed everyone to the webinar and thanked everyone for joining.

PRESENTATION

- Jason Harrah presented several slides discussing the study background, study area, study scope, study schedule, and study budget.
- Marty Durkin presented slides describing the next steps that the team will be taking to get to a tentatively selected plan (TSP) and the measures being considered in the initial array of alternatives.
 - Wall/Levee/Dune features
 - Wall and levee features to help protect from surge are being considered throughout the study area shoreline.
 - Surge barriers
 - Multiple configurations being considered at multiple inlets and throughout the watershed.

- Nonstructural features
 - Considering floodproofing for public/commercial structures and elevation for residential structures.
- Nature Based Solutions
 - Nature Based Solutions may be tied into wall/levee/dune features and are also being considered independently in locations where applicable.

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

- Planning Technical Lead (Marty Durkin): Marty discussed how the team is transitioning from Step 2 (Inventory and Forecasting) into Step 3 (Developing Alternatives) of the six-step planning process described on the study website (<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/06bb9c98d9184bd9a374a244f6d27474/>). The initial array of alternatives is on track to be established in August.
- Engineering Technical Lead (Patrick Snyder): Patrick provided an update on how the engineering team is working to further develop initial array of alternative features.
- Economics (Vongmony Var): On leave, Marty provided an overview of how economists will help quantify benefits of alternatives.
- Environmental (Katie Lebow): Katie provided an update on upcoming pre-briefing meetings and in-person meetings that were rescheduled due to Hurricane Debby.
- Cultural Resources (Zuzana Chovanec): Zuzana confirmed the cultural resources team will be joining the environmental team for upcoming meetings and is working on initial array of alternatives.
- Real Estate (Chris Bukolt): No additional updates.
- Office of Counsel (Katie Gwin): No additional updates.
- VRAP (Sabrina Collins): On leave, Jason provided overview of the VRAP.
- NFS (Jessica Beach): Looking forward to upcoming in person boat tour and in-person meeting. Other upcoming events: Flood mitigation assistance program next week in conjunction with St. John's County on the City's website. Wrapping up vulnerability assessment and results will be available in September.
- No remarks from other federal, state, or local agencies.

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
August 15 th , 2024 @ 1:00pm	Monthly Webinar
August 28 th , 2024	Environmental and Cultural Subteam In-Person Meeting
September 19 th , 2024 @ 1:00pm	Monthly Webinar
October 2024	In Person Public Workshop Location TBD
November 21 st , 2024 @ 1:00pm	Monthly Webinar

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Rachel Rhode – EDF: What happens with a Harvey-type event with a stalled precipitation event and the gates are closed and waters rise behind the walls?
 - Jason Harrah: Great question Rachel. That's part of the interior drainage discussion for sure. How do we remove any water that could overtop the wall with wave runup, or water that moves through interior drainage. Pump stations, etc will be part of that conversation/equation.
 - Marty Durkin: Gates would be closed at low tide to allow for maximum interior flooding capacity and interior drainage analysis will be conducted to look at all of that.
- Rachel Rhode – EDF: Will interior drainage be factored into the compound flooding?
 - Patrick Snyder: Rachel, the combined flooding analysis incorporates rainfall and riverine flooding into the modeled storm surge level but does not include a detailed model of stormwater infrastructure. Interior drainage will generally be addressed as it is needed to mitigate for any flood-inducing affects of potential alternatives (i.e. if a wall is going to prevent drainage, we will look to offset the affects of that wall by including interior drainage features in the alternative).
 - Marty Durkin: We won't be considering interior drainage as a standalone alternative but if a wall/levee was implemented it would require us to consider the impact to interior damage and need for improvements.
 - Jessica Beach: Confirms the City is tracking it and in communication about the consideration of interior drainage.
- Jen Lomberg: Will cost estimate information (for both construction and maintenance) be provided as a part of the Initial Array of Alternatives?
 - Martin Durkin: We will have our list of alternatives next week then will begin to develop cost estimates considering construction, mitigation, real estate, maintenance, etc.
- Nikki Dix: I see a levee proposed for the south end of Salt Run in the 9" and 11" design elevations. Why would that be needed since there is no human infrastructure? It's state park. There are substantial oyster reefs and mangroves along that shoreline.
 - Katie Lebow: Thank you Nikki, these are the kinds of comments we are looking for at our sub team meeting!
 - Martin Durkin: Needing to tie into high points so water can't seep through a location at a design flood stage. There may be options considered like elevating existing roadways as levees or implementing walls/levees further upland than in important habitat areas.
 - Jessica Beach: These are the type of discussions to be had at the in-person meetings.