



# CAMBRIDGE SHORELINE RESILIENCE PLAN STAKEHOLDER MEETING NOTES

**October 12, 2021**

**1- 3:00 PM**

Virtual Meeting conducted. Stakeholders in attendance included:

Name	Organization/Department
Larry White	Project Manager, Strategic Programs Development, LLC
Stacey Underwood	USACE Silver Jackets Coordinator
Kevin Wagner	MDE-Community Assistance Program Manager
Amanda Fenstermaker	Heritage Area Management Board
George Hyde	Cambridge City Engineer
Herve Hamon	Dorchester County Director of Planning & Zoning
Steve Rideout	Resident
Scott Shores	Cambridge GIS/IT Specialist
Deborah Herr Cornwell	Maryland Department of Planning
Matt Pluta	Director of Riverkeeper Programs

## Welcome & Project Updates

City of Cambridge Project Manager, Larry White opened the meeting with a review of the meeting agenda topics. Mr. White then reviewed project updates.

### Phase I project development moving closer to realization

- Excellent local citizen input and public support in meetings September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>
- Firming up project details – level of protection/living shore
- MEMA support of project and preparing documentation for 2021 BRIC grant application
- HMA funding opportunities & application packaging options

### Technical support for living shore - UMCES Horn Point Partnership

- UMCES, expert in design of green flood mitigation measures in estuaries including living shore
- Initial call was on September 27<sup>th</sup> with planning team and UMCES staff
- Developing working relationship
- Project partnership and long-term opportunities/benefits

### City Council update October 25<sup>th</sup>

- Advanced communication on grant matching funds commitment by City Commissioners
- Request for community support

Ginny Smith, SPD, provided an update on community outreach initiatives.

- Project website is updated periodically to include steering committee and public meeting notes.
- Visual Preference Survey- survey results are reviewed periodically by Core Planning Team. To date, 112 surveys have been completed, both hard copy and online.
- Targeted property owner meetings were conducted in September to discuss project and access.
- Four public meetings were conducted on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The focus of these meetings included: flood risk communication, design options including co-benefits, and level of protection. Project meetings were site specific and include Great Marsh Area, Cambridge

Creek, City Marina, and the West End. Meeting notes have been uploaded on the project website.

Mark James, Michael Baker, provided additional information on preferred design option(s) for each of the project sites based on previous steering committee input and feedback from the public.

- Overall level of protection for all project sites was recognized as 7ft, preferred by the public, as a minimum. While this was preferred, concerns on the aesthetics and changes to the viewshed were voiced.
- Including access to the water in all flood risk solution designs for each project site, as feasible, was stressed.
- Due to positive feedback on 7 ft level of continuous protection, renderings depicting earthen berms and/or floodwalls along with living shoreline are under development for upcoming public outreach activities.
- In addition, information on the **Stormwater Management Analysis** was presented.
  - **Develop a System That Compliments Existing Storm Water System.**
    - Designed to convey and discharge storm water to the river after the current storm water discharge.
    - Valves attached to outfalls to prevent river water from backing up into the streets during high tides/surge.
  - **Consider Open Areas to Store Stormwater**
    - Include a drainage system designed to channel and collect stormwater.
    - Include pumps to discharge stormwater and any water that may overtop the flood protection barrier during a major storm back to the river.
  - **Collect and Pump Road Runoff**
    - Areas of the west end will be re-designed to channel and collect stormwater at low points such as the ends of streets and include pumps to discharge the water into the river.

Comments from committee members for consideration and follow-up include:

- Integration of feedback into design concepts, specifically green infrastructure, and managed retreat-potential flood acquisition opportunities.
- Including water access at City Marina project area, potential bulkhead removal and laying back bank for gradual slope and living shoreline.
- Opportunities for beneficial use of dredge materials using local resources.
- Exploring various grant opportunities other than FEMA funding.
- Ongoing maintenance and associated costs.
- Positive comment on the community interest for this project and the valuable input obtained from community members from VPS and meetings.
- Inclusion of water quality considerations and best practices.
- “Community Greening” inclusion into the project and outreach initiatives.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Continued meeting(s) with targeted property owners – Radio Station, Great Marsh Area, & West End
- Meeting with City Council- October 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss BRIC Application (Phase I Design & Phase II Construction)
- Initiate Cambridge Shoreline Stormwater Improvement Assessment
- FEMA project applications
- November 9<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder meeting