



CAMBRIDGE SHORELINE RESILIENCE PLAN STAKEHOLDER MEETING NOTES

July 12, 2022

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Virtual meeting conducted. Stakeholder in attendance included:

Name	Organization/Department
Larry White	Strategic Programs Development, LLC
Tom Carroll	City Manager
Patricia Escher	Cambridge Planning & Zoning Manager
George Hyde	Cambridge City Engineer
Deborah Herr Cornwell	Maryland Department of Planning
Kevin Wagner	MDE-Community Assistance Program Manager
Sasha Land	DNR- Flood Mitigation Planner
Daryl Butcher	CWDI Board Member
Ming Li	University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
Steve Rideout	Community Member
Mark James	Michael Baker International
Virginia Smith	SP&D

Project Update – Larry White, Project Manager

- Remaining Needs

The team will continue efforts of shoreline resiliency project through public outreach and continued studies. There are 4 key factors that have to be addressed going forward:

- Address operations and maintenance requirements?
- More nature-based features in the storm water management system
- City-wide plan to identify opportunities for implementing nature-based solutions
- Identify entity responsible for all this long term?

- Community Development Program

Creation of a flood risk management program that will be managed by a newly established department that will be responsible for managing city flood risk reduction efforts.

- 2022 FEMA HMGP funding sought to support the program and hire managing staff. This will provide funding to support the program for first three years. Additional funding opportunities will be considered to continue program after period of performance ends.

Scope of the program involves 4 key elements:

- Develop and implement operations and maintenance program for flood Mitigation Project
- Integrate flood risk management into all future city planning and development efforts
- Develop and implement nature-based solutions at the municipal level
- Develop a workforce to support the long-term needs

The program will utilize the existing planning framework, steering committee and tools that have been established by the Make Cambridge Resilient planning effort over the past 2 years.

- Maintain the Make Cambridge Resilient website in support of the Community Development Program
- Maintain the Make Cambridge Resilient Steering Committee for technical and regulatory consultation

- Establish design standards and modify the City's floodplain ordinance to include nature-based systems
- Create a green infrastructure compatibility map to guide efforts

WBOC Radio Station Acquisition

An update on the radio station acquisition project was provided that included a positive response and feedback from MDEM. The BCA will be based on historical damages and is revealing a positive BCR. A completed application, BCA and BCA justification will be completed and submitted to MDEM before the July 31 deadline.

Planning Document – Virginia Smith

The steering committee will be given an opportunity to review and provide comments on the draft Flood Risk Reduction Strategic Plan. The plan is 75% complete and will be distributed to committee members next week along with meeting minutes.

Comments providers by stakeholder team members included:

Tom Carroll, City Manager

- Please provide Tom any material we need to share with the city council in advance of Larry White's briefing by Wednesday July 20.

Kevin Wagoner

- MDE has money for loans through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund that target communities that need technical assistance (Open from December through January). Loans under this program can be used to acquire and demolish structures as long as the acquired property utilized green infrastructure
- See CWSRF eligibility handbook: [Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities](#). Page 15, under green infrastructure says: "Replacement of gray infrastructure with green infrastructure including purchase and demolition costs."
- Contact Jeff Fretwell, Director of Maryland's Water Quality Financing Administration
- MES is supporting Poplar Island; implied they may be able to support our new community development program.

Ming Li

- Complemented the team by saying we were on the right track to developing a watershed approach that employs nature-based solutions.
- UNCES Horn Point would be pleased to help us with the training of a workforce. That is what they do and would be great support. The center has staff that can train community members how to take care and maintain green infrastructure

Sasha Land

- Ms. Land inquired if we have heard anything on our CoastSmart Communities Grant (living shore around GB Park), She expects funds to be awarded soon.
- Questions about a consistency between flood barrier living shoreline park improvements and the park master plan. The city developed a plan for the park as part of the Working Waterfront Plan, but the City Planning Commission did not endorse it.
- The city has a draft plan for the park that we put together with the help of Herve Hammond, but it was not completed. Accounting for the park plans will be considered as part of the DNR grant which may need a scope change. Sasha pointed out that we would need public involvement in the development of that plan.
- Sasha made several comments about Green Infrastructure planning as part of the overall community support project. She suggested focusing on project implementation not just developing plans. She said we need to tie all the past projects we have completed or have planned into it. Mark James mentioned that we are only presenting the conceptual framework at this point and our plan is to capture related data to develop GIS overlays. Furthermore, while the Make Cambridge Resilient Flood Mitigation Community Development Program is primarily a planning and coordination process, we will be

executing as we go, for example, acquiring properties that may be used for various green infrastructure project. Sasha said she would send us information of smaller community GI Plans.

- Sasha was pleased to hear the update on the Radio Station Acquisition.

Additional Comments

- Potential opportunity: review of properties on Mill Street and the vacant property. This is a large area that may be purchased for parkland through voluntary buy-out program. This area is also a low point where water backs up from the Marina during heavy rain events. Suggest looking into purchasing contiguous properties that have a wide impact.
- The acquisition and demolition of properties in floodplains the number of properties within city tax base, so the city might not be interested unless there was some consideration through a grant or a loan with loan forgiveness. Another consideration is the maintenance of any newly created park area which would be additional costs. Finally, considering all the park land that would be potentially converted, the city may want to consider establishing a parks department to manage the properties.
- The property owners in the lower part of Mill Street might not be interested in that area being parkland. In consideration of the above comments, it would be an area that would be much larger and less expensive than buying up properties right on the river.
- 30% of Dorchester County is state land. Maybe an income solution for the city would be legislation that brings state tax money to the city in exchange for these parks being developed to help clean the river and address sea level rise.