



**MAKE CAMBRIDGE RESILIENT
STAKEHOLDER MEETING NOTES
OCTOBER 16, 2023
1:30- 3:00 PM**

Virtual Meeting conducted. Stakeholders in attendance included:

Name	Organization/Department
Larry White	Strategic Programs Development, LLC
Tom Carroll	City of Cambridge- City Manager
Bucky Jackson	City of Cambridge DPW- Engineering Division
Scott Shores	City of Cambridge DPW- Engineering Division
Steve Kaii-Ziegler	Cambridge Planning and Zoning
Deborah Herr Cornwell	Maryland Department of Planning
Dr. Ming Li	University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science at Horn Point
James Windsor	Dorchester County Department of Emergency Services
Ben Zito	Dorchester County Department of Planning and Zoning
Joshua Norris	FEMA Region III
George Hyde	City of Cambridge DPW- Engineering Division
Dave Guignet	Maryland Department of the Environment
Sasha Land	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
*Megan Spindler	USACE Baltimore District
*Stacey M. Underwood	USACE Silver Jackets Coordinator
*Steve Rideout	City of Cambridge- Mayor
Sepehr Baharlou	BayLand Consultants
Megan Barniea	BayLand Consultants
Anna Johnson	BayLand Consultants
Virginia Smith	SP&D

Note: A follow-up meeting was held on October 20, 2023, for members of our Stakeholder Group who were unable to make the kick-off meeting held on October 16, 2023. Those members who attended the October 20, 2023, briefing are denoted with an asterisk () in the table above.*

Welcome and Introductions

- Larry White, Project Manager welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced new members.
 - o Cate Whiteleather, MDEM, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
 - o Megan Spindler, USACE Regulatory/Permitting
 - o Joshua Norris, FEMA Regions III
 - o Dave Guignet, MDE, NFIP Coordinator
 - o Susan Webb, Director, Dorchester County Planning and Zoning
 - o Steve Kaii-Zigler, Director, City of Cambridge Planning and Zoning
 - o Carl Bucky Jackson, Assistant City Engineer, new City hire.
- Larry White PM introduced key City staff including George Hyde - City Engineer, Bucky Jackson - Assistant City Engineer, Steve Kaii-Ziegler – Planning Director and key staff from our contractor support team who are a part of core management team. They include:

- **BayLand Consultants and Designers-** Sepehr Baharlou our Contract Manager & Living Shoreline Expert, Megan Barniea our Design Project Manager, and Anna Johnson our Coastal Engineer.
- **UMCES Horn Point-** Ming Li, our lead for UMCES.
- **Smith Planning and Design-** Ginny Smith our public outreach lead.
- Tom Carroll, City Manager thanked both new and returning members of the Stakeholder Group for participating and lending their time and expertise to this initiative.

Overview of Shoreline Flood Risk Reduction & Stormwater Project Grants - Status

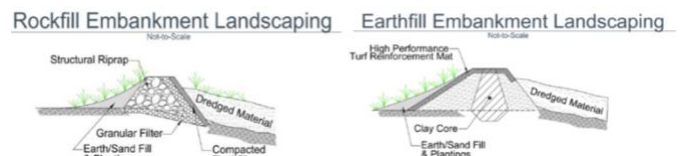
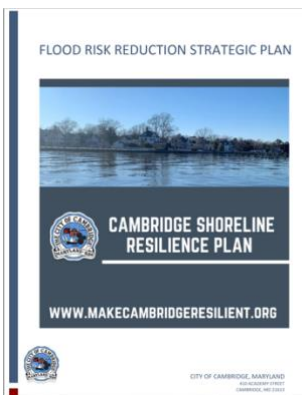
- FEMA approved grant application and awarded \$630K in funding for the “Community Development Project.”
- FEMA is in the final stage of the review process for the “Shoreline Flood Risk Reduction and Stormwater Project.” This is an \$18M design/construction project, with \$1.7 allocated for design and the remaining balance for the construction portion of the project. This grant funding will be made available in two phases. Phase 1 funding is for the design portion only. A final benefit cost analysis must be completed and approved based on the final design for FEMA to release funding for Phase 2 Construction.
- Two additional grant applications through DNR’s “Waterway Improvement Grant Program” have been submitted as beneficial use of dredge material projects for the construction of the living shoreline. One application is for dredge material from Lodge Cliff, while the second for material from Jenkins Creek. The boating community benefits from more navigable channels and the City beneficially uses the material to construct our living shoreline. If approved, funding is anticipated to be available in June 2024. This works with our overall project timeline as we anticipate starting Phase I project design for our flood mitigation project soon. Keep in mind that FEMA allows one year for design and 2 years for construction so theoretically the dredging would start in and around the timeframe when we need the material for construction – October 2024. *Additional information provided by Larry White as a follow-up to the meeting: I recall that DNR gives grantees a time horizon for project implementation. I think we would have up to 5 years to implement. We have two years for construction, so we have sufficient flexibility in our timeline to effectively implement the dredging projects when we need the material.*
- There is also proposed hydraulic dredging and placement in the Great Marsh area. The City is in the discussion phase at this point.

The local environmental engineering firm of BayLand Designers and Consultants, Inc., were selected to assist the City on this project. BayLand specializing in stormwater and shoreline restoration and development, primarily work for and in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. See meeting slide deck for more information on BayLand and key staff.

There are three main project elements of the flood risk reduction project approach:

- Living Shoreline,
- Earth and Rock Embankments and,
- Stormwater Management.

The starting point is the concept design developed for the Flood Mitigation Plan. See the meeting slide deck for additional details on the project and roadmap for design completion.



Project Website

The project website has been updated. The original project website was focused on the shoreline flood risk reduction project, while the updated website has been expanded to serve as an “umbrella” where all “Make Cambridge Resilient” initiatives fall under. The "Make Cambridge Resilient Initiative" goes beyond the shoreline and stormwater flood risk reduction project to include a community development program. Recommendations from the "Flood Mitigation Plan" included the identification of additional community improvement planning and projects and is reflected by the website update. *Note: To review the “Flood Mitigation Plan,” download the document from the project website.*

Updated website tabs include:

- About the Initiative
- Shoreline Flood Risk Reduction & Stormwater Project
- Green Infrastructure Planning And Projects
- Cambridge Creek Flood Risk Reduction
- Stakeholder Group
- Public Involvement & Events
- Resources



Please review the project website and provide your review comments by emailing: vsmith@smithp-d.com.

Thanks!

The project website will be continuously updated to reflect current information, status of projects, and public outreach events.

Partnership With Horn Point Laboratory- UMCES

Larry White discussed the collaboration with UMCES and key staff that will assist in Shoreline Flood Risk Reduction project design, evaluation, and monitoring.

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) will support the City of Cambridge in designing the living shorelines (LS), assessing flood risk reduction provided by the embankment and LS, monitoring the performance of LS, and evaluating ecological co-benefits. One of the goals of this partnership is to evaluate the economic benefits of the embankment and LS to flood risk reduction in the City of Cambridge. Additionally, the LS incorporates the construction of a new oyster reef at the toe of the LS slope. Its ecological functions and values include carbon capture, water quality improvements through sediment removal/capture, and enhancement of fisheries habitat. UMCES will work closely with the City of Cambridge to ensure that the LS provide shoreline stability as well as ecological co-benefits, such as water quality improvement. Finally, pre-, and post-construction sampling of water quality and evaluation of ecological co-benefits is included in the scope of work along with post sampling to monitor the performance of the living shorelines.

See meeting slide deck for more information on UMCES key staff.

Community Development

The community development grant was submitted in May 2022 with final grant execution/approval in August 2023. The workplan elements included in the scope of work for this grant contained next steps outlined by the Stakeholder Group at their final meeting in 2022, and are as follows:

- Investigate ongoing maintenance needs of green infrastructure and the City’s strategy to address ongoing maintenance.
- Evaluate all the open area available for water storage to see how much we could reduce storm water runoff.
- Treatment/wetland systems upland to reduce TMDL’s. Consideration for discharge permits must be included.
- Review and grant opportunities for the projects identified in the Cambridge Creek Watershed Assessment.
- Integrate all the new flood mitigation measures into a plan to see what the cumulative improvement can be made or will be made in risk reduction.

Grant funding included “workforce development,” and as such, the City has hired a new employee, Drew Koslow. Drew is an Environmental Program Manager, starting October 30th, who will assist on the overall project and the community development project components.

Mill Street Nature Way Project

The project includes the acquisition of green open space that was planned for development of condominiums behind the Historic Mill Street School. The City plans to acquire about one-acre of green space on the backside of the property and develop it into a green nature way park with benches and walkway. A new local park will enable residents to enjoy the view and access the Choptank River and Cambridge Creek.

The City also plans to develop a large swale area of about 6 acres just down gradient of the school property into a green infrastructure water retention and infiltration area that will be integrated with the Mill Street Nature Way. This will provide a larger green open view that also forms a nature-based stormwater management system for this part of the City. The swale area green space will be developed via construction and maintenance easements.

Outreach conducted to date on the Mill Street Nature Way Project includes development of a one-page project briefing sheet and inclusion of an article in the Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN) newsletter. Additionally, field investigations were conducted in September 2023 by BayLand, and access letters were sent to affected property owners. Next steps include concept design and grant application support.

Public Outreach & Event Calendar

The public outreach plan and timeline will be continuously updated to coincide with the various components and projects that comprise the “Make Cambridge Resilient” initiative. The next outreach opportunity is scheduled for November 8, 2023, at the Cambridge Library. Larry White, Project Manager will update the Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods on the various components and status of the initiative.

Next Steps

- Stakeholder Meeting #1 Meeting Notes
- Website Review, Comment, Relaunch
- Stakeholder Meeting #2
- Shoreline Flood Risk Reduction Project - Field Work
- Mill Street Nature Way Concept Design
- Coordination With Radio Station
- Radio Station Concept Design Options
- Grant Management
- Grant Application(s)
- Public Outreach Event
- Gerry Boyle Park Coordination Meeting & Plan Integration, November 2023

Comments provided by Stakeholder Group members included:

- Interest on the dredge material; where it is coming from and how we will use material?
- Meeting attendees had questions pertaining to future plans for the Gerry Boyle Park, existing park features/amenities, and how those fit into the embankment/living shoreline design plans.