CENAE-PD

31 August 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Initial Interagency Scoping Meeting – Boston CSRM

LOCATION: Webex

DATE OF MEETING: 25 January 2023, 1300-1500

ATTENDEES:

Richard McGuinness, BPDA
Delaney Morris, BPDA
Chris Busch, BPDA
Mike Johnson, NOAA NMFS
Audrey Mayer, USFWS
Tim Timmerman, USEPA
Ed Reiner, USEPA
Bob Boeri, MA CZM
Joanna Yelen, MA CZM
Tricia Bowie, MA CZM
Mike Galvin, MA DCR
Hannah Wagner, COB
Jeff Herzog, USACE
Todd Randall, USACE
Christine San Antonio, USACE
Marc Paiva, USACE
Grace Moses, USACE
Paul Morelli, USACE
Larry Oliver, USACE
Lisa Winter, USACE
Keith Hannon, USACE
Byron Rupp, USACE
Ksenia Aquaviva, COB
Catherine McCandless, COB

REPORT: Attendees discussed the following items.

- **Purpose of Meeting:** The attendees convened virtually on Webex for an initial interagency coordination meeting to discuss scoping of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Boston Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The study team discussed the purpose of the project, initial alternatives, the NEPA process, study schedule, and requested additional relevant information from resource agencies to see if they could identify data gaps or other considerations for the study. The presenters went through each of the five neighborhoods in the study individually to solicit information. The meeting was recorded for internal purposes only.

- **Study Schedule and Scope:** The USACE has a two-year timeframe to publish the draft EIS from the date of publishing the Notice of Intent. The EIS for a study of this scope is limited to 300 pages not including appendices. The study team will make clear in the draft report why certain alternatives are not carried forward.

- **NNBF Alternatives:** Attendees raised concerns about creating or restoring wetlands in Belle Isle Marsh near Logan Airport due to the potential to attract more birds to the area and possibly interfere with flight operations. The USACE has established the Federal Aviation Administration as a cooperating agency on this study and will coordinate with them and Massport in all matters that may impact airport functionality. Similarly, nourishing Carson Beach in South Boston may attract piping plover breeding pairs, a beneficial impact, but this will require additional measures to ensure the birds are protected from humans and predators. Creating this habitat would also require continued maintenance through future beach nourishments. The USACE will continue to coordinate with USFWS, MA DCR, and MA DEP on this alternative.

- **Structural Alternatives:** The study team discussed initial structural measures being considered including floodwalls and a surge barrier at the mouth of the Fort Point Channel. MA CZM raised concerns about changes in flooding patterns, water displacement, and flow velocity from building hard structures. The USACE will continue close coordination with MA CZM to identify policy consistency issues, coordinate appropriate meetings, and ensure alignment with CZM policies as the alternatives are developed. The USACE will also coordinate closely with USFWS should a surge barrier alternative be carried forward as this would have a potential impact on diadromous fish passage for spawning and migration.

- **Additional Considerations:** Regular flooding in the absence of storms is not being considered as part of this study, which is focused on flooding due to coastal storm surge in combination with predicted sea level change. The USACE will coordinate with the other current projects that are taking place within the Boston CSRM study area: the new Charles River Dam study, USCG Station modifications, and the USACE/MA EEA led Boston Metro Area Coastal Watershed Study.

CONCLUSION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- The PDT will continue study activities including initial alternatives formulation, the Alternatives Meeting Milestone (February 23, 2023), and characterizing the affected environment through continued interagency coordination and biological and cultural resource surveying in the areas of potential alternatives (July/August 2023).

- The city of Boston will send relevant design information for all waterfront structures in the study area to the USACE PDT members to help characterize the existing conditions and affected environment.

- We requested written comments on this study from agencies and tribes in response to this scoping meeting within 30 days and indicated that any additional

questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of the project manager, Jeff Herzog, or the lead ecologist, Todd Randall, by letter, email, or phone.

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Christine San Antonio, PhD
Marine Biologist
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The following agencies were invited to the scoping meeting via letter 30 days prior to the meeting:

Federal
National Marine Fisheries Service – Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Coast Guard Sector Boston
National Park Service

Non-Federal
Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources
Boston Water and Sewer Commission
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Massachusetts Port Authority
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Tribes
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
Narragansett Tribe