

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) Briefing, West Onslow and New River Inlet (Topsail Beach), North Carolina

**Date of CWRB:** 17 April 2008

**CWRB Members:** MG Don T. Riley (DCG, CWRB Chair), Mr. Steven Stockton (Director of Civil Works), Mr. Theodore Brown (Acting Chief, Planning and Policy Division), Mr. Michael Enschede (Chief, Operations and Regulatory CoP), Mr. Lloyd Pike (Chief, Pacific Ocean Division Regional Integration Team)

**Key Participants:**

HQUSACE: Ms. Robyn Colosimo (Chief, OWPR), Ms. Maria Chin (Review Manager, OPWR), Mr. James Dalton (Chief, SAD RIT), Ms. Stacey Brown (Deputy, SAD RIT), Mr. Steven Kopecky and Ms. Yvonne (Evie) Haberer (Planning Program Manager, SAD RIT), Ms. Roseann Bindner (Office of Counsel)

SAD: BG Joseph Schroedel (Division Commander), Mr. Wilbert Paynes (SAD Chief, Planning CoP)

SAW: COL John Pulliam (District Commander), Ms. Christine Brayman (DDPM), Mr. Glenn McIntosh (Project Manager), Mr. Coleman Long (Chief, Planning Division), Mr. Doug Greene (Lead Planner), Ms. Jenny Owens (Environmental Lead), Mr. Frank Snipes (Economics)

Planning Center of Expertise for Coastal Storm Damage Reduction (NAD): Mr. Lawrence Cocchieri (Deputy Director)

Town of Topsail Beach: Mr. Howard Braxton (Mayor), Mr. Steve Foster (Manager), Mr. Butch Parrish (Past Mayor)

ASA(CW): Ms. Marianne Matheny-Katz (Assistant for Water Resources Development)

OMB: No representation

**OWPR Recommendation:** Release report for state and agency review and filing with EPA when ASA(CW) responds to LPP waiver request and ITR process is complete.

**CWRB Decision Made:** To move forward with OWPR recommendation. The report is approved for release, following the policy waiver and final ITR processing.

Vote: Unanimous.

## **Key Discussion, Issues, and Questions Raised by CWRB:**

1. ANNUAL BENEFITS: Following the presentation made by COL Pulliam, questions were raised by the CWRB members regarding the categories and breakdown of annual benefits. CESAW explained that storm damage reduction and recreation were the categories of annual benefits. The breakdown is about \$7.7 million in coastal storm damage reduction benefits and \$5.5 million in recreation benefits and a small amount of other categories of benefits. The CWRB asked how CESAW described risk, and was it strictly through structures. CESAW explained that risk was described through structures, which then led to a discussion on regional sediment management.

2. REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT: The CWRB asked if the study considered regional sediment management (RSM) concepts. In particular, did the study consider nearshore placement of sand which may allow the use of natural processes to re-nourish the beach and reduce renourishment requirements. Mr. Wilbert Paynes and BG Schroedel explained that the study did look at nearshore placement but there is no sediment budget information at this time. Ms. Christine Brayman explained that beach quality material dredged from nearby small navigation channels is disposed on local beaches. The CWRB asked if CESAW was optimally placing navigation material. BG Schroedel replied that it is difficult to say without sediment budget analysis. MG Riley stated that we need to figure out how to better pursue RSM in the future.

3. INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL REVIEW: Questions involving ITR review of final GRR were raised. The CWRB asked why ITR review of the final GRR had not been conducted earlier in the review process. Mr. Wilbert Paynes explained that during the QA process, no technical changes were made that would warrant additional ITR. Mr. Larry Cocchieri verified on behalf of the Planning Center of Expertise for Coastal Storm Damage Reduction (PCX-CSDR), that there appear to be no technical issues with the final GRR, and the PCX-CSDR has completed the ITR on the final GRR. An ITR certification letter dated 14 April 2008 for the final GRR was submitted to CESAW. HQUSACE is awaiting the ITR certification and documentation package. OWPR will need to review ITR certification package to ensure ITR issues have been resolved, prior to final GRR release for S&A review.

The CWRB inquired about the model sensitivity of the GRANDUC model vs. Beach-*fx* model. If Beach-*fx* model was used, would the alternative analysis be different? CESAW indicated that although the models may provide slightly different estimates of benefits, it is not expected that the GRR decision would be different. Justified reaches would likely still be justified, regardless of the model used. In addition, Larry Cocchieri, from the Center of Expertise, stated that PCX-CSDR does not recommend Beach -*fx* for the West Onslow Project at this time.

4. EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW AND SAFETY ASSURANCE REVIEW: A discussion took place regarding EPR and SAR review requirements. As COL Pulliam explained, under current guidance, EPR is not required for the West Onslow project. The project falls below the cost threshold of \$40 million, and life and safety concerns are addressed by the stringent evacuation plan established by the Town of Topsail Beach. HQUSACE stated that implementation guidance for sections 2034 and 2035 of WRDA 07 is currently being developed, which will address EPR and SAR. MG Riley commented that based on the new guidance, SAR may very well apply to the West Onslow project. If required, EPR and SAR could be conducted during PED phase of project.

5. LPP WAIVER REQUEST TO ASA(CW): The CWRB asked for the status of the LPP waiver request approval from the ASA(CW). Ms. Marianne Matheny-Katz stated that she expected the waiver to be completed within a week or so. No issues were expected.

6. EVACUATION PROCESS: The evacuation process was discussed to help address Life & Safety issues. The sponsor stated that the Town has an extensive evacuation plan and communication capabilities. The project would work in addition to these preparations to help provide homes to return to, following the storm. Evacuation questions were raised by board members. The CWRB raised questions regarding how/if evacuation drills are established. The Sponsor explained the evacuation process, and highlighted that there was one road on/off the island. The Town and emergency officials are well trained for evacuation and preparedness.

Attachments:

1. Wilmington District Commander COL John Pulliam, CWRB Presentation
2. Topsail Beach, Sponsor Presentation
3. South Atlantic Division Commander, BG Joseph Schroedel Presentation
4. Office of Water Project Review, Ms. Maria Chin, CWRB Presentation
5. Project Summary
6. DE Transmittal Letter
7. Proposed Chief of Engineers Report