

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
FROM: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
REPORT DATE: January 14, 2020
MEETING DATE: January 21, 2020
SUBJECT: Canal Dredging/Greer Island Spit Management Plan Update

Recommended Action

None, informational purposes only.

Canal Dredging Project Background

The goal of the Canal Dredging Project is to dredge canals within the Town that indicated need based on the October 2016 Feasibility Study provided by the Town's consultant, Taylor Engineering. This project also incorporates a Seagrass Mitigation Plan, which included permitting, filling and planting of up to four (4) acres of mitigation sites in Sarasota Bay. In October 2016, the Canal Design threshold of a useable depth of -3 feet was established by the Commission. The Feasibility Study originally identified sixteen (16) canals required dredging to meet the -3 feet design criteria. At the Town Commission's May 6, 2019 Regular Meeting an update was provided highlighting the progress of the project, the budgetary constraints, and discussing potential next steps. In June 2019, the project was reassessed and re-scoped instructing Taylor Engineering to move the existing Canal Dredging Project through permitting within the existing budget. The reassessment effort scaled the project back to fourteen (14) canals and also separated Greer Island / Canal 1a from the project and awarded it to APTIM Engineering under a separate contract.

Permitting Requirements for the Canal Dredging Project

State

1. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Canal Dredging Exemption
2. Seagrass Mitigation Required
3. Mitigation Site Permitting (including fill material selection)

Federal

1. Seagrass Mitigation Required
2. Mitigation Plan
3. Mitigation Site Design
4. National Marine Fisheries Review

Canal Dredging Project Status

- Seagrass Mitigation Site Plan
 - Delayed due to Red Tide conditions in 2018
 - Resurveyed area in June 2019 to check for reduction in grasses due to 2018 Red Tide

- Finalized in August 2019
- FDEP Permit Application
 - Submitted September 2019
 - First Requests for Additional Information answered January 2020
- USACE Permit Application
 - Submitted October 2019
 - USACE Permit reviewer assigned November 2019
- Will need National Marine Fisheries review (long turn around)

Greer Island/Canal 1a Project Background

The goal of the project is to design, develop, permit, and construct a comprehensive plan to manage the migration of sand that forms the Greer Island spit. The goal includes developing a recommendation for a manageable amount of sand to remove from the spit and construction options for beneficial use of the material. The project also includes permitting and construction drawings for Canal 1a that ties into the spit management plan.

- APTIM Engineering awarded the contract in July 2019
- APTIM contract amount = \$129,915
- Design to minimize or eliminate any environmental impacts

Permitting Requirements for the Greer Island / Canal 1a Project State

1. FDEP Canal Dredging (ERP)
2. FDEP Beaches for Spit Management Plan (JCP)
3. FDOT for work around bridge (Potential)

Federal

1. ACOE
2. National Marine Fisheries Review

Greer Island / Canal 1a Project Status Update

- Field data collection completed December 2019
- Coastal engineer analyses completed December 2019
- Stakeholder Coordination
 - FDOT initial meeting in December with follow up meeting January 2020
 - Manatee County meeting completed December 2019
 - FDEP Pre App meeting completed December 2019
 - USACE Pre App meeting scheduled in January 2020
 - Public meeting scheduled for February 2020
- Spit Mitigation Plan development to be complete by end of January 2020
- Finalized plan to be developed per requirements of permitting process
- Permit applications targeted for mid-February 2020
- Permitting could take a year or longer

Note: The Town could try to align this project with the North end groin project and use spit material for backfill, to potentially make up for shortfalls from the Longboat Pass dredge or use as future project backfill.

Potential Short-Term Project for Canal 1a

Due to the accelerated Greer Island Spit growth, the sand is now touching the adjacent dock structure. This has restricted any passage for kayaks and canoes in the area. APTIM Engineering and the Town has asked the FDEP if it would be feasible to conduct a small emergency operation, to provide some relief, at the December pre-application conference call. FDEP stated they would like the Town to plan the project as a whole, but would be willing to look at an emergency option if the project got delayed. The Town is in the process of conducting a pre-application meeting with the ACOE. At this meeting we will also discuss the short-term project. If the outcome of that meeting is favorable, then the Town will instruct APTIM to provide a change order proposal to further that effort. We would seek as rapid a permitting solution as possible, and move the project into construction, as soon as applicable.

Budget and Estimated Cost for Greer Island/Canal 1a Project

The Engineers Estimate of Cost (APTIM Engineering) for the Greer Island project ranges between \$475,000 and \$1.15 million. This includes an estimate of construction costs to be between \$400,000 and \$1 million, and an unknown mitigation cost, if any. This total also included the \$130,000 to \$150,000 encumbered on engineering services for design, permitting and construction management.

The project is budgeted out of beach funds with an available project balance of \$750,000. The budget is within the estimated cost range and we anticipate being able to proceed once we receive all of the necessary permits. If the emergency Canal 1a work is approved and permitted, the Town would need to re-evaluate the amount of this work against the budget and completing the remainder of the project.

Budget and Estimated Cost for the Canal Dredging Project

The rough order of magnitude estimate provided to the Commission at the May 2019 update, recommended adding an additional \$2 million dollars to the Canal Dredging Project budget. The updated Engineers Estimate of Cost (Taylor Engineering) for the Canal Dredging Project ranges between \$4.2 million and \$5.1 million. This includes an estimate of construction costs to be between \$3.3 million and \$4.1 million, a post construction monitoring range of \$140,000 to \$180,000, and a Construction Management estimate between \$315,000 and \$365,000. This total also included the \$455,000 spent on engineering services for design and permitting, to date.

Currently there is approximately \$889,010 budgeted for the Canal Dredging Project. This leaves an unfunded balance of roughly \$3.3 million to \$4.2 million. An alternate funding option may be needed, to realize the funds necessary to move the Town Canal Dredge project forward. The Town was previously eligible/awarded \$300,000 through a Sarasota County West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) Grant for the portion of canal dredging to be conducted within Sarasota County. Those funds expired when the Town delayed the project in 2019. The Town was assured they remain eligible to reapply for, and receive, those funds through Sarasota County WCIND. The Town is also negotiating with Manatee County to apply for similar funding through their WCIND

Grant program for the portion of the canal dredging to be conducted within Manatee County.

Next Steps

Greer Island /Canal 1A Project

- Budget appears to be available to continue project through design and construction
- Pursue temporary alternative maintenance cut with APTIM, FDEP and USACOE
- Continue design and permitting for full project
- Proceed to construction, target aligning with North End Groins Project

Canal Dredging Project

- Budget is under pressure based on current cost estimates
- Budget supports continuing through design, engineering, and permitting
- Potentially phase the project (canals with no seagrass / those with)
- Develop a Dredge Management Program to include
 - Funding strategies to move entire program forward
 - Describe levels of service

Recommended Action

None, informational purposes only.

Attachments

- A. PowerPoint Presentation (Available in Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item