



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Charleston District

**ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY
in SOUTH CAROLINA**

APPENDIX B: AGENCY AND PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

August 2023

AGENCY SCOPING

From: [Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC \(USA\)](#)
To: [Stout, Christopher](#); mark_caldwell@fws.gov; tom_mccoy@fws.gov; [Lorianne Riffin](#); [Pace Wilber - NOAA Federal](#); cynthia.cooksey@noaa.gov; [Holliman, Daniel](#); edward_tupacz@fws.gov; sarah_dawsey@fws.gov; [Stacie Crowe](#); [Hightower, Charles](#); [Johnson, Elizabeth](#); spirek@sc.edu; [Parrish, Nancy A CIV USARMY USACE \(USA\)](#); [Johnson, Jeremy R CIV USARMY CESAC \(USA\)](#); [Glass, Scott A CIV USARMY CESAC \(USA\)](#); [Wright, Christopher Charles \(Chris\) CIV USARMY CESAC \(USA\)](#); [Shirey, Alan D CIV USARMY CESAC \(USA\)](#); [Susan Davis](#); [Costa, Clifford E CIV USARMY CESAC \(USA\)](#); [Kochis, John J Jr CIV USARMY CESAC \(USA\)](#); [SPIREK, JIM](#); [VAN OVERSCHELDE, ATHENA](#); [Maggie Jamison](#); [EPA Kelly Laycock](#); [Costanzo, Michael CIV USARMY CESAC \(USA\)](#); [Ward, Bethney P CIV USARMY CESAC \(USA\)](#)
Subject: AIWW EA Interagency Meeting minutes and weblink
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 4:58:00 PM
Attachments: [Meeting Minutes AIWW Interagency Meeting May 2021.docx](#)

The May 25th Interagency meeting minutes are attached. Also, a link to the “story map” presentation is provided below. To view the shoaling and placement areas or new alignments you will need to scroll down to that particular section of the presentation. If you have any issues, please contact me or Jeremy Johnson for assistance.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2455e694066d487d95d28193856edbc4>

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Interagency Meeting for AIWW Programmatic EA

May 25, 2021

Attendees:

USACE: Jeremy Johnson, Alan Shirey, Andrea Hughes, Michael Costanza, John Kochis, Cliff Costa, Mikala Randich

NMFS: Pace Wilber, Cynthia Cooksey

OCRM: Chris Stout

SCDHEC: Chuck Hightower

SCDNR: Lorianne Riggan, Maggie Jamison

USEPA: Kelly Laycock, Doug White, Alya Singh-White

USFWS: Mark Caldwell, Sarah Dawsey

Webinar Meeting: <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/jeremy.r.johnson>

Jeremy Johnson, Alan Shirey, and Mikala Randich created a presentation pertaining to activities to be addressed in the AIWW EA. Highlights of the presentation are below:

- History of Waterway
 - Constructed 1930-1940 with authorized depth of 12'
 - Waterway is 235 miles in SC; Charleston District is responsible for 210 miles
 - Waterway is dredged for commercial and recreational navigation
 - Funding managed for entire waterway but we communicate information by breaking the waterway up into 3 reaches: Little River to Georgetown, Georgetown to Charleston, and Charleston to Port Royal
- Little River to Georgetown Reach
 - Minimal need for dredging because of flow in this reach
 - Shoaling occurs occasionally due to waterfront development
- Georgetown to Charleston Reach
 - Most recent dredging occurred 2019-2021
 - Removed 1.3 MCY from 13 shoaling areas
 - Placement area capacity is a concern
- Charleston to Port Royal
 - Most recent dredging occurred 2017-2019
 - Removed 750,000 CY from 9 shoaling areas
 - Currently raising dikes in 9 placement areas to increase capacity
- Purpose and Need
 - Update NEPA including 401 and Coastal Consistency (original EIS dates to 1976)
 - Incorporate Beneficial Use Projects for Routine Dredging
 - Incorporate Engineering with Nature projects for Routine Maintenance
- Maintenance Dredging
 - Dredging is to address high shoaling areas of AIWW
 - Approximately 25 shoals located between Georgetown and Charleston

- These shoals have been routinely dredged since AIWW was constructed
- Dredging for each reach typically occurred on a 3 year rotation prior to 2008
- Dredging is contingent on funding; Funding dried up in 2005 but USACE anticipates funding will be available in the future to resume dredging every 3-5 years
- Placement Areas
 - More than 100 confined placement areas along the AIWW; 5-20 acres in size. (Correction: This was mis-stated in the meeting. The actual range is 5-75 acres.)
 - Two existing open water placement areas (Edisto River and Dewees Inlet)
 - Above Georgetown placement areas are accessible by land
 - Below Georgetown placement areas accessible by boat (increases cost)
- New Alignments
 - Channel realignment to deeper areas in 6 locations in Charleston to Port Royal reach in 2020.
 - The realignments will reduce the need for future dredging and will provide a cost savings.
 - Three of these locations may require dredging of shoaling areas in the future.
 - Cultural Resource surveys will be conducted in these 3 areas.
- Beneficial Use of Dredge Material
 - During the EA process, USACE would like to work with agencies for support of beneficial use projects.
 - USACE has tentatively identified areas for beneficial use opportunities including Breach Inlet (beach placement), Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge and Big Hill Island (thin layer placement), and Santee Waterfowl Impoundments (improve dikes)
 - There may be opportunities for beneficial use in other areas such as the Ace Basin.
- Engineering With Nature
 - Living shorelines can protect against erosion of placement areas.
 - Previous projects include a rock sill (supported marsh behind sill) and oyster castles (with Nature Conservancy). Project cost was much higher than anticipated for both projects but projects were successful.
 - Looking for opportunities to incorporate Engineering with Nature concepts into routine maintenance for AIWW program.
- Sediment Testing
 - USACE has initiated contract for sediment testing in specific locations along AIWW.
 - Results will be shared with agencies when they become available.

Discussion: There were several questions from attendees. These are summarized below and include updated responses:

- At the open water disposal sites, are sediments accumulating or dispersing? Sediments are dispersing..
- Are any shorelines benefitting from the dispersal of these sediments? We are currently looking into this and will provide an updated response if information is available.
- Regarding new alignments, there is one area of the AIWW in the Charleston Harbor that could benefit from a new alignment to reduce dredging needs? The area in question is not one of the shoaling areas that requires regular dredging.

- If USACE has funding for AIWW dredging, do we need dredge dispersal (beneficial use) at waterfowl impoundments? Beneficial use options, if implemented, could result in a cost savings versus raising dikes in upland placement areas.
- Can USACE provide agencies with a version of the map depicting the shoals, placement areas, and new alignments? Yes, we will provide a link to a map.
- For thin layer placement (Bulls Bay or other), what is the thickness of the layer and the frequency of placement? The thickness of the layer is dependent on site specific conditions. USACE has identified some potential areas for thin layer placement projects but we have not yet determined if these sites are viable options and no data has been collected.
- Recommendation in preparing EA: Contact SAS regarding project at National Wildlife Refuge (1990s). They may be able to provide monitoring data.
- Recommendation: Consider seasonal restrictions for potential beach nourishment and thin layer placement projects to periods of low biological activity in order to facilitate faster recovery.

Closing remarks:

- Draft Report for public and agency comment tentatively scheduled for Jan 2022.
- Next ICT meeting planned for October 2021.
- USACE will keep agencies informed during the process.
- Please contact Andrea Hughes (NEPA) or Jeremy Johnson (Project Manager) if you have questions, comments, concerns, or additional information. Contact information is below.

Andrea Hughes: andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil

Jeremy Johnson: Jeremy.r.johnson@usace.army.mil

PUBLIC SCOPING

From: [Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC \(USA\)](#)
To: [Plummer, Randy](#)
Subject: RE: Public Notice AIW Navigation Project P/N # SAC-CW-2023-0002
Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 11:28:00 AM

Hi Mr. Plummer,

We can certainly set up a time to discuss but the only reason you are seeing this notice is that we are updating our NEPA documents for the project. As part of the NEPA process we have to obtain a new 401 certification and coastal zone consistency. Maintenance dredging for the waterway is based on need and funding. For the sections within the area extending from Winyah Bay to Port Royal Sound, maintenance is generally conducted every two to four years if funds are available. For the area extending from the NC/SC state line to Bucksport, we don't have a set schedule and at this time, we do not have any plans to conduct maintenance in this area.

Please let me know if you would like to schedule a time to discuss.

Thanks,

Andrea

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From: Plummer, Randy <Plummer.Randy@horrycountysc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:59 AM
To: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA) <Andrea.W.Hughes@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Plummer, Randy <Plummer.Randy@horrycountysc.gov>; Gilreath, David <Gilreath@horrycountysc.gov>; Markunas, Andrew <MarkunaA@horrycountysc.gov>; Haldi, Randy <haldir@horrycountysc.gov>; Roth, Tom <RothT@horrycountysc.gov>
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Public Notice AIW Navigation Project P/N # SAC-CW-2023-0002

Ms. Hughes,

I am interested in knowing more about the scope and timing of the AIW Navigation Project, P/N # SAC-CW-2023-0002.

Horry County owns/maintains many of the spoil basins/disposal areas along the AIW in Horry County.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss this project. My office number is 843-915-8450.

Respectfully,

Randy Plummer, PE | Director

Horry County Government

Department of Public Works

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