

Harbor Planning Team & Industry Stakeholders Meeting

11/1/2022 3:30 p.m.

Minutes

PARTICIPANTS: In attendance at Council Chambers: Phillip Zavadil (CSP) Aubrey Wegeleben (CSP), Myron Melovidov (CBSFA), Phillip Lestenkof (CBSFA). In attendance via Zoom: Lynn Sterbenz (CSP), Dean Fasnacht (Trident) Beverly Woods (TDX), Chris Mandregan (TDX), Amos Philemonoff (ACSPI).

Phillip Zavadil provided a high-level summary of the 2021 Saint Paul Harbor Feasibility Study and the 3 phases of improvements and expansion proposed in the study. Phillip provided details on the sub-phases and options, some new sub-phases added since the publication of the study as well as recent new damages from storms. He explained that Phase 1 is broken down into sub-phases A through H and are a mix of city, tribal and privately owned properties and facilities, which means they are each responsible for their respective improvements and expansion (or possibly a collaborative of entities). Phase 2 is in navigational waters and thus is up to the Army Corps of Engineers to complete. Phase 2 proposes two options for expanding the breakwater and revising the entrance channel. Additional study on the entrance channel navigation has been requested of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Phase 3 is a mix of eligible projects under the Army Corps and locally sponsored harbor facilities such as berthing dolphins and access ramps. All phases of improvements and expansion would allow bigger vessels, such as cruise ships, to utilize the harbor.

Phillip Z. showed a 15-minute video presentation recently created and uploaded to the City's YouTube Channel, that provides an easy-to-understand synopsis of the current harbor conditions and the improvements necessary. Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOnmedaBdoo&t=1s>

There was discussion that If Trident could provide detailed information on the current conditions of their dock, improvements needed and estimated costs, we could add that to the Harbor video presentation. Trident doesn't and would have to discuss with TDX.

Phillip Z. shared that the City has applied for grant funding and Army Corps of Engineers assistance for some of the sub-phases.

- Phase 1A – City applied for USDOT Port Infrastructure Development Program grant to upgrade City South Dock, adding dolphins going north, and new HM office in new location; \$11.25 million
- Phase 1B – City applied for and was awarded an Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Assistance grant to upgrade and expand water, sewer, and electricity in the small boat harbor; \$2.3 million. Hoping to put out RFP by end of this month for A, E, I. Construction could start in 2024.
- Phase 1C: Harbor Road relocation from Haul Road thru easement that was granted thru FSA and upgrade the road. City intends to submit application for Community Transportation Program funding from State DOT &PF for this.

- Phase 1D – City applied for USDOT Reconnecting Communities grant for preliminary engineering and conceptual drawings of improvements to City North Dock (remove old piers and replace with new piers and adding dolphins); \$280,000
- The City has submitted requests to the Army Corps of Engineers “Planning Assistance to States” for a Feasibility Study of Phase 2 improvements. This would be funded by USACE and would require a 50% cash match from the City. However, if the Tribal Government is the sponsor of the request, no match is required. The Tribe agreed and we are hoping for a status update soon.

There was discussion on the damages caused by the September storms and Typhoon Merbok, including climate change and infrastructure-related damages from more frequent and severe storms to come. Agreement that we and USACE need to “beef up” harbor infrastructure to withstand damage better. Phil Z. talked to USACE about how the water was coming up from the Typhoon. Rocks shooting up by new building, scoria shooting up too. Need to extend out and beef it up there. We need to be prepared for more typhoons. There were concerns about flooding and surge taking down the breakwater and erosion causing sloughing of other areas around the docks. Biggest issue is to protect what we’ve got. Need to rely on USACE for their assistance. Phil Z. asked if anyone filed damage assessment reports for individuals/businesses. He suggested that CBSFA and TDX should submit damages to State DHS&EM. Discussion on storm damage claims, insurance, etc.

There was discussion on the 2024 Army Corps maintenance project. \$13.5 million has already been secured by the USACE. The 2024 maintenance project will include maintenance dredging, main armory stone repair, adding stone to reef offshore of main breakwater (they think that’s why we’re getting waves over the breakwater again), scour protection at detached breakwater, and other survey work. ETracks has been doing the survey for the USACE for years. They just came to the island right after Merbok, so got to witness the storm surge and the damage. Phil Z. will send the survey report out when it’s complete.

Phil Z. asked Chris Mandregan about plans for West Landing. Chris stated he hasn’t heard of any discussions but will follow up.

Phil Z. explained how the City is looking at other funding sources. IE: Denali Commission, however Saint Paul Island is not considered a “distressed community” per their definitions. Discussed appeal submitted by the City. Also considered the State DOT Harbor Facilities grant for bringing water down to floating docks, but this required a 50% match. Going forward, the City would like to coordinate more to address the work that needs to be done to the Harbor. Try to make things universal enough so that it will work for any vessel coming in. Especially if crab situation continues. Want to attract other vessels like cruise ships, CG cutters, etc.

There was discussion about barges, new barge company, and how many barges the island could expect in 2023.

Dean F. asked how TDX/Trident dock improvements are going to be funded? Phil Z. suggested the City, TDX and Trident schedule a meeting to discuss further. Once the City knows what needs to be done we can better try to coordinate with TDX and Trident on funding partnerships. Phil Z. expressed the difficulty the City will have coming up with cash matches required in some grants. Many grants require a

minimum 20% cash/in-kind, depending on what the granting agency requires. Need to talk about how we can partner on this.

Full recording of the meeting is available here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yv1RyuNSRay4NDnOD56ES5DfhjL86NN2KQfZFIV1uMIaCxeyUs9kqgje5wNExqPLaCecqSfIEELnRLi2>

Passcode: a?F@\$h60