

BIG FISHWEIR CREEK JACKSONVILLE, FL

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

Meeting Agenda:

6:00 – 6:30 Workshop

6:30 – 6:45 Formal Presentation

6:45 – 7:00 Q&A

Presented by:

Jason Harrah, Senior Project Manager

20 September 2018

“The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation.”



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TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- VIP Introductions
- Team Member Introductions
- Overview
- Goals
- Project Partnership Agreement (PPA)
- Timeline
- Features
- Schedule
- FAQs, Challenges
- Closing Remarks



PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Under the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP), the Corps is authorized to construct small projects within specific federal funding limits. The total cost of the project is shared between the federal government and a non-federal sponsor (City of Jacksonville).
- Congress authorized the Corps to plan, design and build Big Fishweir Creek in Section 206 (Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration) - Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1996.
- Project must be in the public interest, cost effective and are limited to \$10 million in federal cost.



PROJECT GOALS

- Restore historic estuary reduced by urban development



1943



1975

Degraded wetlands to be replaced by 2.3 acre island creation



- Restore habitat for federally-endangered manatees
- Improve water quality and tidal flushing actions
- Create protective and forage habitat by planting vegetation
- Encourage wildlife habitat with removal of invasive plant species



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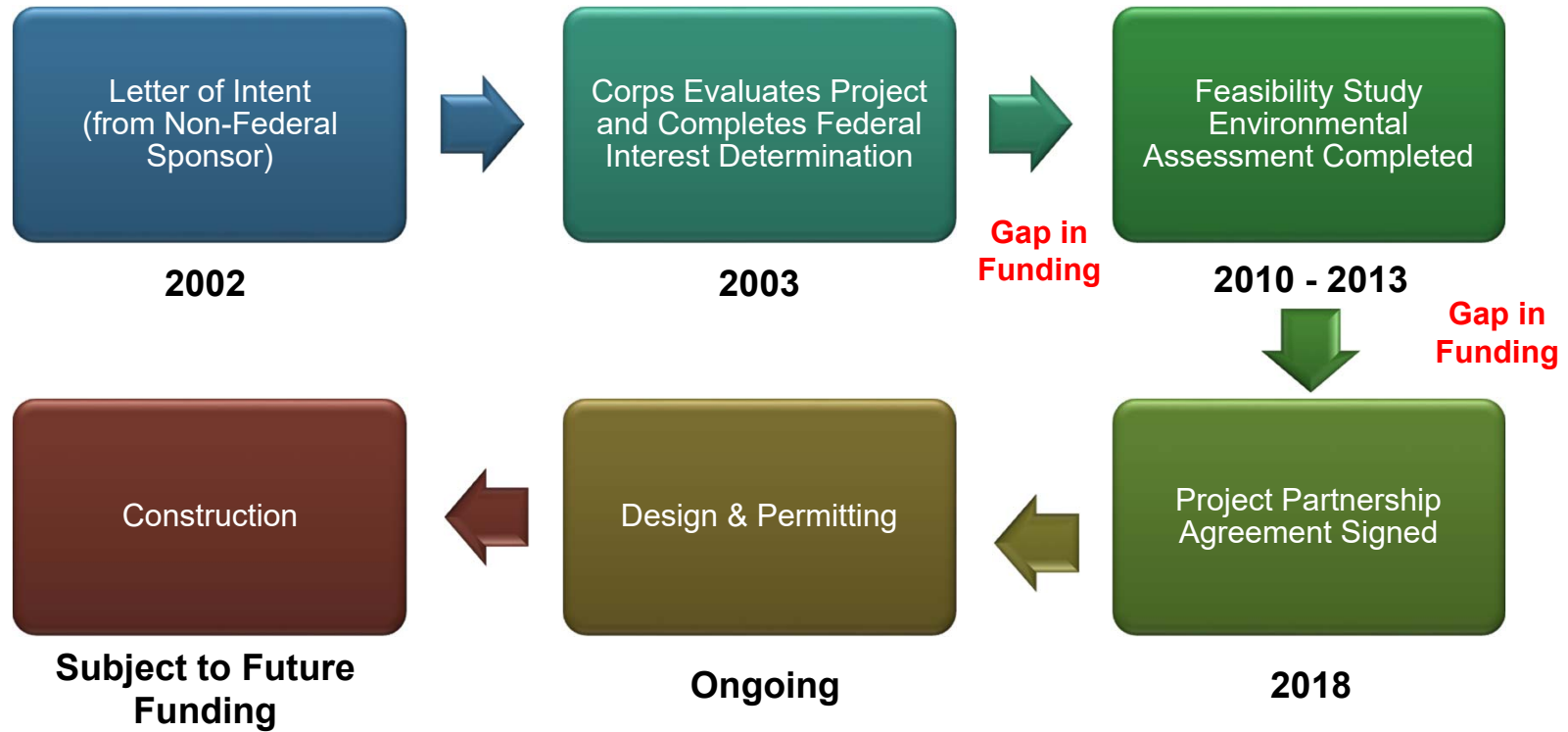


PROJECT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (PPA)

- Agreement Signed on 7 June 2018
- City of Jacksonville responsible for:
 - ✓ 35% of Construction Cost
 - ✓ Provide real property interests (i.e. easements, staging areas, etc.)
 - ✓ Identify and remediate any hazardous substances regulated under CERCLA
- Project Cost:
 - Total Construction Cost: \$6,539,700
 - Federal Share \$4,258,000
 - Non-Federal Share \$2,288,900
 - Project Monitoring Cost: \$29,700
 - Federal Share \$19,300
 - Non-Federal Share \$10,400



PROJECT TIMELINE



DESIGN FEATURES

Area A
 ~4' to 5' deep
 ~10' to 15' wide

- Channel Dredging
- Remove Invasive Species

Area B
 ~5' to 6' deep
 ~15' to 20' wide

- Channel Dredging
- Remove Invasive Species
- Plant Emergent Vegetation

Area C
 ~3.5' to 4.5' deep
 ~10' to 15' wide

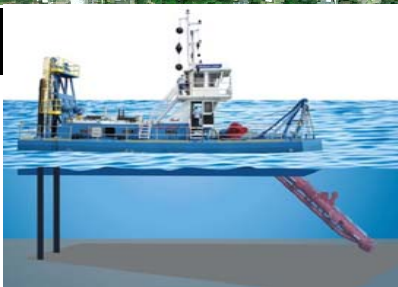
- Channel Dredging
- Remove Invasive Species
- Plant Emergent Vegetation

Area D
 ~6' to 8' deep
 ~20' to 60' wide

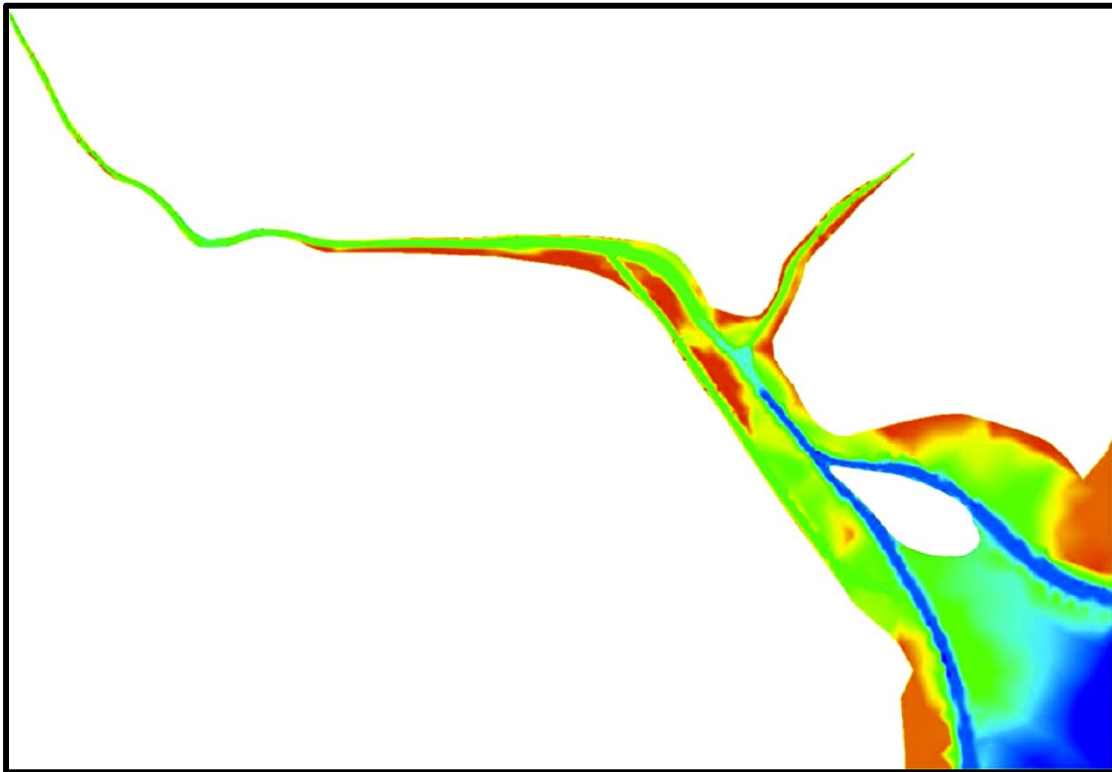
- Channel Dredging
- Plant Emergent & Submerged Vegetation
- Create Marsh Island



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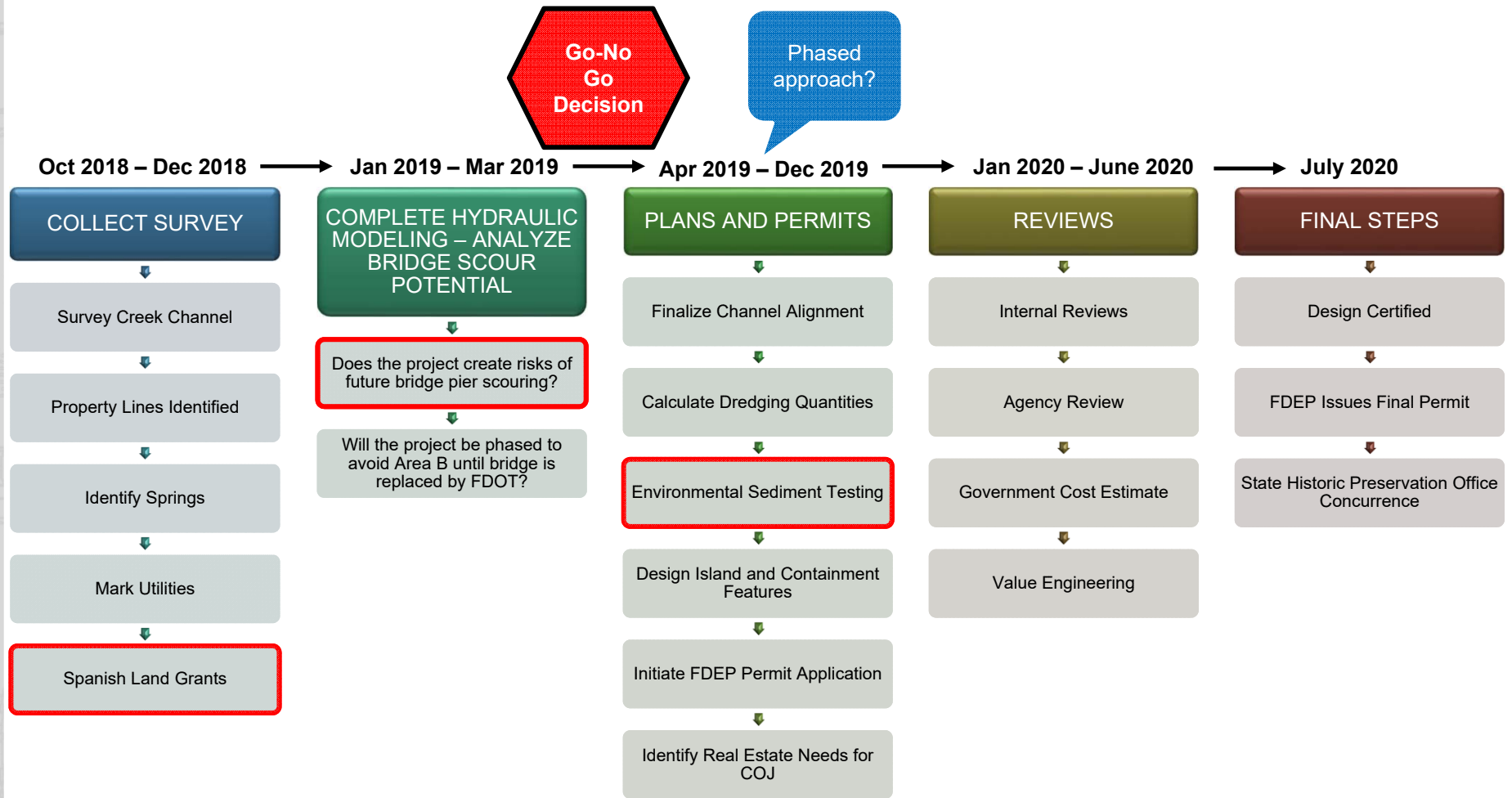
CHANNEL FEATURES



Draft Alignment Tour.kmz



DESIGN & PERMITTING STEPS



FDOT – HERSCHEL STREET BRIDGE CONCERNS

Email Received from FDOT:

*Thank you for the opportunity to review the USACE plans for Fishweir Creek. FDOT owns and maintains the SR-211 crossing over the creek within the project limits. The center portion of the bridge was built in the 1920s and is supported on piles of unknown length. Due to this unknown condition, **FDOT cannot determine the impact to the bridge support system from dredging the bottom down +/- 5 feet to improve hydraulic and environmental conditions on the creek. Therefore, unless the bridge is replaced with a new structure** designed for the revised channel bottom, FDOT cannot support dredging beneath the bridge or any adjacent activities that could cause the mud line at the bridge to lower. Currently, FDOT **has no plans to replace the bridge.***

James M. Knight, P.E.

Urban Planning and Modal Administrator

Florida Department of Transportation District 2

Path Forward: Corps will complete channel survey, develop channel alignment, model for potential bridge scouring, coordinate findings with FDOT, finalize phased approach for project design and construction.

File Name



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & PUBLIC INPUT

- Will the island be constructed to withstand major storm events?

Yes! Storm conditions will be considered in the final design of the island.

- Do we have to construct an island for the project to be successful?

Yes. The majority of the project benefits are derived from the island.

- Will the island attract bugs?

Actually increasing the creek flow should reduce the amount of insects using stagnant water bodies.

- Will the new channel impact our boat docks?

No.

- Will the island create a navigation hazard to boaters?

No. The island will create 2 navigable channels on both sides. Boaters will have ample time during construction to be aware of the new feature.

- How will the phased approach work?

The Corps will design and construct as much as possible while avoiding potential impacts to the bridge until repair or replacement occurs by FDOT.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & PUBLIC INPUT

- How long will construction take?

8 – 12 months (weather pending)

- What about staging areas for equipment?

City of Jacksonville will be responsible for providing a location during construction.

- How will the invasive species be removed?

Manually by hand.

- How long will it take for the new plants to grow?

The growth will start immediately and is projected to take 3 growing seasons before full maturity.

- Who will maintain the channel and island?

Neither the island nor the channel will have any projected maintenance costs in the future.

- What will happen to the artesian wells?

The wells will not be changed with construction of this project.

- Who capped the springs?

St. Johns River Water Management District.



CLOSING REMARKS

POCs:

Jason Harrah, Project Manager 904-232-1381

Amanda Parker, Corporate Communications 904-232-1576

Website:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/BigFishweirCreek/>

Future Public Meetings: ~Fall 2019




PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

2:00



AQUATIC HABITAT ECOSYSTEM RESORATION PROJECT BIG FISHWEIR CREEK

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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1) What is the project schedule?

The design and permitting phase is currently underway. Several key activities will be completed over the next several months to include channel surveys, sediment sample collection, geo-tech borings, plans & specifications, design review, FDEP Environmental Resource Permit, etc. Completion of all design and permitting activities is scheduled for 2020.

2) How long will the project take?

Design and permitting will be completed in 2020. Advertisement and award of the contract is subject to future Federal and non-federal appropriations. Construction is anticipated to take 8 to 12 months once funding is provided.

3) What are the working hours of construction?

The contractor will only be allowed to work during daylight hours.

4) What will occur during the design and construction phases?

The design and permitting phase has numerous activities that must occur. Our initial steps will include a detailed survey of the creek and property boundaries. This survey will be used to refine the creek channel alignment and finalize the location for the marsh restoration island. Once these activities are complete our engineering team will work to develop design plans and specifications for bidding. Other activities going on during this time include a bridge stability analysis for Herschel Street Bridge, environmental permitting, testing of the soil and water, etc.

5) Will there be a staging area for the project?

Yes. The contractor will need somewhere to store equipment, materials and trucks during construction. The City of Jacksonville will be responsible for identifying acceptable areas near the project.

PROPOSED FEATURES



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