Minnesota Point Section 111 April 13, 2022
Duluth, Minnesota
Charrette Summary

A Planning Charrette was held on 10 and 11 March at the offices of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in Duluth Minnesota. Participants included representatives from the following agencies and stakeholders:

- City of Duluth (Non-Federal Sponsor)
- Duluth Port Authority
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippawa
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Natural Resources Commission
- Parks Commission
- Park Point Community (NGO)
- University of Minnesota Duluth
- University of Wisconsin -Superior (UW Superior)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

The charrette attendees developed a Stakeholder Vision for Minnesota Point and Lake Superior and participated in the first iteration of the planning process.

Stakeholder Vision Statement for Minnesota Point and Lake Superior:

A collaborative, fiscally responsible solution that results in a resilient, sustainable MN Point shoreline that balances the protection of natural resource and ecological functions and values, cultural resources, and community wellbeing health and safety across the entirety of MN Point and Lake Superior and its waters now and into the future.

Minnesota Point Section 111 Feasibility Study

Study Purpose – The **purpose(s)** of the Minnesota Point Section 111 Feasibility study is to: 1) determine whether and to what extent the Federal navigation structures at Duluth and Superior Entries are contributing to the erosion damage on the shoreline of Minnesota Point; 2) to develop a feasible, economically justified, and environmentally sustainable solution that will prevent or mitigate further shore damage cause by the Federal structures.

Plan Formulation

Minnesota Point Problem Statement: Shoreline erosion driven by water level fluctuations, the perturbation of the natural sediment, flooding induced by the density and proximity of development, the loss dune complexes, the loss historical forest and reduced recreational opportunities on the Minnesota Point Shoreline.

Minnesota Point Section 111 Opportunities:

- Preventing or mitigating the erosion on Minnesota Point will provide a better understanding of the drivers of long-term impacts, sediment budgets and coastal processes.
- Preventing or mitigating the erosion on Minnesota Point will increase climate resiliency and promote economic growth and stability.
- Preventing or mitigating the erosion on Minnesota Point may provide an opportunity to leverage Corps O&M dredged material.
- Preventing or mitigating the erosion on Minnesota Point could strengthen Duluth-Superior will help to preserve and restore natural resources, land features, and associated recreational opportunities some of which are found nowhere else in Minnesota.
- Preventing or mitigating erosion on Minnesota Point will prevent progressive harm to private property, City infrastructure, federal navigational structures, and cultural resources.
- Engaging stakeholders in an intensive study process will create shared understanding and forge relationships that can be a basis for collaborative decision-making.

Minnesota Point Section 111 Objective(s):

- Prevent or mitigate erosion damage to the shoreline on Minnesota Point over the next 50 years.
- Prevent or mitigate erosion damage to cultural resources located on Minnesota Point over the next 50 years.
- Prevent or mitigate erosion damage of natural resources and public outdoor recreation opportunities on Minnesota Point.
- Prevent or mitigate erosion damage to private property, City infrastructure and federal navigational structures on Minnesota Point.

Minnesota Point Section 111 Constraints:

- Shore damage prevention or mitigation alternatives cannot violate the Clean Water Act.
- Shore damage prevention or mitigation alternatives cannot create an unsafe navigation environment.
- Shore damage prevention or mitigation alternatives may not restrict public access to, and enjoyment of, natural resources and outdoor recreation amenities that are available nowhere else in the State of Minnesota.

Minnesota Point Section 111 Management Measures:

- Bypassing plant
- Beach nourishment
- Constructed dune system combined with dune grasses

- Offshore submerged reef
- Remove the Federal structures

Initial Array of alternatives

The management measures listed above could be developed into stand-alone alternatives or combined to provide a solution to the erosion that is damaging Minnesota Point. **Table 1** below displays the initial array of alternatives that could be considered during the development of the feasibility study.

Table 1 Initial Array of Alternatives

Measures	Bypassing Plant	Beach Nourishment	Constructed Dune System combined w Dune Grasses	Offshore Submerged Reef	Remove Federal Structures
Bypassing plant	**Bypassing Plant**				
Beach Nourishment	Bypassing Plant + Beach Nourishment	**Beach Nourishment**			
Constructed Dune System combined w Dune Grasses	Bypassing Plant + Constructed Dune System combined w Dune Grasses	Beach Nourishment + Constructed Dune System combined w Dune Grasses	**Constructed Dune System combined w Dune Grasses**		
Offshore Submerged Reef	Bypassing Plant + Offshore Submerged Reef	Beach Nourishment + Offshore Submerged Reef	Constructed Dune System combined w Dune Grasses + Offshore Submerged Reef	**Offshore Submerged Reef**	
Remove Federal Structures	Bypassing Plant + Remove Federal Structures	Beach Nourishment + Remove Federal Structures	Constructed Dune System combined w Dune Grasses + Remove Federal Structures	Offshore Submerged Reef + Remove Federal Structures	**Remove Federal Structures**

Next Steps in the Planning Process

The next steps in the development of the Minnesota Point Section 111 feasibility study include:

- Defining the existing condition of Minnesota Point
- Data Collection
- Modeling

- Alternative Screening
- Selection of a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP)