

# Savannah Harbor Deepening

First Public Meeting

December 09, 1998



# Goals for Tonight

- Understand
  - Present status of the project
  - GPA plans for completing design of the project
  - How you can participate in the project

# Savannah Harbor Deepening Overview



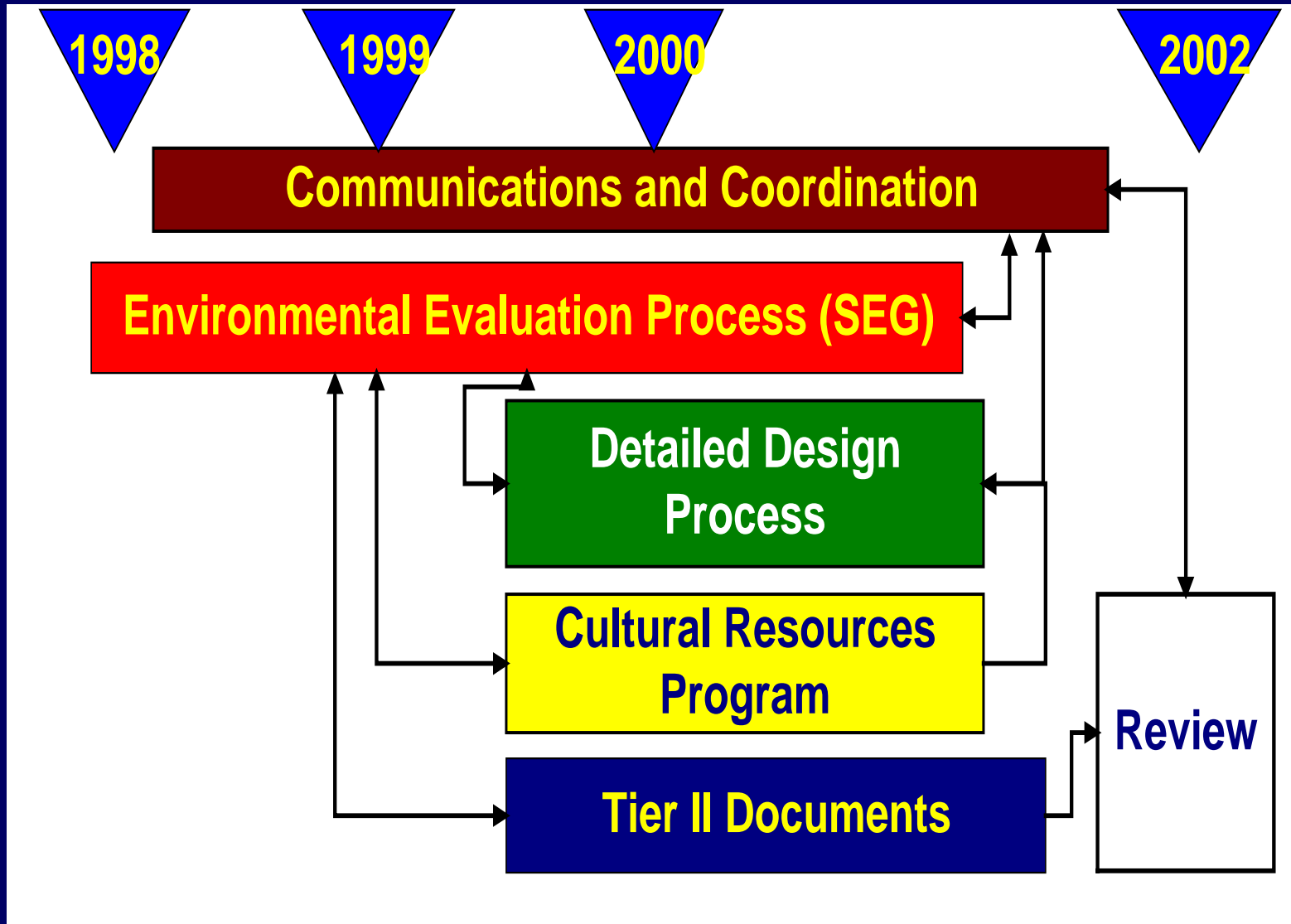
# Current Status

- **Submission for WRDA 1998 was successful:**
  - Senate and House versions of WRDA 1998 included Savannah Harbor
  - Unresolved issues on a non-Savannah project precluded bill passage
  - The engineering and environmental work concluded that the channel could be deepened up to 48 ft
  - The project economics justified federal cost sharing and construction

# Strategy

- **Remain poised for next WRDA**
  - Tier I Study Report & EIS positioned for WRDA 1999, 2000, or 2002
- **Build on synergy achieved with Resource Agencies to resolve environmental issues**
- **All work will comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act**
- **GPA will continue as the principal project proponent under Sec. 203 of WRDA 86**

# Path Forward



# Plans

- **Conceptual Vs. detailed efforts**
  - Tier I effort was conceptual
  - Tier II efforts will be detailed
- **Three areas comprise the work to be done**

# Savannah Harbor Deepening Detailed Design Process



# Conceptual Phase

- **First phase (Tier I) determined:**
  - Project limits
  - Conceptual costs
  - Scope of environmental impact
  - Viability of federal participation
- **Goals**
  - Authorization of federal participation

# Conceptual Phase

- **Deferred efforts**
  - Elements of study were selected based on their need to determine feasibility of project
- **Advantages**
  - Reduced study costs if economics proved to not be viable
  - Reduced time to authorization

# Detailed Design Mission

- **Address the specific issues resulting from the Tier I effort**
  - through identification and inclusion of the issues in the detailed scope of work for the technical team tasks
  - supported by an appropriate technical analysis and evaluation process designed to lead to specific conclusions

# Detailed Design Guidelines

- **All deferred study elements from Tier I are included in detailed design phase**
- **All concerns raised during draft review period deferred to design phase are included**
- **Design and study tasks are being tailored to develop specific channel details**
  - Every concern will be specifically resolved

# Detailed Design Guidelines

- **Analyses and studies must be directly connected to deepening project**
- **Decisions documented as they are made and feedback provided**
- **Schedule to be most expeditious possible consistent with technical validity**
- **Process will be open to any interested party**

# Detailed Design Examples

- **Channel design & layout**
  - Ship simulation
  - Channel alignment, width, & cross-section
  - Bend configuration
  - Turning basin configuration
  - Sedimentation patterns

# Detailed Design Examples

- **Structural and bank effects**
  - Upon riverside structures & facilities
  - Upon unprotected river banks
  - Upon slope stability in channel side slopes
  - Upon slope stability of adjacent real estate

# Detailed Design Examples

- **Dredged material disposal**
  - Quantities
  - Disposal area capacity & usage plans
  - Quality of material
  - Placement on or near Tybee Island
- **Mitigation features**
  - Input from environmental evaluations (SEG)

# Detailed Design Examples

- **Cultural resource actions**
  - Input from Cultural Resource Program
- **Real estate**
  - Determination of real estate needs
  - Determination of land acquisition actions and costs
- **Integration with other active projects**

# Integration

- Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study
- Tybee Beach Renourishment Project
- Savannah River Restoration Project
- Back River Restoration Study
- Savannah River Navigation Channel (42')
- Focus: Meeting current & future resources needs of Savannah River Basin
- Focus: Periodic placement of sand on/near Tybee
- Focus: Restoration of flow through upriver channels
- Focus: Restoration of environmental conditions
- Operation & maintenance of channel and disposal areas

# Detailed Design Examples

- **Construction cost estimate**
- **Economic validation**
  - Evaluation of assumptions, projections, & benefits
  - Incorporation of detailed construction cost estimate
- **Tier II EIS development**
  - Detailed design results
  - SEG results
  - Cultural resources program results

# Methods

- **Input & feedback via Communications & Coordination Process**
- **Detailed technical analysis & evaluation of issues and resolution alternatives**
- **Selection of conclusions consistent with project goals retaining sensitivity to issues**

# Savannah Harbor Deepening Cultural Resources Program



# Cultural Resources Agency Program

- **Primary Participants:**
  - Georgia Ports Authority
  - USACE, Savannah District
  - GA. State Historical Preservation Officer
  - SC State Historical Preservation Officer
  - U.S. Department of the Interior
  - U.S. Navy
  - GA Dept. of Natural Resources
  - U.S. General Services Agency

# Cultural Resources Agency Program

- **Tasks**
  - Determine extent and significance of cultural resources
  - Determine preservation actions for each resource
- **Known resources**
  - Old Fort Jackson
  - CSS Georgia
- **Other resources as discovered**

**Savannah Harbor  
Deepening  
Environmental  
Evaluation  
(Stakeholders Evaluation Group)**



# SEG Mission

- **Develop an environmentally acceptable mitigation plan for deepening the Savannah harbor federal navigation project**
  - through a consensus of designated government agencies and non-governmental interested parties formed as a Stakeholders Evaluation Group (SEG),
  - supported by an appropriate scientific analysis and evaluation process designed to minimize the current navigation constraints imposed on international and domestic shipping,
  - while maintaining the natural quality of Georgia's coastal and river environment.

# Stakeholders Evaluation Group

Facilitator: Dr. Morgan Rees

- **Preliminary membership**

- Georgia Ports Authority
- USACE, Savannah District
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- GA. Dept. of Natural Resources
- SC. Dept of Natural Resources
- SC. Dept of Health & Environmental Control
- City of Savannah
- Savannah Manufacturer's Council
- Other Interested Parties

# Stakeholders Evaluation Group

- **Focus issues**
  - Dissolved oxygen
  - Chloride distribution
  - Short-nosed sturgeon
  - Striped bass
  - Salinity distribution
  - Related issues

# Stakeholders Evaluation Group

- **Proposed Structure**
  - Principal representatives appointed by Agency Heads
  - Advisory technical staff appointed by principal representative
  - Scientific tasks executed under SEG direction
  - Consensus reached by principal representatives and approved by Agency Heads

# Stakeholders Evaluation Group

- **Proposed sequence of major events**
  - Develop scope of scientific analyses and studies in 4 - 6 mos.
  - Execute analyses and studies
  - Evaluate study reports and determine impacts
  - Evaluate alternative project designs to avoid or minimize impacts
  - Develop compensation for resulting impacts
  - Deliver mitigation plan for focus issues to project team

# Stakeholders Evaluation Group

- **Guidelines**

- Analyses and studies must be directly connected to deepening project
- SEG will determine methodology for consensus decisions and content of scientific tasks
- Decisions reached and documented as they are made
- Schedule to be most expeditious possible consistent with scientific validity
- Process will be open to participation by any interested party

# Savannah Harbor Deepening Communications



# Communications Goals

- **Two-way, interactive, & effective sharing of information**
- **Discovery and inclusion of project related concerns**
- **Effective dissemination of project decisions**

# Communication Mechanisms

- **Periodic public forums**
  - quarterly or as needed
- **Internet**
  - Posting of project information on the GPA web site ([www.gaports.com](http://www.gaports.com))
- **Information line - (912) 963-2511**
  - Meeting schedules & other information
  - GPA point of contact voicemail

# GPA Contacts

- **Technical, economic, cost, real estate, cultural, non-SEG environmental information**
  - Charles Griffen, Director of Port Planning & Harbor Development
- **Legislative information**
  - Jamie McCurry, Manager of Legislative Affairs
- **Communications**
  - Patricia Reese, Manager of Communications & External Affairs

# Suggested SEG Contacts

- **SEG related concern submission**
  - In person at SEG meetings
  - Via proxy agency
- **SEG related queries**
  - Via proxy agency designated point of contact
  - Via GPA
    - Charles Griffen, Director of Port Planning & Harbor Development
- **Final determination of mechanism by SEG**

# Savannah Harbor Deepening Intermission



# Intermission

## (20 minutes)

- **Please fill out the seat card so we know who attended tonight**
- **Questions for the panel will be taken from the seat cards. Please submit yours to the GPA representatives collecting the cards**
- **For those who cannot stay, interest area signup sheets are available in the foyer**

# Summary

- Project status
  - Concept design (Tier I) complete
  - Ready for next WRDA authorization
- Plans for completing design
  - Detailed design process
  - Environmental evaluation (SEG) process
  - Cultural resources program
- Public participation
  - Public meetings
  - Media
  - Online information

# Interest Area Signup Sheets

- In the foyer are INTEREST AREA SIGN UP SHEETS and display boards defining three “Process Areas:”
  - Design,
  - Environmental Evaluation or SEG,
  - Cultural Resources.
- Please use the signup sheet to identify yourself and select a process area. Signing up enables us to communicate with you directly concerning matters in a particular area.