

# Operational Lessons Learned from Poplar Island

- Conduct extensive geotechnical investigations early to determine foundation conditions and quantify sand borrow requirements and sources
- Allow for flexibility of target acreages related to habitat goals
- Currently evaluating the success of wetlands constructed over sand borrow areas; results will be implemented in design of James Island
- Developing a procedure to approve and document cell design changes and adjustments



*Photo: Poplar Island*

- Unforeseen weather events impact the ability to discharge water and the dewatering of dredged material...since 2001, a drought year and year of record high precipitation have substantially impacted planning at Poplar Island



# Additional Lessons Learned

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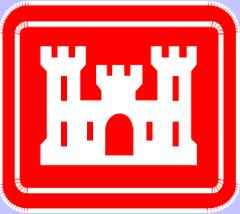
- Incorporate information from existing Corps projects – Poplar Island served as an essential resource for the Mid-Bay project
- The technical working group process is effective in reaching consensus
- Develop relationships with and seek input from key stakeholders early in the process
- Conduct specific information meetings for target groups affected by the project
- Develop an adaptive management plan procedure to approve and document design changes and project modifications
- Develop and implement a comprehensive environmental monitoring plan
- Incorporate a wildlife management plan to control nuisance species as well as protect species of interest



# Lessons Learned: North Atlantic Division

- Close coordination among MVD PCX for Ecosystem Restoration, the District and Division essential for ensuring integrity of this and future ecosystem restoration projects.
- Systems approach was used in analyzing Poplar Island, James Island and Barren Island, and timing analysis was critical to demonstration of Federal interest and plan optimization.
- Office of Water Project Review provided detailed and insightful review that improved the overall quality and integrity of the project recommendations.



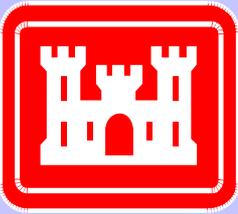


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# CWRB Field Participant's After Action Review

- **What was supposed to happen?**
- **What did happen?**
- **Why did it happen?**
- **How will we improve the way we do it next time?**

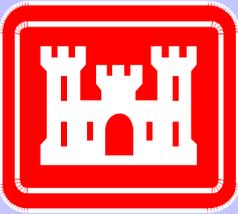


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# What was supposed to happen?

- **Presentation of the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project to the CWRB**
- **Discussion of items/clarifications requested by Board members**
- **Consideration of the issues raised by the Office of Water Policy Review and resolution of questions brought by the Board and others**
- **Approval for release of the Final Report to State and Agency Review**

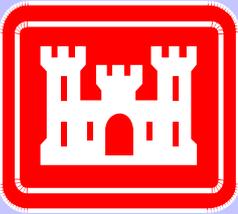


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# What did happen?

- **The Board approved release of the Final Report, but the OMRR&R issue must be resolved prior to finalization of the Chief of Engineers Report**
- **There was significant input and discussion by all attendees – very open and frank discussion**
- **There were VTC and audio problems during the meeting**
- **The District Engineer shortened his prepared presentation in the interest of time; the Division Engineer similarly reduced his remarks**

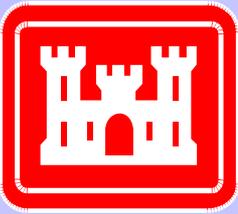


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# Why did it happen?

- **MG Riley set an open tone for the meeting that facilitated discussion and input from all parties**
- **Adequate preparation by the District for the meeting and representation of appropriate team members enabled the District to fully respond to all questions posed**
- **More concise DE Presentation enabled the meeting to conclude in a timely manner. More robust read ahead materials and open discussion made up for details that had to be omitted.**
- **Close coordination between the District, the Division and the OWPR over the previous two years resolved most of the issues long before the meeting**



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# How will we improve it next time?

- **The District spent significant time on the DE's presentation, only to rework it drastically over the last few weeks. The District will make sure to provide more concise briefings in the future.**
- **Due to the coordination between the District and OWPR, there was no work required on issue resolution before the CWRB; however, the District didn't know this until 3 days before the meeting. If possible OWPR should notify the District as soon as possible if there are any issues that might necessitate last minute work or changes.**
- **Training or better coordination between HQ and the Districts could improve the VTC process and limit technical difficulties and interruptions.**