Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)

Urban Waterfront Action Group (UWAG) Meeting Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Participants:

Jeffrey Aser, The Durst Organization; Randy Brown, PA DEP / CZM; Jim Boyer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; David Kovach, Delaware River Basin Commission, Stuart Lewis, MidAtlantic Engineers, Julia Limogello, The Durst Organization; Josh Lippert, City of Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections; Matt Waldron, PA DEP / CZM

Meeting Summary:

A brief project description, engineering plans, the Chapter 105 permit application, PNDI Search receipt, and site photos were submitted to the committee in advance of the meeting. These documents are attached to these meeting notes.

1. Philadelphia Marine Center Pier 19

Stuart Lewis of MidAtlantic Engineers presented information of planned maintenance activities to address severe cracking in the pile supports of the Philadelphia Marine Center Pier 19. Mr. Lewis described the crack monitoring program at the site and the need to expeditiously bolster the existing pile supports of the pier. The repairs will include driving steel Double H piles and bolting them to the existing piles for stabilization. The project is on the water side of the bulkhead line.

Mr. Lewis reported that he attempted to apply for the necessary permits through the e-permit system but was unsuccessful. He indicated that the project would require National Permit #3 (NP3) and General Permit #11 (GP11) in order to begin the project.

Randy Brown, PA DEP / CZM, asked if there were existing permits for the site from previous work and projects on the pier. Randy offered to search for existing permits that would be transferrable to the Durst Organization and this project. If there were no existing permits the state would require a GP11. Mr. Brown also noted that a wetland delineation and environmental assessment are not required for a GP11.

Jim Boyer, USACOE, referenced an email that he sent Mr. Lewis addressing Mr. Lewis' questions prior to the meeting that included GARFO ESA Section 7: 2017 NLAA Program Verification Form. Mr. Boyer reviewed important sections of the form and conditions for the NP3 permit relating to critical threatened and endangered species habitats, temporal restrictions on the work, turbidity curtain, and noise monitoring among other conditions. Mr. Boyer also noted that this project would require historic resource consultation. Ms. Limongello confirmed that this pier was listed on the National Register. M. Boyer noted that the ACOE is required to complete review of completed permit application within 45 days.

Mr. Brown noted that PA DEP would be able to process the GP11 application fairly quickly once the PNDI was cleared and that the GP11 will require stamped E&S plans.

Mr. Lewis stated that the project will include a turbidity curtain and that MidAtlantic intends to begin and complete the work before the spring construction restrictions from the presence of anadromous fishes in the river.

Mr. Boyer noted that the NP3 application should be sent to the attention of Mr. Michael Hayduk at ACOE and reference file # 20-18-488. Mr. Brown requested that the GP11 be sent to his attention.

The project portion of the meeting adjourned at 10:30am. Attendees continued with a discussion on future steps for UWAG and concluded at 11:30am.