

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy Community

Volume 3, Issue 9

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Notes from Jim Johnson

It looks like an exciting season ahead for us in Headquarters. With the Presidential election still unresolved and the Senate having to find a way to function with an evenly divided membership, 2001 should be interesting! By the way, I provided some premature news on WRDA 2000 in my notes last month. That bill was *not* sent to the President last month, but it *was* sent to the President *this week*.

This is a great time to be in the Army Corps of Engineers and to be a civil works planner. After the pounding the Corps took in the press this year, you may be wondering how that is possible. First and foremost, there is a new recognition across the Corps of the importance of planners and the planning function. More Commanders now understand the important and essential role of planners in program success, i.e., the ability to solve problems consistent with existing laws and policies. While there remains a long road to recovery for the health of the planning function, we are making progress. For instance, the trend in loss of senior planning positions appears to be shifting. Two important, examples are the recently evolved Planning and Programs Execution Division in Mississippi Valley Division and the new Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division in Fort Worth District.

What else? Well, we are now embarking on a series of initiatives that will guide civil works planning in the 21st Century. I have presented these initiatives in previous newsletters and you will undoubtedly hear more about them in the future.

Planning Leadership. As you know, we have several initiatives underway to improve the level of planning capability and planning leadership in the Corps of Engineers. Developing planners and planning leaders is our most important task – and it involves each of you. Collectively, we must lay the foundation for building our future planning leaders; a critical component of this is to increase the level of mentoring among planners. Each planner should seek a mentor; and each senior planner should be an active mentor. The mentoring process may be structured or unstructured, but clearly there is value to be gained from exchange of sound career advice between mentor and student. We cannot afford to leave the development of our future planning leaders to chance. More to follow.

Environmental Leadership. We are moving steadily and responsibly toward producing civil works projects consistent with sustainable development, and specifically toward improving the environmental sustainability of our civil works projects. This area of interest is not limited to Planning and Policy Division; you can expect to see a strong evolving Civil Works partnership to address environmental sustainability, and that will include Engineering and Construction, Operations, and Programs Divisions. In addition, we are working to improve the state of the art in evaluating ecosystem benefits and costs. This may well be a long-term effort, but it is necessary if we are to improve the environmental outputs of our civil works program.

Partnerships. Effective partnering is essential to a successful civil works program. We should increasingly engage partners and stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels, so that all parties are involved productively in the planning process. This includes the traditional project stakeholders as well as environmental interests. These groups also are integral to our long-range mission planning as well as our near-term program development. The recent “listening sessions” series is one example of an opportunity to engage in productive dialogue about future directions for the Corps of Engineers. Expect to hear more about partner and stakeholder involvement, and prepare to be engaged at every level in the organization.

Headquarters Opportunities. We have some excellent opportunities right now in Planning and Policy Division. As we have described in previous announcements, we are now recruiting to fill four vacancies: GS-15 Chief, Planning Management Branch; GS-14 Regional Planning Manager; GS-14 Policy Specialist; and GS-14 Senior Economist. We also have an 11-month developmental assignment starting about 15 January 2001 to place an individual in the office of Senator Voinovich of Ohio to work with the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee of the Senate. Senator Voinovich chairs the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee of the EPW Committee, which has oversight of the Corps Civil Works program including study and project authorizations. We are looking for future leaders, bold thinkers and creative problem solvers. If you fit that description, apply now! 

Senior Planning Vacancies

We have created this special section in *Planning Ahead* to highlight vacancy announcements for senior planning positions, especially planning chief positions. We encourage all divisions and districts to place senior planner position announcements in *Planning Ahead* to give them greater visibility. Also you can find most vacancy announcements at <http://cpol.army.mil/va/scripts/public.html>

Northwestern Division

The incumbent directs the planning activities of the organization, including program management, command and control, regional interface, and quality assurance. Prescribes policies, procedures and objectives for subordinates to ensure that planning and execution of missions are efficiently and effectively achieved. Reviews and evaluates program status, resources, quality objectives, initiatives and priorities as needed. Responds to requests for expert opinion. Ensures, through advanced planning, that sufficient resources are available for future workload requirements. Based on a broad understanding of contemporary engineering and scientific technology and practice, ensures that planning and project decision documents and project designs are completed on time, within budget, and in accordance with accepted professional standards and customer requirements, with a minimum of change orders and contract modifications during the construction phase.

E-mail your resume and supplemental data sheet to: resumix@cpocwcp.army.mil.

If you do not have access to e-mail, you may mail your resume and supplemental data sheet via the US Postal System to:

Department of the Army
West Civilian Personnel Operations Center (WCPOC)
BLDG61801, P.O. BOX 12926
Fort Huachuca, AZ 85670-2926

Announcement number: INTER-16 closes December 28, 2000. For additional information about this vacancy please contact Ms. Laura Athearn (503) 808-4572 or Laura.A.Athearn@usace.army.mil

Headquarters – Planning and Policy

Capitol Hill Professional Development

During the past year we had the opportunity to place an U.S. Army Corps individual in the office of Senator Voinovich of Ohio to work with the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee of the Senate. Senator Voinovich chairs the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee of the EPW Committee, which has oversight of the Corps Civil Works program including study and project authorizations. Starting with the new Congress we again have the excellent opportunity to place another outstanding Corps individual in the office of Senator Voinovich.

Senator Voinovich has a keen interest in the Corps program. This year's detailee had a high level of direct access to the Senator. The focus of last year's Subcommittee activity with regard to the Corps program was the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 and the issue of the need for reform of the Corps of Engineers management and project development process. Next year's Committee activity with the Corps program can be expected to concentrate on transitions (a new administration, a new Congress and a new Chief of Engineers). Discussions and hearings can be expected to focus on such areas as (a) the appropriate mission for the Corps including

dealing with the backlog of projects, the expanding environmental restoration program; (b) whether or not a reform of the project development process is needed including such areas as independent project review, the Principles and Guidelines, project evaluation, measuring project benefits and environmental analysis; and (c) contentious Corps projects and issues.

The major legislative agenda of the Committee is likely to be the Clean Water Act reforms, which will necessarily involve the Section 404-permit program and the appropriate role for the Corps in water and wastewater infrastructure. In working these issues the detailee can be expected to develop issue and information papers and memos for the Senator, brief the Senator on issues, prepare hearing statements and questions, meet with interest groups and Federal agencies, develop draft legislation, prepare correspondence, and interact with other Committee staff and member staff.

This is an 11-month developmental assignment starting about 15 January 2001. The employee's home office will pay salary; TDY will be paid out of a central account. This opportunity closes 15 December. Questions should be directed to Dr. Jim Johnson at 202-761-0115. [📖](#)

WRDA Implementation

Jan Rasgus – CECW-PD

In anticipation of the signing of WRDA 2000, we have initiated preliminary implementation activities. A HQUSACE Implementation Team has been organized to review each one of the provisions within the WRDA 2000 and to determine what guidance is required. In general, we plan to issue guidance according to the same format we followed for WRDA 1999. There will be generic guidance as well as specific guidance. The generic guidance will provide flexibility for implementation in accordance with the annual budget circular and other appropriate programmatic guidance whereas the specific guidance will be more directive. The HQ POC for WRDA Implementation is Jan Rasgus, CECW-PD. If you have any questions, you may contact her at 202-761-4515. [📖](#)

Guidance Update

Lillian Almodovar – CECW-PG

Two Engineer Circulars recently published are of significant importance for planners. EC 1105-2-218 provides guidance and procedures for the implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into on March 2000 by the Department of the Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The MOA reflects the longstanding policy of both agencies to encourage the wise use of the flood plains. The MOA specifically prohibits the construction of flood damage reduction levees on lands or any interest therein acquired under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The restriction does not apply to levees built for ecosystem restoration. Exceptions to this policy can only be granted by ASA (CW) and FEMA.

EC 1105-2-219 describes procedures for the allocation of costs for multipurpose projects that include ecosystem restoration as a project purpose. The application of the separable costs-remaining benefits method when benefits are expressed in non-monetary terms, as is the case in ecosystem restoration projects, is discussed in detail in this EC. See the subsequent article for links to these EC's.

To meet our goal of maintaining the Planning Guidance up to date, CECW-PG is initiating a review of the appendices to ER 1105-2-100. The review is expected to be completed by the end of this fiscal year. We have received numerous comments that we will consider during this review. If you have comments or suggestions, please e-mail them to Harry Kitch or Lillian Almodovar. 

Training Available

John Buckley - CEHR-P-TO

Below are some PROPECT courses with space available that are related to planning and policy work. See <http://pdsc.usace.army.mil> for course information. Please contact John Buckley at 256-895-7431 if you have any questions.

CTL#	COURSE TITLE	LOCATION	TUITION	START	END
163*	Historic Structures II	Washington, DC	\$1,540	23-Apr-01	27-Apr-01
169*	Env Impact Assess	Huntsville, AL	\$1,140	26-Mar-01	30-Mar-01
263*	Coastal Ecology	Monterey, CA	\$2,760	5-Mar-01	9-Mar-01
264*	Ecos Pln/Mgt Issues	Vicksburg, MS	\$1,650	23-Jul-01	27-Jul-01
270*	Economic Analysis-WRP	Springfield, VA	\$1,300	05-Mar-01	09-Mar-01
273*	Wetland Eval	Mobile, AL	\$2,180	26-Mar-01	30-Mar-01
275*	Eng/Des Const Wetlands	Orlando, FL	\$2,150	5-Mar-01	9-Mar-01
276*	Wetlands Development	Apalachicola FL	\$2,100	12-Mar-01	16-Mar-01
28*	Dam Safety	Vicksburg, MS	\$1,530	7-May-01	10-May-01
280*	Ecosystem Restoration	Vicksburg, MS	\$1,970	11-Jun-01	15-Jun-01
285*	Streambank Eros/Prot	Vicksburg, MS	\$1,950	26-Mar-01	30-Mar-01
348*	Environ Rest/Plng/Eval	Seattle, WA	\$1,270	18-Jun-01	22-Jun-01
394*	Adv Streambank Prot	Vicksburg, MS	\$2,160	9-Apr-01	13-Apr-01
424*	Seagrass Mitigation	Juneau AK	\$1,650	16-Jul-01	20-Jul-01
427*	Env Req on Const Proj	Omaha, NE	\$610	07-Mar-01	08-Mar-01
439*	Const Wetlands	Olympia WA	\$1,880	30-Jul-01	03-Aug-01
440*	Hydro for Const Wetlands	Apalachicola FL	\$1,820	26-Feb-01	02-Mar-01
443*	Clean Air Act	Seattle, WA	\$440	06-Mar-01	08-Mar-01



Items of Note – On the Web

Ellen Cummings, CECW-PD

You can click on <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/usace-docs/> to get to the main publication page and then the “What’s New” link to keep track of the new publications. Recent publications of note:

- EC 1105-2-218, Implementation Procedures, MOA between FEMA and Department of the Army, HMGP and Flood Damage Reduction Projects, has been finalized and is now available. This document provides requirements and procedures for avoiding and/or resolving conflicts that arise when lands acquired through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) potentially impact ongoing Corps FDR projects. The Web address is <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/usace-docs/eng-circulars/ec1105-2-218/toc.htm>.
- EC 1105-2-219, Cost Allocation for Multipurpose Projects Including Ecosystem Restoration, is now available on the web at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/usace-docs/eng-circulars/ec1105-2-219/toc.htm>. This Circular provides policy and procedures for the allocation of costs for multipurpose projects that include ecosystem restoration as a project purpose.
- EGM 01-01 - Unit Day Values for Recreation, FY 2001, <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwp/egm01-01.PDF>

Other links of note:

- Interagency and Intergovernmental Support. The Interagency and Intergovernmental Program website contains information about the Corps reimbursable program for non-DOD entities. The site may be reached by going to either of the following URL locations: <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/organization/> and click on the *Interagency and Intergovernmental Support Office* block under the *Executive Office* or go directly to the site at the following: <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cecs/I/ISWWW/Web399/iishmpg.htm>. If you have any problems, questions, suggestions or comments please Al Bertini.
- Check out the Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange (DENIX) site at <http://www.denix.osd.mil>. This site serves as a one-stop shop for information on environmental policy and guidance especially for those working on military projects. Anyone may access the public menu; however, a user authentication is required to access the DOD, State, and International menus. Among items currently accessible is the DOD Coral Reef Protection and Implementation Plan that was finalized in October. The DENIX is a valuable tool that can be made even better through constructive criticism from our users. Please provide Bruce Wallace, CECW-ET-V, (703) 428-7335 with any feedback you wish to provide. Your input will be considered at the next DENIX Functional Working Group/Steering Meeting. 

New Residential Depth-Damage Functions Available from IWR *Stuart Davis - CEIWR*

A new set of generic residential depth-damage functions has been issued under the Corp's Flood Damage Data Collection Program. The damage functions have been approved for general use, and they apply to all single-family homes without basements in the United States that are subject to inland flooding. The structure and content damage functions were computed from seven case studies of actual flood damage in different regions of the country. Copies of the report are available from Stuart Davis at IWR, the Data Collection Program's principal investigator who can be reached at 703/428-7086. [📖](#)

WCSC to Use Manifest Data as the Primary Source of WCSC Foreign Waterborne Commerce Information *David L. Penick, CEIWR-NDC-C*

As a result of OMB's decision to transfer the responsibility for the U.S. Foreign Waterborne Transportation Statistics Program (FWTSP) from Census to the Corps, the Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center (WCSC) has been undertaking an evaluation of available datasets. Our evaluation demonstrates that the manifest-based data collected by Customs and available in digital form from the Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) and matched to Customs vessel movement file is clearly the better dataset for field use in navigation analysis.

The two drawbacks concerning the manifest-based dataset are the lack of good cargo value information, and less commodity specificity. Commodity value is not a data element in WCSC's current foreign/domestic waterborne commerce database, and the 10 digit trade commodity code is summarized down to WCSC's SITC3-based 5-digit commodity codes; so there is little loss in using the manifest-based data.

One other issue relates to data gaps in the PIERS coverage. Fortunately the gaps are discreet and separable: imports of crude oil into the Louisiana Offshore Oil Pipeline terminal and movements of commodities from and to U.S. protectorates (Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Marianas and other Pacific Islands.) The data to fill these gaps are available from Census and can be added to the PIERS data without fear of duplication.

We firmly believe that the manifest-based dataset provides more accurate, more useful and more complete information than the trade-based dataset that is currently used. In order to produce the best waterborne commerce statistics, both public domain statistics and detailed data records, we have decided to use the manifest-based dataset as the source of foreign import, export and in-transit data. The improved geographic accuracy of the manifest-based dataset will ensure that individual Corps projects are credited with the tonnage actually moved on them. We will also enhance our data elements, which will include inland origins and destinations, numbers of containers handled, and identification of ro-ro, reefer, and hazardous cargo. We are continuing to produce the trade-based import/export dataset for Corps applications that require it.

WCSC has purchased the CY 1997 and CY 2000 PIERS detail data (selected data elements) for Corps use, and we intend to purchase CY 2001 PIERS data. Corps offices may request extracts of the PIERS data from WCSC. Under our contract with PIERS, WCSC cannot furnish detailed PIERS data to

non-Corps offices. Any Corps office interested in purchasing CY 1998 or CY 1999 PIERS data from PIERS should contact WCSC before contacting PIERS, so we can discuss possible cost-sharing.

For further information contact Ms. Susan Hassett at 504-862-1453 or susan.hassett@usace.army.mil. 

Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership authorizes funds to MA for Section 22 Studies

William A. Hubbard - CENAE-EP-EE

Recently the Advisory Board of the newly established Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) in Massachusetts met to authorize funding of various Coastal America efforts. The Board authorized funds to be used for 7 projects, three of which are Corps Planning Assistance to States (PAS/Section 22) studies. Another is a research effort in association with an ongoing Corps Section 1135 project at the Sagamore Marsh, which has been funded by the Gillette Company.

The PAS studies included a wetlands restoration plan for the Charles River watershed in the greater Boston area with Polaroid, Genzyme and Boston Edison providing funds to the state for their 50% cost share. Another funded study is the continuation of a SuAsCo watershed wetlands restoration planning effort. SuAsCo is short for the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers watershed, just west of Boston. Raytheon Corporation provided the funding here. The third is the Narragansett Bay/Mount Hope Bay Shore and Ten Mile River watershed wetlands restoration plan that is funded with PG&E Generating Company support.

All of these eventually will result in projects to restore aquatic habitats. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs uses the Coastal America team as a clearing house to determine which federal programs are best to fund the actual restoration projects identified by the Section 22 studies. These have included NOAA's Community Restoration Program, FWS's Coastal Wetlands Restoration program and the Corps own Section 135, 206 and GI programs.

The CWRP will be expanding throughout the United States over the next few years. The National Advisory Council of the CWPR is currently soliciting lead corporations in each region of the country to organize the partnership, in association with state and federal agencies conducting habitat restoration projects. This is a great opportunity for the Corps staff to participate and obtain additional non-federal funding for CAP and GI projects. 

Status Report on the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Action Plan

Tom Pullen - CEMVD

The Action Plan describes a national strategy to reduce the frequency, duration, size and degree of summertime oxygen depletion in the hypoxia zone in the northern Gulf of Mexico (in 1999, the hypoxia zone reached its largest size ever). This oxygen depletion problem appears to be caused primarily by excess nutrients in the form of nitrate nitrogen entering the Gulf by way of the MS River. The primary origin of the excess nitrate is the Upper MS River Basin. Excess nitrate in the Gulf fuels

algal blooms, and decomposition of dead algae reaching bottom waters results in oxygen depletion under summertime conditions when Gulf waters become stratified due to temperature and salinity differences between surface and bottom waters.

The plan is the result of several years of study and coordination by the members of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force and numerous state and federal officials as well as private citizens (primarily agricultural and environmental interest groups). The Action Plan is being produced in accordance with the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998. The draft Action Plan was released for public comment on July 11, 2000 and is now being finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for submission to the President. Other state and federal agencies, including the Corps of Engineers, have provided support to EPA and the Task Force. Corps involvement with the effort was initially carried out through action by the office of the ASA (CW) and Corps Headquarters. After the initial meeting of the Task Force in December 1997, Corps involvement was delegated to the Mississippi Valley Division.

There are two primary means available for reducing the hypoxia problem in the Gulf. These are to reduce nitrogen loads from watersheds to streams and rivers in the Basin and to restore and enhance denitrification and nitrogen retention within the Basin. Preliminary model simulations suggest that a 40 percent reduction in total nitrogen movement to the Gulf is necessary to return to average loads comparable to those predating the appearance of the current hypoxia problem.

The next steps in the program are:

- Submit the Action Plan and a Budget Initiative to the President, and presumably to the Congress, early next calendar year.
- Implementation of major elements of the Action Plan should commence in FY 02 provided appropriate Congressional actions occur.
- Corps should complete a reconnaissance level study of project “retrofit” actions during FY 02 and begin implementation of worthwhile project modifications the following year, assuming funding is provided.

Additional information regarding the Action Plan may be obtained by contacting Dr. Tom Pullen with the Mississippi Valley Division at 601-634-5851 or tom.pullen@mvd02.usace.army.mil. 

Regional Sediment Management Demonstration Program

Lynn R. Martin - CEIWR-PD

The Corps recently initiated a National Regional Sediment Management Demonstration Program. This program will facilitate and examine application of regional approaches to managing sediment, improved coordination among Civil Works projects and activities, and collaborative multi-agency efforts in coastal regions. The RSM Demonstration Program is being coordinated by ERDC’s Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory with assistance from the Institute for Water Resources. Information about the program is available at: <http://216.83.232.123/>.

Regional sediment management (RSM) strives to maintain or enhance the natural exchange of sediment within the boundaries of the physical system, taking into account both economic and environmental concerns. A “region” may include a variety of geologic features, uplands, beaches, inlets, rivers, estuaries, and bays. Although the term “regional sediment management” is somewhat new,

recognition of the regional nature of coastal processes and the regional influence of engineering works is not.

The inter-relationship between coastal navigation projects and contiguous beaches became a Federal interest at least as early as the 1930s. The first sand bypassing systems at navigation projects, designed to reinstate net longshore sand transport to downdrift beaches, were put into operation in the mid-1930s at Santa Barbara, California (mobile plant) and South Lake Worth Inlet, Florida (fixed plant). Today's efforts add emphasis to improved coordination among the various Civil Works projects in a region, along with increased collaboration with state and local stakeholders.

RSM recognizes coastal projects as part of a system, rather than as individual isolated entities. It considers project effects that occur off-site and over time. RSM can result in reduced project costs, increased benefits, or both. Potential benefits may be associated with navigation maintenance cost reductions, storm damage reduction, erosion reduction, beneficial use of dredged material, ecosystem restoration, improvements to recreation, cultural resources, regional economic and social effects, along with business process improvements. RSM involves collaboration with many partner agencies and stakeholders, and is consistent with the Corps' watershed principles, as applied to coastal resources.

Mobile District initiated the first RSM Demonstration Project in Fiscal Year 2000. The demonstration area encompasses approximately 245-miles of coastal shoreline along the northern Gulf of Mexico. Information about this demonstration effort can be found at http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/sediment/sediment_homepage.htm. Other districts which are likely to begin RSM demonstrations in FY2001 include: Detroit, Jacksonville, New York, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles. Summary descriptions of these demonstration efforts will be discussed in future issues of *Planning Ahead*. The RSM Demonstration Program manager is Ms. Julie Rosati, 601-634-3005. 

Lessons Learned Report Available on Comprehensive River Basin Study

Gary Mauldin CESAD-CM-PE

The Mobile District recently completed a Lessons Learned Report in association with the Comprehensive Study for the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa and Appalachian-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basins. The Comprehensive Study employed an innovative equal partner approach for addressing and resolving complex and contentious water resources. The equal partners were the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The report identifies and discusses 89 Lessons Learned from the background circumstances leading to the state of Alabama filing a lawsuit against the Corps through the completion of the Comprehensive Study. Although many of the Lessons Learned are specific to this unique situation, districts participating in water resource partnership efforts may benefit from some of our Lessons Learned identified in the report.

Just a few of the Lessons Learned that may be of interests to others are:

- The allocation of water and management of shortages at Corps reservoirs draws considerable scrutiny and criticism. It is important to have up-to-date and defensible Water Control Plans in place when critical conditions occur.

- The media uses sensationalism to generate public interest. The Corps generally reacts to, or just absorbs media criticism. A more proactive public relations approach should be considered.
- The Congress looked to the Corps as the appropriate federal agency to address and resolve interstate water resource conflicts.
- Litigation can be a disruptive force or it can serve as an impetus for parties to seek ways to address and resolve conflicts.
- Equal partnership (veto power) gave the states an unprecedented voice in the conduct of a predominantly federally funded study. The equal partnership concept also contributed to most of the delays encountered.
- Success is not always measured by schedules met or strict adherence to budgetary estimates. Flexibility and patience are vital attributes in seeking to achieve mutual satisfaction among diverse interests.
- In a study of this nature, it would be virtually impossible to execute and administer traditional cost sharing agreements. Voluntary funding served to keep the states financially involved. A larger contribution by the states may have been an incentive for moving the study along.
- Moving the equal partnership concept from theory to practice was challenging and required considerable patience and perseverance to maintain relations and to sustain the partnership.
- The Corps desire to help "make things happen" can be counterproductive. Pressures from higher authority on a DE or the civilian staff can be detrimental to efforts to be a cooperative Partner.
- Water resource management encompasses a broad and diverse spectrum of federal agency involvement. Cooperating on the NEPA document provides a common focal point for interagency coordination.
- Technical and substantive issues are important; however, other values may have even more influence on decision-makers in the water resources arena.
- No single federal agency is designated as the federal water resources guru; the Corps is the best candidate to fill this important role.

Additional information or a copy of the Lessons Learned report can be obtained from Mr. Roger Burke, Mobile District, at 334-694-3809. [📖](#)

Hydro-Environmental Modeling Systems in Support of Water Resources and Environmental Quality Activities

Jeffrey Holland – ERDC-CHL-MS

The Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), along with its technical partners (including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy), has developed three hydro-environmental modeling systems. These three systems, the Surface Water, Watershed, and Groundwater Modeling Systems (SMS, WMS, and GMS, respectively) are being deployed for a wide range of water resources engineering and environmental quality activities both nationally and internationally. Each of these systems provides a common graphical user interface for the setup and execution of numerous hydrodynamic, hydraulic, water quality, and salinity, contaminant, and sediment transport models. The systems also provide integrated, single-point-of-entry to numerous databases, geographic information and CADD-based systems, parameter estimation and grid generation techniques, statistical methods, advanced visualization and animation, and numerous additional tools. Fly-through visualization is being added to the systems. The systems are supported on Windows 95, 98, 2000,

and NT platforms, and on UNIX workstations. There are also initial links between each of the three systems.

The SMS also has a generic (user-specified) model interface, supports a generic data interface, and provides a conceptual model approach to model setup. The SMS has a long history of use in navigation, flood control, salinity intrusion, water quality, wetland, and habitat restoration investigations. The system is being extended, particularly in the coastal area, at present to include coupled circulation and wave modeling capabilities.

The WMS is a comprehensive graphical user environment for performing hydrologic analysis. WMS provides automatic watershed and stream network delineation from digital elevation data and pre- and post-processing support. The WMS is presently being extended through the addition of water quality and contaminant transport capabilities. This combination of capabilities, along with WMS's extensive linkage capabilities to differing databases and GIS, present the system as an exceptional option for conducting watershed-scale studies such as TMDL (total maximum daily loading) investigations.

The GMS is perhaps the most advanced groundwater modeling system in the world. The system, developed specifically to support Department of Defense installation cleanup, has found applications ranging from contaminated site cleanup to contained dredged disposal facility design to mining operations.

USACE personnel can find additional information on each of these three systems at <http://chl.wes.army.mil/software/>. This link provides instructions for registration and downloading of these systems, along with full documentation on the models within the systems, technical support information, and points of contact. 

Upcoming Meetings

Compiled by Ellen Cummings

If you are aware of an upcoming meeting that may be of interest to others, please send a note with the address and brief description to Ellen Cummings or Harry Kitch. 

SAD Reallocation Workshop

Ted Hillyer - CEIWR-PD

The South Atlantic Division is sponsoring a "Workshop on Water Reallocations" for its districts' staff. The Mobile District will host the meeting at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, AL on 23-25 January 2001. The goal of the South Atlantic Division is to have at least an economist and hydrologist from each district within SAD. Representatives from Headquarters (Planning & Policy Division and Counsel), IWR and the NWD Hydropower Analysis Center will also be present. Representatives from districts in SWD and LRD have been invited to present case studies. The South Atlantic Division is sponsoring this Corps – only workshop as an effort to become more familiar with the requirements and procedures for conducting reallocation studies in the division. This is essential because of the recent increased interest in water supply caused by the current drought and by the reallocations which will be required when issues on the ACF-ACT are finally resolved. 

Deep Draft Navigation Data and Analysis Workshop *Arlene L. Dietz, CEIWR-NDC*

The Institute for Water Resources is organizing a Corps-only, Deep Draft Navigation Data and Analysis Workshop 7-9 March 2001 in Orange Beach, Alabama at the Perdido Beach Resort in cooperation with the Mobile District. The program will begin with an overview and informal icebreaker at 4 PM on 7 March and conclude by 5 PM on 9 March 2001. Topics addressed will include updates on current and prospective domestic and foreign data and statistics, and data applications in analytical and decision-making models. Both new and experienced Corps economists, planners and managers are encouraged to participate.

Mobile District is arranging for a boat tour of the Port of Mobile on Wednesday morning, 7 March, prior to the start of the conference. Attendees who wish to participate on the tour should advise Kim Otto at (334) 694-3842 (e-mail kimberly.p.otto@sam.usace.army.mil) to make arrangements. Space on the boat is somewhat limited. Attendees to the workshop should register by 20 February 2001 with Joyce Smith at 703-428-9061. She can e-mail copies of the agenda to those interested. For further information on technical subjects contact Arlene Dietz at 703-428-7071 or Ian Mathis at 703-428-7257.

Orange Beach can be easily reached from Pensacola, Florida or Mobile, Alabama; however, those intending to go on the boat tour should plan on using the Mobile Airport. Lodging reservations should be made directly to the Perdido Beach Resort. The hotel will hold the block of rooms until **5 February 2001**. The room rate, after the caller identifies him/herself as part of the Corps of Engineers, will be \$64 per night, the government rate. The telephone number of the Perdido Beach Resort is 1-800-634-8001 or (334) 981-9811. Their address is 27200 Perdido Beach Boulevard, Orange Beach, Alabama, 36561-3299.



Bats and Mines Forum Held in St. Louis *Chester O. Martin – ERDC-EL-MS*

A technical forum on “Bat Conservation and Mining” was held in St. Louis, MO, on 14-16 Nov 2000. The meeting was co-sponsored by the USDI Office of Surface Mines (OSM), Bat Conservation International (BCI), and Southern Illinois University, and was attended by approximately 120 representatives of federal and state agencies, universities, conservation organizations, and private firms. The purpose of the meeting was to share information on protecting bat habitat associated with underground and surface mines, and to exchange information on issues and technical concerns of government agencies, conservation organizations, and commercial mining interests. The three-day meeting consisted of approximately 50 presentations in the following sessions: (1) Why bats, (2) interest group perspectives, (3) bat protection and underground mining, (4) bat protection and surface mining, (5) program development, and (6) interest group recommendations. An extensive open discussion was held after each session.

Abandoned mines throughout the country serve as important sanctuaries for many bat species, and some mines have been identified as critical to the continued existence of local bat populations. Twenty-eight species of North American bats have been documented to occur in mines, including six species or subspecies federally listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; an additional 16 Species of Concern also use mines seasonally or year-round. Agency and interest groups

represented described their experiences, authorities, limitations, and opportunities regarding bat conservation and reclamation of bat habitat. It was emphasized that Abandoned Mine Land (AML) reclamation programs have the capability to either enhance or damage bat populations, depending on how individual projects are evaluated, designed, and constructed. Several papers provided details and design specifications on how to construct bat-friendly gates and protect bat habitat associated with mines. Agencies and organizations outlined their goals and strategies for protecting bat habitat, supporting the mining industry, improving safety, and developing standards for surveys and monitoring.

It is important that everyone involved in activities related to abandoned mines (from reduction of safety hazards to reduction of acid mine drainage) be aware of issues, restrictions, and available technology regarding mine modifications and sensitive bat species on federal lands. By considering these issues early in the planning phase alternatives may be developed that accommodate bats while addressing the project alternatives. You can contact the author at 601/634-3958 or chester.o.martin@erdc.usace.army.mil if you have any questions regarding the potential to impact bats at a proposed project. 

Mission Planning and Development Update

Rennie Sherman – CECW-PD

This column will provide updates on the interagency and non-governmental partnering activities of the CECW-PD staff, as well as the status of various Planning and Policy initiatives. Suggestions for future topics may be submitted to Ellen Cummings.

Clean Water Action Plan Retreat

Beverley Getzen, CECW-PD

The CWAP nationwide team met in Denver, CO, 14-16 November. Participants representing the various Regional Watershed Roundtables and Federal Coordinating Teams (FCT's) attended along with the Steering Committee members and some Action Team chairs. Bill Yellowtail, EPA Administrator in Denver, opened the meeting by discussing what he thought were some notable achievements in moving toward a stronger agenda for watershed restoration and protection as the means by which to reduce and control polluted runoff (non-point source pollution in the old parlance) most effectively. He expressed his desire to see senior leaders, not political appointees, "see the light" and spread the philosophy throughout their agencies at the program administration levels. Thus, he encouraged all participants to work to influence their senior leadership to adopt the watershed approach and to work more closely with partners from other agencies so that the Federal family can be seen as acting consistently and coherently. Whether or not the name "Clean Water Action Plan" continues may be irrelevant since the commitment to solving problems using the watershed approach, working in partnerships, will endure.

Representatives from Montana discussed the watershed assessment and planning processes used on the Blackfeet and Fort Peck Reservations with NRCS assistance. The Utah team focused on Animal Feeding Operations (AFO's) and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) and discussed how to deal with CAFO's on a watershed basis. Highlights from the various Regional Watershed Roundtables were also presented. These are also discussed in detail in the latest EPA Watershed Events newsletter,

copies of which are available from EPA (see below). Since the accumulated sets of issues and recommendations from the Regional Watershed Roundtables will provide the main focus of the agenda for the National Watershed Forum, all the participants were interested to hear what is emerging from these roundtables.

The National Watershed Forum will be held in Washington, DC, 27 June through 1 July 2001. There will be a limit on participants in order to ensure that the various regions and FCT's are included. Arrangements are being made for travel scholarships for local watershed representatives who might otherwise find it difficult to participate.

The Steering Committee presented the early findings for this year's progress report. So far, the CWAP teams have made remarkable achievements, completing 55% of the 111 Action Items in the CWAP. Another 39% are substantially or nearly complete. Major achievements this year include: the finalization of the Unified Federal Policy; the Coastal Monitoring and Research Strategy; the Source Water Protection agreement and its implementation; actions to implement the AFO/CAFO strategy; progress by the various states on Watershed Restoration Action Strategies; Watershed Assistance Grants; the Roundtables themselves; and the increasingly strong FCT's. Most importantly, two years of working closely have yielded greatly improved interagency collaboration and more meaningful partnerships in the regions.

The Denver group hosted a field visit along the Platte River through Denver to demonstrate what successes they have achieved in riverfront restoration—even though the temperature was hovering around 25 degrees Fahrenheit without the wind factored in! It has been Denver's experience that investing in the improvements along the river has greatly enhanced the desirability of older properties ripe for restoration themselves, bringing an influx of new developments and historic building restorations of both commercial and residential nature. Former industrial sites have become prime real estate. Thus, economic benefits were realized once the commitment was made to clean up and restore the Platte through the city. Now, surrounding municipalities are becoming interested in expanding the restoration work. 

EPA Watershed Events Newsletter

Those interested in receiving the EPA Watershed Events Newsletter should send a request to:

Melissa DeSantis
Tetra Tech, Inc
10306 Eaton Place, Suite 340
Fairfax, VA 22030
desanme@tetrattech-ffx.com



Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000 (PL 106-457)

Ellen Cummings – CECW-PD

The purpose of this act is “to improve and increase Federal, State, and local efforts and to provide funding to protect and enhance estuaries across the U.S. and to address other clean water-related matters.” Title I, “Estuary Restoration Act of 2000,” establishes a new estuary habitat restoration program under the Secretary of the Army and is the portion of the act most directly relevant to the Corps.

The other titles relate to various programs and projects primarily under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency. This act had wide agency and bipartisan support. It was championed by nongovernmental organizations such as Restore America's Estuaries. Estuary is defined to include the Great Lakes area and the act affects 30 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, Virgins Island, American Samoa, and Guam.

The "Estuary Habitat Restoration Council" consisting of representatives of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, the Department of Army and one ex officio member is established. This Council is to develop an estuary habitat restoration strategy designed to ensure a comprehensive approach to maximize estuary restoration benefits and to foster coordination of Federal and non-Federal activities. Additionally the Council is responsible for reviewing restoration proposals submitted by non-Federal interests and recommending to the Secretary of the Army a list of potential projects to implement. Criteria for the types of projects to be considered and selection criteria are included in the act. The conference report indicates that requirements are to include technical feasibility, merit and cost-effectiveness.

This is not to be a grants program but we are also not to prepare feasibility reports. The Federal share of the cost of implementing projects after development of the national strategy is not to exceed 65 percent except for projects involving innovative technology where the Federal share may be 85 percent. For projects pursued prior to the finalization of the national strategy the Federal share is not to exceed 25 percent. The non-Federal sponsor is responsible for providing required lands, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations. The non-Federal share may be provided in the form of work-in-kind and nongovernmental organizations may be sponsors. The non-Federal sponsor is responsible for OMRR&R including required monitoring.

The act includes an emphasis on monitoring. NOAA is assigned responsibility, in consultation with the Council, for developing and maintaining a database of information concerning estuary habitat restoration projects, data formats for monitoring projects and requirements for types of data collected and frequency of monitoring. Additionally, it is to compile relevant information from other sources. Authorization for appropriations to conduct this effort is included in the act.

The appropriations authorized for the Secretary of the Army total \$275 million distributed over the FYs 2001 through 2005. We currently have no funds to implement this act. Consideration will be given to including funding in the FY 2002 budget request. In addition to funding projects, a limited amount of funds may be used for the administrative expenses of the Council.

We are organizing a team to work with ASA (CW) staff on implementation of this act. ASA(CW) staff is arranging a meeting of representatives of the five named agencies on the Council to discuss the appropriate level of representation on the Council, the date of the first Council meeting and other related items. If you have any questions please contact Ellen Cummings at (202) 761-4558. [📖](#)

National Flood Proofing Committee Meeting

Ken Zwickl - CECW-PD

The Corps NFPC held its Fall meeting in Washington on 29-30 November 2000. Committee members include individuals from the South Pacific Division office, and the Omaha, Portland, Little

Rock, Tulsa, New Orleans, Detroit, Huntington, and Charleston Districts. During the one-and-a-half day meeting, the committee reviewed progress on ongoing activities, including development of a publication which will document successfully planned/implemented Corps nonstructural flood damage reduction measures. In addition, significant time was spent reviewing and updating the committee's five-year plan to further emphasize an expanded non-structural focus in flood damage reduction planning studies. The committee will be seeking technical advisors and/or new members for assistance in achieving these goals. Planners interested in participating on this committee may contact Larry Buss, Chair, Ken Zwickl, HQ Advisor or any committee member. Long-time committee member and Chair of the committee, Conrad Battreal, SWL, announced his retirement effective 30 December. We appreciate all his efforts. His knowledge, professionalism and energy will be missed! Larry Buss was selected as the new Chair of the committee, and Joe Remondini, was selected as Recording Secretary.

Larry Buss, Chair	NWO	(402) 221-4417
Joe Remondini, Recording Secretary	SWT	(918) 669-7197
Ken McGowan	NWP	(503) 808-4874
Joe Wanielista	LRE	(313) 226-6773
Falcom Hull	MVN	(504) 862-2539
Gene Barnes	LRH	(304) 529-5644
Chris Mack	SAC	(843) 746-2856
Clark Frentzen	SPD	(415) 977-8164
Ken Zwickl	HQ	(202) 761-1936



Instructions for Contributors to Planning Ahead

This newsletter is designed to improve the communication among all the planners and those we work with throughout the Corps. We hope that future editions will have mostly information and perspective from those of you on the front lines in the districts. We hope that these notes become a forum for you to share your experiences to help all of us learn from each other. We can't afford to reinvent the wheel in each office. We welcome your thoughts, questions, success stories, and bitter lessons so that we can share them on these pages. The articles should be short (2-3 paragraphs) except in some cases where you just have to say more.

- Use MS WORD, if at all possible
- Use "normal" style
- Use Times New Roman font, 11 point
- All text should be left justified with start of each paragraph indented by one tab stop.
- Each article should have short title with only initial letter of each word capitalized
- Following each title should be author's name and organization
- Last line should be contact information – phone number or e-mail address 

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Submissions Deadline

The deadline for material for the next issue is **8 January 2001**

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