

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy
Community



US Army Corps
of Engineers

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A Note from the Leader of the Planning Community of Practice

I hope you all had a happy and safe 4th of July. By now, you should be over your sunburns and indigestion. It is really a good thing we enjoy the greatest democracy in the world.

Recall that in an earlier *Planning Ahead*, I encouraged that “the sky is not falling” from a funding standpoint as regards the Planning program. As you know, our FY 07 General Investigations (GI) is only \$94 million and has been cause for considerable concern. We recently received the House and Senate markups with the House markup at \$128 million and the Senate markup at \$169 million. Even though there is still a conference pending, it appears the government recognizes the need for our planning services and will fund it appropriately. Along these lines, I encourage each of you to obtain and share the recent memo distributed by MG Riley which emphasizes the need for maintaining strong, planning capabilities. This memo can be found at: <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwp/news/RileyPEPMay06.pdf>.

Remember one of our primary messages is that improving the process is part of the mission. To that end, our PCA review and decision document Lean Six Sigma teams have completed their work with recommendations for significant savings in time. We will brief the Chief next week on these results and begin implementation plans right away so we should have implementation in place during FY 07. More to follow....

I am also happy to report we are making significant progress on the planning and policy website. This new site will replace all other existing planning websites, so look for it to launch very soon. We will ensure you don't miss it.

I leave you with a reminder to actualize some of our important key messages: (1) Lead the Corps in implementing regional and watershed holistic approach and (2) Incorporate external stakeholders as true partners in all aspects of planning and policy.

Tom Waters
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The Watershed Notebook – A Resource for Watershed Planning and Management

*by Jeff Lin & Amy A. Lee
Engineer Research and Development Center*

The Watershed Notebook (<https://swwrp.usace.army.mil>) is an online resource that provides information and reference links to assist watershed management teams in the planning, development, use, monitoring, regulation, and preservation of water and land resources. Tailored to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' role in watershed planning, protection, and restoration, the Notebook contains numerous relevant documents and information sources to help organize and implement a watershed management effort.

Since many Districts, Divisions, NGOs, Federal agencies, state agencies, and municipalities are engaged in watershed work, drawing on their knowledge and experiences is important for lending depth, knowledge, and credibility to the Watershed Notebook. For these reasons, the Watershed Notebook team coordinated with people in the field to identify organizations, references, and examples to include, and to insure accuracy. The Notebook is intended to be a "living" resource that will be periodically updated as new information is submitted. The team wants to learn from your experiences with watershed projects. Therefore, we are continuously seeking recommendations for helpful publications, guidance, or examples to include in the Watershed Notebook. If you have any material to input or suggestions for making this resource more useful to you, please contact us:

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New List Server List [ls-planning-cop] Created for Corps Planning Community of Practice

Jon Brown, Buffalo District

A new list server list, **ls-planning-cop**, was launched at the 2006 Planning CoP Conference in San Francisco to serve as a communication tool for the Planning Community of Practice across the Corps. ls-planning-cop is one of 74 current lists maintained by the CEEIS e-Mail team in Portland. List Server acts like an email distribution list by enabling users to transmit individual email messages to multiple recipients. But unlike a distribution list, the service allows for messages to be sent to a specific group of self-selected recipients based on their interest in a specific topic. As of this writing, there are over 70 Corps subscribers to the ls-planning-cop list.

The intent of the list is to allow a forum for discussion of water resource planning issues, but can be used to efficiently share Corps planning news and information. Because the discussion threads are not moderated and may occasionally contain sensitive information, it was decided, on a trial basis, to initially restrict the list to exclusively Corp employees (i.e. with usace.army.mil suffix). Because our community extends beyond the Corps, we will consider opening the list to those outside the Corps upon reviewing the content after an evaluation period.

Info File For List <ls-planning-cop>

Planning Community of Practice forum to discuss current and potential future water resources planning issues, including problem identification, plan formulation, economic and environmental topics related to the Corps primary mission areas, civil works policy, public involvement and any other planning issues facing the Corps.

Any Corps employee interested in subscribing to this list should send an email message to majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil with the subject line left blank and only the following single line of text in the message body: subscribe **Is-planning-cop**

Once you have subscribed, you can send a message to the list by using this address: ls-planning-cop@lst.usace.army.mil

Another Corps list of potential interest to Planning Ahead readers is **Is-econ-cop**. The info file for this list is: *Discussion group for the US Army Corps of Engineers Economics Community of Practice (CoP) regarding evaluation methodologies, data analysis, information sites, computer applications, etc.* This list currently has 41 members.

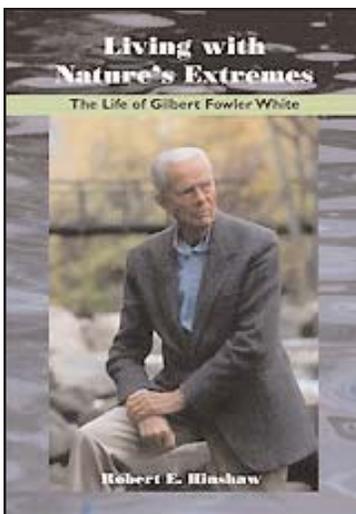
The Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Environmental Community of Practice Conducts Video Teleconference on “Environmental Dredging”

by Hank Jarboe, Great Lakes & Ohio River Division

On May 18, 2006, the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) Environmental Community of Practice (ECoP) conducted a video teleconference (VTC) on Environmental Dredging. The VTC was hosted by the LRD Regional Ecosystem Restoration Center at the Division Office in Cincinnati, OH. The VTC was broadcasted to the District and Division offices of LRD and the Wilmington District office of the South Atlantic Division (SAD). There were an estimated 72 participants in attendance throughout both Divisions. This VTC was the second successful endeavor of the LRD ECoP to include the offices of two Corps Divisions. Noel Clay was instrumental in coordinating the cooperative venture within the Wilmington District Office. The LRD Division office opened the VTC by presenting an overview of the ECoP topic and provided the purpose and objective of the VTC. The main VTC was presented in two segments. The first segment was provided by Jan Miller of the Chicago Office of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. Mr. Miller discussed perceptions of environmental dredging projects, rules and applicable regulations and procedures, beneficial uses, confined disposal, related authorities for environmental dredging with emphasis on the 312 Environmental Dredging authority, practical issues and observations, and gave an overview of many of the environmental dredging projects of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. The VTC segment that followed was delivered by Carmen Rozzi of the Pittsburgh District. The subject of the presentation was a case history of a Pittsburgh District ecosystem restoration project on the Mahoning River in Pennsylvania. The VTC concluded with an open session involving all offices. The open session included specific questions and answers, and a general discussion where there was a sharing of professional experiences and information. The VTC PowerPoint presentations for this ECoP session can be accessed from the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division ECoP Knowledge Dispatch website located at <https://dispatch.lrd.usace.army.mil/cop/environmental/> in the folder titled “LRD Environmental Community of Practice VTC Presentations. For additional information or comments on this or any previous LRD ECoP presentations please contact Dr. Hank Jarboe at (513) 684-6050 or by e-mail at hank.jarboe@lrdor.usace.army.mil.

Living with Nature's Extremes: A New Biography of Gilbert White

by Stuart Davis, Institute for Water Resources



Gilbert White's influence on floodplain management in the United States dates back to when he served as an advisor in Franklin Roosevelt's first term as president. After more than 70 years, Professor White lives in Boulder, Colorado where he founded the University of Colorado's Natural Hazards Research and Applications Center. Since the 1930's White has earned the reputation as the "father of floodplain management." One accomplishment was as chairman of President Johnson's Task Force on Flood Control Policy producing, *A Unified National Program for Management of Flood Losses (1966)*, which led to the creation of the National Flood Insurance Program. Another was his doctoral dissertation, *Human Adjustment to Floods: A Geographical Approach to the Flood Problem in the United States (1945)*. He also taught and mentored many students as president of Haverford College and as a professor at the University of Chicago and the University of Colorado. The Corps is fortunate to have his collected papers housed and cataloged at the Institute for Water Resources Maas-White Library.

Professor White is the subject of a wonderfully illustrated biography, *Living with Nature's Extremes*, by Robert E. Hinshaw. The book was published this year by Johnson Books, division of Big Earth Publishing in Boulder, Colorado. The book covers many of the high-

lights of White's life and career. Hinshaw has been friends with White for decades and he had access to great deal of material. Hinshaw has illustrated the book with many remarkable photos from White's career and personal life. The book is also filled with a description of the many facets of White's legacy and the implications of that legacy to our future.

Living with Nature's Extremes is available from Johnson Books division of Big Earth Publishing for \$26.50 plus \$4.50 for shipping and handling. Orders can be made by calling 800/258-5830.

President Signs FY 2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill; Senate begins work on FY 2007 Energy and Water Appropriations Legislation

by Ken Lichtman, Institute for Water Resources

FY 2006 supplemental Funding

On June 15th President Bush signed into law, Public Law 109-234, the "Fiscal Year 2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery." Of the \$94.5 billion appropriated in the law, the Corps received approximately \$4 billion to continue funding of the activities associated with the reconstruction of the hurricane protection system in the New Orleans area following Hurricane Katrina and other hurricane-related initiatives. Appropriation levels by category are as follows:

Investigations	\$3,300,000
Construction	\$549,400,000
Operations and Maintenance	\$3,200,000
Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies	\$3,145,024,000

The legislation also contained funding to construct flood protection features in the Sacramento, California area (\$30.4 million); funding to support the Hawaii water systems technical assistance program (\$2 million); funding to restore Federal navigation channels and harbors along the Texas Gulf Coast following last Fall's hurricanes (\$3.2 million); and restored funds for flood protection projects in Pennsylvania damaged in previous disasters (\$16 million). Congressional direction and a joint explanatory statement of the members of the Conference Committee are provided in the report of the committee, a link to which is provided below.

A link to conference report, H.R. Report 109-494, which accompanies the Public Law 109-234 is provided (references to the Corps of Engineers' activities begin in Title II, Chapter 3, beginning on page 36): http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_reports&docid=f:hr494.109.pdf

Senate Action on FY 2007 Energy and Water Appropriations

On June 29th the Senate Appropriations committee approved a \$30.7 billion Energy and Water Development appropriations bill for FY 2007. The bill included funds in the amount of \$5.139 billion for the Corps' Civil Works activities. The Energy and Water Development appropriations bill now goes before the entire Senate for consideration, before going to conference with the House to address differences between the two appropriations bills. Last month, the House approved a funding level of \$5 billion for the Civil Works program. The Senate Appropriations' funding level of \$5.139 billion for the Corps is \$406.4 million greater than President Bush requested in for the Civil Works program this past February and is \$155.6 million greater the House version of the FY 2007 Energy and Water appropriations bill.

A table summarizing the fiscal year 2006 enacted appropriations, the President's fiscal year 2007 budget request, the approved House FY 07 funding level and the Senate funding levels are shown on page 5:

Account	FY 2006 Enacted (000's)	FY 2007 Request by President (000's)	FY 2007 Approved by House (000's)	FY 2007 Approved by Senate Appropriations Committee (000's)
Investigations	\$162,360	\$94,000	\$128,000	\$168,500
Emergency appropriations (PL 109-148)	\$37,300			
Construction	\$2,348,280	\$1,555,000	\$1,947,171	\$2,042,000
Emergency appropriations (PL 109-148)	\$101,417			
Recission			- \$56,046	
Flood Control, Miss. River and Tribs.	\$396,000	\$278,000	\$290,607	\$450,000
Emergency appropriations (PL 109-148)	\$153,750			
Operations and Maintenance, general	\$1,969,110	\$2,258,000	\$2,195,471	\$2,030,000
Emergency appropriations (PL 109-148)	\$327,517			
Regulatory Program	\$158,400	\$173,000	\$173,000	\$168,000
FUSRAP	\$138,600	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$140,000
Flood Control and coastal emergencies		\$81,000	\$32,000	\$32,000
Emergency appropriations (PL 109-148)	\$2,277,965			
General expenses	\$152,460	\$164,000	\$142,100	\$164,000
Emergency appropriations (PL 109-148)	\$1,600			
Office of the Assistant Sec. of the Army(CW)	\$3,960		\$1,500	
Total-Dept of Defense-Civil	\$8,288,719	\$4,733,000	\$4,983,803	\$5,139,000
Appropriations	(\$5,329,170)	(\$4,733,000)	(\$4,983,803)	
Emergency appropriations	(\$2,899,549)			

A copy of the approved bill by the Senate Appropriations committee was not available at the time of the release of this issue of *Planning Ahead*. The legislation along with the Appropriation committee's report will be published in next month's issue. For those interested in accessing the House approved version of the FY 2007 Energy and Water appropriations bill and accompanying committee report, and the Senate approved legislation (not yet available) and Senate Appropriations committee report (also not yet available), go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app07.html>, then scroll down to "Energy and Water."

The Corps in the Federal City - - A Work of History as Admirable as Our Record of Engineering Achievement

Paul Rubenstein, Headquarters

Spend enough time in our Nation's Capital and you tend to forget the marvels and amazing places that contribute to the history of the District of Columbia. The city loses much of its meaning when you cross the Potomac River in pre-dawn darkness, drive the same few streets to your workplace, then head home the same route all the while focussed on the cars ahead and the latest radio traffic report.

Now, however, author Pamela Scott illuminates the history and development of the Federal City with *Capital Engineers: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Development of Washington, D.C., 1790-2004*. Under the direction of Dr. Paul Walker, Chief of the Corps Office of History and Project Manager Dr. William Baldwin, Ms. Scott has revised and expanded Albert E. Cowdrey's out-of-print volume entitled *A City for the Nation: The Army Engineers and the Building of Washington, D.C., 1790-1967*.

Capital Engineers is a world-class volume that has little in common with standard government publication of facts and figures. Ms. Scott, teaming with the Corps Jean Diaz and historical photo researcher Douglas Wilson, built on Cowdrey's earlier work through the use of improved and current illustration and mapping digital technology. Maps and charts that were previously too large or in too deteriorated a condition could be scanned and included as very effective illustrations. The text is clear, precise and expertly woven in and around illustrations to present an eminently readable history of people, places and events associated with the Corps and its important role in the story of Washington, D.C.

That story begins with Major Peter Charles L'Enfant's 1791-2 grand plan for "the sanctuary of the laws which must one day rule all of North America" (*Washington Gazette, 1796*) and continues to the near present with Lieutenant General Ballard's commitment to refurbish the aging school infrastructure of the city. In between are a series of remarkable stories of planning, construction, design, re-design and yet more re-design of a city that presents the strength, grandure, diversity and promise of the United States to the world.

The book is extremely well organized by time periods and by projects and programs occurring within those times. Ms. Scott and the many historian advisors that contributed to the volume provide the reader with a sense of the tremendous growth and development of Washington in its short history as well as the huge role that the Corps has played in virtually every aspect of the city's design, construction and operation. From the beginning, Army engineers charted the open landscape, helped to lay out the basic city design, built and manned the many forts that prevented the city's capture by Confederate forces and contributed to the building of the United States Capitol that we know today.

Through the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds and under the leadership of a series of Engineer Commissioners the Corps supplied the city with water and other essential civic services; built the bridges, many of the monuments and a number of the most enduring public offices and agency headquarters that are prominent in today's cityscape. The Corps set the course for the modern era with the building of the Pentagon, the rebuilding of the White House, the design and administration of Arlington National Cemetery and, more recently, through highway planning and urban redevelopment.

The book produces the unavoidable feeling that everything associated with the history of the District of Columbia is big, monumental and incomplete until it is adorned with columns. But the careful reader will find numerous accounts of individuals and stories of small things that may be largely forgotten in time but have huge import. Two of my favorites involve Colonel Ulysses S. Grant III and Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy. Colonel Grant, the President's grandson, was the first director of the newly organized Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks in 1926. Colonel Grant was known to be a hard worker, a demanding supervisor and a man of personal eccentricities. He was known to be impatient with visitors to his office and so, in winter, he wore heavy underwear to work and turned off the office heat. Visitors would soon grow uncomfortable in the cold and exit the place in short order.

One of the many tragic notes associated with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Friday, November 22, 1963, was the Kennedy family's interest in a rapid burial for the slain president. Mrs. Kennedy confirmed the interment would be at Arlington Cemetery on Monday, November 25th and expressed her interest that an eternal flame burn at the gravesite. Chief of Engineers Lieutenant General Wilson was assigned the task of having the flame ready for the burial service and he assigned Commandant of the Engineer School, Major General Cassidy the job of readying the eternal flame

within 30 hours. Cassidy and a team of engineers from the school spent that period creating a device by welding metal strips, a luau lamp and some barbeque propane tanks together. The whole assemblage was taken to the gravesite shortly before the mourners arrived and quickly buried and covered with plant material. With only one test in advance, Mrs. Kennedy ignited and lit the flame as part of the burial service. The makeshift contraption worked for more than a year and eventually a permanent burial site and eternal flame were prepared for President Kennedy in 1967.

In many ways, the development of the Federal City mirrors the development of the country and the Corps has played an integral part in both. This is a book that will make you proud of our accomplishments as a Nation and a Federal entity - - but it also demonstrates that change is constant and generates excitement for what will appear in the next edition.

You can receive your own copy of this remarkable work by writing to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Publications Depot, 2803 52nd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781-1102; or, you can fax your request to 301-394-0084.

PLANNING ASSOCIATES UPDATE

by Clyde R. "Randy" Campbell, Huntington District.

The 2006 Planning Associates (PAs) returned to the east coast for their next stops with trips to Philadelphia, PA for instruction on hurricane and storm damage reduction and then on to Huntington, WV for inland navigation.



Philadelphia Skyline

The course in the storied historical city of Philadelphia was hosted by Tom Pfeifer and Ivan Damaso, of the New York District, and Jeff Gebert of the Philadelphia District. The class was greeted by LTC Ruch, the soon to be outgoing District Engineer of the Philadelphia District. His openness and directness was greatly appreciated by the class and we wish him well on his next assignment with the 1st Cavalry Division at Ft. Hood, TX. After the welcome, it was directly to work with the introduction of the fact that 35 million people, one out of eight in the US, lives within 100 miles of the New Jersey shore...and at risk from storm damage.

Instructors such as Keith Watson, Lynn Bocamazo, Randy Wise, Chris Rasmussen, Diana Rahoy, Rich Ring, Beth Brandreth, Mark Burlas, Dave Moser, Mike Wutkowski, Don Cresitello, Joe Gavin, Dan Haubner, Ellis Clairain, Monica Chasten, Pete Blum and Steve Couch worked hard to explain issues and concepts that varied from the causes of hurricanes to the intricacies of the littoral drift of sand.

To those not from coastal districts, it was surprising in the amount of work that has been done to prevent damages to the coastal habitat, both human and natural, from storms. The coastal districts have been working for many years to provide sound engineering and environmental based solutions to coastal challenges. The complex intertwining of beaches, bays, and inlets was explained by Lynn Bacamazo and Chris Rasmussen, while Randy Wise explained to us how dunes and berms are placed and how to calculate the damages they will prevent.

Dr. Dave Moser was on hand from IWR to discuss the Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction (HSDR) modeling efforts and the work that is ongoing in the Hurricane Katrina and Rita areas. Don Cresitello and Joe Gavin presented examples of Hurricane Evacuation studies and the work that is being done to help the City of New York with their tremendous problem of evacuation in the event of a hurricane riding into the harbor. While seemingly the concept of an overactive imagination in Hollywood, one must remember that it HAS happened in the past and is likely to happen again.

A day long field trip along the New Jersey shore from Cape May in the south to Whale Beach, just south of Atlantic City, provided opportunities to get first hand experience in what finished and under construction coastal projects looked like. A mild Nor'easter blowing in our face gave a hint of the power of the ocean during a storm. Climbing sea walls made of solid granite boulders weighing several tons, yet tossed aside during high wave incidents gives new understanding of the awesome power of the ocean. The trip highlighted the problems and opportunities involved in these undertakings. At Cape May, for example, a coastal protection project with environmental considerations provides erosion reduction for a historic lighthouse as well as a former Coast Artillery site that once provided defense from U-Boats operating along the coast. Further north along the coast we saw where sand migrating along the littoral drift was being bunched up at one shore and

deficient at the adjacent one down drift of an inlet. This “thieving” of sand by the inlet is a problem that can best be addressed by the concept of regional sediment management, something we in the Corps are beginning to grapple with. Much hope for the future is contained in the use of this concept.

As a wrap up on the last day, a spirited discussion was held with a panel consisting of Joan Pope of HQUSACE, Dan Dorfman of The Nature Conservancy, Ben Keyser of the NJ DEP, Harry DeButts of the City of Avalon, NJ, Howard Marlowe of Marlowe and Co. a Washington based lobbyist, Tony Pratt of the Delaware DNREC and Dr. Scott Douglass, author of Saving America’s Beaches. The informative, honest and downright entertaining exchange of information, experiences, war stories and opinions was a show that ranked with anything you would see in a theatre.



White Water Rafting Group

While traveling between Philadelphia and Huntington, the PAs took the opportunity to enjoy the adventure of white water rafting on the New River in West Virginia. Ten of the group donned life jackets, helmets and paddles and spent the day being splashed, dunked, tossed, spindled, rinsed and finally dried on one of the oldest rivers on the continent. To those who had not experienced the river before, it was quite a wake up being thrust into a torrent of roaring white water almost immediately after getting into the boats. Experienced and reliable guides made the trip enjoyable with tales of the river and the history, both human and natural, along the way. It was a tired, but exhilarated bunch that arrived in Huntington ready to take on the next challenging instructional course.

The last part of this two week trip was spent in Huntington, WV where Dave Weekley and Mark Hammond hosted us with a detailed course in Inland Navigation, the stealth industry of the country’s transportation system.

After the opening remarks by the Deputy District Engineer, MAJ Matt Orenstein, we were greeted by Dave Greer of IWR, Mike Worley, Chief of Planning in LRH, “Tab” Brown, Chief of LRD Planning. BG Bruce Berwick and COL William Bulen were unable to attend the Monday session, but did stop in on Tuesday morning to meet this year’s class while on their way to a town hall meeting.

Course instructors for this session included John LaRandeau, Richard “Gus” Drum, Janet Cote of LRH, Dick Ash, Wes Walker and Dale Kelz of the Navigation Planning Center, Randy Curlee and Larry Bray of the TVA, Mark Lisney of IWR, Tom Sworr and Larry Dalton.



It is unfortunate that the general public has little if any idea how much traffic is carried safely on the nation’s waterways...one 15 barge tow on the Ohio River, for example, carries the same amount of tonnage as does over 830 trucks on the nations highways. It is not a far stretch to imagine the carnage that would ensue if even more truck traffic was forced onto already crowded highways in such cities as Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Memphis, St. Louis and New Orleans.

All of the instructors took great pains to show us the importance of the inland navigation system to the nation’s economy. David Grier also informed us that over 50% of our lock chambers are over 50 years old and are requiring increasing maintenance and repair costs. Unfortunately, in terms of constant dollars, the amount of money available for O&M has been flat or slightly decreasing while at the same time the amount of traffic going through the locks has been steadily increasing.

Currently, relatively few containers move by barge, but Gus Drum of the Huntington District presented an interesting talk of the potential intermodal possibility from the modification of the rail routes from Norfolk, VA to Prichard, WV. The elimination of a few tunnels and low overpasses would allow the railroads to double stack containers and ship them far more economically than they are now. A new facility constructed at this site would increase jobs and allow for easy and effective transformation between the modes of rail, truck and water travel. This cost savings could in turn be passed on to consumers and customers. The potential to move non-time sensitive cargo by barge is exciting and shows great promise for growth in the future.

Dale Kelz, Dick Ash, Mark Linsey and Dr. Randy Curlee gave presentations on the existing method of tracking traffic through the locks and the amount of tonnage shipped each year. These records are used in models to forecast the amount and type of traffic that will be present on the system in coming years. As with any forecast there's always uncertainty, but great pains are taken to show the effects of various scenarios and their impact upon the forecast. Doctor Larry Bray of the Tennessee Valley Authority showed the river system is also used for more than simple bulk cargo with examples such as Army National Guard equipment movements and the solid rocket boosters for the space shuttle. Without the waterways, the movements of certain cargoes and features would simply not be possible.



An all day field trip to the Marmet and Winfield Lock and Dams was held on Wednesday. We were given the opportunity to tour the construction site at Marmet, and then boarded the river tow J. S. Lewis to travel down the Kanawha River to the Winfield Lock and Dam. It was a beautiful day to be on the river and the crew and river pilots provided an excellent historical and operational tour of the numerous facilities alongside the river. Upon reaching the lock, we offloaded the boat and watched as commercial traffic passed through the lock. The dwarfing sense of scale at a project like this and speed at which the Corps staff assisted the towing industry was remarkable.

A panel discussion was held with David Foulke (Marathon Petroleum), Rick Heimann (AK Steel) and Mario Munoz (American Commercial Barge Line). These representatives of private industry gave an interesting viewpoint of the Corps' role in the development and operation of the nation's waterways transportation system. It was a different perspective than what we have traditionally been exposed to.

For example, the AK Steel company tries to maintain a 90 day inventory of iron ore at their facilities. Any time there's a disruption to the navigation system such as an unexpected or unforecast lock closure, it has a great impact on their costs and ability to operate. For the representative from Marathon Petroleum, a lock closure forces them into much higher transportation costs to ship by either rail or truck. This also increases the amount of trucks on the highway and the number of trains crossing highways, which has a direct effect on accidents and fatalities.

On Friday we took a short field trip to the Robert C. Byrd Lock and Dam. This gave us the opportunity to tour an environmental mitigation site where the state of West Virginia operates a fish hatchery adjacent to the project area. Here, they are attempting to restock endangered species, including the paddle fish, back into the Ohio River system. This species has been making somewhat of a recovery over time as the river has been cleaned up as a consequence of a Clean Water Act and the fish from the hatchery will be used to help the species reestablish itself into the river system. Sport fish are also spawned and raised here, much to the praise and delight of the fishing public.

We also met with Ben Borda, the New River Navigator, who gave us a tour of the Jenkins historical site and the adjacent environmental restoration project. The site comprises over 97 acres of wetlands and river bottom habitat and is operated in partnership between the Corps and the State of West Virginia to mitigate the environmental impacts of the construction of the new chambers of the Byrd Lock and Dam. Ben is one of two individuals in the Corps designated as a Navigator, whose role is to help "navigate" private and public groups within the watershed towards common goals.

Finally, Garry Loss of the Rock Island district gave us an insider's view of what happened on the Upper Mississippi River study. The information he presented and his discussion of the personalities and time frame in which all this occurred was extremely informative. His forthright discussion about the study and its effects upon the Corps as a whole was very, very valuable. It was amazing to me and other members of the class how the information presented in the media was not an accurate reflection of the true happenings in the study.

As always, the instructors and staff support on these courses went above and beyond to give us an informative and interesting experience. I cannot speak highly enough, or thank them enough for their efforts and consideration that they gave us. The Planning Associates Class of 2006 has been fortunate indeed to have been associated with such a fun and knowledgeable group of experts.

For further reading on these subjects, I recommend Dr. Scott Douglass' *Saving America's Beaches and Uncommon Carriers* by John McPhee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** Job Announcements****

Sacramento District is currently recruiting one **GS-12 multidisciplinary Plan Formulation Specialist** and *potentially* a second GS-12 plan formulation specialist. Come join the wonderful team in the great state of California. Please see the Army Personnel Civilian web page for the recruitment announcements.

PLANNING CoP CALENDAR

Planning Ahead submission deadline.....third Friday of every month

If you would like to post an item to the monthly calendar, please contact Monica Franklin at:
Monica.A.Franklin@usace.army.mil.

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE 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, and should be a MS Word document. We highly encourage you to send pictures to accompany your article.

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue is: Friday, August 25, 2006.

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