

# PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy Community



US Army Corps of Engineers

Second Quarter 2011

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## A Note from the Chief of the Planning Community of Practice

Greetings fellow planners,

Several folks have been asking what has happened with *Planning Ahead*. I am pleased to let you know that it has returned with a new focus and the intent is that it will be issued quarterly. In the interim, we have been very busy focusing on the Planning Program and working on several initiatives for this fiscal year. We have been working the development of five initiatives with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) as a response to continued concerns with our ability to deliver water resources studies and projects. The five initiatives focus on (1) strengthening collaborative relationships; (2) supporting the authorization process; (3) modernizing the Planning Program; (4) advancing the Planning Program; and (5) improving execution. I will briefly touch upon each area.

*Strengthening collaborative relationships:* Strengthening collaborative relationships is a key component of what we do as Planners and we have a key role in making this happen. Now more than ever, it is vitally important that we continue to engage with our stakeholders and partners. Current efforts to strengthen collaborative relationships include participation in place-based watershed initiatives such as the California Bay Delta, the Great Lakes, and the Gulf Coast; revisions to public involvement, collaboration and coordination guidance; re-tooling Civil Works Customer survey; and maintaining and nurturing interagency relationships to include the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

*Supporting the authorization process:* From development and coordination of legislative drafting services to education of others on authorities and the authorization process, Planners need to lead efforts to support the authorization process. Planners need to also be key players in the development of implementation guidance for enacted legislation and identification of policy proposals for future authorizations. Supporting the authorization process also includes appropriate completion of feasibility studies that result in a Chief of Engineers Report. Currently we have 14 studies that we are tracking closely that are targeted to complete and result in a Chief's Report by the end of the calendar year.

*Modernizing the Planning Program:* The Modernizing the Planning Program initiative focuses on the Corps of Engineers response to Congressional mandates for changes in processes. We have developed a mitigation database to monitor progress towards meeting our environmental commitments. We have developed implementing guidance for the conduct of Independent External Peer Review and completed a three year report to Congress on the progress of

IEPR. We are also closely participating in the Council of Environmental Quality's efforts to revise the existing 1983 Principles and Guidelines. We also convened a group of Planners to look at how we can conduct studies in a more timely fashion while maintaining the appropriate level of quality and as a result we have initiated a National Planning Pilot Program.

*Advancing the Planning Program:* There are three main categories within the Advancing the Planning Program initiative including building planning capability and leadership; enhancing planning processes and tools; and improving Planning Centers of Expertise. We have initiated a National Planner Certification Program Pilot; developed a new and much improved [Planning website](#), and conducted a review of the six Planning Centers of Expertise. We have included some funding for the Planning Centers of Expertise in the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget and in the Fiscal Year 2011 Workplan and we are working on enhancing the role of the Deep Draft and Inland Navigation Planning Centers of Expertise.

*Improving Execution:* The final initiative we have been focusing on is improving execution. Last fiscal year, the General Investigations Program had its highest carryover ever. I recently had an all hands meeting with the District and Division Planning Chiefs and talked about the importance of improving Planning Program execution; Districts working together more closely to achieve expected outcomes; and the importance of delivering a quality product. They also heard directly from a key Congressional staff member and key stakeholders on how important quality, timeliness and delivery are to them.

Though the planning process is sound and provides a structured, rational approach to decision making challenges associated with planning capability, quality, funding, study duration and the review process threaten our ability to remain relevant. The Corps must change how we deliver water resources projects. Our selection for this year's Planning Excellence Award (Ms. Jane Ruhl of Louisville District for her leadership of the Natomas, CA Study) and the Outstanding Planning Achievement Award (Cedar Rapids, Iowa Study Team) both embody attributes and characteristics we need in the future. Ms. Ruhl focused her talents outside of her district and division to help Sacramento District deliver on a complex study in a timely fashion and the Cedar Rapids, IA Study was focused on delivering a study within a two year time frame after the flood of 2008.

I challenge each and every one of you to learn more about these initiatives and help to contribute to achieving these initiatives. Together, we can do something great!

Essayons,

Tab

Theodore A. "Tab" Brown, P.E., SES  
Chief, Planning and Policy, HQUSACE  
Directorate of Civil Works  
Planning Smart, Building Strong

## PLANNING CoP NEWS

### PLANNING CoP HAPPENINGS

By Susan Hughes  
Deputy Chief of Planning Community of Practice  
USACE Headquarters

It's been awhile since the last issue of *Planning Ahead*, as the Planning Community of Practice (CoP) has been busy implementing various initiatives geared to improving Planning and positioning us for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One of the initiatives relates to Planning CoP communications and we have been revising the *Planning Ahead* newsletter as we work to develop a new and improved Planning Website. There are a number of Planning modernization initiatives underway and Mr. Theodore "Tab" Brown, Chief of the Planning CoP, addressed these initiatives at the June 2011 Planning Chiefs meeting in Park City Utah. The highlights of our efforts to date are described below.

- *New Planning Website* – A year long effort to improve the communication vehicle in the Planning CoP, and make it easier for Planners and others to find guidance, came to fruition with the launching of the [Planning Toolbox](#). This was a collaborative effort of the PCoP, IWR and ERDC, and Planners from across the Nation. Our intent is that all Planners use this new website as their home page, and provide feedback and suggestions for updates and improvements to us on a regular basis. Through your use and suggestions we intend to continually update and improve the website. Ultimately the planning [SharePoint site](#) will be used only as a collaborative working tool. All guidance and other information once final will be moved to the Planning Toolbox.
- *Planning Ahead* – We have focused our efforts this Fiscal Year on the development of the new Planning Website and have agreed we should issue the *Planning Ahead* newsletter quarterly. Each month we will provide a shortened version of the newsletter to update all on the new information or actions taken that month that have been posted to the Website.
- *Planning Program Execution* – Major General William T. Grisoli, Deputy Commanding General for Civil Works and Emergency Operations, signed a [memorandum](#) dated 14 Jan 2011 concerning the modernization of the Civil Works Planning program. MG Grisoli directed Major Subordinate Command (MSC) and District commanders to engage in Planning to support initiatives and specifically to participate in

Civil Works Program Review Boards and Directorate Management Reviews to track Planning milestones, conduct Planning Program Reviews and improve execution and delivery of Planning products. In addition MG Grisoli signed a memorandum dated 12 July 2011 requesting compliance with existing guidance on study reclassification. Planning will lead this initiative with Programs support. A follow on action "Reset" will review active studies that have funding and that have been funded for 10 years or more to determine if the study should continue as is, be terminated, or be re-scoped to align for successful completion. Studies are to be reclassified by 15 August 2011 and those to be "Reset" are to be Reset by 30 Sept 2011. "Reset" is a vertical team effort to be conducted as per MG Grisoli's guidance in close coordination with Regional Integration Teams (RITs), MSCs and PCoP. This initiative will facilitate our development of the Planning Program portfolio as we work with Programs on the FY12 and FY13 budgets.

- *National Pilot Program* - The transformation of the current preauthorization study process and implementation of National Pilot Program is a significant undertaking and is being closely managed by the PCoP and a Senior Oversight Group (SOG) extending beyond the PCoP and including, Engineering and Construction and OASA(CW) representation. The Planning Pilot Program was initiated in February 2011 and there are currently 4 pilot studies ongoing. The purposes of the Pilot Program are to develop new and innovative methodologies and processes in a way that informs future planning guidance, complete timely, quality Planning studies that produce actionable decision documents for Congressional authorization, and create an environment supportive of change by demonstrating the effectiveness and efficiencies of a new Civil Works Planning paradigm.
- *National Planner Certification Pilot Program* - This Pilot program was initiated in January 2011 with four districts participating: Jacksonville, Buffalo, Los Angeles and Portland. An Interim Progress Review (IPR) was held in April 2011 to assess the certification program to date and whether revisions are needed to the Expert Planner Certification before national

implementation, rollout targeted for October 2011. We are currently reviewing comments and adjusting certification accordingly.

- *Planning Core Curriculum Review* - A review of the Planning Core Curriculum was launched last FY and continues into FY11 as we explore in more detail each of the Core curriculum modules, their relationship with others, and evaluate the overall delivery methods for training planners. A synchronization meeting of all course proponents was held in February 2011. A thorough report of the findings will be prepared by September 2011.

- *Planning Guidance Update* – On 19 January 2011 Mr. Steven Stockton, Director of Civil Works, signed a

Policy Guidance [memo](#) providing relief from Independent External Peer Review and model certification for some Continuing Authorities Program authorities. In March 2011 we conducted an IPR on the EC [1165-2-209](#), Civil Works Review. We are forming a work group to evaluate comments received and assess options and identify recommendation for decision makers. In anticipation of the need to do a thorough update of our Planning Guidance Notebook (PGN) pending finalization of the Principles and Guidelines in June 2012, we are currently working closely with IWR to complete by Sept 2011 a baseline update of the PGN.

We are excited by all the actions in the PCoP and look forward to another busy and productive quarter and we bring this FY to a close and look forward to FY12.

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## National Pilot Program Launches

By Maria Wegner-Johnson, Headquarters

The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (ASA(CW)) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) senior leadership have been working collaboratively to modernize the Civil Works Planning Program to better address the many water resources challenges that face the nation. It is imperative that we revitalize our Planning Program in order to respond to the current and future water resources needs of the nation. We have developed a proposed civil works planning study process which shortens the timeframe for completion of a pre-authorization study while retaining the quality of the analyses and is consistent with the general concepts emerging from the revised Principals and Guidelines. The proposed process should dramatically shorten the amount of time and cost of conducting planning studies and increase corporate and individual accountability for decisions.

In 2011 and 2012 the Corps is conducting a National Pilot Program to test the proposed concepts within our policy and develop and refine methodologies and processes for planning studies across all business lines in a manner that is sustainable and replicable and that will inform future Civil Works guidance. The outcome of the National Pilot Program will determine if the concepts will continue beyond the pilot studies or if additional modifications will be needed.

The proposed paradigm envisions a study process with clearly defined decision points that is more predictable, more efficient, and takes significantly less time than the current planning study process. The Study process continues to use quality engineering, economics, and environmental analysis, but appropriately focuses the

amount and type of data collected and analysis conducted based on the risk and consequences of decisions being made. The concepts being tested in the National Pilot Program are:

- Vertical integration of decision making and early engagement throughout the study process;
- Identifying risk factors and areas of uncertainty and performing detailed analysis in these areas only;
- Defining Federal Interest based on early identification of the problem(s) and the level of federal investment in solving the stated problems; and
- Utilizing a multi-criteria approach to alternative comparisons and selection.

The first two studies were selected for the National Pilot Program in February 2011. The selected studies were Sutter Basin, CA and Jordan Creek (Springfield), MO. Both of these are flood risk management studies.

The second two studies were selected in June 2011— Westside Creeks, San Antonio Improvement Project, TX and Palm Beach Harbor (Lake Worth Inlet), FL. Westside Creeks, San Antonio Improvement Project, TX is an urban ecosystem restoration study. Palm Beach Harbor (Lake Worth Inlet), FL is a navigation study.

Additional information can be found on the [Planning Toolbox](#) under Pilot Studies.

# Planning Community Toolbox Launches

By: Jeremy LaDart, USACE Headquarters

Welcome to the new [Planning Community Toolbox](http://www.corpsplanning.us) at [www.corpsplanning.us](http://www.corpsplanning.us) !!!



With the help of planners across the Corps, this website offers resources at your fingertips. Want to find all of the guidance policies, documents, publication, etc.? Go to the [Planner's Library](#) and they are pre-sorted by type. Are local sponsors curious about how to partner, then click on the quick link under *Non Corps Visitors*. Looking for more quick links? We have OMB, ASA, Sharepoint, project and planning websites and more! Each link and tab offers access to some of the common documents and tools that you, your sponsor, or interested stakeholders use or want to learn about. The [Project Delivery](#) tab is the beginning of a tool to help assist planners through the Civil Works Project Development Process. Eventually, and with your help, it will become more interactive and mission specific. The [People](#) tab is a way to connect with other planners and find out who else is out there and pose questions on the discussion boards. [Tools](#) will help you find the latest certified model, templates, helpful web applications, budget tools, guidance and more. Our processes, including review, planning, partnering and others are included in [Processes](#). [Training](#) offers materials from previous courses, information about upcoming courses, educational opportunities and more. Still can't find what you are looking for? Try the [Google Search](#).

Still can't find what you are looking for? Send us a note and let us know that we have more work to do or how you can help us with the site! This site is only the beginning. We are a community and the site's success is based on all of our participation. Are we missing something? Do you have something to contribute? What documents do you that have that should be available to the Corps or the public? What are your stakeholders asking for? Got cool pictures? **We want to hear from you on how to improve the site and to add your contributions**

This is your planning community ... so please let us know what you think! If you have any further questions or would like to be a part of the website team, please contact [Jeremy LaDart](#) (HQ).

## **Modernizing Principles and Guidelines** By Bruce Carlson, USACE Headquarters

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is leading the process of modernizing the Principles and Guidelines (P & G) for Water Resources in response to Section 2031 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 ([WRDA 2007](#)). The P&G are the rules that govern how federal agencies formulate and assess their water resource development projects and activities.

In the effort to modernize the approach to water resources development, the Obama Administration is expanding the scope of the Principles and Guidelines to cover all Federal Agencies that undertake water resource projects, not just the four agencies (i.e., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority) which are subject to the current Principles and Guidelines. The new P & G will apply to a wider range of Federal agencies and activities, and emphasize more integrated approaches.

The new Principles and Requirements (the concept portion of the new P & G) specify that Federal water resources investments shall reflect national priorities, encourage economic development and protect the environment; as well as other important changes in an effort to modernize the planning process. The overall intent is to ensure decision-makers consider a more diverse range of benefits and costs and other effects associated with water resources development proposals.

CEQ expects the new P & R to be issued through an Executive Order from the President in July 2011. The P & R have been revised significantly from the draft published in December 2009 in response to public, agency and National Academy review and comments. The documents are currently under their final administrative reviews.

The next step in the process involves issuing draft interagency Guidelines which includes instructions to agencies on implementing the P & R as well as details on establishing agency applicability across water resource related activities. Drafting the Guidelines and determining agency applicability are activities that have been underway over the last year, led by CEQ and an interagency writing team. The Guidelines will reflect a new structure designed to accommodate the diverse missions and programs to which the new P&G will apply by directing agencies to tailor their agency-specific procedures to their unique missions and mandates. Under this approach, most procedural detail will reside at the agency level.

The draft Guidelines have undergone Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and interagency review and are scheduled to be published for public comment and National Academy review concurrently with the P & R in July 2011. The issuance of revised Principles, Requirements and Guidelines will necessitate a thorough re-evaluation of the existing planning process and formulation and evaluation procedures for Civil Work projects. [ER 1105-2-100](#), the Planning Guidance Notebook (PGN) will need to be updated to incorporate new policies and procedures. Development of detailed agency-specific procedures for all agencies will follow soon after the Guidelines are completed.

The CEQ website for the Principles and Guidelines initiative is:  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/PandG>

## Report on 31<sup>st</sup> Annual South Pacific Division Planning CoP Workshop

By Kurt Keilman, South Pacific Division

From May 2-5, members of the SPD Planning Community gathered in Monterey, CA for their 31<sup>st</sup> Annual SPD Planning Workshop. Initiated by SPD's first Chief of Planning, Frank Dunn; and continued recently by such leaders as Robin Mooney, Kenneth Orth and now Clark Frentzen, this gathering informs and promotes vertical collaboration and teamwork among District and SPD planning staff. Notable national, regional and district team members are invited every year to explore various planning topics and thus advance regional planning practices. Workshops are rotated among SPD districts; with San Francisco District, under Tom Kendall's direction, stepping up this year as capable hosts.

The theme of this year's workshop was, "*Disciplined People, Thought and Action: Modernization of the Regional Planning Program.*"

We were fortunate to have representatives from USACE Headquarters provide a National perspective on both opening and closing days of the workshop. On the first morning of the workshop, Ms. Susan Hughes, Deputy Chief of the Planning Community of Practice, presented a session entitled "Planning for Excellence: Civil Works Modernization." On the concluding day of the workshop, Mr. Theodore "Tab" Brown, Chief of Planning and Policy and the leader of the Planning Community of Practice presented ideas for our path forward as an organization. Mr. Brown stated that we are going to need to be dynamic, take a more regional-national approach, and "bring the right people to the fight".

One of the benefits of the workshop was the opportunity to hear from our project partners and receive their views and perspectives on working with the Corps to address local, regional and state wide water-related issues.

One presentation was given by Mr. Gary Bardini of the California Department of Water Resources. Mr. Bardini talked about California's [FloodSAFE initiative](#), a comprehensive system-wide approach to floodplain management. Mr. Bardini also discussed the [Central Valley Flood Management Protection Planning Program](#) and the California system-wide Investment Approach.

A second presentation concerned the [Pajaro River study](#). Workshop attendees made a site visit to the Parajo River study area. The site visit was led by Mr. Bill Phillips, Monterey County Water Resources Agency) and Mr. Bruce Laclergue, Santa Cruz County Flood Manager. The Pajaro River study area is a mix of urban and agricultural land use with some of the most productive agricultural land in the nation. The Pajaro River valley produces a large portion of our nation's strawberries and other specialty crops that serve as the production base within the study area. The field trip presented an opportunity to explore problems, opportunities and develop alternatives.

Part of the workshop included recognition of the accomplishments of members of the Division and District planning staffs. Among the many outstanding accomplishments across the Division was the awarding of the SPD Planner of the Year and SPD Planning Team of the Year to Ms. Jane Ruhl of the Sacramento District and Louisville Districts and the American River Natomas study team..

Other sessions at the workshop included a panel discussion led by Ms. Cindy Tejada on the topic "*Modernization of the Regional Planning Program for the 21st Century*"; a presentation by Ms. Nedina Kennedy on the benefits of integrated planning documents; a presentation by Mr. Stuart Townsley on the planning challenges of vegetation encroachments on levees; a presentation by Mr. Tom Kendall, Ms. Heather Schlosser and Ms. Tessa Bernhardt on the challenges of incorporating sea level change into planning analyses; and a presentation by Ms. Josephine Axt on the status of the Planner Certification Program.

The concluding session of the workshop was a question and answer session with the Planning Chiefs from across the Division.

The presentations from the SPD Planning CoP Workshop are available at the Corps [Sharepoint website](#), under "Shared Documents", "SPD", "SPD Regional Planning Workshop", "2011 SPD Planning Workshop Monterey".

## FEATURED ARTICLES

### **Road to a Chief's Report: American River Watershed (Common Features) Project, Natomas Basin, Sacramento and Sutter Counties, California**

By Alicia Kirchner and members of the Project Delivery Team

In December 2010, a [Chief's Report](#) was signed for the Natomas Basin Project in Sacramento, California. This was the most recent in a chain of events aimed toward reducing the risk of flooding to the greater Sacramento region. Flood management in the area comes through a combination of storage and conveyance, and Congress has authorized improvements to various project features over the past 20 years. Investigations continue to explore further reduction of flood risk, and the [Natomas Post Authorization Change \(PCA\)/Interim General Re-evaluation Report](#) (GRR) is vital to reducing flood risk to the Sacramento region.

To continue reading about the American River Watershed (Common Features) Project, Natomas Basin, Sacramento and Sutter Counties, California project, click [here](#).

### **Cedar River-Cedar Rapids, Iowa Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study “Lessons Learned”**

By Christopher Haring, Rock Island District

The Cedar River, Cedar Rapids, Iowa Flood Risk Management Project Feasibility Study was authorized by Congress in 2006 to investigate flood risk management (FRM) alternatives for the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The purpose of the Study was to formulate and evaluate cost effective, environmentally-sensitive, and technically sound FRM alternatives to reduce risk to the City. A Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) between the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (District) was signed in early May 2008 to initiate a study for a portion of the City known as the Time Check Levee Area.

To continue reading about the Cedar River, Cedar Rapids, Iowa Flood Risk Management Project , click [here](#).

### **The Floodplain Management Services Program Marks a 50-Year Contribution to Flood Risk Management**

By Stuart A. Davis, Institute for Water Resources

The “first door to the Corps,” is how Sue Hughes, Deputy Chief of the Planning Community of Practice characterized the Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) program at a December program marking the 50th anniversary of the program. Over 100 Corps personnel joined in the webcast or in person at the Corps Washington, DC headquarters. The FPMS program was the Corps’ first program to offer direct service to the public. The FPMS program was authorized by Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960 (Public Law 86-645), following the success of a very active floodplain management program at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Six years later, after the Corps had already been actively creating floodplain maps and supplying flood risk information, the TVA’s Jim Goddard was brought into the Office of the Chief of Engineers to organize America’s first nationwide floodplain management program. The program remains vital, supplying and interpreting flood risk data and offering floodplain management planning services upon request of flood-prone communities.

To continue reading about the Flood Plain Management Services Program, click [here](#).

## Planning Associates Class of 2011 Update

By Joy Muncy, Institute for Water Resources

The Planning Associates Class of 2011 is made up of 11 individuals from across the Corps. This year's class includes:

- Craig Carrington, an Environmental/Community Planner from the Nashville District;
- Anna Compton, a Biologist/Study Manager from the Baltimore District;
- Cheryl Gibbs, an Economist from the Little Rock District;
- Douglas Gorecki, an Economist from the Buffalo District;
- Lauren Kruse, a Lead Planner from the Fort Worth District;
- Crorey Lawton, a Planner/Study Manager from the New Orleans District;
- John Ortlieb, a Planner/Study Manager from the Rock Island District;
- Douglas Piatkowski, a Biologist/Study Manager from the Wilmington District;
- Stacy Samuelson, a Planner/Study Manager from the Sacramento District;
- Rebecca Weiss, an Environmental Planner from the Northwestern Division; and,
- Michael Wyatt, an Environmental/Community Planner from the St. Paul District.

To date, the Planning Associates have made several trips in taking various course modules. The first trip was to Ft. Lauderdale, FL (October 18 to November 4, 2010) where the Planning Associates, course owners and management spent three days in Orientation. The remaining 2+ weeks covered Team Leadership, Team Building and Effective Communication. The Planning Associates traveled to Phoenix, AZ for Planning Fundamentals (January 10-14, 2011). From February 1-4, 2011, the Planning Associates spent time at the Mississippi Valley Division and the Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, MS. The following week, February 7-11, 2011, the Planning Associates went to San Antonio, TX for the Watershed training module. The Planning Associates spent three weeks (February 28 to March 11, 2011) in the Washington, DC area as part of their "DC Experience." The Planning Associates spent a week in New Orleans (April 18-22, 2011) attending the Ecosystem Restoration Module. The Planning Associates then travelled to Charleston, South Carolina during the week of May 16-20, 2011 where they attended a training class on Deep Draft Navigation and Small Boat Harbors. During the week of June 20-24, the Planning Associates travelled to Huntington, West Virginia to attend a training class on Inland Navigation. Lastly, during the week of June 27 to July 1, the Planning Associates attended a training class on Coastal Storm Damage Reduction in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Also as part of their training, the Planning Associates have had to read and critique five books focused on leadership and organizational development: *The 5 Dysfunctions of a Team* by Patrick Lencioni, *Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* by Malcolm Gladwell, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap... and Others Don't* by Jim Collins, *The Three Keys to Empowerment* by Ken Blanchard, John C. Carlos and Alan Randolph; and *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell.

The Planning Associates submit at least 11 questions to the course owners 30 days before the course date. They also have questions to ask during the course. The course owners are responsible to make sure all questions are answered.

The Planning Associates also submit Evaluations after each course and a composite evaluation is made and submitted to the course owners. The course owners also submit an After Action Report for each of their courses.

For more information about the Planning Associates activities during their year long training course, please visit: <http://planning.usace.army.mil/toolbox/planningahead.cfm?Id=0&Option=Main>

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

These are but a few of the many available positions advertised on the Army's Civilian Service website, <http://jobsearch.armycivilianservice.com> and USAJOBS website, <http://www.usajobs.gov>. Note that clicking on the vacancy announcement number redirects the reader to the job description on the [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) website.

(1) Vacancy Announcement Number: [WTEV11155588495943](#)  
Opening Date: June 29, 2011      Closing Date: July 12, 2011  
Position: GS-0110-11/12 Interdisciplinary Water Resource Planner  
Salary: \$58,564—\$93,261 Annual  
Place of Work: U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Alaska, Elmendorf AFB, AK

(2) Vacancy Announcement Number: [WTHE11091043485976](#)  
Opening Date: June 20, 2011      Closing Date: July 11, 2011  
Position: GS-0401-13 Supervisory Interdisciplinary  
Salary: \$71,674-\$93,175 Annual  
Place of Work: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District, Portland, Portland, OR

(3) Vacancy Announcement Number: [SWGR1112863749009](#)  
Opening Date: July 1, 2011      Closing Date: July 20, 2011  
Position: GS-1301-15 Supervisory Interdisciplinary  
Salary: \$113,735-\$147,857 Annual  
Place of Work: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District, Vicksburg, Vicksburg, MS

## PROSPECT TRAINING COURSES

Upcoming USACE sponsored PROSPECT training courses which have space available and which may be of interest to the members of the Planning CoP include the following:

<b>Planning for Ecosystem Restoration</b>	Portland, OR	7/18/2011—7/22/2011
<b>Civil Works Programming Process</b>	Phoenix, AZ	8/15/2011—8/19/2011
<b>Cost Risk Analysis Basic</b>	Huntsville, AL	8/15/2011—8/18/2011
<b>Wetland Stream Ecology Basic</b>	Kalispell, MT	8/15/2011—8/18/2011
<b>Civil Works Programming Process</b>	San Antonio, TX	9/12/2011—9/16/2011
<b>Coastal Project Planning</b>	Duck, NC	9/12/2011—9/16/2011
<b>Wetlands Development and Restoration</b>	Apalachicola, FL	9/12/2011—9/15/2011

To attend these courses or to receive additional information about other PROSPECT training courses, please contact the USACE Learning Center at <http://pdsc.usace.army.mil>

## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The following is a list of conferences, workshops, and symposia that may be of interest to members of the Planning Community of Practice, as well as other practitioners in field of water resources. Those conferences, workshops and symposia in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been involved in the organization, sponsorship, or where members of the Corps have been identified as speakers or presenters, are identified in *italics*.

### *Coastal Zone 2011*

July 17—21, 2011 Chicago, IL  
Additional information: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/>

### *4th National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration*

August 1—5, 2011 Baltimore, MD  
Additional information: <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/NCER2011/index.html>

2011 USACE Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets Workshop  
“Sharing Experience in Driving Down Flood Risk”

August 15—19, 2010 Nashville, TN  
Additional information: <http://www.nfrmp.us/frmpw/>

Conference on Coastal Engineering Practice

August 21—24, 2011 San Diego, CA  
Additional information: <http://content.asce.org/conferences/copricoastal2011/>

### *Smart Rivers 2011*

September 13-16, 2011 New Orleans, LA  
Additional information: <http://smart11.pianc.us/>

### *USACE—The Nature Conservancy 5th Partnership Conference*

“Celebrating a Decade of Success with a Vision to the Future”  
November 15—18, 2011 Memphis, TN  
Additional information: To be forthcoming

## HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO *PLANNING AHEAD*

*Planning Ahead* is designed to foster communication amongst the members of the Planning community of practice within the Corps, with those other members of the Corps family with which planners interact on a daily basis, and with members of the general public outside of the Corps. It is our goal that future editions of the newsletter will include information and perspectives of those members of the planning community on the front lines of the Corps' planning efforts, the District and Division offices. We hope that this newsletter becomes a forum to share your experiences to help the entire planning community learn from one another. We welcome your thoughts, comments, questions, suggestions, success stories, and lessons learned, so that we can share them with the broader community. Submissions should be moderate in length (4-5 paragraphs), except in cases where the article is compelling and circumstances warrant a lengthier treatment of the subject. The article should be prepared as a MS Word document. Pictures accompanying submitted articles are welcome. Pictures must be in JPEG format. Please send articles to Mr. Kenneth E. Lichtman, at [Kenneth.e.lichtman@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kenneth.e.lichtman@usace.army.mil)

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue of *Planning Ahead* is  
**Wednesday, July 20, 2011**

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