

# PLANNING AHEAD

## Notes for the Planning and Policy Community

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### Vacancy Announcements

#### Southwestern Division Seeks Chief of Planning and Policy Division

That's a GS 15 job in Dallas, TX. You can learn about the position's roles and responsibilities and just a bit about the staff you will be supervising by visiting the division's [webpage](#), or you can look at the vacancy announcement by going to Army civilian personnel [website](#) and plugging in the Announcement Number, which is SWHB03252541. The closing date is August 4, 2003.

## **Updated Port Series Reports**

*Ginny Pankow – CEIWR-NDC-N*

The Navigation Data Center (NDC) has recently distributed three revised Port Series reports. *Port Series No. 20A Mississippi River Ports Below and Above New Orleans, Louisiana*, supersedes the report published in 1991. The ports covered by this report are located on both banks of the Mississippi River, from the Gulf or Mexico through Southwest Pass to the lower limit of the Port of New Orleans, and above New Orleans to the lower limit of the Port of Baton Rouge.

*Port Series No. 25 Port of Corpus Christi, Texas* and *Port Series No. 26 Ports of Freeport, Port Lavaca/Point Comfort, Brownsville, and Ports Along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Texas* supersede the reports published in 1993 and 1991 respectively. The ports in these reports are located on both banks of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel from the Gulf of Mexico at Port Aransas through and including Port Ingleside and the La Quinta Channel to the lower limit of the Viola Basin. They also cover the ports along the Texas Gulf Coast between the Galveston/Texas City port area and the Port of Brownsville.

The printed reports containing general location information, facility photographs, facility details, summary tables, index, and aerial photographic maps of the waterfront area, are available from NDC. In printed form *Report No. 20A (...Ports Below And Above New Orleans)* and *Report No. 20 The Port of New Orleans, LA* are separate reports. On the web ([NDC homepage](#)) and on the NDC U.S. Waterway Data CD, summary information and data files for reports number 20 and 20A are combined into *Port Series No. 20 New Orleans, LA; Mississippi River Ports Below & Above New Orleans, LA*

Reports and the free CD can be ordered at the above web site. Further information about the reports and the information they contain should be directed to Sidney Formal (702-428-6380) or Ginny Pankow (703-428-9047). [📖](#)

## **Planning Models Survey Underway**

*Bruce Carlson – CECW-PG*

As a part of a USACE commitment to improve planning products, the Director of Civil Works chartered the Planning Models Improvement Program Task Force in December 2003 to “review, improve and validate analytical tools and models for USACE Civil Works business functions.”

A key part of this effort is to undertake a survey to identify models and tools that are being used in the planning process, and what these models and tools do. The survey will also identify current and future unmet modeling needs.

The survey can be accessed on the Internet [here](#). Instructions for the survey provide guidance on what models and tools are to be included.

The survey will be open 17-31 July 2003. For the effort to be successful, the timely participation of all planning organizations in the Corps is necessary. Chief of Planning & Policy, Bill Dawson has encouraged all MSC and District Planning Chiefs to distribute this survey widely so that each planning function is fully represented.

The PMIP Task Force will distribute the results of the survey. If you have questions concerning the survey, please contact Ms. Susan Durden, IWR at [susan.e.durden@usace.army.mil](mailto:susan.e.durden@usace.army.mil), 703-428-9089.

## **Planning Models Improvement Task Force: Update**

*Bruce Carlson – CECW-PG*

The Planning Models Improvement Task Force met a second time 17-19 June 2003 in Alexandria, Virginia, for the purpose of discussing the group's analyses of planning models issues, and to hear perspectives on models from interested parties. For background on the Task Force see the April 2003 edition of Planning Ahead.

Addressing the Task Force were:

- Mr. William Dawson, Chief of the Planning and Policy Division, Headquarters, spoke on planning issues and the importance of models in maintaining scientific and technical capability.
- Mr. Dave Richards, Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), discussed his organization's perspectives on modeling.
- Mr. Tom Hart, representing ERDC and the Science and Engineering Technology (SET) initiative, gave an overview of that initiative and its relation to the Task Force's work.
- Ms. Debbie Peterson, Jacksonville District, and Mr. Chris Dunn, Hydrologic Engineering Center, spoke on their modeling experiences and possible implications of Task Force work on their efforts.
- A panel of experts presented views on planning models and gave advice on many issues being addressed by the Task Force. Panel members included: Dr. Richard Males, RMM Technical Services, Inc., Dr. Jean O'Neil, ERDC, Dr. Peter Rogers, Harvard University (current Maass-White Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Water Resources), and Dr. Charles Yoe, College of Notre Dame at Baltimore.

The Task Force met in full group and small group sessions to discuss and set direction for continuing work in two major areas:

- Survey of Models - that is, specific questions to be included in the upcoming field survey of planning models. Work by the teams on issues "What's a planning model?" and "frameworks for organizing models" was incorporated into the design of the survey.
- Review of Models - that is, numerous topics related to review and certification of planning models, including what would be reviewed, alternative processes for review, and who would be conducting reviews. Work by teams on the questions "criteria for good models," "peer review process and certification of models," "certification of model users," and "should models be mandatory?" was incorporated into this issue area.

The Task Force also addressed potential recommendations to be included in its report. 

## **Economic and Environmental Conference 2004**

*Bruce Carlson – CECW-PG*

This is an early announcement that the Corps will hold its next Economic and Environmental Conference in 2004. Baltimore District will be the conference hosts. The conference will be held from April 13-15, 2004 at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, located in the heart of Baltimore's Inner Harbor area.

Like its highly successful predecessor in New Orleans (July 2002), the event will serve as a professional conference for economists, environmental scientists, plan formulation specialists and other planners. The agenda is still under development, but will include current planning methods and policy, field applications, future directions, professional development, and current organizational initiatives such as the Planning Excellence Program, Centers of Planning Expertise, and USACE 2012.

Watch *Planning Ahead* for more conference information as it develops. As a reminder, the electronic [proceedings of the New Orleans conference](#) can still be viewed online.

The E & E Conference Chair for 2004 is [Bruce Carlson, CECW-PG](#). 

## **Policy Guidance Letter Number 47 Workshop**

*Larry Cocchieri – CENAD and Daniel Small – CESAD*

On March 25-26, 2003, NAD and SAD co-sponsored a one and one-half day workshop on Policy Guidance Letter Number 47-Cost Sharing for Dredged Material Disposal Facilities and Dredged Material Disposal Facility Partnerships. Over 51 participants attended the workshop, representing each of the 10 districts in both divisions and across functional areas including PM, PD, OP, CO, EN, OC. The workshop was held in Jacksonville, Florida. The workshop was designed to provide guidance on PGL 47 to ensure consistency of application and implementation, facilitate discussion on pertinent sections, improve Dredged Material Management Planning, and share experiences resulting from recent programming and project management requirements under the Project Management Business Process.

The workshop was facilitated by Planning and Policy Division staff members from NAD and SAD, and was hosted by SAJ. Presentations were made by Richard Worthington, CECW-PD, on Specific Provisions of PGL 47, and Beneficial Use of Dredged Material, Kim Smith, CECW-PC, on Project Cooperation Agreements, John Deveaux, CESAD-CM, on Programming and Budgeting, Larry Cocchieri, CENAD-CM-PP, on Developing, Managing and Processing Dredged Material Management Plans, and Daniel Beasley, CESAJ, on Operation and Maintenance Responsibilities Associated with Upland Disposal Areas.

The workshop was highly successful in sharing knowledge and lessons learned concerning the implementation of PGL 47. Interaction among the participants was emphasized and a virtual team was formed. Some of the major points discussed, which provided more knowledge for the attendees, included the following:

- Beneficial use of dredged material should be considered more often, especially if it results in a least cost/environmentally acceptable disposal option.

- Many situations involving application of tipping fees are unique and are best resolved on a case-by-case basis.
- PCA's should reflect items of local cooperation, which have been previously resolved and specified in the decision document.
- Navigation projects must have dredged material disposal capacity for a minimum of 20 years.
- Local interests should be involved in dredged material management plan studies as early as possible.
- Dredged material management plan studies require an economic analysis, where the economic viability must be demonstrated.

Topics raised during the workshop that will require some follow-up include:

- Guidance on consistency of application and briefing of sponsors on WRDA 96 requirements
- Clarification/informal guidance on processing Construction General (CG) funds
- Development of a PGL47 Lessons Learned System
- Creative ways of funding innovative alternatives and beneficial use projects
- Posting model Dredged Material Management Plans (DMMPs) on a website
- Closure procedures for upland confined disposal facilities
- Prop dredging and associated disposal concerns
- Guidance on how tipping fees should be paid
- Using PCA checklists to show O&M funding needs
- Guidance on O&M costs associated with management of disposal areas
- Additional guidance on how to include environmental benefits in decision process( i.e., identify benefits, taking credits, mitigation, etc)

A record of the workshop and copies of the information presented at can be obtained by email from Daniel Small. He may be reached at [daniel.l.small@sad.usace.army.mil](mailto:daniel.l.small@sad.usace.army.mil). 

## **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
- 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 

### **Subscribing to Planning Ahead**

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That single line of text should be: "subscribe ls-planningahead"

To obtain a 'help' file, send only the word 'help' in the text of the message (nothing in the subject line) and address it to [majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil](mailto:majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil) 

### **Submissions Deadline**

The deadline for material for the next issue is **20 August 2003**.

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