

Operationalizing Risk in Planning: Planning Mentors & Risk Champions
Planning CoP Webinar
November 16, 2017
Q&A Session

Ms. Sue Hughes, PCoP Deputy, provided an update on some of the PCoP activities that further implement Mr. Dalton's 21 June 2017 memo, Further Advancing Project Delivery Efficiency and Effectiveness of USACE Civil Works. In particular, she described the vision for Line of Effort #1: Embrace and Operationalize Risk Informed Decision Making. Sue discussed the new Risk Champions and Planning Mentors program and the anticipated role these groups will play in driving the DCW's vision and Civil Works project delivery. Specifically, Risk Champions will advocate for risk-informed decision making across the USACE organization and Planning Mentors will serve as coaches to Project Development Teams (PDTs) to assist with effective implementation of SMART Planning as well as the methodologies in the Risk Informed Planning Manual. Any questions regarding the Risk Champions and Planning Mentors can be directed toward Karen V. Miller, Huntington District.



If someone becomes a planning mentor for a particular study, does that prevent him/her from serving in a DQC, ATR, QA, or policy review role on that study (i.e., are they considered a part of the PDT)?

We're thinking of this as an over the shoulder advice and mentoring role versus a review role. So, the Planning Mentors are neither part of the PDT responsible for production, nor part of the Review Teams with quality management responsibilities.

Is there going to be a certification process for mentoring like there is for ATR Certification?

At this point, certification of planning mentors is not envisioned. We don't know yet if this will evolve into a formal mentoring program, or if we will use it for now and then go back to a more informal process.

Does the funding for Planning Mentors need to be covered by the project?

For selected studies, e.g., new start studies or complex studies, the PCoP will fund each mentor to be able to provide up to 40 hours per quarter of support as a starting point. That's a guesstimate – we're trying to roll something out and see what works, but we think that number makes sense and we'll evaluate it after the first quarter gauge need for ongoing support and that level. We know we need to find some funding because project money probably can't support it. That's also why this program probably can't last forever. The champions would not be funded; we see them as advocating for risk-informed decision making within their current roles.

Will the risk workshop be open to other participants beyond the groups that were named?

I think we'll be at a full capacity, so probably not; but this is also not intended to be a one-and-done effort.

Are we having a PCoP workshop this year?

In my mind, the risk workshop will serve that purpose this year. It won't be PCoP-wide, but this is what we'll do in lieu of that. I don't see how we have the capacity to do the risk workshop and a PCoP-wide event. I think we'll get to the PCoP and PDTs and Districts in a different way than a workshop.