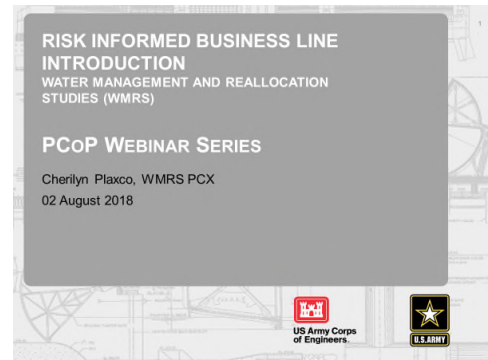


**Water Management and Reallocation Studies
Planning CoP Webinar
August 2, 2018
Q&A Session**

Ms. Cherilyn Plaxco, Technical Director, Water Management and Reallocation Studies Planning Center of Expertise (PCX), provided an overview of the Water Management and Reallocation business line. The webinar addressed business line specific policies and guidance relevant to water reallocation studies, as well as common challenges and risks in water reallocation. The presentation discussed conducting iterations of risk-informed planning in a water reallocation feasibility study including analysis of a case study, and focused on the various areas where water reallocation studies differ from other types of business line studies.



For more information about the Water Management and Reallocation business line:

- [Planning Center of Expertise for Water Management and Reallocation Studies Internet Site](#)
- [Planning Center of Expertise for Water Management and Reallocation Studies SharePoint](#)
- [Water Supply Guidance Collection on the Planning Community Toolbox](#)
- [USACE Institute for Water Resources \(IWR\) Water Supply Website](#)

This summary of the Question / Answer session of the webinar is not a transcription; questions and responses have been edited and reordered for clarity.

Is ecosystem restoration a justified use for reallocation of water supply, such as watershed storage, wetlands treatment, or other ecosystem services?

The Water Supply Act of 1958 doesn't give us the authority to reallocate storage for ecosystem restoration; however a specific authority could be granted by Congress.

It sounds as if we have no authority to reallocate water supply storage for ecosystem restoration, but what about recreation? Has dedicated water supply storage, or any other type of storage, ever been reallocated for recreation purposes?

The Water Supply Act of 1958 doesn't give us the authority to reallocate storage for recreation; however, a specific authority could be granted by Congress. For example, USACE received authority specific to the Summersville Dam in West Virginia for reallocation for white water rafting, and Congress specifically authorized minimum flows for the White River in Arkansas for the purposes of trout fishing.

Has Congress ever deauthorized locks and dams for navigation, but then reauthorized them for water supply?

Yes. Congress deauthorized navigation in Texas and said that the resulting surplus water could be contracted as water supply. In addition, Section 1174 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 allows for permanent conversion of surplus agreements and a deauthorized purpose to permanent water supply contracts.

Water Management and Reallocation Studies Planning CoP Webinar Q&A

How many projects that currently have no water supply storage have had a water supply storage component added as a result of a reallocation study?

The Institute for Water Resources (IWR) produces a periodic publication containing updates on the USACE reallocation portfolio. This publication has up-to-date data available on such projects.

Are we finding that conservation, lower per capita use, water re-use, etc., are now generally expected in either future without or future with project conditions?

Yes. IWR is funding a new training on alternative formulation, which addresses lowering per capita use, conservation, and water re-use as measures sponsors could take without receiving additional storage. For example, a mix of conservation and storage could be proposed as a federal alternative on the supply side, or it could be included in the future without project conditions as a measure to reduce demand. Ground water and reclaimed water use, rain water, and aquifer storage and recovery are all ideas that are on the table.

Why do we spend so much time on the demand analysis if a state has already determined the need is valid?

USACE serves as an “honest broker” who is unbiased against all impacted states within the watershed in question. We often take the water demand analysis from the state and use components of it in the water supply study, where it makes sense. For example, Texas has its own watershed which stays within the state’s boundaries, so we can take a water demand analysis from the State of Texas at face value. However, in cases where a watershed overlaps two or more state boundaries, it is important to look more closely at a state’s request and validate the water demand analysis.

How do hydropower owners generally react to a proposal to reallocate a portion of their storage?

Hydropower owners generally act negatively to proposals to reallocate their storage, as they should; they’ve built their infrastructure and rates around the amount of storage they’ve had for years. However, we have to look at the best use of that storage for the Nation, and sometimes that means reallocating storage away from hydropower and to municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply use. When this happens, the user is charged a fee and the hydropower agency is credited for that use. USACE is responsible for ensuring those credits are in place and realized by the hydropower entity.

Some changes have been made recently to improve USACE interactions with hydropower interests. For example, in the past, the Power Marketing Administration (PMA) received a draft feasibility study report when everyone else received it. However, as a result of negotiations over the past three years, the PMA is now involved earlier and invited to participate in milestone meetings, during which representatives will have the opportunity to discuss different plans with USACE throughout the study process.

Has the Water Management and Reallocation Studies PCX supported international transboundary allocation issues?

I’m not aware of any international transboundary allocation issues we’ve worked on (e.g., U.S./Canada Columbia River).