

SMART Planning & USACE Feasibility Studies

Agency-to-Agency Coordination

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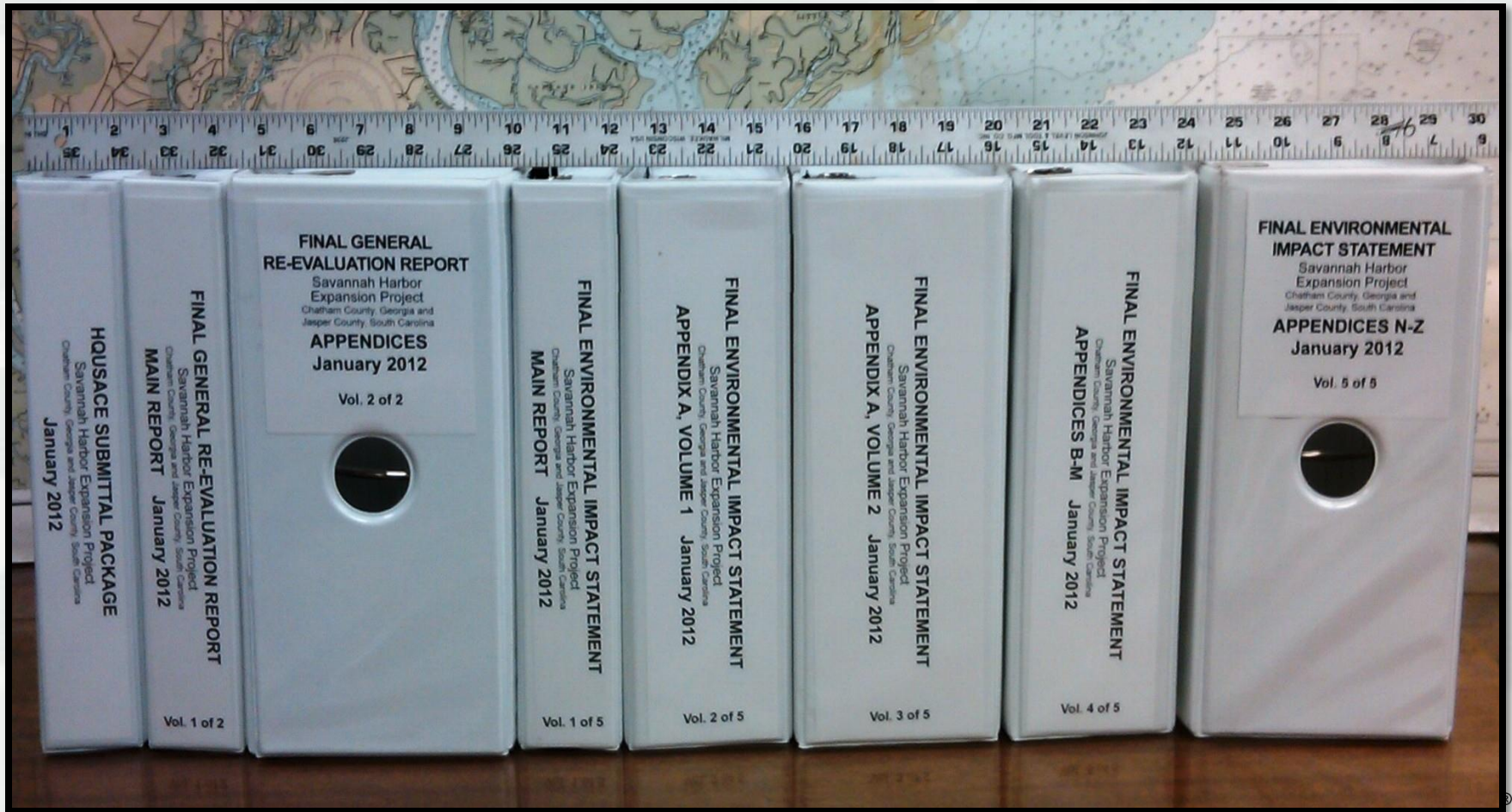
NOAA – Paige Doelling



US Army Corps of Engineers
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Why is the Corps Changing its Feasibility Study Process?

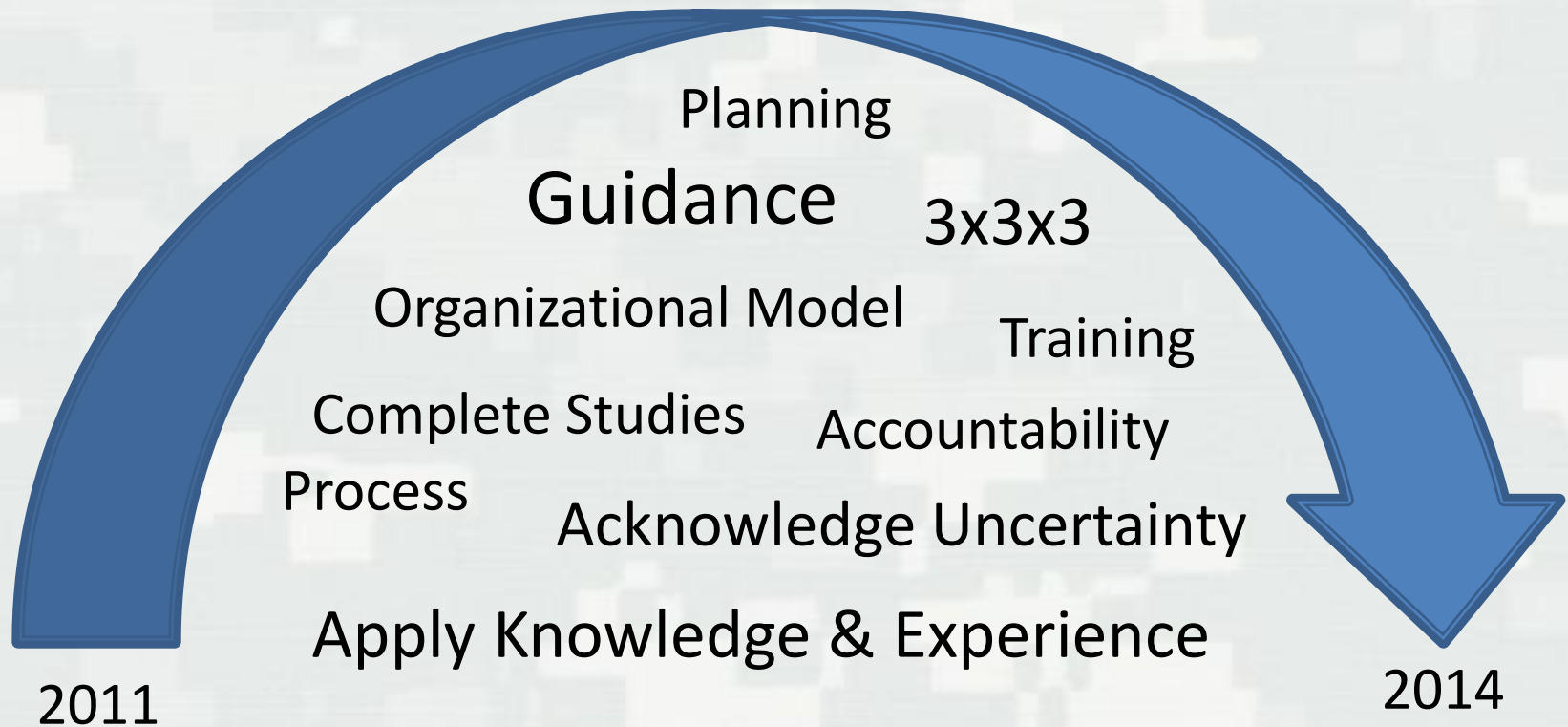


USACE Planning Portfolio Management

- Reducing the number of studies in “active” portfolio
- USACE has a backlog of authorized studies that have not been funded; studies that have been going on for a long time that need to be completed
- Discussions at all levels - National, Regional, and local - so that USACE/USFWS/NOAA resource focus is on jointly-prioritized projects



SMART Planning: Process & Principles



Importance of Scoping & Planning



Focus on alternatives evaluation to identify a tentative plan for more detailed design

Focus on scaling the measures and features for the recommended plan/LPP



Agency-to-Agency Coordination

USFWS, NOAA and USACE have been working together and sharing information:

- Common understanding of agency processes
- How requirements of NEPA, ESA, Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and others overlay with USACE process
- Developing a joint Communication Plan for the field



The Critical Role of the Resource Agencies

- Established roles under environmental statutes in water resource development processes are retained and re-emphasized
- Coordination begins at the outset of the study, including participation during Reconnaissance study and at early Planning charettes, engaging as full project partners



Fish & Wildlife Service Perspectives

- The Service supports SMART Planning
- Front-loading Service engagement provides for:
 - Fewer contentious projects
 - Avoidance of resources with high-conflict potential before major planning investments
 - Streamlined consultations
- The Service will prioritize project engagement based on relative conservation needs



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Fish & Wildlife Service

Perspectives

- Shorter timeframes require a joint commitment to support rapid, early engagement
- Revisions to 2003 Transfer Funding Agreement may examine:
 - Applicability to authorities beyond FWCA, e.g. ESA
 - More fluid and predictable processes
 - Existing District-to-Field Office, project-by-project model
 - Ensuring capacity to meet needs is available



National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Perspectives

- Early engagement on feasibility studies will help protect NOAA trust resources
- Evaluations must consider NOAA responsibilities under multiple mandates (ESA, MMPA, MSA/EFH, FWCA, potentially NMSA)
- NOAA recognizes working with the Corps in the SMART planning paradigm presents both challenges and opportunities



National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Perspectives

- Reduction in the number of active projects allows us to focus on those of greatest concern
- Combined reviews under multiple statutes provides an opportunity to improve effectiveness, and leverage staff resources
- Projects in the regions can provide opportunities to test and then refine the interagency process



Learning More

- Planning SMART Guide on the Planning Community Toolbox – www.corpsplanning.us
 - Basic information about SMART Planning process
 - Webinars and Q/A, Frequently Asked Questions
 - Planning Guidance
- Submit a question on the Toolbox's SMART Guide

SMART Guide

- [Planning SMART Guide](#)
 - * [What is the Planning SMART Guide?](#)
 - * [Modernizing the Corps Feasibility Study Process](#)
 - * [Feasibility Study Portfolio Review](#)
 - * [SMART Planning Principles](#)
 - * [What does a SMART Feasibility Study Look Like?](#)
 - * [Feasibility Studies: Building on a Strong Foundation](#)
- [Feasibility Study Kickoff](#)
- [Alternatives Milestone](#)
- [Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone](#)
- [Agency Decision Milestone](#)
- [Final Report Milestone](#)
- [Chief's Report Milestone](#)
- [Tips, Tools & Techniques](#)
- [Additional Directives & Guidance](#)
- [Webinars & Fact Sheets](#)

What's New on the SMART Guide

- [What's New](#)
 - [Site Index](#)
 - [Comments or Questions](#)
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Questions?

Type questions in the chat box.
We will try to answer as many as
time allows.

*For more information on Corps
Feasibility Studies:*
<http://www.corpsplanning.us>



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