

# PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy  
Community



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

January 2007

Volume 10, Issue 1

## ***A Note from the Leader of the Planning Community of Practice***

Happy New Year! I trust all of you took a well deserved break over the holidays to refresh your energy and spend quality time with family and loved ones.

As the new year commences, we are extremely busy at Headquarters and throughout the Corps attempting to drive significant change with several initiatives. We continue to press forward on our Civil Works strategic plan, Chief's 12 Actions for Change, our national flood risk management initiatives, WRDA 07, and more.

Let me give you an update on WRDA. WRDA 06 made it into the red zone. We were as close as we have ever been to having a successful, conferenced Bill during the holidays when externalities caused this to be unsuccessful. Our partners on the Hill in the authorizing committees remain very positive about the chances for a WRDA in early 2007. Both Senator Boxer and Congressman Oberstar have signaled that this Bill is a high priority. We are currently organizing to assure that the HQ, MSCs, and districts are postured to support successful WRDA efforts. We need planning and policy at all organizational levels to serve in the hub of these efforts. In terms of integrating our longer term initiatives to advance the Civil Works program for the Corps, it seems that there are three keystones around which the Corps' strategic initiatives are built upon. These keystones are: a systems approach, risk and uncertainty, and collaboration. Please pay close attention to these drivers and stay tuned for more to follow.

I also want to let everyone know that any day now Headquarters will be announcing the recruitment of four GS-14 RIT Planners. This is an excellent opportunity to move up in the organization and contribute at a national level.

Many of you probably heard that a beloved team member and true professional, Ron Conner, passed away Jan. 6, 2007. We are stunned at his sudden passing. Ron was the consummate professional and a true friend to so many of us. To say he is sorely missed is an understatement. If anyone should choose to make a donation on Ron's behalf, Ron contributed greatly to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation.

Finally, I would like to thank Monica Franklin as editor for the last two years. She is moving forward and upward to a position in the private sector. Thank you, Monica, for contributing to the success of this premier written communication tool among all Corps CoPs. Job well done!

*Tom Waters*  
Planning CoP Leader  
[Thomas.W.Waters@usace.army.mil](mailto:Thomas.W.Waters@usace.army.mil)

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## WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

### ***Passing the Torch***

Just over two years ago, I expressed to you my excitement in becoming your new editor after the retirement of Brad Fowler. I challenged all of you to think creatively and help me develop new ideas to keep *Planning Ahead* fresh, fun, and informative. Well, you passed the test! Because of your enthusiasm and hard work in doing so, *Planning Ahead* is a continued success. I thank all of you for making my job as editor so easy and fun. As a young, college graduate, new to the Corps, *Planning Ahead* has been my ticket to meeting so many interesting people in the Corps. I was able to see the perspectives of those in the field as opposed to those of us who are not "on the front lines". Through your articles, I was able to learn a great deal about the Corps and how we are involved in so much at a national level.

This new year brings with it both new opportunities and a remembrance of things passed. Having said all of that, this message is not only to say thank you but also farewell. I will be leaving the Corps and moving into the private sector, specifically the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) field. I am excited to enter a new arena, but sad to leave an organization in which I have made many friends professionally and personally.

Know that I will not leave you without ensuring *Planning Ahead* stays on track. This issue initiates our new editor, Ken Lichtman also of the Institute for Water Resources (IWR). Ken is an Economist and has been with IWR for ten years. Prior to IWR, he worked at the New York District office for seven years. He also spent some time at the US Bureau of Mines. Ken has eagerly accepted his new title as editor and I am confident his field experience and other talents will prove to be valuable in the *Planning Ahead* newsletter. Please join me welcoming Ken to his new assignment!

*Monica Franklin*  
*Your former proud editor*

***\*\*This issue is dedicated to the memory of Ron Conner. He will be missed in a special way.***

## FEATURED ARTICLES

### ***National Flood Risk Policy Summit***

***December 12-14***

***Aspen Wye River Conference Center, Queenstown, MD***

***Hosted by ASFPM and NAFSMA***

***by Tammy Conforti, Institute for Water Resources at the Hydrologic Engineering Center***

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA), working closely with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), hosted a National Flood Risk Summit December 12-14, 2006. The objective of the Summit was to provide the invited participants an opportunity to discuss policy proposals for improving national flood risk management. Following the Summit, ASFPM and NAFSMA will draw on the ideas discussed to develop and recommend a package of complementary policy proposals to USACE and FEMA for their consideration and potential discussion within the Administration. The goal was to produce ideas for shaping current and future administration policies and provide potential concepts for future program authorizations.

Main topics identified for discussion included the following,

- 1) Comprehensive Planning for Flood Risk Management
- 2) The USACE-FEMA Policy Nexus in Flood Risk Management
- 3) Setting Public Safety Standards for Flood Risk Management – Developing a Strategy for Managing Aging Flood Control Infrastructure
- 4) Flood Risk Information/Communication

More than 60 people attended from a wide variety of organizations, which included Federal agencies, such as, USACE and FEMA; the environmental arena, such as, the National Wildlife Federation; the insurance industry, such as, the National Lenders Insurance Council; the development industry, such as, the National Association of Home Builders; and several state and local agencies.

ASFPM, NAFSMA, USACE, and FEMA deemed the Summit a huge success. ASFPM and NAFSMA will work closely over the next few months to identify a set of policy recommendations, which will be shared with all of the Summit participants. Based on the success of the Summit's dialogue, both ASFPM and NAFSMA are committed to holding future discussions.

Materials from the Summit may be found on [www.iwr.usace.army.mil/nfrps/](http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/nfrps/).

We would like to pay special tribute to Ron Conner with the Institute for Water Resources, who has just recently passed away. His diligent work with the Summit planning committee and development of innovative flood risk issue papers were instrumental in shaping the theme of the Summit and in its great success.

## ***Role of Economists in Ecosystem Restoration Studies***

*by Jim Fredericks, Northwestern Division*

I have noticed that the involvement of economists in ecosystem restoration is inconsistent across the Corps. In some districts economists are involved minimally, while at others the economist's role is significant. This article outlines the typical tasks for economists and the advantages of their involvement.

As outlined in the Corps Project Management Business Process (PMBP), early involvement of all team members leads to better alternatives and solutions. This is certainly true with economics involvement in ecosystem restoration projects. The primary responsibility of the economist is to provide decision makers a basis to evaluate the trade-offs between habitat improvements and costs. Trade-offs are the lynchpin of formulation for environmental restoration projects and the cornerstone for economic analyses.

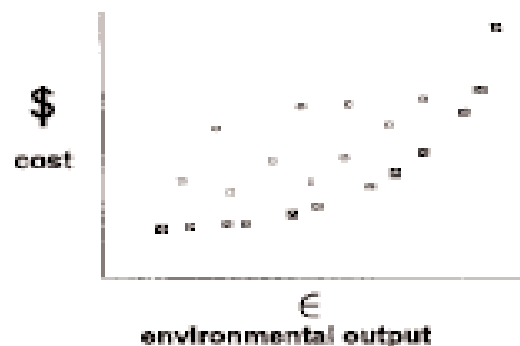
During plan formulation, the economist can provide valuable insight into the team process of determining an appropriate range of alternatives and increments to evaluate. They have been trained to develop and display graphically how ecological benefits increase relative to costs as the scale of the project increases.

During cost effectiveness analysis, the economist can compare benefits and costs of alternatives and eliminate those alternatives that are economically inefficient or ineffective. Economically inefficient alternatives are those that cost more to return the same level of output. Economically ineffective alternatives are those that return less output at the same cost. Whether the benefits of a project can be expressed in monetary or non-monetary units, the economist is well trained in comparing benefits and costs and identifying those alternatives that are cost effective.

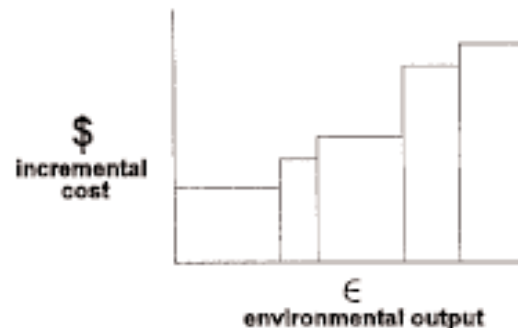
During incremental analysis, the economist can compare the incremental costs of moving from one output level to another seeking to identify the increment where the cost of additional output exceeds the benefit of that output. The economist's training uniquely qualifies them to help frame the incremental analysis concept of "Is it worth it?" The fundamental problem that economics addresses is how to allocate scarce resources. For this reason the economist is well suited to identify National Economic Development (NED) alternatives that maximize net monetary benefits. This is analogous to the procedure incremental analysis uses to identify the National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) plan. The difference is that environmental projects produce outputs that are not monetized. Without a typical benefit-cost ratio, it becomes all the more imperative that the ecosystem restoration studies have an analytic framework such as that provided by cost effectiveness and incremental analysis to ensure priority funding.

In addition to plan formulation, cost effectiveness analysis, and incremental analysis economists can also provide support for evaluating impacts to the human environment for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), evaluate sponsor financial capability, conduct trade-off analysis, and provide amortizing and discounting calculations for ecosystem restoration stud-

### **COST EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS**



### **INCREMENTAL COST ANALYSIS**



ies. Your economist is a valuable asset for ecosystem restoration studies.

## ***Virgin River and Tributaries Watershed Analysis - Utah, Arizona and Nevada***

***by Scott Estergard, Los Angeles District***

This watershed study, underway by the Los Angeles District, Arizona/Nevada Area Office, is one of five studies selected and initiated under the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006 that allowed, "at full federal expense, comprehensive analyses that examine multi-jurisdictional use and management of water resources on a watershed or regional scale."



**Large group response planning exercise in St. George, Utah.**

The 5,900 square mile watershed includes portions of Southwestern Utah, the Northwestern corner of Arizona, and Southern Nevada. The river empties into the Colorado River at Lake Mead. Much of the watershed is in Federal or state ownership and includes lands managed by the National Park Service, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. Despite the large percentage of publicly owned lands, the watershed includes rapidly growing population centers and increasing pressure on its resources.

Although there are numerous planning efforts and projects throughout the watershed, none had provided an opportunity for a comprehensive watershed agenda until the study team held its initial planning workshop in August 2006. The planning workshop brought together about 70 stakeholders from throughout the watershed and included sharing of information, discussion of priorities, and an exercise to identify common issues and goals.

The top issues affecting the watershed, as identified by the attendees, included floodplain management, land use planning, invasive species, endangered species, and water supply. In 2005 approximately \$170 million in flood damages occurred in the watershed; therefore, floodplain management and its associated issues were the most common themes. The stakeholders did unanimously agree that all the issues in the watershed were interrelated such as the invasive species (tamarisk and cheat grass), fire, land use planning, and endangered species habitat.

The Project Delivery Team (PDT) is regional with representation from Albuquerque, Sacramento and Los Angeles Districts. The study team includes a technical committee with representatives from federal, state, tribal, and local agencies that meets regularly to discuss the study components. Since stakeholders have voiced concern that they hope for something other than "another report that sits on a shelf," the PDT is working to develop useful tools that go beyond a project report.

Specific products of the study will include a multijurisdictional floodplain management strategy, a watershed analysis identifying ongoing activities and areas of additional work, and an overall watershed strategy with an implementation plan. The PDT is optimistic that the collaborative planning underway during the study phase will continue across the jurisdictional boundaries even after the study finishes in December 2007.

Mr. Scott Estergard, Los Angeles District, Arizona/Nevada Area Office is the lead planner for this study and may be reached by e-mail at [Scott.K.Estergard@usace.army.mil](mailto:Scott.K.Estergard@usace.army.mil) or by telephone at (602)-640-2004.

## ***Economic Guidance for the Unit Day Value of Recreation and Ability to Pay***

***by Ted Hillyer and Stuart Davis, Institute for Water Resources***

The Unit Day Values for Recreation vary from \$3.32 to \$9.97 for General Recreation and from \$13.50 to \$39.45 for Specialized Recreation. These data have been published as Economic Guidance Memorandum 07-03 and can be found at: <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/library/egms/egms.html>

The same website also includes the newly adopted Economic Guidance Memorandum 07-04. The memorandum can be used to determine the eligibility for and extent of a lower income county's reduced cost sharing requirement for a flood damage reduction project.

Other economic guidance was published in the November / December 2006 issue of Planning Ahead. Data for the National Flood Insurance Program will be made available as soon as possible.

For additional information you may contact Bruce Carlson at [bruce.d.carlson@usace.army.mil](mailto:bruce.d.carlson@usace.army.mil) or by phone at 202/761-4703.

## ***IWR Planning Suite Version 1.05 Released***

***by: Leigh Skaggs, Institute for Water Resources***

The IWR-PLAN development team is pleased to announce the release of the newest version of IWR-PLAN software – now called IWR Planning Suite! This version transforms the “classic” IWR-PLAN version 3.33, which was last updated in 2002, from a Microsoft Access-based, Visual Basic environment into a more powerful and flexible C# (pronounced “c-sharp”) application on the Microsoft .NET platform.

What's new about IWR Planning Suite? First, it “modularizes” the software into (currently) two separate modules: a “Plan Editor” component that also includes cost effectiveness and incremental cost analyses (CE/ICA) and graphical and reporting capabilities; and a “Plan Generator” component that builds combinations of alternative plans from individual management measures. The new modular framework will enable future modules to be “plugged in” to IWR planning Suite, such as a Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis module, an “Annualizer” module, and a “Risk and Uncertainty” module, all undergoing testing or development. Users can opt to use one or more of the modules, without having to use all of them.

While all previous functions of IWR-PLAN have been retained (performing CE/ICA, the capabilities to build in constraints, account for non-additive effects, exclude solutions, consider variable and solution sensitivities, track plans of interest, and calculate derived variables), enhancements now include:

- An easy, intuitive Graphical User Interface that incorporates a toolbar with quick-access icons
- Ability to enter fully formulated alternative plans immediately through the “Plan Editor” (and with meaningful descriptions) without having to generate them using the “Plan Generator”
- Ability to enter up to 52 management measures possessing up to 20 scales each, with an unlimited number of variables (e.g. cost, output, and other effects) per solution and scale
- Ability to see on-screen all data generated for all planning sets within the Plan Editor by switching between planning sets (previously reports had to be generated to observe all data)
- Ability to import data from IWR-PLAN version 3.33 or MS Excel spreadsheets in three formats
- New graphical displays, such as the dual-axis, 3-D scatter plot, and 3-D surface plot graphs, plus additional options for existing graphs, such as the ability to show incremental cost and total cost on the “best buy” plans graph (see example below)
- Improved tabular reports

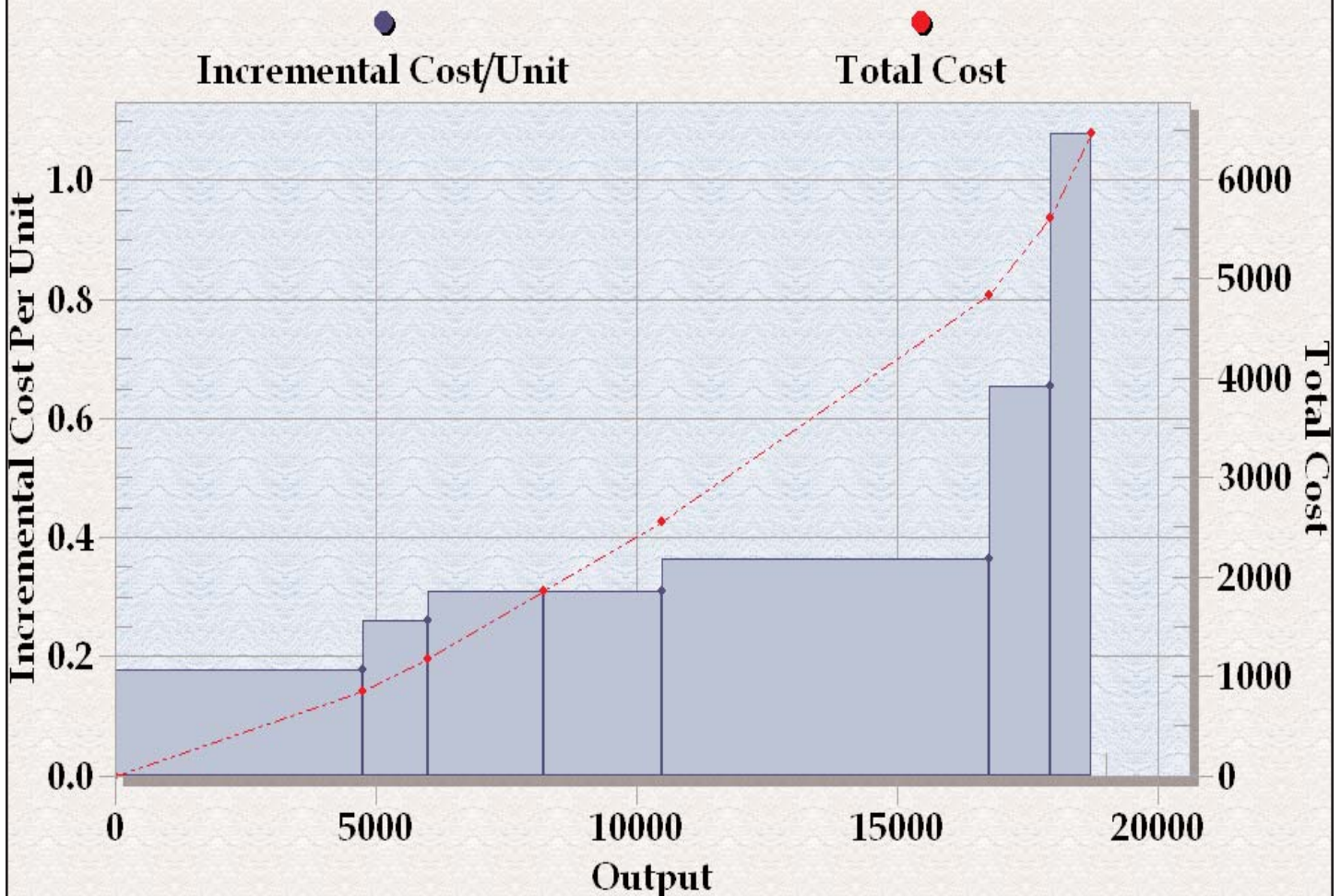
IWR Planning Suite was beta-tested by the development team and by Corps Division and District field users throughout the Summer and Fall of 2006. Errors uncovered and improvements suggested through beta testing have been incorporated into IWR Planning Suite Release Version 1.05. The new software may be downloaded from the IWR-PLAN web site, <http://www.pmcl.com/iwrplan/>. New student tutorials are also available on the web site, as well as a draft IWR Planning Suite User's Guide.

(Note to previous IWR-PLAN version 3.33 users and IWR Planning Suite beta users: you may retain the “classic” IWR-PLAN version 3.33 on your computers even after installing the new IWR Planning Suite version 1.05. However, any previous beta versions of IWR Planning Suite must be uninstalled before installing this IWR Planning Suite release version 1.05.)

If you have any questions, comments or problems with IWR Planning Suite, or are interested in training opportunities, please contact IWR Planning Suite project manager Leigh Skaggs at 703-428-9068 or [Lawrence.l.skaggs@usace.army.mil](mailto:Lawrence.l.skaggs@usace.army.mil).

# Codorus Creek Ecosystem Restoration

Incremental Cost (in \$1000/HU) and Total Cost (in \$1000) of Best Buy Alternatives



## ***NPR.org - Crop Cops Take to the Sky***

*by Peter Shaw, Southwestern Division*

A recent article on NPR.org reports that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is creating a comprehensive GIS database of agricultural land use in the continental U.S. — eventually, a computerized map of every farmer's field in America — from high-altitude, high-resolution digital orthophoto imagery.

Their immediate goal is to assure that farmers are managing their fields in accordance with Federal requirements and restrictions for crop subsidies, soil conservation, environmental preservation, etc. But Scott Willbrant, a coordinator of the USDA's mapping effort for the state of Kansas, says the new digital atlas will be useful to a lot of other people, too. "This will be one of the most sought-after datasets ever," he says. "It's unlimited what other industry, other agencies can do with it. They probably have more use for it than we do, actually."

The multiple data attributes available in a GIS model make this a potentially powerful and flexible planning tool. Concerning soil eroding into a local river, for example, combining this map with others that already exist — such as those showing topography and soil types — could help identify factors contributing to the problem. It would also tell you who owns those fields so you'd know whom to call. Think, too, of all of the rural floodplains for which land use information dates back decades, to the original planning feasibility report, with no good, affordable way to update it.

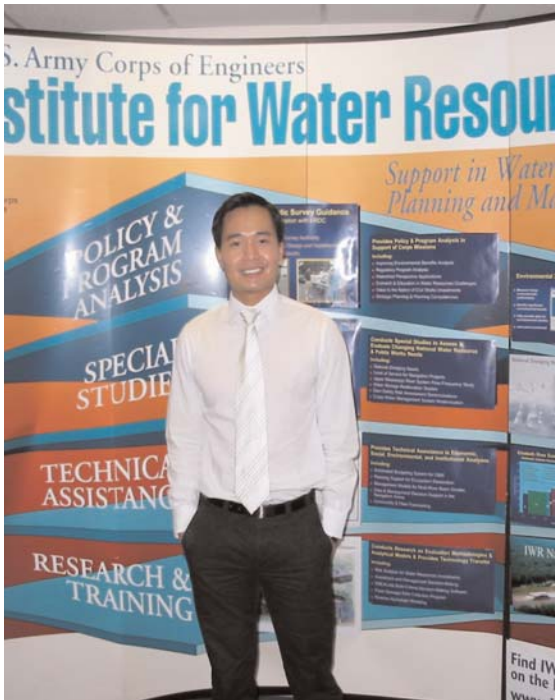
For now, the USDA is keeping much of their computerized atlas confidential. Officials say they're trying to decide how much of their surveillance data they can share, without violating the privacy of American farmers. An active effort toward collab-

orative planning between the Corps and USDA could make a great deal of useful information and analytical capability available to us.

For more information, see the full article on the web at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5710986&sc=emaf>.

## ***My Time at IWR***

***by Vongmony Var, Mobile District***



The month just flew by! I guess time really does fly by when you're enjoying yourself. I recently completed a month developmental assignment working for the Institute for Water Resource (IWR). I am currently a DA intern in Planning Division with Mobile District and before coming to IWR, I had somewhat of idea of how IWR support the Corps mission but after spending a month there, I gathered a better understanding. The people I met everyday were wonderful and the relationships that I established, I know, will serve me well as I continue my career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. IWR has many Economists and being an Economist myself, it was a great opportunity for me to learn from each of them. However, I didn't limit myself to just learning from the Economists but I tried to access the wealth of knowledge as a whole there at IWR including Planners, Biologists, Environmentalists, Engineers, and etc.

When I arrived at IWR, I reported to Brian Harper, an Economist, and Lillian Almodovar, an Economist and Manager for Group W. They immediately got me involved in reviewing EC 409 for the collaborative planning handbook and the NED manual for Deep Draft Navigation, and I got to work with hurricane storm damage data. Also, I was fortunate to be exposed to models that I know I will use back at the District such as IWR Plan and Beach FX. Along with these assignments and exposures, I got to sit in on numerous meetings and presentations while I was there.

Being on the DA intern program has brought me many wonderful opportunities in terms of training and I count my developmental assignment at IWR as one of them. The month I spent at IWR was a great and a worthwhile experience for me. IWR mission is to support Civil Works by anticipating changes in national water resources conditions, and to develop and apply new planning evaluation, hydrologic engineering and information management policies, methods, tools, and systems to address these needs. I have learned a lot in my month time at IWR and I will go back to Mobile District with only positive things to say about my time here and the people I met. If you are interested in learning more about IWR and the organization's mission, I refer you to IWR's website <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil>.

## ***Corps called on to Free Intrepid***

***by Peter Shugert, Vince Elias, New York District Public Affairs and JoAnne Castagna, Ed.d  
New York District***

The historic 27,100-ton aircraft carrier USS Intrepid (CV-11) traveled the world serving our country during World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

During World War II in the Pacific, it survived five Japanese kamikaze attacks, and completed three tours in the Vietnam War. Its crew tracked Soviet submarines during the Cold War, and served as NASA's prime recovery vessel for Mercury and Gemini capsules in the 1960's.

The USS Intrepid was decommissioned in 1974, and in 1982, Mr. Zachary Fisher rescued the ship from ultimate demise when he secured the aircraft carrier.

It was opened as a museum berthed on the Hudson River at Pier 86 in New York City. At that time, the West Side of Manhattan was the dark side of the moon. Since then, the Intrepid has brought public access to the Hudson River and made a positive economic impact in the area. Since its location there, Hudson River Park was established and a new passenger ship terminal has been built.

In August, the Intrepid Museum Foundation received a federal permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District to dredge an area from the berthing area out to the main channel in the Hudson River to facilitate the moving of the vessel to Bayonne, N.J., to begin a \$60 million refurbishment that would take two years.

Plans for an “Intrepid on Leave” extravaganza included an elaborate send-off of the 925-foot-long vessel to its temporary home being towed stern first, led by a wedge of four Corps workboats.



The Corps vessel Gelberman off the starboard stern of Intrepid as tug boats maneuver to move the 925-foot-long ship from its berth in Manhattan.



Ongoing Dredging operations alongside the USS Intrepid.



Ongoing Dredging operations alongside the USS Intrepid.



Workers dredge along the aft end of the starboard side of the Intrepid.

During the evolution to remove the ship from its berth, seven tugboats began to pull it from the slip when the Intrepid literally got stuck in the mud.

The Intrepid moved about 15 feet before its four giant propellers, each measuring 16 feet in diameter, dug into the sediment and prevented any more movement. Try as the straining tugs did, the old gray lady did not budge. The effect of this towing operation created a “speed bump” of mud under the hull.



Once dredged sediment was brought to the surface, it was placed on New York City Department of Sanitation barges and processed before being transported to a land-

Bill White, president of the Intrepid Museum Foundation immediately called Pentagon officials for assistance and the Army Corps of Engineers New York District was tapped to provide engineering and technical support.

New York District Engineer Col. Aniello L. Tortora; Tom Creamer, chief, Operations Division; and Peter Shugert, chief, Public Affairs arrived on the scene within two hours and worked with Intrepid Museum officials to provide tactical and public affairs support. Maj.(P) Leonard Law, Deputy District Engineer, provided key leadership assistance.

It was generally recognized that because the Intrepid was grounded, that its extraction from the mud had become a salvage operation and that the Navy had the unique knowledge required for the re-floating of an aircraft





**The Intrepid pierside in Manhattan.**

carrier. The Secretary of the Navy tasked the Naval Sea Systems Command for the salvage effort.

During the following week, divers under contract to the Navy surveyed below the water line and inspected the vessel. Their examination confirmed that the gray lady's propellers were fully encased in thick mud.

New York District and Navy salvage officials devised a three-prong plan. First, dig a trench on the south side of the vessel from Intrepid's stern to beyond the propellers. Second, utilize a drag bar to drag under the stern and scrape or rake the sediment out, and third, vacuum the sediment from the stern to under and around the propellers. Once dredged sediment was brought to the surface, it was placed on New York City Department of Sanitation barges and processed before being transported to Staten Island's Fresh Kills Landfill for beneficial reuse.

"The Corps performed this emergency operation in an environmentally sound way," said Creamer. "We were constantly in touch with all of the regulatory authorities."

Creamer worked 20-hour days facilitating Operation Rescue, providing technical assistance on regulatory matters, tactical advice to Navy and Intrepid officials, tracking and locating barges on weekends so that the dredging cycle could continue. He even did a number of television interviews, as did Law.

"It was a deeply disappointing day for Intrepid officials when it got stuck," said Shugert.

However, there was a silver lining. "There was enormous press attention. We had CNN broadcasting live from our Corps vessel Hocking for 4.5 hours on Operation Rescue, and heavy, positive press coverage of the Army Corps, Navy and Intrepid partnership to free the gray lady. World opinion has rallied behind all attempts to send it on its next voyage," he said.

Intrepid officials were even getting e-mail messages of encouragement from the Vatican, and hundreds of suggestions on how to free the ship, he added.



**Early this December, all of the silt is expected to be removed and the ship will be ready for tow to Bayonne during high tide.**

"The Intrepid Museum is thankful to the Army Corps of Engineers and the Navy for the great help they are providing to this effort," said Arnold Fisher, chairman of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

Early this December, all of the silt is expected to be removed and the ship will be ready for tow to Bayonne during high tide.

The Intrepid is not just an aircraft carrier or museum visited by 700,000 people a year, it is an icon for the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and the Fisher House program that support America's armed forces and their families," Shugert noted. "It's a program that recognizes the hardships of military service and meets a humanitarian need beyond that normally provided by the Department of Defense, and that makes our work here that much more important."

## *In Loving Memory of Ron Conner*



Ron Conner, Institute for Water Resources

Ronald R. Conner, 50, an economist and water resources planner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Institute for Water Resources died January 6th of cancer at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda.

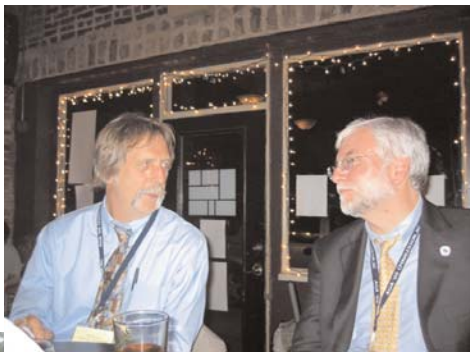
Ron was born October 27, 1956 and grew up in Oxnard, CA. Following graduation from high school, he followed his father's footsteps and joined the Navy. In 1979, while on duty in the Mediterranean, he suffered severe injuries from a car accident which required him to retire. After returning home, Ron attended the University of La Verne in California, graduating cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Business Administration. He then began his career with the Corps of Engineers as an Economist at the Los Angeles District and in 1990, became Chief of the Economics and Social Analysis Branch. In 1995, he moved to the Washington area after accepting a position with the Planning and Policy Division in the Directorate of Civil Works for the Headquarters of the Corps of Engineers. Ron also worked as an Emergency Response Program Manager at the Headquarters of the Corps.

In 2002, Ron moved on to the Institute for Water Resources at Fort Belvoir, VA, where he was a Senior Economist and served as Secretary, U.S. Section of the International Navigation Association (PIANC). While serving in this position, he traveled to Norway, Australia, Japan and Belgium. Among other accomplishments, Ron was instrumental

in establishing the Interagency Flood Hazard Advisory Teams, and developing Flood Risk Management Initiatives to improve collaborative partnerships with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Association of Storm and Flood Water Management Agencies, and the Association of State Floodplain Managers. Such accomplishments lead to recognitions for Leadership Awards of Excellence and a Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

Ron also traveled extensively for pleasure, including trips to Iceland, Scotland, Greece, Turkey, China, Japan, Bermuda, Italy and Switzerland. He was interested in historic preservation and conservation and gave generously to various charities supporting his interests including the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Jonson Cancer Center Foundation at UCLA. Ron was an avid soccer fan and a long time supporter of DC United. With his soccer friends, he traveled to Great Britain for English Premiership matches, and this year to Germany to support the US National Soccer Team in the World Cup.

Ron Conner lived in Silver Spring, MD, and is survived by many close friends, colleagues, and business associates who greatly admired his integrity, dedication to public service, and his passion for life.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements this month.

Please forward any announcements to the editor, Ken Lichtman at: [Kenneth.E.Lichtman@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kenneth.E.Lichtman@usace.army.mil).

## WANT TO CONTRIBUTE 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, and should be a MS Word document. We highly encourage you to send pictures to accompany your article.

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue is: **Tuesday, February 20, 2007.**

*Planning Ahead* is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 25-30. It is published by the Planning Community of Practice, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G Street. NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000

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