

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy Community



US Army Corps of Engineers

May 2007

Volume 10, Issue 4

A Note from the Leader of the Planning Community of Practice

This month I am reporting on several actions that we have undertaken at Headquarters that I believe will significantly improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of the Corps planning and review process, and the quality of the products going forward to approval.

Recently the Corps initiated an effort to apply the principles of *Lean Six Sigma* to the preauthorization decision document review process. Drawing on a team comprised of Corps personnel and members of the stakeholder community, a thorough review of the process was undertaken using Lean principles. The team developed proposed recommendations for streamlining the current process to include preparation and conduct of the feasibility scoping meeting and the alternative formulation briefing (two significant milestones in the process) and the report document review.

In order to test the application of the proposed recommendations before nationwide implementation, a team identified selected projects from the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) to test and evaluate the field application of the proposed recommendations and further identify process improvements. Along with the CERP projects, a navigation project (Savannah Harbor Deepening) and a more traditional ecosystem restoration project (Neuse River, NC) were also selected for the pilot test. By the end of the current fiscal year, the review team will complete its evaluation of the application of the proposed recommendations and will offer its suggested changes to existing guidance to improve the efficiency of the process.

Moving from the process and policy dimension to the personal dimension, it is with great pleasure that I welcome the four newest Planning members of the headquarters Regional Integration Teams. Please join me in welcoming **Ms. Andrea Walker**, a community planner from Northwest Division who joins the SWD RIT; **Ms. Rebecca Moyer**, an economist from the Office of Water Project Review who joins the LRD RIT; **Mr. Steven Kopecky**, an environmental protection specialist from the Baltimore District who joins the SAD RIT; and **Mr. Joseph Redican**, a civil engineer from Jacksonville District who joins the MVD RIT. They join **Mr. Scott Nicholson**, (POD RIT) who is also a recent addition to the RIT planners and who is a civil engineer formerly of the New York District.

I would also like to welcome **Ms. Maria Chin**, an economist from Mobile District who recently joined the Office of Water Project Review, and **Mr. Henri Langlois**, a civil engineer from SPD who recently joined the Planning and Policy CoP.

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Staying on the topic of personnel matters and my concern for ensuring the continued development of our planning capabilities, I would like to remind everyone that headquarters has begun the recruitment process for potential candidates for the Planning Associates class of FY 08. The Planning Associates program is an integral component in ensuring the development of highly skilled planning professionals.

In closing, I want to let everyone know that we continue to work with the Congress in the crafting of a water resources development act. In fact, the House of Representatives passed their Water Resources Development Act (HR 1495) on April 19th, and sent it to the Senate for their consideration. It is expected that the Senate will bring its own version of a Water Resources Development Act (S 1248) to the Floor in the very near future. And the confirmation of the next Chief of Engineers appears to be moving ever closer to completion.

Thanks for what you do every day.

Tom Waters,
Planning CoP Leader
Thomas.W.Waters.@usace.army.mil

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

In this month's issue of *Planning Ahead*, you will notice the recurring theme of **partnering** between the Corps and other organizations at various levels of engagement.

The first article details the Middle Mississippi River Watershed Planning Study, one of five congressionally mandated studies of watershed planning undertaken by the Corps. The article written by **Brian Johnson and Deanne Strauser** of the St. Louis District describes the Corps efforts to work with other Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations to carry out natural resources planning at the region wide level.

The next article, written by **Naomi Fraenkel** of the New York District, describes the 2007 class of Planning Associates as they shadowed Corps senior civilian and military leaders as well as other water resources experts in the Washington, DC area as part of their DC Experience to gain an appreciation for the development of water resources policy from a national level perspective.

The third article, written by **Eugene R. Urbanik** of the New York District, New Jersey area office, describes the Corps partnering with the US Environmental Protection Agency to remediate a Superfund site on the local level.

Continuing with the theme of partnering, I would like to call your attention to the **Third Partnership Conference** this October jointly sponsored by the Corps and The Nature Conservancy which will be held at the Oglebay Conference Center and Resort in Wheeling, West

Virginia. Also, save the date for the **2008 Planning CoP Conference** which will be held next May in San Antonio, Texas.

Another product of partnering presented in this issue is the announcement of a three week "**Engineering for Stream Ecosystem Restoration**" summer workshop series, sponsored by the University of Buffalo School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Buffalo District, to be presented this June.

Lastly, I would like to remind Corps personnel that the **Collaborative Planning Survey** will remain available until the end of May. Please continue to provide your valuable insights so that we can improve our planning efforts. Thank you to all who have already participated.

I would like to thank the authors who contributed articles to this issue of *Planning Ahead*, and encourage all members of the planning community to continue to submit articles for future issues of the newsletter.

Thanks,
Ken Lichtman, Editor
Institute for Water Resources
Kenneth.e.lichtman@usace.army.mil

2008 Planning CoP Conference Announcement

I am pleased to announce that the next Planning Community of Practice conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, May 20-22, 2008. The conference is being hosted by the Southwestern Division, and promises to be another exciting and successful event. Start planning now to be sure you can attend!

Although the theme of the conference is yet to be announced, it will certainly reflect upon the Planning Community's central role as problem-solvers in developing sound water resource solutions for the Nation. The conference will be structured to provide a variety of forums for addressing current topics of interest to planners: full-team, collaborative approaches; comprehensive, innovative, sustainable and integrated solutions; watershed and systems perspectives; risk management and risk-informed planning; stakeholder involvement; peer review; methodological advances; process improvements; new policy; USACE strategic direction and initiatives; professional development; sub-CoP activities, and more.

As a reminder, documentation and proceedings of the 2006 Planning CoP Conference "Collaboration for Integrated Water Resources Management," the 2004 Conference "Toward Integrated Water Resources Management," and the 2002 Conference "Balancing Economy and Environment" are available online:

2006 Conference: http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/2006_presentations/plnconf06.html

2004 Conference: http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/2004_conf/Title%20Frameset.htm

2002 Conference: <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/eande2002/index.htm>

Questions about the 2008 Planning CoP Conference can be directed to the Conference Chair, Mr. Bruce Carlson: bruce.d.Carlson@usace.army.mil. Watch future issues of *Planning Ahead* for updates and news on the 2008 Conference including the Conference Theme and a call for presentations, registration information, agenda, Conference website, and more.

Engineering Model Certification Guidance Release

Engineering and Construction Bulletin (ECB) 2007-6, "Model Certification Issues for Engineering Software in Planning Studies", was issued on 10 April 2007. The purpose of this document is to clarify issues regarding the application of EC 1105-2-407, "Planning Models Improvement Program: Model Certification" to engineering software used in USACE studies. This ECB addresses the corporate approach to assuring quality of engineering models and provides an interim procedure for documenting that engineering models are properly applied and checked during the Independent Technical Review (ITR) process. The ECB can be downloaded at http://www.wbdg.org/ccb/ARMYCOE/COEECB/ecb_2007_6.pdf.

For additional information, please contact Mr. Robert A. Bank Robert, Acting Deputy Chief, Engineering and Construction, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at robert.bank@usace.army.mil.

Development of New Approaches for Risk-informed Planning

By Bruce Carlson, USACE HQ

One of the Corps' "12 Actions for Change" calls for more fully employing risk-based concepts in planning, design, construction, operations, and major maintenance. The Planning Community of Practice is currently pursuing this challenge by developing approaches for "Risk-informed Planning".

The objective of this new approach is to augment the 6 step planning process to explicitly include risk and associated uncertainty. The goal is to use risk and uncertainty to inform decisions, based on the best available science and a reflection of social values.

The approach is being developed in real time on the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) project as a cooperative effort of the Institute for Water Resources, the LACPR study team, and associated stakeholders. There are three main areas of emphasis in the Risk-informed Planning approach: stronger focus on risk, uncertainty, and scenarios; incorporation of multiple objectives; and enhanced stakeholder involvement.

While the LACPR provides a tremendous test bed for developing Risk-informed Planning, its enormity and complexity make it an exception compared with typical Corps studies. So the concept and practice of Risk-informed Planning will also be tested on a more typical Corps study, soon to be announced.

In the months ahead *Planning Ahead* will be publishing a series of articles on Risk-informed Planning to more fully communicate the innovations that are being developed. Expect to see presentations of topics such as: characterizing and communicating risk; assessing safety and potential loss of life; scenario-based planning; evaluating effects across the four accounts; trade-off analysis; considerations for plan recommendation; and more.

As a reminder, the Chief's "12 Actions for Change" can be viewed online:
[http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/releases/News_Release - USACE 12 Actions for Change.pdf](http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/releases/News_Release_-_USACE_12_Actions_for_Change.pdf)

You also may be interested in the LACPR website: <http://lacpr.usace.army.mil/>.

FEATURED ARTICLES



Partnership, Collaborative Planning Effort Works to Improve Natural Resource Planning in the Middle Mississippi River Watershed

By Brian Johnson and Deanne Strauser,
St. Louis District

What do you get when you combine federal and state governments, non-governmental organizations, and local interests? No, not a recipe for disaster, but a

collaborative planning group that utilizes the expertise and input of the full spectrum of users!

This dynamic working group is chartered as the Middle Mississippi River Partnership (MMRP). It is a partnership that includes the Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri and Illinois State governments, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and conservation and environmental groups including the American Land Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy.

The MMRP was formed in 2004 and has a stated goal of improving the quality of life to a diverse group of

stakeholders along the Middle Mississippi River (MMR), by improving economic interests, and restoring and enhancing the natural resources of the river corridor from its confluence with the Missouri River near St. Louis, MO to its confluence with the Ohio River at Cairo, IL, a distance of 200 miles. The partners all have different priorities when it comes to the river, but they share a common goal.

The Middle Mississippi River region, with the newly established MMRP, and strong stakeholder base, was ready to take the next step, which was to accept the challenge of conducting meaningful watershed level natural resource based collaborative planning. With the backing of the MMRP, the St. Louis District submitted the Middle Mississippi River regional corridor as one of the pilot collaborative planning study efforts outlined by Congress in the FY 06 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

In May 2006 it was one of the five planning efforts selected from throughout the country to conduct planning using a multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency approach. Almost immediately additional agencies requested to join the Partnership, quickly increasing the level of communication and collaboration within the region. An initial summit workshop was held in July 2006 and over 250 stakeholders from throughout the corridor attended to share information, discuss regional priorities, and identify common issues and goals.



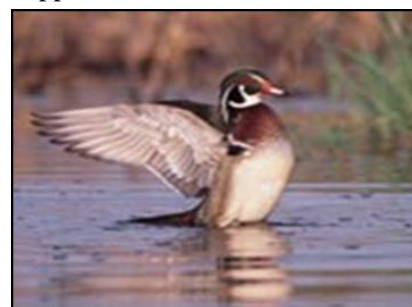
The Middle Mississippi River Regional Corridor (MMRRC) focuses on three main areas as part of its planning effort; 1) conducting collaborative natural resource based river reach assessments which focus on identifying needs and opportunities in each reach, 2) developing a hydro-geomorphic planning model which will help drive future planning efforts in the corridor, and 3) further development of a unifying set of basin level goals, objectives and strategies, which in turn result in actionable items for the regional stakeholders.

To accomplish the task of completing detailed reach assessments over 200 miles of river and floodplain, the Middle Mississippi River was ultimately divided into 5 reaches, each approximately 40 miles in length. Lead coordinators were established for each reach. In a true testament to the interest and desire of agencies to

participate in a collaborative planning process, each reach has had a different agency step up and volunteer to serve as the coordinator.

Individuals from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), American Land Conservancy (ALC), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) are all serving as Reach Coordinators. Their charge is to prepare a series of reach assessments which will be used to guide future ecosystem restoration and natural resource based planning within the corridor. There are team members from each partner agency on each reach team.

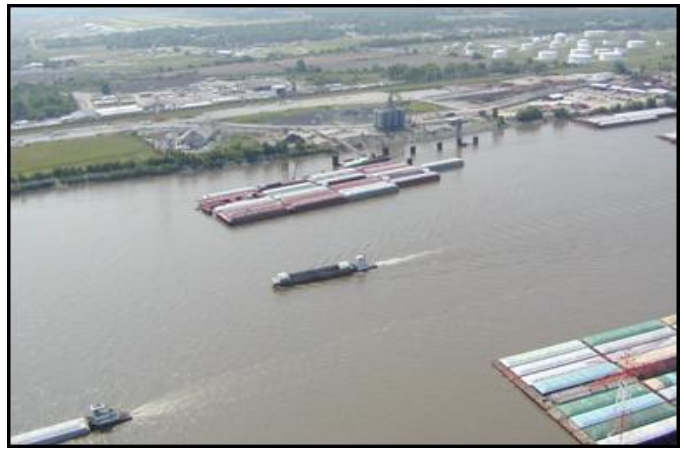
The agencies with responsibility for natural resource management in the region have also expressed a strong desire for a basin level planning tool to help guide and focus ecosystem restoration efforts. That need has resulted in an effort to create a hydro-geomorphic (HGM) model for Middle Mississippi River corridor. This GIS based model will incorporate soil type, flood frequency and topography to predict native habitat conditions. This proven planning tool will document pre-settlement ecosystem conditions, document existing ecosystem conditions, and define the habitat-based restoration potential for the MMR. Once completed, the regional partners intend to employ this planning tool as part of both collaborative and internal planning efforts (including non-environmental project planning efforts). The outputs of the model will drive future ecosystem restoration, preservation, and conservation planning and decision making.



The final challenge lies in the further development of a unifying set of goals, objectives, and strategies for collaborative, multi-jurisdictional natural resource planning. Development of collaboratively created goals, objectives, and strategies is the next step in the development of a true regional planning effort. The focus of this effort will be on developing implementable actions for all agencies, improved communication between agencies, and better leveraging of future resources, while striving to balance both the economic and environmental needs of the region. Together with reach assessments and the HGM results, this effort is expected to greatly further the planning needs of the region.

The products from this study will tie into other ongoing efforts within the region including Missouri's Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy, the Corps' Navigation and Environmental Sustainability Program and Environmental Management Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Threatened and Endangered Species Management Program, the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Plan, as well as several non-governmental programs such as The Nature Conservancy's Upper Mississippi River Program.

Consistent with the Mississippi River's Congressional designation as a both a Nationally Significant Transportation System and Nationally Significant Ecosystem, the Middle Mississippi River Partnership is founded around the principle that you can have both economic development AND environmental sustainability, and that together they can work in harmony and sustain one another. The Middle



Mississippi River Regional Corridor study, in concert with the MMRP is working to make great strides in that direction.

Planning Associates DC Shadow Experience

By Naomi Fraenkel, New York District

Last month, Shawn Phillips (CE-MVM) presented what the Planning Associates did for three weeks in Washington, DC. This month, Naomi Fraenkel (CE-NAN) chronicles her classmates' experiences during their day spent tagging along with Corps and water resources leadership.

Thursday, March 8th, our "shadow day" started early for most of us, in particular Jeffrey Tripe (CE-SWF). Jeff shadowed Major General Don T. Riley, Director of Civil Works. The day included meetings nonstop from 7:00am to 5:00pm on a variety of different issues, problems, and project needs – from the Chief of Engineers transition, to the five GE watershed planning studies, to projects in operation on the ground. Jeff found the experience very rewarding and was impressed by how



broad and deep MG Riley's knowledge of Corps Civil Works had to be to understand and talk about so many diverse topics at multiple levels.

Another early start was Deputy Director for Civil Works, Mr. Steve Stockton. Mr. Stockton was shadowed by David Bucaro (CE-LRC). Mr. Stockton started the day at 4 am in

Philadelphia and concluded near 11 pm after an evening reception and dinner in downtown Washington with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Mr. John Paul Woodley. The day included time at the GAO building, the Senate



Armed Services Committee hearing to consider the nomination of Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp as Chief of Engineers, and meetings with the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and the Harris County Flood Control District.

Speaking of the Pacific Northwest, Laura Orr (CE-NWS) spent her shadow day with Mr. Tom Waters (Chief, Planning and Policy HQ and MVD RIT). Laura's day with Mr. Waters was full of meetings on topics ranging from Hurricane Katrina to the Inland Waterways and

Harbor Maintenance Trust Funds. After a busy day of meetings, Mr. Waters and his shadow had dinner with Mr. Stockton, his shadow, and Secretary Woodley. Laura was most impressed with the dedication of our chief and the credit he gives his wife for her support of the Corps of Engineers lifestyle. Laura and David both learned from the day just how small Washington, D.C. really is. They ran into each other with their respective “people” throughout the day.

Kim Gavigan (CE-SPL) and I spent the day with the Honorable Robert K. Dawson, President and founder of Dawson & Associates, Inc., and members of his staff. Mr. Dawson served as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works during the Reagan Administration. We spent the morning at the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing where we bumped into Mr. Stockton and David Bucaro. At lunch, we met with Mr. Steven Dawson, Government Relations and Legislative Deputy, and Mr. Newton Klements, Senior Advisor, at Dawson & Associates. Mr. Klements is an attorney with over 32 years of Federal legal experience, 30 with the Corps of Engineers. In the afternoon we accompanied Mr. Robert Dawson to a panel discussion attended by the Defense Science Study Group. On Capitol Hill that afternoon we met Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi and the Honorable John O. Marsh Jr., Former Secretary of the Army and Virginia Congressman. Our greatest realization of the day was the depth and breadth of the team Mr. Dawson fields for Dawson & Associates.

Speaking of lunch, Beth Cade (CE-LRH) didn't have any. Beth shadowed Major General Ronald Johnson who does PT every day at lunch. Beth ran two miles and went to the Chief of Engineers Transition Team meeting. Beth's favorite moment of the day came when a contractor responded to one of MG Johnson's questions - "Sir, I am not going to tell you no. I value my body parts." In spite of his tough reputation and gym-going ways, Beth found out that MG Johnson has a huge sweet tooth and loves chocolate.



Brad Foster also had an extensive and busy day with

Lieutenant General Carl Strock, Chief of Engineers. The day included multiple meetings on many topics, and Brad was surprised how much of the Chief's time is spent on Civil Works functions. Brad was also introduced to risk assessment and how it should be incorporated into the planning process. Brad's day ended well past 8pm. Brad also had the honor of receiving a commander's coin from the Chief.



All of the 2007 PA's received coins from the ASA(CW) when we arrived in DC, and for their generosity they were provided with two PA shadows. Greg Steele (CE-NAO) shadowed Mr. Douglas W. Lamont, P.E., Deputy ASA (Project Planning and Review). Greg and Mr. Lamont met with OMB staff, spent time with the Harris County Flood Control District, and went to a briefing for Secretary Woodley by General (ret.) Gerald D. Galloway. Greg was surprised that so many people in the ASA Office are former Corps employees and impressed by the level of commitment ASA has to moving the Corps through OMB scrutiny.

Shawn Phillips (CE-MVM) spent the day with Ms. Claudia Tornblom, Management and Budget Director for ASA (CW). After a morning of resolution of FY07 Work Plan issues with OMB and Hot Topics briefings, Shawn accompanied Ms. Tornblom to the same Pacific Northwest Waterways Association meeting as David, Laura, and their respective leaders Mr. Steve Stockton and Mr. Tom Waters. Later, Shawn and Ms. Tornblom met Greg and Mr. Lamont for General Galloway's briefing to Secretary Woodley on implementation of measures recommended in the report "*Sharing the Challenge*," based upon the great flood in the Upper Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers in 1993.



Brian Rast (CE-NWK) had a busy day following Ms. Karla Klingner, Legislative Assistant to Senator Christopher Bond of Missouri. Ms. Klingner specializes in water policy and education issues. Brian's biggest surprise was how much the legislative staffers do and how important a job it is.

Nonetheless, for those three weeks at the end of the

Corps Achieves Major Milestone at Superfund Site

By Eugene R. Urbanik, P.E., P.P.
New York District, New Jersey Area Engineer

In February 2007, the Corps' New York District achieved a major milestone when it began the demolition of the industrial park facility at the Cornell Dubilier Electronics Superfund site in South Plainfield, NJ. From 1936 to 1962, Cornell Dubilier Electronics, Inc. manufactured electronic parts and components, including capacitors. It is alleged that during their operations, the company dumped PCB-contaminated materials and other hazardous substances directly onto site soils. Since then, numerous companies have operated at the site as tenants.

The total population estimated to live within one mile of the site is 8,700. It is estimated that over 500 residents live within a quarter-mile of the site, and some residential homes are located less than 200 feet from the site. The New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection recognized the magnitude of the problem and requested assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA's Region II office conducted soil borings at the site and in surrounding properties. The soil at the site is contaminated with volatile organic compounds and PCBs. Also, building interiors at the site contain elevated levels of PCBs and metals which are probable human carcinogens. Contamination was extensive and uncontrolled, impacting sediment, soil, and groundwater and posing health risks to residents and tenants.

The EPA requested assistance from the Corps to clean up the site. The magnitude and nature of the clean-up project provided an opportunity for a Corps team to be assembled with specialists from three Corps Districts and two Divisions. Personnel from each district play a critical role in the project.

New York District leads the Remedial Action Phase by managing a cost-reimbursable contract for the residential

winter, the most important job in DC was that of Ms. Joy Muncy, PA program manager and DCX course owner. Joy did a miraculous job putting together our Washington, DC experience and particularly our Shadow Day. Stay tuned next month as the PA's take on the Navigation business lines in Mobile, AL and Huntington, WV.

property work and a fixed price contract for the demolition of the current industrial park located at the site. The Environmental Residency office of the New York District's New Jersey Area Office is managing on-site construction activities; the Baltimore District is managing key commercial real estate relocation services; and the Kansas City District is responsible for remedial design and technical assistance.

Current work includes demolition and environmental abatement of 18 industrial buildings, transporting contaminated material to disposal facilities, and soil removal at four residential homes.

Extensive safety procedures are in place to protect the health of residents in, and near the site. Future work includes a railroad spur installation to reduce transportation and disposal costs, on-site soil treatment of the industrial park materials, the remediation of 59 additional residential properties, and wetlands remediation.

The project has several more phases of work, and is expected to cost over \$80 million. The industrial park soil remediation will begin after the demolition is completed in 18 months. The overall project is expected to be completed by 2011.



Commencement of building demolition at the Cornell Dubilier Electronics Superfund Site on Feb. 28, 2007



SAVE-THE-DATE
For the
THIRD PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE
“Developing Sustainable Aquatic Solutions”
Oglebay, Wheeling, West Virginia
October 1 - 4, 2007

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy) are pleased to announce the Third Partnership Conference to be held at the Oglebay Conference Center and Resort in Wheeling, West Virginia, located on the banks of the Ohio River.

This year’s conference will be held in conjunction with the **Corps of Engineers/State Natural Resources Directors Joint Meeting**. We will all come together at a joint cookout and field trip. This is a great opportunity to expand partnerships. The conference will showcase the integration of ecologically sustainable water management into water resources projects, collaborative partnering arrangements, a poster session and a discussion on project funding will also be highlighted.



We are proud to feature Keynote Speaker Chad Pregracke, founder and President of *Living Lands & Water*, and co-author of the recently released *From the Bottom Up: One Man's Crusade to Clean America's Rivers*.

In 1998, Chad founded Living Lands & Waters, a non-profit organization whose mission is to aid in the protection, preservation & restoration of the natural environment of the Nation’s major rivers and watersheds. The organization includes staff and thousands of volunteers who help annually with Community Cleanups, Riverbottom Forest Restoration, and Adopt-A-Mississippi River Mile program.

Who should attend: Corps Leadership and staff, including Project Managers, Planners, Environmental staff, H&H staff and Operations staff and Conservancy Leadership, Conservation Directors and Government Relations Staff

We will be sending out a draft agenda and registration forms in July.
Please feel free to contact Lisa Morales, Program Manager – Army Corps at Lisa.T.Morales@hq02.usace.army.mil or Liz Abbett, Government Relations Program Assistant – The Nature Conservancy at eabbett@tnc.org if you have any questions

REMINDERS

Attention Corps employees: Collaborative Planning Survey is still available

The survey announced in last month's *Planning Ahead* on the "Barriers to the Use of Collaborative Planning in Corps Planning Studies" will be available to Corps employees through the end of May at the following website: https://corpsinfo.usace.army.mil/IWRsurvey/collaborative_planning.htm. If you have questions, please contact Darrell Nolton at 703-428-9084 or Darrell.G.Nolton@usace.army.mil.

IN THE NEWS

Update on Congressional action on Water Resources Development Act of 2007

On April 19th the House of Representatives passed HR 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 by a vote of 394-25, and was subsequently delivered to the Senate and placed on the Senate calendar. On April 30th, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works submitted Senate Report 110-58 to accompany Senate bill 1248, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and was placed on the Senate Calendar.

Link to HR 1495, Water Resources Development Act:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h1495pcs.txt.pdf

Link to S 1248, Water Resources Development Act:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:s1248pcs.txt.pdf

Link to Senate Report 110-58:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_reports&docid=f:sr058.110.pdf

TRAINING COURSES

Upcoming PROSPECT training courses of interest to the members of the Planning CoP include:

PLANNING FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (Control #348) May 14-18, 2007 Fort Worth, TX

Ecosystem restoration is a priority mission in the Corps' Civil Works program. Together with traditional environmental mitigation, restoration spans the range of resources from fish and wildlife to watersheds and ecosystems. The formulation and evaluation that leads to restoration projects require a collaborative approach that also involves local sponsors and other stakeholders. This course explores key issues related to the current practice of ecosystem restoration planning: current and evolving policy, definition and measurement of ecosystem outputs, resource significance, plan formulation, and cost effectiveness/incremental cost analyses. Case studies and a field trip will be utilized to illustrate current practices.

Topics covered in the course include the following: (a) Authorities for Corps involvement in ecosystem restoration projects; (b) Environmental outputs and tools available for measuring them; (c) The meaning of resource significance and the importance of the evaluation criteria of efficiency, effectiveness, acceptability and completeness in ecosystem restoration; (d) Fundamentals of ecological principles and processes; (e) Management measures; (f) How risk and uncertainty factor into ecosystem restoration evaluation; (g) The purpose of Cost Effectiveness and Incremental Cost Analysis; (h) How to formulate jointly for ecosystem restoration (NER) and National Economic Development (NED) benefits.

CIVIL DESIGN FOR PLANNING (Control #218)
July 9-13, 2007 Los Angeles, CA

This course focuses on the Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works project development process. It provides a general understanding of the broad-range of engineering studies and sensitive engineering issues that impact and influence project formulation, the reconnaissance and feasibility planning phase, as well as the preconstruction engineering and design (PED) phase. The course also covers the processes involved in accomplishing studies (e.g. independent technical review, policy review, quality control, value engineering), and tools (mapping, risk based analysis, Project Management Plans, etc.). It discusses the role of the designer, planner, and project manager in the context of the Project Delivery Team. It is intended to reach newly assigned professional scientists/engineers within the engineering, planning, and project management functions of the Corps or those who are new to the Civil Works process. The class can also provide an excellent refresher and update for staff currently working in the program. Individuals not working with, or planning to work with, the USACE Civil Works process may receive less benefit from this class.

The course can be used as an introduction for employees relatively new to Civil Works project implementation, but also provides an excellent refresher and update for staff currently working in the program. It is suitable for all disciplines and organizations involved in Civil Works project implementation. The course also provides information on the HQ Policy Review process, to help you to develop better decision documents.

The course proponent for the “Civil Design for Planning” course is Mr. Bob Bank, CECW-CE, (202) 761-4243.

PLANNING PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES (Control #77)
July 9-13, 2007 Virginia Beach, VA

This course provides district and division planners with an overview of how Corps of Engineers water resource projects are planned in accordance with current policies and procedures. Upon completion of the course, the student will have a basic understanding of the principles and policies guiding the planning of Corps Civil Works water resources development projects. Policies and procedures are discussed in a series of short presentations by HQUSACE staff and through class participation in small group exercises. Presentations and class exercises focus on case studies designed to illustrate the planning process and application of guidance and policy. The course presents the basic procedures that enable the student to conduct the planning process under today's requirements. The course covers interaction among the district, division, HQUSACE, Army, and the Administration, and includes a session on new directions in planning. The course is conducted in an informal atmosphere to encourage class interaction.

To attend these courses or to receive additional information about these or other PROSPECT training courses, please contact the USACE Learning Center at <http://pdsc.usace.army.mil>.

WORKSHOPS

ENGINEERING FOR STREAM ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION SUMMER WORKSHOP SERIES

The Corps has 12 slots available in each of three one week courses to be taught next month at the University of Buffalo, Summer Workshop Series on Ecosystem Restoration, sponsored by the University of Buffalo and the Buffalo District of the Corps.

The cost to Corps employees to attend each course is only \$100.00. That's right, \$100.00 (that is not a typo). Space is limited to 12 slots available for Corps employees for each of the three courses. First come first served!!! Reserve your slot ASAP. For additional information on these courses please contact David L. Derrick at ERDC-CHL-MS, David.L.Derrick@erdc.usace.army.mil

Workshop Title: "River Processes- Fluvial Geomorphology and Channel Processes"
June 4 - 8, 2007

Workshop Title: "Stream Restoration – Function Based Hydraulic Structure and Bioengineering Design"
June 11 - 15, 2007

Workshop Title: "Stream Ecology and Biological Assessment"
June 18 - 22, 2007

Academic and PE Education Credits

Receive 36 contact instructional hrs (**3.6 CEUs**) towards continuing education requirements for Professional Engineers' or Certified Professionals' in Soil and Erosion Control registration renewal for *each* workshop attended. Or take *all 3* workshops for 3 academic credits. The University at Buffalo School of Engineering and Applied Sciences is a recognized accredited educational organization for PE Continuing Education by the New York State Department of Education. See <http://www.eng.buffalo.edu/pece> for additional information.

CONFERENCES

9th Annual National Harbor Safety Committee Conference

May 9-11, 2007 Chicago, IL

Additional information: <http://www.trb.org/Conferences/HSCC/2007/>

Measuring the Economic Effects of Global Warming

May 10, 2007 Washington, DC

Additional information:

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsItem.aspx?RecordID=04272007>

Coastal Sediments '07

May 13-17, 2007 New Orleans, LA

Additional information: <http://www.asce.org/conferences/cs07/index.cfm>

ASCE, World Environmental and Water Resources Congress 2007

May 15-19, 2007 Tampa, FL

Additional information: <http://content.asce.org/conferences/ewri2007/>

Cascading Infrastructure Failures: Avoidance and Response

May 16, 2007 Washington, D.C.

Additional information: <http://www.jmu.edu/iiia/2007symposium/index.html>

Association of State Dam Safety Officials, 2007 West Regional Conference

May 20-22, 2007 Omaha, NE

Additional information: <http://damsafety.org/documents/PDF/07%20West%20Registration.pdf>

“Effective Risk Communication: Theory, Tools, and Practical Skills for Communicating About Risk”, Harvard School of Public Health,

May 21-23, 2007 Boston, MA

Additional information: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/RCC.shtml>

International Association for Great Lakes Research, Annual Conference

May 28-June 1, 2007 University Park, PA

Additional information: <http://www.iaglr.org/conference/>

Association of State Floodplain Managers, Annual Meeting

“Charting the Course: New Perspectives in Floodplain Management”

June 3-8, 2007 Norfolk, VA

Additional information: <http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/norfolk.asp>

Association of State Dam Safety Officials, 2007 Northeast Regional Conference

June 5-7, 2007 Manchester, NH

Additional information: <http://www.damsafety.org/documents/pdf/NE%20Registration%2007.pdf>

2007 USACE Infrastructure Systems Conference

June 25-27, 2007 Detroit, MI

Additional information: <http://www.usaceisconf.org/>

Transportation Research Board 2007 Summer Conference

July 7-9, 2007 Chicago, IL

Additional information: <http://www.trb.org/conferences/2007/Joint%20Summer/2007SummerConfFlyer.pdf>

Association of State Dam Safety Officials, 2007 Annual National Conference

September 9-13, 2007 Austin, TX

Additional information: <http://www.damsafety.org/>

Smart Rivers 2007

September 16-19, 2007 Louisville, KY

Additional information: <http://www.pianc.us>

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, Fourth International Conference on Irrigation and Drainage

October 3-6, 2007 Sacramento, CA

Additional information: <http://www.icid2007.org/>

American Shore and Beach Preservation Association and Texas General Land Office Fall Conference

October 22-24, 2007 Galveston, TX

Additional information: http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conf_fall_07.htm

AWRA Annual Water Resources Conference

November 12-15, 2007 Albuquerque, NM

Additional information: http://www.awra.org/meetings/New_Mexico2007/index.html

4th International Symposium on Flood Defense

May 14-16, 2008 Toronto, Canada

Additional information: <http://www.flood2008.org/flood/>

PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of recently published reports, studies, or articles prepared by the Corps of Engineers, other Federal agencies, or other research organizations:

“America’s Container Ports: Delivering the Goods”, U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovation Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, March 2007, available at:

http://www.bts.dot.gov/publications/americas_container_ports/

“Benefits of Using Remotely Operated Vehicles to Inspect USACE Navigation Structures” by James H. Lever, Gary E. Phetteplace, and Jason C. Weale, ERDC/CRREL TR-07-4 available at:

<http://libweb.wes.army.mil/uhtbin/hyperion/CRREL-TR-07-4.pdf>

“Climate Change: Financial Risks to Federal and Private Insurers in Coming Decades Are Potentially Significant”, U.S. Government Accountability Office, GAO-07-285, March 2007, available at:

<http://www.gao.gov/docdb/lite/summary.php?rptno=GAO-07-285&accno=A66924>

“Estimating Risk from Spillway Gate Systems on Dams Using Condition Assessment Data” by Allen C. Estes, Stuart D. Foltz, and David T. McKay, ERDC/CERL TR-05-40, available at:

<http://libweb.wes.army.mil/uhtbin/hyperion/CERL-TR-05-40.pdf>

“Extended Range Forecast of Atlantic Seasonal Hurricane Activity and U.S. Landfall Strike Probability for 2007” by Phillip J. Klotzbach and William M. Gray, April 2007, available at:

<http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts>

“Federal Flood Assessment Conference – Recommendations and Proceedings, September 6, 2006”, available at: <http://el.paso.tamu.edu/Research/Index.htm>

“Mitigating Shore Erosion along Sheltered Coasts”, Committee on Mitigating Shore Erosion along Sheltered Coasts, National Research Council, 2007, available at

http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11764

“National Security and the Threat of Climate Change”, The CNA Corporation, 2007, available at:

<http://securityandclimate.cna.org/>

“Overview of Prairie Planting Techniques and Maintenance Requirements” by Pamela Bailey and Chester O. Martin, ERDC TN-EMRRP-ER-05, available at:

<http://libweb.wes.army.mil/uhtbin/hyperion/TN-EMRRP-ER-05.pdf>

“Progress Toward Restoring the Everglades: The First Biennial Review, 2006”, Committee on Independent Scientific Review of Everglades Restoration Progress, National Research Council, 2007, available at:

http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11754

“Regional Availability of Plants for Prairie Restoration”, by Pamela Bailey and Chester O. Martin, ERDC TN-EMRRP-SI-31, available at: <http://el.ercd.usace.army.mil/index.cfm>

“River Science at the U.S. Geological Survey”, National Research Council, 2007, available at:

http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11773

“Scientific Review of the Proposed Risk Assessment Bulletin from the office of Management and Budget”, National Research Council, 2007, available at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11811

“Waterway Action Plan – A Joint Project of the Marine Industry, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers”, March 16, 2007, available at: <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/westernrivers/default.asp>

“Wolf Creek Dam Consensus Report – Engineering Risk and Reliability Analysis”, DSAC Class I Dams Peer Review Panel, April 11, 2007, available at: <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/WolfCreek/>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

These are but a few of the many available opening advertised on the Army’s Civilian Personnel on line website: <http://cpol.army.mil>

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: SWHB07920759

Opening Date: April 24, 2007 **Closing Date:** May 24, 2007

Position: GS-13: Social Scientist (0101), Economist (0110), Archaeologist (0193), Biologist (0401), General Engineer (0801), Landscape Architect (0807), Architect (0808), Civil Engineer (0810), Environmental Engineer (0819), Mechanical Engineer (0830), Electrical Engineer (0850), Chemical Engineer (0893), Physical Scientist (1301), Chemist (1320), Geologist (1350)

Salary: \$75,414 - \$98,041 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer District Tulsa, Programs & Project Mgmt Division, Civil Works Branch, Tulsa, OK

Duty Location: Tulsa, OK

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: SWBG07959125

Opening Date: April 30, 2007 **Closing Date:** May 11, 2007

Position: GS-11/12: Community Planning (0020), Economist (0110), Archeologist (0193), General Biologist Science (0401), Architect (0808), Civil Engineer (0810), Geography (0150)

Salary: \$52,912 - \$82,446 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer District, Rock Island, Planning, Programs and Project Mgt Div., Planning and Policy Branch, Rock Island, IL

Duty Location: Rock Island, IL

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 01

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: SCGV07900405

Opening Date: April 23, 2007 **Closing Date:** May 22, 2007

Position: YF-2:Supervisory Civil Engineer (0810), Supervisory Water Resources Planner (1301), Supervisory Biologist (0401), Supervisory Economist (0110), Supervisory Landscape Architect (0807), Supervisory Ecologist (0408), Supervisory Community Planner (0020), Supervisory Environmental Engineer (0819)

Salary: \$63,417 - \$121,641 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer Dist, Jacksonville, Planning Division, Plan Formulation Branch, Watershed Planning Section, Jacksonville, FL 32232

Duty Location: Jacksonville, FL

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 01

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: WTHG07984932

Opening Date: May 02, 2007 **Closing Date:** May 16, 2007

Position: GS-12: Community Planning (0020), Economist (0110), Archaeologist (0193), Environmental Resource Specialist (0401), Civil/Hydraulic/General Engineer (0810), Environmental Engineer (0819), Wildlife Biologist (0486), Landscape Architect (0807)

Salary: \$63,417 - \$82,446 Annual

Place of Work: U. S. Army Engineering District, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, Planning Branch, Plan Formulation Sec, Walla Walla, Washington

Duty Location: Walla Walla, WA

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: SWGB07948681

Opening Date: May 04, 2007 **Closing Date:** May 18, 2007

Position: GS-7/9/11: General Biological Science (0401), Fish Biologist (0482), Environmental Engineer (0819), Physical Scientist (1301), Wildlife Biologist (0486)

Salary: \$36,234 - \$69,715 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer District, Pittsburgh, Business Resource Division, Planning and Environmental Branch, Pittsburgh, PA

Duty Location: Pittsburgh, PA

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

In addition to the above identified vacancy announcements, the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) expects to be posting vacancy announcements in the near future. Please check the CPOL website.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO *PLANNING AHEAD*

Planning Ahead is designed to foster communication amongst the members of the Planning community of practice within the Corps, with those other members of the Corps family with which planners interact on a daily basis, and with members of the general public outside of the Corps. It is our goal that future editions of the newsletter will include information and perspectives of those members of the planning community on the front lines of the Corps' planning efforts, the District and Division offices. We hope that this newsletter becomes a forum to share your experiences to help the entire planning community learn from one another. We welcome your thoughts, comments, questions, suggestions, success stories, and lessons learned, so that we can share them with the broader community. Submissions should be moderate in length (4-5 paragraphs), except in cases where the article is compelling and circumstances warrant a lengthier treatment of the subject. The article should be prepared as a MS Word document. Pictures accompanying submitted articles are welcome. Pictures must be in JPEG format.

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue of *Planning Ahead* is
Wednesday, May 23, 2007.

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