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# 2007 Planning Associates Critical Think Piece

## Planning: Bridging the Gap

*Presented By: Team Triple Play  
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Our purpose is to provide tools for ***bridging the planning gap*** between the Corps' planning process and those planning processes used by other federal agencies, states, local communities, and the professional planning community.



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# Identifying the Gap

- Corps Planners
  - Systems Approach
  - Collaboration
- **Planning Focus**
  - Federal Agencies
  - Local Communities
- **Technical Expertise**
  - Actions for Change





- Early on, the question was posed to us... ***What is the role of a planner?***
- Everyone has a somewhat different response to this question... ***it is all about perspective.***
- We have ***interacted*** with many agencies, sponsors, HQUSACE, MSC's, other districts, home offices, etc.
- Differing levels of training and experience – ***the art of planning***



# What We Heard - Internal



**Planning is a contact sport**  
*MG Riley, HQUSACE*

**Frame the question...offer solutions**  
*Harry Kitch, USACE*

**Pentathlete**  
*LTG Strock, HQUSACE*





# What We Heard - External

**Don't wait to be asked...have an inclusive attitude**

*Phillip Hensley,  
Alabama Dept. of  
Conservation*



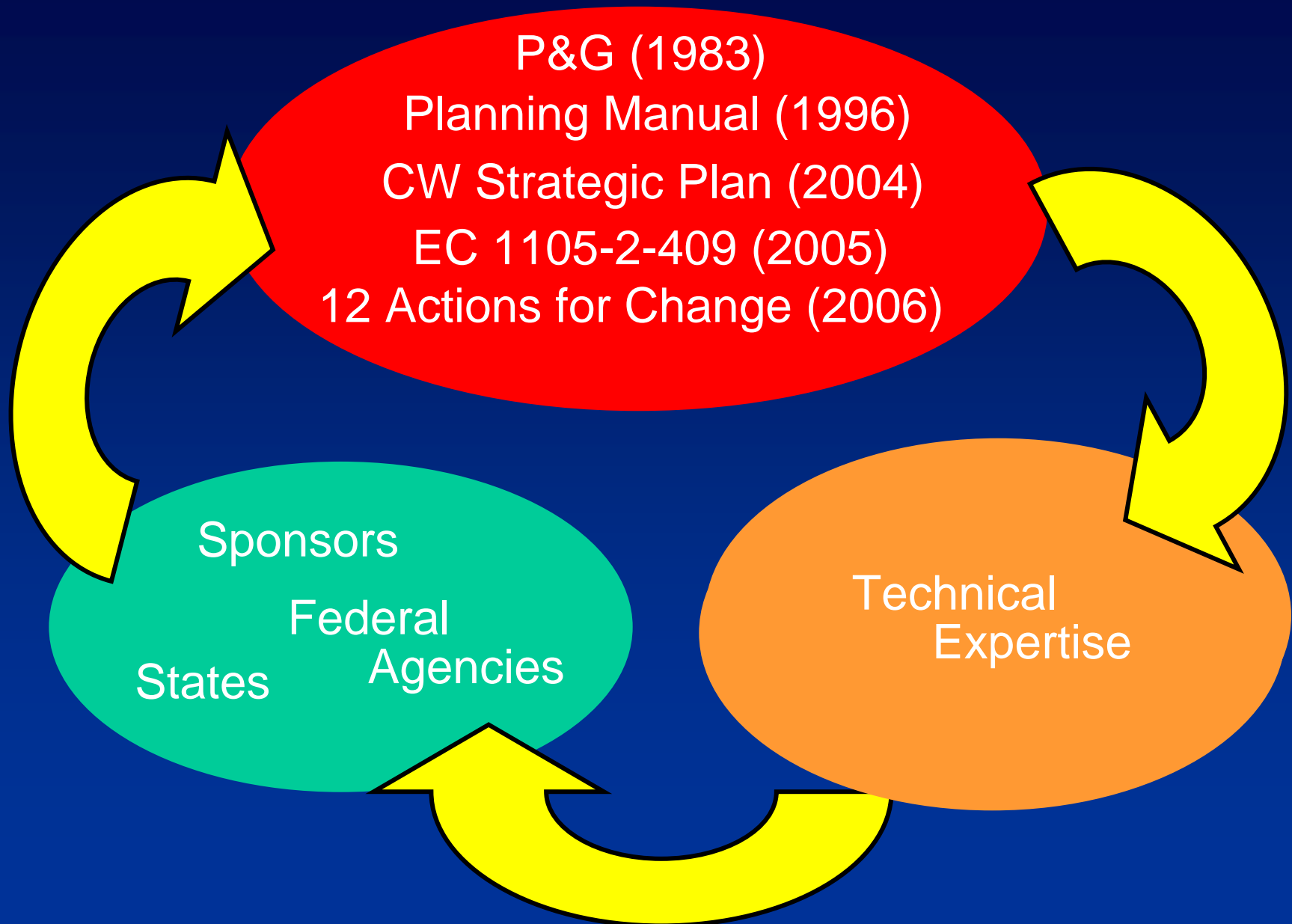
**Understand the municipal perspective**

*Marty Pagliughi, Mayor  
– Avalon, NJ*

**Seeing past the end of your nose**

*Dan Edge, Village of  
Belleville, WI*







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# Planning Focus Can Vary

## Local Agencies



## The Public



## State Agencies

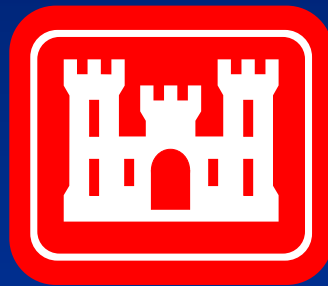
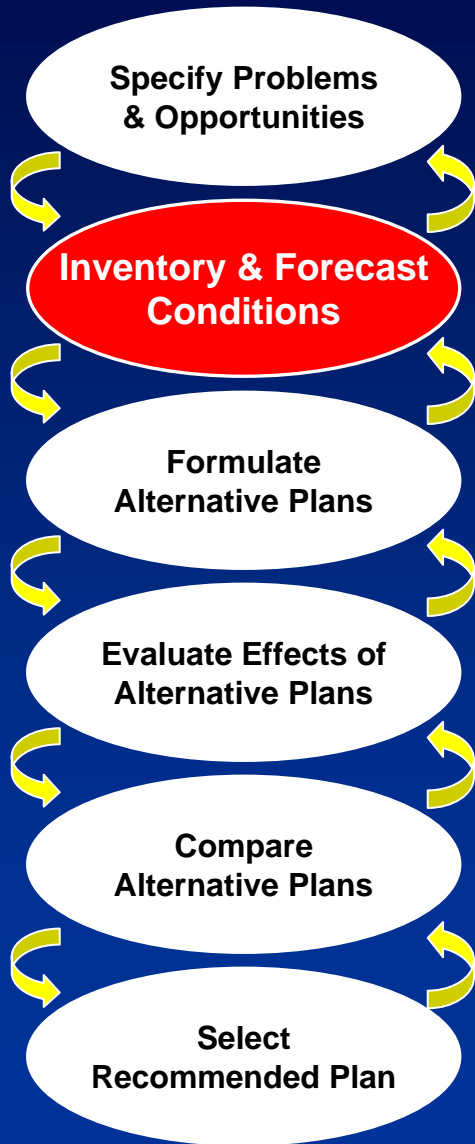


## Federal Agencies





# First Impressions





## Phase I - Collection and Analysis

- Identify Problems
- Determine Objectives
- Inventory Resources
- Analyze Resource Data

## Phase II - Decision Support

- Formulate Alternatives
- Evaluate Alternatives
- Make Decisions

## Phase III - Application and Evaluation

- **Implement the Plan**
- Evaluate the Plan

No BCR – Plan is  
locally led and  
implemented





## Employing a Comprehensive Point of View

No future without  
project  
condition?

- Looking at the **consequences** (e.g., physical/environmental, social, economic/financial, governmental) of making a **proposed decision**;
- Establishing a **community wide vision** based on an active community participation process while addressing the needs and concerns of the community as a whole
- Provide **general framework** for guiding future development





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# The Art of Planning



American Planning Association

*Making great communities happen*

- Influencing public decision making in the public interest. Employing an appropriately **comprehensive** point of view. Applying a planning process appropriate to the situation involving a professional level of responsibility and resourcefulness.



- To advance **multidisciplinary** water resources education, management and research.
- Establishment of a **common meeting ground** for physical, biological, social scientists, engineers, and other persons concerned with water resources.



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# AICP Planning Certification



American Planning Association

*Making great communities happen*

## Not Generally Considered Professional Experience:

“Work in related fields, unless it constitutes a minor element of the applicant's planning experience. The following illustrates types of work in related fields sometimes performed by planners, **but more often by other professionals:**” ...

“Experience in related professions (e.g., law, architecture, landscape architecture, engineering).”

- .... *From Eligibility Criteria for American Institute of Certified Planners*

<http://www.planning.org/>



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# *Who Are Corps Planners?*

Civil Engineer

Hydraulic Engineer

Park Ranger

**Social Scientist**

**Hydrologist**

**Geologist**

Economist

Project Manager

Ecologist

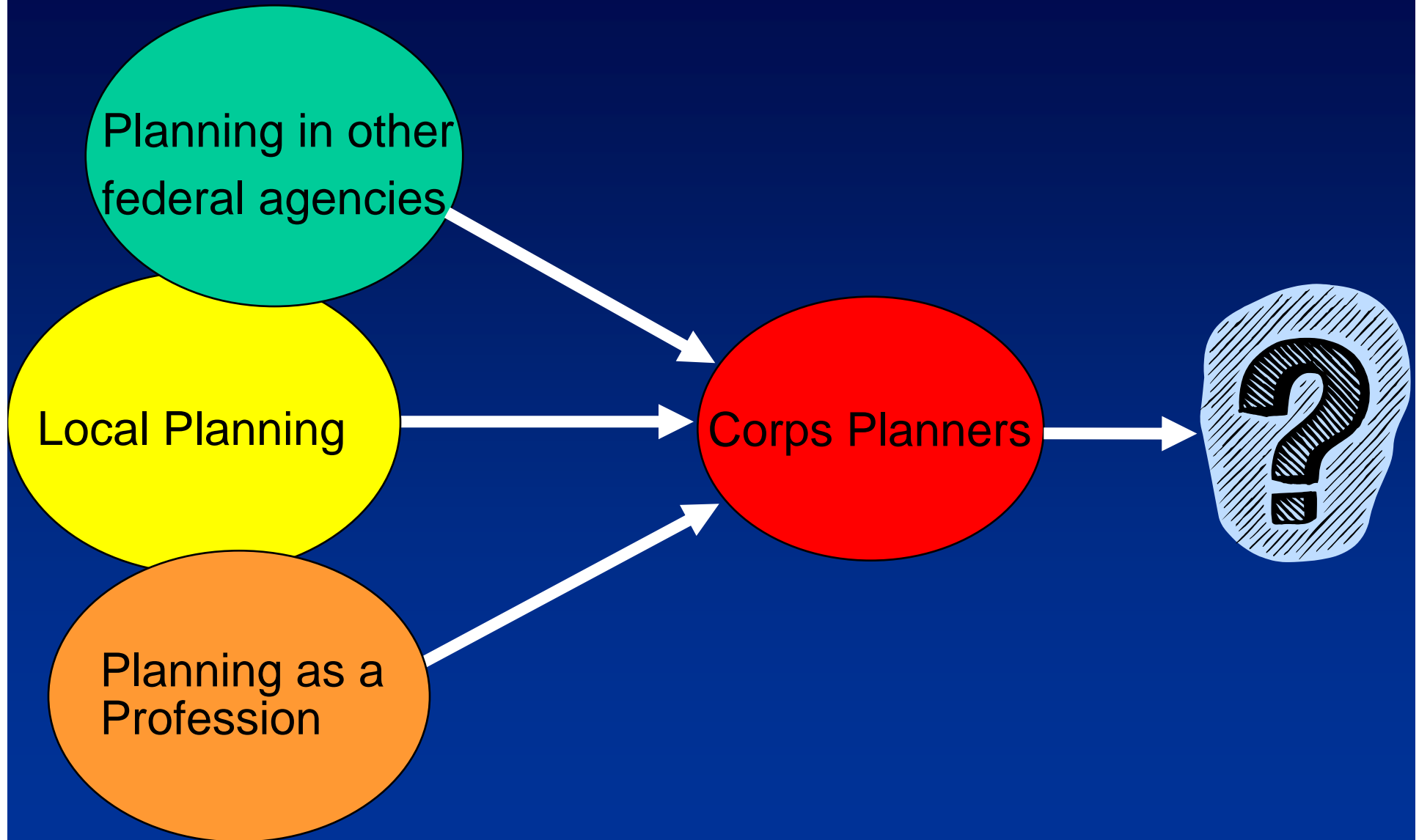
Biological Scientist

**Landscape Architect**

**Fisheries Biologist**



# Bringing Things Together





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## *Recommendation #1*

- **Water Resource Planning Certification Program**

- Corps
- Sponsors
- Contractors







- **Handbooks - Planners Role and Toolbox**
  - Summaries of Federal agencies' and local planning processes
  - Authorities, missions





- **Training**
  - Core Curriculum/Prospect Classes/Introduction to Planning (e.g., Academia, APA, Consultant)
  - Planning Associates Program
  - Masters Program
  - Other Federal Agencies – Processes, Missions, Authorities, Structure



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## *Benefits - Bridging the Gap*

- Levels the playing field
- Adds a new dimension
- Generates credibility
- Aids in more effective collaboration
- Can be applied to all Corps missions





- Differing definitions
- Gap in federal/local planning
- Technical expertise
- Planning as a profession
- Recommendations



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- **Training**
  - Core Curriculum/Prospect Classes/Introduction to Planning
  - Planning Associates/Masters Degree Program
  - Other Federal Agencies – Processes, Missions, Authorities, Structure