

## Charter

### Planning and Policy Community of Practice

Community of Practice Name: Planning and Policy

Community of Practice Purpose and Functions: Planning is a structured, rational approach to solving problems. Planning is a creative process requiring experience, analysis, intuition and inspiration. Planners help decision-makers identify water resources problems, conceive solutions to them and compare the importance of the inevitable conflicting values inherent in any solution. In accord with ER 25-1-8, the Planning and Policy Community of Practice has the following functional tasks:

- Oversee and develop the civil works planning program.
- Develop and maintain policy and doctrine.
- Promote a capable workforce.
- Build and maintain external relationships and coalitions.
- Promote CoP communication.
- Enhance the learning organization.

Community of Practice Audience and Membership: Members of the Planning and Policy Community of Practice are professionals in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with expertise in water resources planning, including plan formulation, environmental evaluation, economic evaluation, Civil Works policy, and public involvement. Planning knowledge and skill is used to solve problems and inform decision making across Civil Works business lines and through the project development and implementation process. The Planning Advisory Board (attachment A) provides the link with the field membership and provides corporate oversight and strategic planning and advice to the CoP leader.

Sub-Communities of Practice and Membership: The Planning and Policy Community of Practice has four Sub-Communities of Practice. Leaders of the Community and Sub-Communities are:

- Leader Planning and Policy Community of Practice
- Deputy Planning and Policy Community of Practice
- Leader Plan Formulation Sub-Community of Practice
- Leader Environmental Sub-Community of Practice
- Leader Economics Sub-Community of Practice

Linkage to the Civil Works Strategic Plan: The Planning and Policy Community of Practice addresses the five national water resource challenges identified in the Civil Works Strategic Plan (March 2004) using innovative and collaborative ways to stretch resources and capabilities, such as:

- A holistic focus on water problems and opportunities.
- Attention to the watershed as a logical geographic area for managing water resources.
- A systems approach for analyzing problems and solutions.
- Collaboration, partnerships and teamwork for deriving and implementing solutions.
- An emphasis on efficiencies to achieve more within existing resources.

Community of Practice Objectives and Measures of Success: The basic agenda of the Planning and Policy Community of Practice is implemented through the Planning Excellence Program.



Thomas W. Waters, PE, SES  
Leader, Planning and Policy Community of Practice

Attachment A: Planning Advisory Board Charter

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**Planning Community of Practice**  
**Advisory Board Charter**  
**February 2006**

**I. PURPOSE.** The Corps Planning Advisory Board (PAB) is established to provide corporate oversight, strategic planning to sustain both a national planning capability and a robust Civil Works program to meet the Nation's water resource needs. The PAB will serve in an advisory role to the Director of Civil Works, and will operate in a manner consistent with the Regional Business Center concept. Primary goals of the PAB are to enhance professional and technical development, share and create knowledge; promote communication; and reduce errors by sharing knowledge and application of best business practices. To accomplish these overall goals and responsibilities, the focus is placed on the following:

**a. Sustain Robust Planning Capabilities.** A robust Planning organization should include plan formulation, economic and environmental functional elements. The PAB will monitor Corps-wide Planning talent and capabilities to assure a high level of planning expertise in the areas of plan formulation, economics, and environmental resources. To accomplish this, the PAB will actively implement the Planning Excellence Program, which provides for planning R&D and model development, planner training and development, leadership development, quality assurance/quality control, centers of planning expertise, and communities of practice. The PAB will develop a plan for proactive workforce planning, and encourage employee development of both technical and leadership skills.

**b. Manage National Planning Centers of Expertise.** Nationally designated planning centers of expertise for flood damage reduction, navigation, ecosystem restoration, water reallocation and hurricane and storm damages have been established to perform analysis and/or provide technical support for complex, controversial, or costly projects. Successful implementation of the Centers is vital to provide improved analysis of various water resource projects. The PAB will provide broad oversight and direction to the Centers to ensure consistency in functions, responsibilities, and application of policies and regulations. The Board will establish a strategy for gradual utilization of the Centers, to provide a sustainable basis for maintaining highly skilled and capable technical staff.

**c. Best Business Practices.** The PAB will review and evaluate relationships, systems, products, processes, practices, and resources for more effective and efficient methods of operations. Lessons learned from such efforts will be widely distributed to ensure efficient transfer of learning experiences, and improved business processes and practices.

**d. Program Development.** The PAB will evaluate emerging trends and opportunities for civil works infrastructure needs, and for further development of the Nation's water resources. The PAB will develop recommendations and support policies, regulations, and legislation that will enhance program development, execution and value-added services.

**e. Strategic Planning.** The PAB will provide a formalized structure for corporate overview and strategic planning of nation-wide Planning programs, objectives and execution. Members of the PAB will serve in an advisory capacity to their respective Regional Management Boards (RMB) with national perspectives. The PAB Chair will

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**Planning Community of Practice**  
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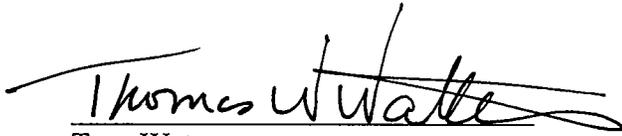
serve as a critical advisor to the Director of Civil Works on all planning related funding, planning and policy related matters.

**f. Other.** The PAB will proactively support other National Community of Practice initiatives that will facilitate knowledge transfer and expand the learning organization concept.

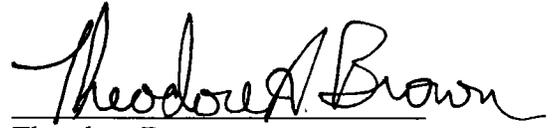
**II. SCOPE OF OPERATIONS.** The PAB will convene at least twice annually, or at the call of the Chairperson. In consultation with others, the Chairperson will develop the agenda, schedule the time, and identify meeting locations. The Chairperson will also schedule monthly conference calls or VTCs as a means to enhance national communications and share pertinent information.

**III. MEMBERSHIP.** The PAB will include the HQUSACE Planning CoP Leader who will also be the PAB Chair, Engineering and Operations CoP Leaders, senior HQ planning and policy staff and the eight MSC Planning Chiefs. The Chairperson may invite other HQUSACE, MSC, and District staff to participate in discussions, as needed.

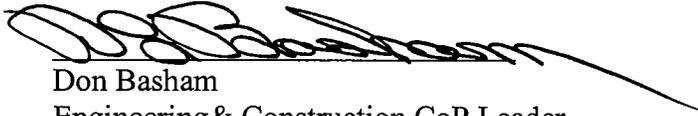
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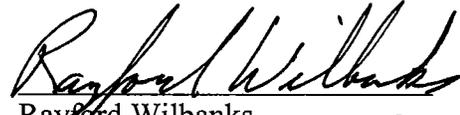
Tom Waters  
Planning CoP Leader



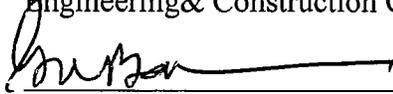
Theodore Brown  
LRD



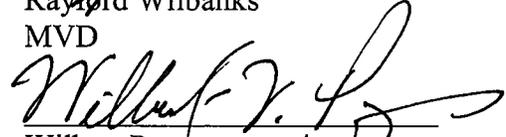
Don Basham  
Engineering & Construction CoP Leader



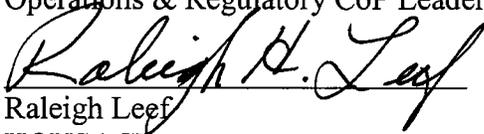
Rayford Wilbanks  
MVD



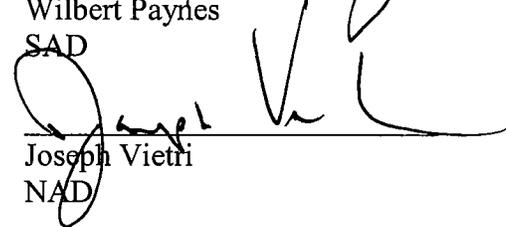
Jerry Barnes  
Operations & Regulatory CoP Leader



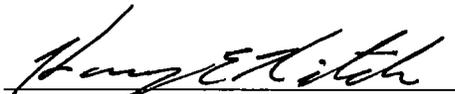
Wilbert Paynes  
SAD



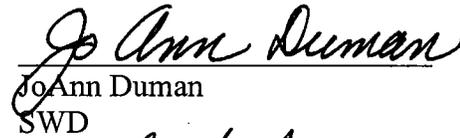
Raleigh Leef  
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Joseph Vietri  
NAD



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Jo Ann Duman  
SWD



Robyn Colosimo  
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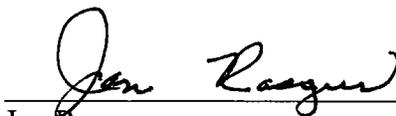
Mark Charlton  
SPD



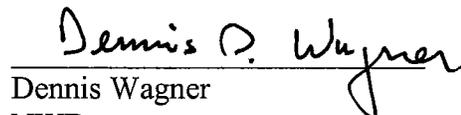
Rennie Sherman  
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Jan Rasgus  
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Dennis Wagner  
NWD



Zoltan Montvai  
HQUSACE