

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy
Community



US Army Corps
of Engineers

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A Note from the Deputy Director of Civil Works

There are two significant items of interest to the Planning Community of Practice to report this month.

First, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 became law ([PL 110-114](#)) on November 8, 2007 when the Senate voted to override a Presidential veto (79-14), following a similar vote in the House on November 6.

This is the first WRDA bill to be passed into law since 2000, and it includes many provisions that will impact the way the Corps, and Corps planners, conduct their business. There are authorities for many specific projects, and provisions which raise the annual programmatic limitations for several categories under the Continuing Authorities Program. The bill also includes direction on important aspects of the Civil Works program, including planning, the Principles and Guidelines, independent review of Corps projects, watershed and river basin assessments, regional sediment management, and mitigation for fish and wildlife and wetlands losses.

HQUSACE, working with the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), will be providing implementation guidance for each of the provisions of the law. The development of implementation guidance will be managed by the Planning and Policy Division in HQ. Since many of these provisions are complex and have national policy implications, you must refrain from providing any commitment or interpretation of the law until implementation guidance is issued from HQUSACE.

Priority for implementation guidance will be given to the national policy provisions (Title II) and to those provisions where funds are currently appropriated. Implementation guidance related to national policy provisions in Title II, e.g., Water Resources Principles and Guidelines (Section 2031), will be prepared by HQUSACE staff. Implementation guidance for those provisions directly affecting work within the MSC's will be developed in cooperation and consultation with the appropriate District, MSC and HQUSACE Regional Integration Teams. Implementation guidance for those provisions not currently funded will be deferred until funds are appropriated.

I encourage each of you to become familiar with the legislation and how it will affect the way you do business. The full text of the bill, a summary of bill highlights, and initial implementation guidance from the Director of Civil Works are posted on the Planning CoP website: <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/links/legislinks.html>

The other significant item of note is that I am pleased to announce the selection of **Mr. Theodore (Tab) Brown** as the Acting Chief of Civil Works Planning and Policy Division/Planning CoP/MVD RIT, HQUSACE. This is a NTE 180 day assignment until the permanent position is filled.

Inside This Issue

Planning CoP News	3
Great Lakes Habitat Initiative	7
Corps Leads Multi-agency Effort to Reestablish Mussels	9
2008 Planning Associates Begin Year Long Journey.....	11
Corps Honors Vets	13
Employment Opportunities	14
Letter to the Editor.....	15
Training Courses	16
Conferences	17
Publications	18
How to Contribute.....	19
How to Subscribe	19

Mr. Brown is an energetic and enthusiastic leader with an in-depth understanding of the Planning Process and the Civil Works program. He is currently serving as the Chief of Planning and Policy in LRD, has previously served as Chief of Planning in Nashville and has very broad experience in the full spectrum of Civil Works activities.

He has a Masters degree in Advanced Water Resource Planning, a Masters degree in Business Administration and a BS in Civil Engineering. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Ohio.

Please join me in welcoming Tab to the Planning Community of Practice, the MVD RIT and the HQ Team.

Steven L. Stockton
Deputy Director of Civil Works

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

This month's issue of *Planning Ahead* highlights the collaborative efforts of Corps Districts to address regional issues. In the first article, members of the Buffalo and Chicago Districts report on the efforts associated with the **Great Lakes Habitat Initiative**, a multi-year undertaking designed to develop a plan to protect and restore the wetlands and aquatic habitat in the Great Lakes region. In the second article, members of the Rock Island and St. Paul District join with other federal agency partners, state agencies and a university to **reestablish Higgins eye Pearly mussels** along a reach of the Mississippi River.

Other items of interest in this month's issue include a report from the Planning Associates Class of 2008 and

the New York District's efforts to improve the physical condition of the Calverton Veterans National Cemetery.

Information on PROSPECT training courses, conferences and recently released reports are also provided.

Thank you for your contributions and your continued interest in *Planning Ahead* may you have a happy and healthy holiday season and a wonderful new year.

Ken Lichtman, Editor
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Planning Community of Practice Conference 2008: “CALL FOR ABSTRACTS”

Here's more information about the upcoming Planning CoP Conference, “PLANNERS LEADING STRATEGICALLY: Developing Sound Water Resources Solutions” scheduled for May 20-22, 2008 in San Antonio, Texas.

The 2008 conference will focus on planning issues and innovations related to Corps strategic initiatives including the Civil Works Strategic Plan, the Actions for Change, the Campaign Goals, and the Environmental Operating Principles. Topics of particular interest from these sources are:

- systems approaches
- risk informed decision making
- risk communication
- collaborative planning
- and professionalism and technical expertise

As in our recent conferences, the program will address these themes in a mix of plenary and concurrent sessions. The concurrent sessions will include “Field Applications” that typically are project-focused presentations given by field practitioners, as well as “Corporate Issues” that typically focus on policy or programmatic issues. We will also have two meetings of each sub-CoP (economics, environmental, and plan formulation; plus cultural resources and tribal) to address technical and practical issues of interest to each community of practice within Planning.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: “FIELD APPLICATIONS” – DEADLINE 8 FEBRUARY, 2008:

A key element of the conference will be Corps field planners introducing their work and sharing their experiences by making professional presentations. We're interested in spotlighting planning excellence that demonstrates innovation and value-added in addressing real problems, while fully complying with all applicable laws and policies. This call for papers is an opportunity to share the best work of you and your PDT with your peers and colleagues around the Corps.

Presentations are most successful when they focus on a particular aspect of a study or analysis, rather than trying to encapsulate an entire study or process within a brief presentation. Presentations should focus on how challenging issues in planning (plan formulation; economic and/or environmental analysis; planning in a collaborative environment; etc.) have been met, and how this work may be instructive to others. Work that has been accepted through technical and policy review will be of greatest interest, although efforts in earlier stages of development will not be excluded from consideration.

Topics that illustrate applications supporting any of the Corps' various mission areas are encouraged. Proposals in multi-purpose settings are also welcomed, as are those involving special aspects of plan formulation, partnering or stakeholder involvement. Presentations highlighting field/lab cooperative efforts are also encouraged, and should be submitted by the District proponent wherever possible.

Specific topics of interest in this call for abstracts include, but are not limited to:

- Systems approaches
- Collaborative planning
- Planning in watershed contexts
- Risk-informed decision making; residual risk; risk communication
- Advances in economic cost and benefit analysis
- Advances in measuring ecosystem restoration outputs/benefits
- Effective characterization of the significance and sustainability of restoration outputs

- Consideration of the four accounts (NED/EQ/RED/OSE)
- Plan formulation for ecosystem restoration
- Advances in environmentally-conscious project design
- Plan formulation and evaluation for combined NED/NER plans
- Nonstructural approaches
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management partnerships and successes

Presentations of “Field Applications” will be made in concurrent sessions, 15 minutes per paper with a 5-minute discussion period. Proposals should include a summary/abstract not to exceed 225 words (this is a strict limit- please edit your work prior to submittal!), plus a brief biographical statement about the presenter(s) including: applicant’s office, job title, degrees held, years of experience, and areas of professional interest (not to exceed 100 words, please). Accepted presentations will be given using Powerpoint - written papers supporting the presentations are not required. Sample abstracts and biographical sketches are included in the “Call for Abstracts” section of the Conference web site referenced below.

Before submitting proposals, please discuss your ideas with your supervisor, and be sure you will be able to attend the conference. Submittals will be accepted by email only, and should include the words “Planning Conference Proposal” in the message header. The primary mission area associated with the project should be included in the email text (ex: flood/storm risk management; navigation; ecosystem restoration; watershed/multi-purpose; etc.) It will also be helpful to note the thematic area you feel the presentation would best fit (systems approach, collaborative planning, risk-based decision-making, etc.) to assist the committee in selecting the final program.

All proposals are due by COB 8 February 2008 – early submittals will be appreciated. Applicants will be contacted no later than 31 March 2008 regarding the status of their proposals. Please note that for accepted papers, the Powerpoint presentations will be due several weeks prior to the Conference, with specific details to be announced.

Abstract submittals and questions about the Planning CoP Conference 2008 should be directed to the Conference Chair, Bruce Carlson at bruce.d.carlson@usace.army.mil

WEB SITE LAUNCHED

The Conference 2008 Web site has been launched. Although much of the information remains to be added, there is currently information on the hotel site, the city of San Antonio, and samples from the call for abstracts:

<http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/2007pres/Conference%20web%20site.htm>

Watch future issues of Planning Ahead and check back with the website for updates on Conference news, including registration information that will be issued after the New Year.

Guidance Update Report

Margaret Johanning, USACE, Headquarters, Planning Community of Practice

In 2005, five new engineering circulars were published by the Planning Community of Practice. They have an official shelf life of two years so here’s an update on what happens next. Engineer Circulars (ECs) 1105-2-405 and 406 were incorporated into Amendment #1 of Appendix H of Engineering Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100, now available at the official publication site: <http://www.usace.army.mil/publications/>. (There were just a few corrections from the pre-publication version; such as revisions to paragraph h-7b and also a few corrections in exhibit H-2.)

Both ECs 407 and 408 will be reissued as new circulars with modifications to reflect what we have learned during the two years of issuance. EC 408 will be reissued with a new number to keep the peer review guidance in force and to update for external peer review while we work with the Engineering Community to develop joint guidance.

Some aspects of EC 409 are already in current guidance; the EC provided added emphasis. Until we have developed procedures to incorporate the “Actions for Change” or WRDA 2007 implementation, the concepts and philosophy of the EC remain in force.

The recent passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 will result in additional revisions to current guidance. The first requirement, though, is the development of the implementation guidance for WRDA 07. When that guidance is in place, then future updates to planning guidance can be scheduled.

Recent Publications of Interest to Planners

A number of publications have been released recently that may be of interest to planners and others involved in the field of water resources management. These publications include the following:

U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1308 “Water Budgets: Foundations for Effective Water Resources and Environmental Management”

This publication discusses the importance of water budgets as an essential tool in addressing concerns about water availability in the 21st Century. Ensuring sustainable water supplies requires an understanding of the hydrologic cycle. Water budgets enable an accounting of water as it moves through Earth’s atmosphere, land surface and subsurface. This tool provides a quantitative basis for assessing how a natural or human-induced change in one part of the hydrologic cycle may affect other aspects of the cycle. This circular demonstrates how water budgets provide a foundation for effective water resource and environmental planning and management.

The report describes the value of water budgets through examples representing a variety of geographic areas and water resources issues. Some examples in the report include the High Plains, Lake Seminole and the Appalachian River, Upper Klamath Lake, the San Pedro River and the Chicago Metropolitan area. Uncertainties that exist in water budgets are presented to provide an appreciation of the complex nature of evaluating how much water may be available for human and environmental needs. The study is relevant to a number of fields including agriculture, meteorology, climatology, aquatic ecology, mining, water supply, ground water management, flood control, reservoir management, wetland and riparian ecology, and pollution control.

The Circular “Water Budgets: Foundations for Effective Water Resources and Environmental Management” is available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2007/1308/>.

Collaboration In NEPA: A Handbook For NEPA Practitioners

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has released a handbook (October 2007) that addresses collaboration in analyses prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The handbook is available at the following link: http://www.nepa.gov/ntf/Collaboration_in_NEPA_Oct_2007.pdf

This handbook presents the results of research and consultations by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) concerning the consideration of collaboration in analyses prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It introduces the NEPA practitioner and other interested parties to the issue of collaboration, outlines general principles, presents useful steps, and provides information on methods of collaboration.

Collaboration in NEPA is certainly not new to the Corps, but the new handbook provides useful frameworks to assist in developing strategies for collaboration throughout the life cycle of the NEPA process, and across the various stakeholders that may be involved. It presents summaries of several case studies, and also presents challenges to collaboration that need to be considered.

The handbook is informational and does not establish new requirements for collaboration or public involvement. It is not formal CEQ guidance and should not be viewed as such; nor are the recommendations in the handbook intended to be legally binding.

Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Study Final Report, Fall 2007

The governments of Canada and the United States released the results of the [Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Study](#) in November 2007. The study is the result of extensive collaboration between subject matter experts in seven government organizations from the two countries.

The seven federal government organizations and agencies involved in the study include **Transport Canada** <<http://www.tc.gc.ca/en/menu.htm>>, **U.S. Department of Transportation** <<http://www.dot.gov>>, the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** <<http://www.usace.army.mil>>, the **St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation** (Canada) <<http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com>>, **Environment Canada** <<http://www.ec.gc.ca>>, the **Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation** (U.S.) <<http://www.seaway.dot.gov>>, and the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, <<http://www.fws.gov>>.

The study was conducted to evaluate the infrastructure needs of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway system, specifically the engineering, economic and environmental implications of those needs as they pertain to the marine transportation infrastructure on which commercial navigation depends. The study assesses the long-term maintenance and capital requirements to ensure the continuing viability of the system as a safe, efficient, reliable and sustainable component of North America's transportation infrastructure.

The study focused on how to maximize the potential of the Seaway's existing marine transportation infrastructure in its current configuration by:

- o Evaluating the condition, reliability and maintenance needs of the system;
- o Assessing the engineering, economic and environmental factors associated with future needs; and
- o Identifying other factors that affect the domestic and global marine transportation industries using the Seaway system, including improved links to other transportation modes and technologies.

The study identifies four observations and key considerations that should be taken into account by the Canadian and U.S. governments, and by industry stakeholders, when making decisions about the Seaway's future:

1. The GLSLS system has the potential to alleviate congestion on the road and rail transportation networks as well as at border crossings in the Great Lakes Basin and St. Lawrence River region.
2. A stronger focus on shortsea shipping would allow the GLSLS system to be more closely integrated with the road and rail transportation systems, while providing shippers with a cost-effective, timely and reliable means to transport goods.
3. The existing infrastructure of the GLSLS system must be maintained in good operating condition in order to ensure the continued safety, efficiency, reliability and competitiveness of the system; and,
4. The long-term health and success of the GLSLS system will depend in part on its sustainability, including the further reduction of negative ecological impacts caused by commercial navigation.

For more information on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Study, please visit <http://www.glsls-study.com>

Great Lakes Habitat Initiative – Protecting and Restoring Great Lakes Habitat

By Lynn Greer, Buffalo District, Michael Greer, Buffalo District, Jan Miller Great Lakes and Ohio River Division and Vanessa Villarreal, Chicago District

In May 2004, President Bush signed Executive Order 13340 which recognized the Great Lakes as a ‘national treasure’ and created the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force. Shortly thereafter, in December 2004, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration formed and within one year developed the Strategy for the Protection and Restoration of the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Habitat Initiative (GLHI) is a two-year, \$1 million project that is developing an implementation plan for the protection and restoration of wetlands and aquatic habitat in the Great Lakes region in response to the recommendations of the Strategy developed by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.

This project will bridge the gap between regional needs identified in the Strategy of the Regional Collaboration and the programs that provide funding for “on-the-ground” actions. The GLHI was the largest of five regional investigations selected for funding by Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John P. Woodley, Jr. in 2006.



Figure 1. The Great Lakes basin is an international resource that is shared by eight states and two provinces. The Great Lakes Habitat Initiative study area is limited to the United States portion of the basin.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is leading the GLHI in partnership with Federal, state, tribal and local agencies and non-profit organizations. “The Habitat Initiative is a significant opportunity for the Corps and our stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration,” said Project Manager Michael Greer of the USACE, Buffalo District. “The tools that are being developed to support the Habitat Initiative represent significant advances in water resource planning and collaboration at a regional scale.”

The steering committee, which is chaired by Chicago District Commander Colonel Jack Drolet, includes senior leaders from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Council of Great Lakes Governors, Great Lakes Commission, Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Healing Our Waters Coalition.



Chicago District Commander Colonel Jack Drolet speaks during a Great Lakes Habitat Initiative Steering Committee Meeting in Chicago, June 25, 2007.

The GLHI is developing four main products to support identification and implementation of high-value habitat projects in the region including: Funding Program Database, Project Database, Project Attribute Lexicon, and an Implementation Plan.

The Funding Program Database provides a compilation of information about existing funding programs. This includes program requirements and recent funding history that may be used to plan, design, construct, and manage site-specific projects or actions to protect and restore wetlands and aquatic habitat in the Great Lakes region.

Corps Leads Multi-Agency Effort to Reestablish Mussels

By Mark Kane, Rock Island District

More than 9,000 Higgins' Eye mussels were dispersed into area waters in late-September and early-October through a multi-agency effort led by the Corps and geared toward repopulating the endangered fresh-water mollusk in area rivers.

The Corps leads a multi-agency panel known as the Mussel Coordination Team that has developed a conservation plan to try to save the endangered Higgins' eye Pearly mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*) from possible extinction from zebra mussels.

The Iowa and Illinois departments of natural resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Corps came together to revive the population of the endangered pearly mussels to carry out the reasonable and prudent measures as guided by the Endangered Species Act jeopardy Biological Opinion issued by the FWS on May 15, 2000. In 2007 this group was involved with the propagation, relocation, and cleaning of these endangered mussels.

In 2006, the Corps also began a national effort called the Invasive Species Leadership Team to examine agency strategies for dealing with invasive species like the zebra mussel on Corps lands.

"The Higgins' Eye Relocation Plan was developed in response to the Fish and Wildlife Service's 2000 Biological Opinion, which stated that continued operation of the 9-Foot Navigation Channel project on the Upper Mississippi River system would likely jeopardize the continued existence of the federally endangered Higgins' Eye and result in the incidental take of winged mapleleaf," said Charlene Carmack, Programs and Project Management, Rock Island District.

"The Fish and Wildlife Service determined that operation and maintenance of the navigation pools and project-dependent commercial barge transportation would encourage continued zebra mussel dispersion throughout the Upper Mississippi River system. Zebra mussels negatively affect the survival and recovery of these endangered mussels. The Higgins' Eye Relocation Plan will take 10 years to fully implement, with long-term, 20 years, monitoring continuing after the implementation period."

This cooperative effort to save the Higgins' Eye mussel is taking place in the Mississippi River and many of its tributaries from St. Louis to the Twin Cities. For a century, as those rivers were altered by locks and dams and fouled by sewage, the mussels' prospects diminished, and they were

relegated to isolated sections such as the St. Croix River between Minnesota and Wisconsin.

"They were hammered pretty hard in the early part of the (20th) century," said Dan Kelner, Programs and Project Management, St. Paul District. "Native mussels were virtually wiped out of this area."

Nicole McVay, Operations Division, and Steve Johnson and Mark Cornish, Programs and Project Management, Rock Island District, were also involved in the multi-agency effort to relocate the mussels, along with Lucie Macalister, Engineering and Construction, who was involved in the effort as part of her rotation through various divisions and offices in the District.



Lucie Macalister, Engineering and Construction, holds a female Higgins' Eye shell during her observation of efforts to collect gravid female Higgins' Eyes to send up to the Genoa hatchery to continue propagation efforts. Photo by Charlene Carmack, Programs and Project Management

While the Corps initiated and led the effort, its success is credited to all of the agencies involved.

"The contribution of time, materiel support, and expertise by these folks and their representative agencies was both essential and invaluable in accomplishing this effort," said Carmack. "It's important to emphasize that. The placement and collection activities accomplished were the result of a cooperative effort between two federal agencies (the Corps and FWS), two state agencies (Illinois and Iowa DNRs), and a university research station (University of Iowa). All of the players have a stake in protecting this important resource of the Upper Mississippi River System and no one agency can do this alone."

As in past years, coordinating and executing this year's relocation activities was challenging and dependent on

favorable physical conditions and scheduling constraints. Would suitable placement sites be located? Would the NEPA process be completed on time? Would there be enough people and boats available to carry out the repopulation effort? Would the weather conditions be conducive for the placement activity to occur?

But it all seemed to work out this year, and monitoring these areas in future years should help to evaluate the success of this effort over time.

Once prevalent in area waterways, the mussel was used as a source of food by fish and mammals, and its shells were prized by American Indians as currency for trading purposes. Buttons were punched from the pearly shells from the late 1800s until about 1940. Small beads made from the shells still are used in Asia to make cultured pearls.

But over-harvesting, pollution and the invasion of non-native species such as the zebra mussel nearly wiped out the mollusk, said Dan Sallee, a biologist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources who participated in the planting.

“The mussels used for planting are grown in Lake Pepin, a wide spot in the Mississippi on the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin at Lake City, Minnesota according to Tony Brady, a mussel propagation biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based in Genoa, Wisconsin. They are allowed to mature for about three years before they are hauled to sites in tank trucks and deposited in waterways.



Tony Brady, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Genoa National Fish Hatchery, checks a female Higgins' Eye to determine if she is gravid (i.e. has larval mussels, called Glochidia, attached to her gills ready to be shed and hopefully attach to a host fish). A total of 8 gravid females were collected to be transported to the Genoa hatchery to continue propagation efforts. Photo by Charlene Carmack, Programs and Project Management

“The bigger they are, the better,” said Brady, “These are 3 to 4 inches, and there are an average of 12 to a pound. The bigger they are, the more likely they are to survive. Fish can’t get their mouths around them and crush the shells.” Multiple plantings at a single site over a period of years also are desirable, according to Dan Sallee. It improves the diversity of the genetics in a single colony and makes it less likely that there will be inbreeding.

The mussels brought for planting were each marked with a black dot on their shells. That aids in identifying them when biologists return in the future to see how the colony is doing, Brady said.



Rich Lewis, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, places Higgin's Eye mussels in the main channel border (Iowa side) immediately upstream of the Fairport Hatchery and near the downstream end of the Corps' Shady Creek Recreation Area. Photo by Charlene Carmack, Programs and Project Management

But efforts to find last year's planting proved more difficult than expected. Bob Schanzle and Richard Lewis of the Illinois DNR donned diving gear and went into the river and felt around in the near-zero visibility water to find an anchored cable used to mark the bed.

Schanzle initially tried to site the location from shore by looking through the space between two forked trees that were used as landmarks when the bed was planted. However, last year's crew neglected to get a firm fix on exactly how far from the shoreline it was located, said Nicole McVay. McVay stood at the ready with a global positioning device to mark the bed more precisely once it was found. “Once they find it, we'll know exactly where to come back next time,” she said.

More information on the recovery plan can be found at the following link: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/section7/higgins.html>.

(Tom Saul, of the Quad-City Times, contributed to this article.)

2008 Planning Associates Start Their Year Long Journey

by Ronald Pinzon, New York District

While the Boston Red Sox and the Colorado Rockies battled their way into the World Series, the 2008 Class of the Planning Associates Program embarked to Fort Lauderdale, FL, on the first of thirteen customized training courses.

This year's class is made up of 12 energetic and ambitious individuals, living in diverse locations, ranging from the bustling city streets of New York City to the wilds of Alaska. Their expertise, equally diverse, consists of plan formulators, engineers, biologists, physical scientists, an economist, and an archaeologist.

They are: Tara Anderson, Wilmington District; Candida Bronson, Jacksonville District; Mike Dietl, Sacramento District; Anthony Friona, Buffalo District; Adam Fox, Detroit District; Miki Fujitsubo, Sacramento District; Miriam Gilmer, Seattle District; John Peukert, Vicksburg District; Ronald Pinzon, New York District; Jeffery Strahan, Norfolk District; Bret Walters, Alaska District; and Gregg Williams, Memphis District.

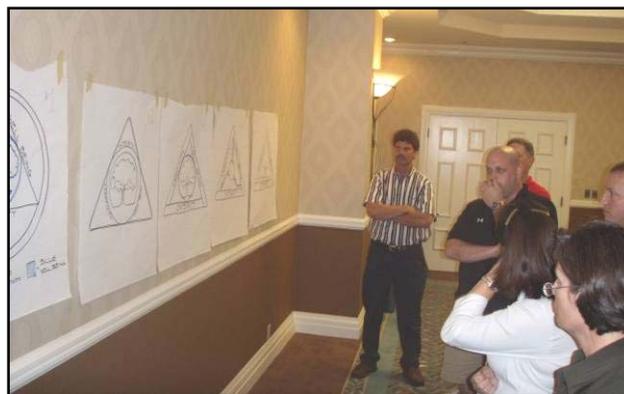
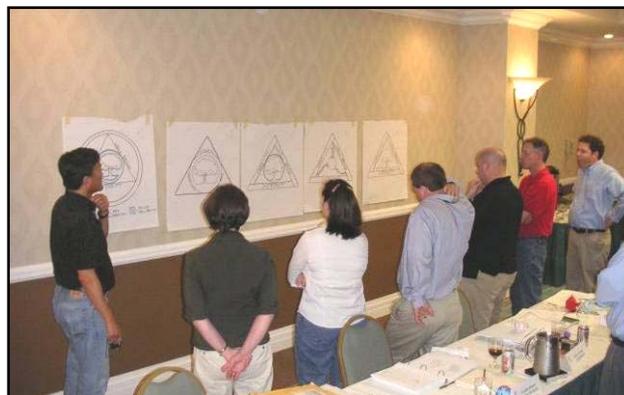


BACK ROW: Jeffery Strahan, Norfolk; Adam Fox, Detroit; Gregg Williams, Memphis; Anthony Friona, Buffalo; Ronald Pinzon, New York; John Peukert, Vicksburg; Miki Fujitsubo, Sacramento; Bret Walters, Alaska; Michael Dietl, Sacramento
SEATED: Miriam Gilmer, Seattle; Tara Anderson, Wilmington; Candida Bronson, Jacksonville

The Planning Associates (PA's), led by Judy Morrison, course instructor, and Greg Steele, PA Class of 2007, worked on improving their leadership, communication and team building skills. The training consisted of formal class room instruction, interactive discussions, and team building field exercises.

The PA team worked on developing a team logo which will be made into a class coin that represents their team vision to, "... lead our generation of Corps planners, delivering sustainable water resource projects and

services with integrity and creativity by learning from the past, adapting to change and planning for the future."



PA's mulling over class logo alternatives.

One of the highlights of the session was a visit to the Everglades, where the Miccosukee, a Native American tribe, make their home. The PA's toured the Miccosukee Indian Village where they learned about Miccosukee history, culture and lifestyles.



PA's seated in a chickee, a sturdy thatched-roof structure, learn about the Miccosukee, a Native American tribe that make their home in the Everglades

One of the immediate value returns of the PA Program is that after each training course, the PA's will disseminate

a Home Office Back Brief (HOBB) to their District staff and home office senior leadership. The HOBB is designed to foster continuous learning by updating the home office on significant topics, field case studies, and current regulations for each course.



PA's Ronald Pinzon, Miriam Gilmer and Adam Fox hard at work preparing a Home Office Back Brief (HOBB)

The Planning Associates program is designed to develop planning leaders that can manage complex planning studies that lead to quality decision documents and who will provide water resources, technical, and professional leadership in the future. The intense curriculum emphasizes team building, leadership training, and experiential training in the Corps' civil works business programs.



As part of a team building exercise Miki Fujitsubo, Jeff Strahan, John Peukert and Candida Bronson build a raft.

Next on the PA's schedule will be instruction on plan formulation in Phoenix, Arizona during the month of December.



The PA's during a field day of team building and leadership exercises in Fort Lauderdale Beach, FL.

Ronald Pinzon is a biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. He can be reached at ronald.r.pinzon@usace.army.mil

2008 Planning Associates Itinerary

1. **Orientation, Leadership, Communication, Team Building Skills (Oct–Nov 2007)**
2. Customized Plan Formulation (December 2007)
3. Engineer and Research Development Center (ERDC) (January 2008)
4. Deep Draft Navigation (January 2008)
5. Washington DC Experience (February – March)
6. Endangered Species Act, Hydropower, Water Supply, and Recreation (April)
7. Flood Damage Reduction (April)
8. Watersheds/Planning Community of Practice (PCoP) Conference (May)
9. Inland Navigation (June)
10. Ecosystem Restoration (June)
11. Small Boat Harbors, and Intergovernmental Affairs (July)
12. Cultural Resources and Tribal Affairs (July)
13. Hurricane Storm Damage (July)

* Bolded titles indicate completed courses.

Corps Honors Vets

By JoAnne Castagna, New York District

Veteran's Day is celebrated every November to honor our uniformed personnel who have served our great nation. It's also a time to honor those veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice in combat.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District is doing its part to honor our deceased veterans by improving the conditions at the Calverton Veterans National Cemetery in Suffolk County, Long Island, N.Y.



The project will enhance the landscape of the 1,045 acre site which has deteriorated over the years due to an improper irrigation system. Families with loved ones buried at the cemetery informed their local representatives of the substandard conditions, and brown grass.

As a result, the Department of Veterans Affairs took action, and sought the expertise of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who are now involved in improving the cemetery's irrigation system and landscape conditions. The Corps is replacing over 30 8-inch valves, installing a new irrigation system to several of the burial sections and constructing a new pump station to replace the cemetery's older pump station.

"The cemetery's landscape had significant deterioration because of a lack of a proper irrigation system," said Anthony DelVecchio, project engineer, New York District.

"The grass at the cemetery was watered using water cannon trucks," said Anthony Ciorra, chief, Civil Works Branch, New York District. "This method of irrigation is not effective in keeping the grass green during the warm summer months. The result is brown grass."

"Our mission was to help correct this deficiency," said DelVecchio. "We utilized our in-house expertise to design new automatic irrigation systems in several of the main burial sections around Calverton Cemetery."



Trench for 6" and 4" lateral sprinkler pipes. Photo credit: Clifton Welch S&E Services, Inc.

He added, "Last year, several of the cemetery's burial sections were provided with automatic site irrigation systems that are now being used."

For the last phases of the project the District wanted to negotiate a firm-fixed price with the contractor, but were unable to successfully negotiate an agreeable price for one of the phases. As a result, the project team combined the last two phases of the project into one project. By combining the phases, it allowed them to save money in contractor overhead and supervision which helped to award the project.



Tapping into existing 8" water main. Photo credit: Clifton Welch S&E Services, Inc.

The work is expected to be completed at the end of the year, and when completed, the new irrigation system will be maintained by the cemetery staff.

"Next Veteran's Day when visitors visit the cemetery, they will see greener grass near the graves of their loved ones," said Ciorra.



Gravesites at Calverton Cemetery, Calverton, NY. Photo credit: Clifton Welch S&E Services, Inc.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: **WTKC07187708**

Opening Date: November 13, 2007 **Closing Date:** December 10, 2007

Position: YC-3: Supervisory Social Sciences Study Manager (0101), Supervisory Biological Sciences Study Manager (0401), Supervisory Landscape Architect (0807), Supervisory Civil Engineer (0810), Supervisory Physical Scientist (1301)

Salary: \$115,426 - \$145,400 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer District, Planning Division, Office of the Chief, Los Angeles, California

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

Number of Vacancy: 1

NSPS Position: This position is covered by the National Security Personnel System. For more information on NSPS, please visit the website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html>.

Duties: Directs/plans/schedules & controls District's planning program which encompasses the Pacific Southwest; provides planning/policy support through multi-disciplinary plan formulation, economic, ecologic, cultural resources, recreation master planning & environmental studies; provides support for military/Federal/non-Federal customers; advises on comprehensive water & water-related land resources development issues; coordinates with state/local authorities to ensure appropriate public participation; meets with Congressional Representative & key staff regarding civil works programs; supervises through subordinates about 90 employees; plans/assigns work to be accomplished by subordinates; approves multi year work plans; adjusts organizational structures/work methodologies to manage workload to accommodate mission changes, budget constraints & staffing limitations; interprets & provides policy guidance for Division activities.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: **WTGH07338831**

Opening Date: November 21, 2007 **Closing Date:** December 21, 2007

Position: YF-2: SUPERVISORY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PLANNER (0401), SUPERVISORY ECOLOGIST (0408), SUPERVISORY FORESTER (0460), SUPERVISORY WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST (0486), SUPERVISORY ARCHAEOLOGIST (0193), SUPERVISORY ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER (0819), SUPERVISORY FISH BIOLOGIST (0482)

Salary: \$56,301 - \$107,991 Annual

Place of Work: US ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, KANSAS CITY; PLANNING, PROGRAMS & PROJECT MGT DIV; PLANNING BR, ENVIRON RESOURCES SEC

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

Number of Vacancy: 1

NSPS Position: This position is covered by the National Security Personnel System. For more information on NSPS, please visit the website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html>.

Duties: Chief, Environmental Resources Sect, directs, coordinates, and supervises activities of professional and support personnel in ecological/water quality investigations, environmental enhancement and conservation of natural/cultural resources on a variety of projects. Supervises Environmental Resources Section. Performs mgnt controls on activities and personnel. Serves as adviser to Chief, Planning Branch and District Engineer on environm/cultural resource matters. Senior Advisory on environmental and planning document review work in District's program for preservation, enhancement and development of project resources and resource impact. Ensures performance of high quality environmental studies/evals and compliance documentation in support of progr/proj. Coordinates prog/proj activities and findings with Fed/state and local govern agencies and cooperate with private groups. Represents District at meetings of public and prof conservation orgs and participates in meetings on tech panels.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: SWGY07385833

Opening Date: November 30, 2007 **Closing Date:** December 14, 2007

Position: ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES SPEC, GS-0401-11/12

Salary: \$52912.00 - \$82446.00 Annual

Place of Work: US ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS PLANNING, PROGRAMS & PROJECT MGMT DIV, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & COMPLIANCE BR, NEW ORLEANS, LA

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

Number of Vacancy: 01

Duties: Incumbent works under the general supervision of the Section Chief of Environmental Analysis and Support Section. Technical responsibility and independent judgment are required of incumbent who exercises considerable freedom in selecting work methods, procedures, and techniques in planning and accomplishment of assignments. Completed work is reviewed and evaluated for completeness and for conformity with established laws, regulations, policies, and objectives. As a senior professional scientist in the field of environmental resources, incumbent is responsible for providing guidance, direction, support, and assistance to the district staff by actively assisting in the development of water resource programs that are responsive to environmental needs with special emphasis on aquatic habitats and associated resources.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor of *Planning Ahead*:

I am writing in response to Paul Rubinstein's contribution to your November 2007 issue, 'Warfare and the Social Scientist'. I would like to clarify the position of the Sixth World Archaeological Congress (WAC-6) on the involvement of serving military personnel in the conference, which will be held at University College Dublin from June 29-July 4th 2008.

As a worldwide organization, WAC offers a forum for people to express often differing viewpoints on political, ethical and social issues related to archaeological practice. The archaeologist's role in conflict situations is inevitably a sensitive and contentious topic, and one that has provoked passionate, ongoing debate within WAC. However, fostering productive open discussion is a major goal for all WAC Congresses, and WAC-6 in Dublin is no exception.

As an organization, WAC actively campaigns for equal opportunities around the globe, and accordingly, WAC-6 is resolutely open to participation from all sides of the many key debates with which WAC is currently engaged.

Furthermore, in the spirit of this positive dialogue, it is planned that the WAC-6 programme will include a plenary session with keynote speakers, one of which will specifically address the role of archaeologists in military organizations and operations worldwide, and we invite serving military personnel to participate in this discussion. The WAC-6 organizing team looks forward to facilitating a balanced exchange of ideas on this important issue.

Professor Gabriel Cooney
WAC-6 Academic Secretary
UCD School of Archaeology
University College Dublin
www.ucd.ie/wac-6

TRAINING COURSES

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

FLOOD WARNING PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (Control Number: 345)

March 31— April 4, 2008

Omaha, NE

This course provides participants with an understanding of nonstructural flood damage reduction measures generally, and Flood Warning/Preparedness Programs specifically. The course presents an overview of planning, design, and implementation considerations for nonstructural measures. A more detailed discussion of the technical requirements for planning, designing, and implementing flood warning systems is presented. The course also emphasizes the roles and responsibilities of local, state, and federal agencies and includes presentation of several case examples.

Nonstructural flood damage reduction measures are an important consideration in flood damage reduction planning. Flood Warning/Emergency Preparedness Programs can be an important nonstructural component in flood damage reduction plans. The programs often are an integrated federal/state/local set of activities tailored to a specific local community situation. The Corps can have a significant role in this area.

The course offers opportunities to professional staff in flood plain management, hydraulics and hydrology, emergency operations, and civil works planning studies to become knowledgeable in this area. Through lectures and workshops, students explore topics on (a) nonstructural flood damage reduction measures overview; (b) flood warning/preparedness programs overview; (c) roles of the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and others; (d) flood threat recognition systems; (e) data collection and management; (f) warning dissemination and emergency response; (g) Corps emergency operations; (h) plan formulation and evaluation; (i) FPMS Program and flood preparedness; (j) implementation of flood preparedness programs; (k) private sector activities; and (l) many case examples.

PLANNING FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (Control Number: 348)

May 5-8, 2008

Phoenix, AZ

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 half-day field trip to a local Corps restoration project will be utilized to illustrate current practices.

Within the context of the six-step planning process, the following topics will be discussed: (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. (NOTE: Although this course addresses evaluation tools and procedures for ecosystem restoration planning, this is not a course in the theory/mechanics of ecological or habitat models such as HEP or HGM).

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>.

CONFERENCES

Great Lakes Regional Waterways Management Forum

December 10, 2007 Point Edward, Ontario

Additional information: <<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-5687.pdf>>

Optimizing Decision-Making and Remediation at Complex Sediment Sites

January 8-10, 2008 New Orleans, LA

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

25th Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference

January 22-24, 2008 Fargo, ND

Additional information: <http://redriverbasincommission.org/Conference/conference.html>

9th Annual CIRP Technology-Transfer Workshop

January 28-30, 2008 Sarasota, FL

Additional information: <http://www.fsbpa.com/workshop.htm>

21st Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

January 30-February 1, 2008 Sarasota, FL

Additional information: <http://www.fsbpa.com/seminar.htm>

Integrated Watershed Management: Reducing Nonpoint Source Pollution

May 5-7, 2008 San Diego, CA

Additional information: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/nps/conference2008.html>

4th International Symposium on Flood Defense

May 6-8, 2008 Toronto, Canada

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

Association of Flood Plain Managers 2008 Annual Conference

May 18-23, 2008 Reno-Sparks, NV

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

2008 USACE Planning Community of Practice Conference

May 20-22, 2008 San Antonio, TX

20th Salt Water Intrusion Meeting

June 23-27, 2008 Naples, FL

Additional information: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/SWIM/>

Riparian Ecosystems and Buffers: Working at the Water's Edge

June 30 – July 2, 2008 Virginia Beach, VA

Additional information: http://www.awra.org/meetings/Virginia_Beach2008/

International Conference on Water Scarcity, Global Changes, and Groundwater Management Responses

December 1-6, 2008 Irvine, CA

Additional information:

<<http://www.uwrc.uci.edu/documents/SCARCE-WATER-BROCHURE-Final.pdf>>

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:

“Watershed Academy Webcasts” (brochure published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Watershed Academy). Available at <<http://www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts>>

“Mitigation of Impacts to Fish and wildlife Habitat: Estimating Costs and Identifying Opportunities” prepared by the Environmental Law Institute, October 2007. Available at www.eli.org

“Standards & Guidelines: Preliminary Report” prepared by The Sustainable Sites Initiative, November 2007. Available at <http://www.sustainablesites.org/report.html>

“Mississippi River Water Quality and the Clean Water Act: Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities” prepared by the National Research Council, Committee on the Mississippi River and the Clean Water Act, forthcoming. Available at: http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12051

“Summary of Second Regional Workshop on Dredging, Beach Nourishment, and Birds on the North Atlantic Coast” by Michael P. Guilfoyle, Richard A. Fisher, David N. Pashley, and Casey A. Lott, Editors. Publication Number ERDC/EL TR-07-26, November 2007. Available at: <<http://el.erd.usace.army.mil/elpubs/pdf/trel07-26.pdf>>

“Summary of Available Guidance and Best Practices for Determining Suitability of Dredged Material for Beneficial Uses” by Dennis L. Brandon and Richard A. Price. Publication Number ERDC/EL TR-07-27, November 2007. Available at: <http://el.erd.usace.army.mil/elpubs/pdf/trel07-27.pdf>

“Ethanol Transportation Backgrounder: Expansion of U.S. Corn-based Ethanol from the Agricultural Transportation Perspective,” Published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, September 2007. Available at: <<http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/TSB/EthanolTransportationBackgrounder09-17-07.pdf>>

“Manufactured Soil Field Demonstration for Constructing Wetlands to Treat Acid Mine Drainage on Abandoned Minelands” by Charles R. Lee, Dennis L. Brandon, and Richard A. Price. Publication Number ERDC TN-DOER-D9, November 2007. Available at: <http://el.erd.usace.army.mil/elpubs/pdf/doerd9.pdf>

“Live Stake and Joint Planting for Streambank Erosion Control” by Robbin B. Sotis and J. Craig Fishenich. Publication Number ERDC TN-EMRRP-SR-35, November 2007. Available at: <<http://el.erd.usace.army.mil/elpubs/pdf/sr35.pdf>>

“Rail Transportation of Coal to Power Plants: Reliability Issues,” by Stan Mark Kaplan, Congressional Research Service, Publication Number RL 34186, September 26, 2007. Available at <<http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/07Oct/RL34186.pdf>>

“Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway Study – Final Report” Fall 2007, Available at <<http://www.glsls-study.com/Supporting%20documents/GLSLS%20finalreport%20Fall%202007.pdf>>

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, December 19, 2007

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To subscribe to our distribution list, send an e-mail message to majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil with no subject line and only a single line of text in the message body. That single line of text should be: "Subscribe ls-planningahead"

(Note: In the email address, the character following the @ sign is a lowercase "L". This is also true for the single line of text. The character immediately following "subscribe" is also a lowercase "L". If these are not typed correctly, you will receive an error message.)

To obtain a "help" file, send only the word "help" in the text of the message (nothing in the subject line) and address it to majordomo@usace.army.mil.

To read past issues of the *Planning Ahead* newsletter, please visit
http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/news/pa_newsletter/pa_news.html