

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy
Community



US Army Corps
of Engineers

September 2006

Volume 9, Issue 8

A Note from the Leader of the Planning Community of Practice

It is September and we're in the midst of hurricane season and football season. In both cases-I hope you are ready!

By now you know that the Corps is going to great lengths to understand the performance of our floodwalls and levees in New Orleans. We have learned that there were things as an agency over the 40-50 years of planning and design that we could have done better. The Chief of Engineers on August 24th, 2006, issued a directive that we would apply lessons learned resulting from hurricanes Katrina and Rita by implementing 12 actions for change. These "12 points" are actually an intensification of focus for goals and objectives that are already in our campaign plans and our strategic plans. These "12 points" have significant implications on the Planning and Policy Community of Practice. The primary areas that come immediately within our purview is renewed focused on comprehensive systems approach. Also, we are committing to employ risk-based planning for much of our work. In our current study to evaluate higher levels of protection for southern Louisiana, we are developing a prototype for risk-based decision making in lieu of strictly NED analysis. The "12 points" also emphasizes that independent review will not just be a one-time event but will be periodic throughout the life of a project responding to the dynamics of change. Point five also makes a clear commitment to employment of adaptive management of planning and engineering systems. Of significant importance is to effectively communicate risks. The most significant point states that we will intensify our management and enhancement of technical expertise. You can find these "12 points" on the web at: <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/releases/actionsforchange.htm>. I strongly encourage all of you to read and learn of this new focus. Stay tuned for additional guidance in this regard.

One other item I would like for you all to be aware of is that I, along with my staff, have begun to make visits to each of our MSC Headquarters. The primary purpose of the visit is to assess and assist the full gamut of planning and policy work, capabilities, and needs. We made our first visit to South Atlantic Division in August and it was very productive both from a Headquarters and MSC viewpoint. All should know that this is an additional measure by our "One Headquarters" (Washington and the MSC's) to ensure that we have viable planning and policy capabilities to accomplish our missions across the Corps.

Thank you for all that you do everyday and remember in both hurricane and football seasons—the goal is to win!

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

Featured Articles

Conserving America's Wetlands.....	2
Collaborative Planning-Focus on RED and OSE.....	2
Corps Innovative Methods Save Vermont Recreation Area.....	2
ASFPM 2007 Call for Presenters.....	5
The Trillion Dollar Man.....	5

Monthly Columns

PA Update.....	7
Planning Webs Ahead.....	9
Announcements.....	10

FEATURED ARTICLES

Conserving America's Wetlands

by Ellen Cummings, Headquarters

On Earth Day 2004 President Bush declared an intent to move beyond “no net loss” of wetlands and set a goal of 1,000,000 wetland acres in each of three categories; restored/created, improved, and preserved to be achieved by 2009. On Earth Day 2006, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued the second annual progress report “Conserving America’s Wetlands 2006: Two Years of Progress Implementing the President’s Goal”. Nationwide since this goal was set, 1,797,000 acres of wetlands have been restored, created, protected or improved and Corps projects make a significant contribution. The report was put together by CEQ with input from the Office of Management and Budget and each of the Federal agencies involved in wetland work. The Corps provided data based on a polling of the divisions for acreage completed in FY 2005 and expected to be completed in FYs 2006 and 2007. This includes new construction, beneficial use of dredged material and work on projects the Corps operates. We defined completion as the last year for a budget request for construction. The Corps Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration business line is expected to make a major contribution in FY 2007 due to completion of Davis Pond, fresh water diversion, in LA. It will beneficially affect 810,000 acres. The input received from the districts was critical to our report and we thank those involved in this effort. A similar report will be prepared each year for the foreseeable future so we look forward to reporting additional success in wetland restoration. The report is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/wetlands_200604.pdf.

Collaborative Planning--Focus on RED and OSE

Susan Durden, Institute for Water Resources

At the Planning CoP conference in San Francisco, there was much discussion in the sessions, in the hallways, and even in restaurants and bars about EC 1105-2-409, Planning in a Collaborative Environment. Items mentioned ranged from the whimsical—the ‘60s Beach Boys song 409 (lyrics at <http://www.azlyrics.us/24386>)—to the profound. IWR is working with Headquarters to address implementation of EC 409 by exploring policy implications and available tools and techniques for analysis. An initial white paper on Regional Economic Development (RED) and Other Social Effects (OSE) has been completed and is posted at: https://corpsinfo.usace.army.mil/PRW/download_report.htm. This paper concisely discusses the context of RED and OSE analysis in Corps’ planning and provides information on useful methods of analysis. Three related documents are in development:

- Collaborative Planning Handbook, dealing with the collaboration process and formulation, initial draft to be completed September 06.
- RED Handbook, detailed review of various techniques and models for RED analysis, to be completed in spring 07.
- OSE Handbook, comprehensive set of OSE factors, sources of data and their use.

Our team welcomes contacts from those interested in these topics.

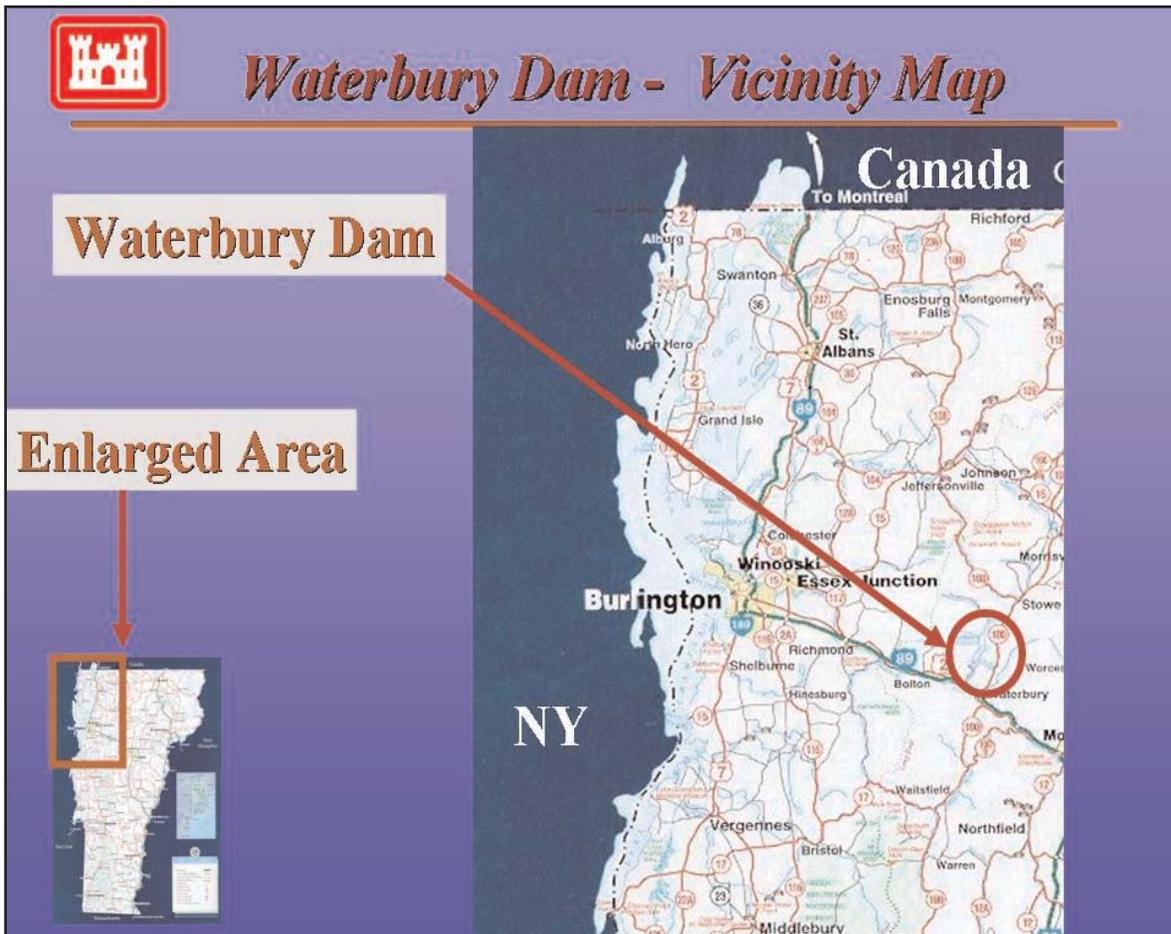
Corps' Innovative Methods Save Vermont Recreation Area

By JoAnne Castagna, New York District

Each year primarily during the summer months, hundreds of visitors, nature enthusiasts, recreation seekers, and local residents make a trek to Vermont’s 850-acre Waterbury Reservoir campsite. They make the journey to enjoy the outdoor activities available along the 19-miles of pristine shoreline. They find the popular area to be perfect for camping, fishing, hiking, and water sports.

However, during recent years, the sloped banks along the shoreline had become unstable due to erosion and posed a safety hazard. In response to this, the Corps used traditional and innovative engineering techniques to make the banks of the reservoir safer. The erosion is believed to be due to a number of factors including the drawdown of the reservoir that is performed every winter when the campground closes and wave action from recreational boats impacting the previously exposed shoreline.

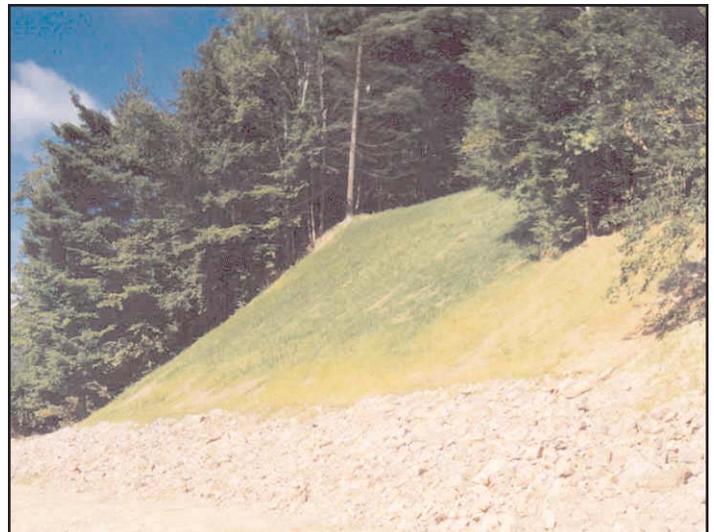
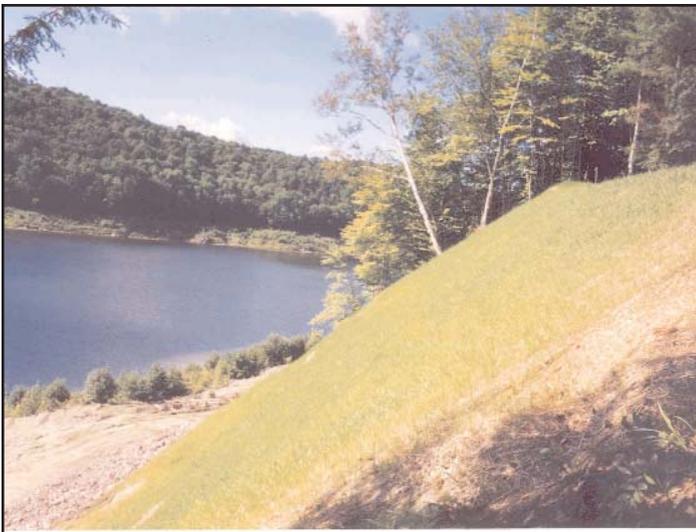
In 2000, the State of Vermont lowered the reservoir due to safety concerns at the nearby Waterbury Dam and lowered it again in 2002 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began construction work on the dam. The Corps designed and man-



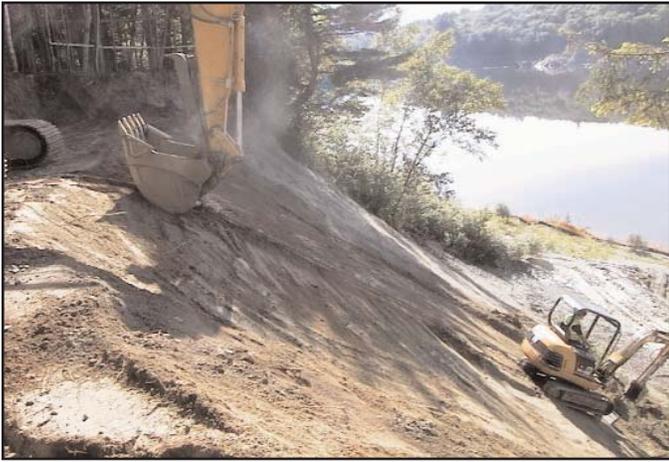
Waterbury Dam VT Site Map. Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

aged the construction of the 70-year-old dam in 1935 in response to a flooding disaster and since then has periodically modified it. In recent years, the dam has experienced seepage problems and the Corps' New York District, with the assistance of other Corps districts, has been making repairs that are expected to be completed this fall.

To perform these repairs the reservoir was lowered in 2002 to 520 ft., which is normally at 590 ft., summer pool level. Presently, the water is at 550 ft and will be back to summer pool level when the work is completed. Lowering the reservoir takes pressure off of the dam, reduces dam seepage and allows for safer construction work to take place. The reservoir's annual lowering and additional lowerings in 2000 and 2002 are believed to be the main contributing factors to the shore's erosion and resulting in the shore's instability.



Riprap placed for toe stabilization and regraded slope covered with grass seeding prior to Fall plantings. Photo Credit: Marty Goff, Project Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.



Regrading of slope prior to the placement of the riprap for the toe stabilization. Photo Credit: Construction Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

The sloped banks of the reservoir are vegetated. When the reservoir was lowered it exposed the lower portions of the bank that are not vegetated. This exposed bank causes the soil on the upper part of the bank to erode and uproot vegetation, especially during rainfall. When the vegetation is lost, this leaves upper portions of the bank exposed and subject to erosion. When the ground is exposed it makes it easy for groundwater to percolate out of the soil and contribute further to the slope's erosion and adding additional soil to the reservoir. If this runoff continues, the campground can lose large portions of land and the water quality of the reservoir and downstream river will be adversely impacted. In addition, the flow of sediment into the reservoir creates turbidity, muddy water, reduces the water's oxygen level and increases the water's temperature, which can harm water habitats.

This summer, the Corps in collaboration with the State of Vermont, constructed a shoreline stabilization project for 1,100 feet of reservoir shoreline using both traditional and bioengineering methods.

"Traditional techniques are being used to stabilize the bottom of the slope," said Marty Goff, project engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. "This includes using stone, or riprap, on the toe, or the bottom, of the slope. The weight of the stone prevents wave action from moving or removing the stone and prevents scoring or erosion of the toe of the slope." He added, "This part of the slope must remain stable in order for the upper reaches, which were stabilized using bioengineering techniques, to remain in place and function properly."

Bioengineering techniques are a variety of methods that use dormant plant cuttings from woody plants to alleviate soil erosion. The plants are planted in specific arrangements in the soil depending upon the technique. The cuttings come from plants that root easily. The root system of the plants helps to hold the soil together preventing sediment loss. Only native plants are being used. The toe, or bottom, of the slope will be planted with willow, dogwood and alder species to provide quick rooting. The remaining slope will be planted with a mix of low growing to medium sized shrub species such as bearberry - (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrine*) and lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) and tree species that includes gray birch (*Betula populifolia*) and gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*). Along the top of the slope the white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) are being planted to maintain the aesthetic consistency of the camping area.

"The State of Vermont has been a strong proponent of bioengineering and they encouraged us to use it in this project," said Goff. "The Corps has used bioengineering in the past, but just using grass. This is the first time we used native plants." "This is a departure from the more traditional approach, which typically involves steel sheet pile and back-filling," said Goff. "The result is a more natural and sustainable slope."

Combining traditional and bioengineering techniques is beneficial because a stable slope is being achieved without diminishing the natural appearance of the area. The project will not have the "engineered" look of many slope stabilization projects.

The environment benefits from combining techniques as well. Planting vegetation along the shoreline provides nesting and foraging habitats for native bird species and for campground visitors it maintains the look and feel of the region.

Presently, the toe stabilization at the bottom of the slopes is completed. Grass seed is now being laid down on the tops of the slopes for immediate slope stabilization. This fall, a mix of live cuttings and containers of woody vegetation, such as shrubs and trees, are going to be planted on the slopes for longer term stabilization. Planting in the fall is more conducive to plant survival than planting during the summer.

The campground will be closed for the winter and when it reopens in spring 2007 the restored portions of the shoreline will be open to the public.

Goff provides the following suggestions for other engineers performing similar shore stabilization projects:

- Coordinate constantly with your various state agencies to make sure everyone is in agreement with the schedule and project goals so you do not become unnecessarily postponed.

- Consider the "green" approach when trying to stabilize slopes. This bioengineered slope should be as stable as a typically constructed "hard" design.

"A significant thing we've learned from this project is that it is important to always be open to new and innovative ideas even if they deviate from the traditional."

Dr. JoAnne Castagna is a technical writer-editor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. She can be reached at joanne.castagna@usace.army.mil

ASFPM 2007 Call for Presenters

SAVE THIS IMPORTANT DATE: June 3 - 8, 2007, for ASFPM's 31st annual conference "Charting the Course: New Perspectives in Floodplain Management", at the Waterside Convention Center in Norfolk, Virginia. Abstracts are due November 10, 2006.

The CALL FOR ABSTRACTS is now online for the Association of State Floodplain Managers' 31st national conference in Norfolk, VA, June 3 - 8, 2007. It can be downloaded at <http://www.floods.org/norfolk>. The conference page will also contain Speakers instructions, Sponsorship and Exhibitors information, and links to the conference hotels.

This Call for Abstracts seeks a broad range of professionals associated with reducing flood damages, making communities more sustainable, and managing floodplain and fragile coastal resources. Virginia's many large rivers flow from the Appalachian Mountains, making their way to the Chesapeake Bay and eventually to the ocean, which creates unique challenges along the way. This conference will examine these challenges as the nation's flood loss reduction experts share ideas and learn from one another.

This comprehensive conference will showcase state-of-the-art techniques, programs, resources, materials, equipment, accessories, and services to accomplish flood mitigation and other community goals. Non-profit, government, business, and academic sectors will share how they successfully integrate engineering, planning open space, and environmental protection all over the nation and world to prepare for a better, sustainable future.

Please forward this message to all your peers and post it in your newsletters, list serves, websites and bulletin boards. This is an event you DON'T want to miss. We look forward to seeing you in Norfolk!

The Trillion-Dollar Man

by Darlene Guinto, Northwestern Division



Dennis Wagner, Chief of Planning, NWD.

After more than 33 years of Federal service and service to the nation, Dennis Wagner, Chief of Planning, Northwestern Division will retire 30 September 2006. How can one measure the value and contributions of this humble and magnificent planner? If wages are a reliable proxy, we might tally up the current value of Dennis's annual wages throughout his career.

Dennis began serving the nation in the U.S. Army (1973-1976) where, obviously, the \$300 - \$600 per month salary was not commensurate to Dennis's value and potential. After three years of active military service, Dennis served in the Reserves while completing his college education. Following his graduation from Fresno State University with a degree in economics, Dennis was appointed to the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1978,

where he remained until joining Alaska District as an economist in 1981.

Well-known and respected for his leadership skills, Dennis benefited Portland District as the Chief of Economics Section and subsequently the Chief of Planning Branch between 1985 and 1991. Some of Dennis's key accomplishments include creating the first official Civil Works outreach position in the Corps of Engineers and promoting the first female for a technical chief's position in Portland District.

In 1991, Dennis was appointed to serve as the Special Assistant for Policy and Long Range Planning. "It was an opportunity I just couldn't refuse," says Wagner. Here Dennis functioned as the principal advisor to the Director and Division

Commander on civil works legislative issues. Following that special appointment, Dennis moved on to become Chief of Economics Division and Plan Formulation Team Leader for the Northwestern Division, where he earned much respect.

"In all my years of knowing and working with Dennis from the early days when he was an Economist with the Alaska District up to my retirement, I believe Dennis to be a model for the true professional. He has always earned my respect in very way," says Tom Davis, former Chief of Planning for Northwestern Division."

Ultimately, Dennis was promoted to the Chief of Planning and Policy for Northwestern Division in April 2001. Dennis has always been a strong advocate of Planning policies and procedures which has been demonstrated through the establishment of the Northwestern Division Technical Boards in the areas of Economics, Plan Formulation, and Environmental Resources. These Boards have been effective in regional coordination, resource sharing, and enhancing planning technical capabilities.

Dennis is well-known, admired and respected throughout the Corps of Engineers. "He has made significant contributions, and I respect and think very highly of him," says Mike White, SES for LRD. "He's probably forgotten more about planning than most folks will ever know," stated one commenter. "He's a great planner and one of the sharpest economists there is," says Ken Orth. "A little serious, though." Nonetheless, Dennis was awarded "The World's Best Boss" beer mug in 2005 by Marky Edwards.

So, how come he's leaving? "Aren't you suppose to keep producing as long as the benefits curve is increasing?" asked Jim Fredericks. "Well, it wasn't an easy decision," said Wagner. "However, as I started to identify the problems and opportunities, I realized I've solved most of the problems, and have mentored amazingly great and talented people to solve the others. "Consequently, there were only opportunities left to consider." Dennis's mentoring and career counseling will leave a lasting legacy within the organization.

"Throughout my career I have focused on trying to increase the contribution I could make to advance water resource development in the country. It took patience and perseverance, knowing when to lead, when to follow, and when to inform. If you stay true to the concept of providing dedicated service and valued contributions to the organization, having a successful career will follow by default."

Dennis has benefited the Corps and most of us planners with his planning and policy expertise, economic and technical skills, and humble leadership. While Dennis has made many significant and obvious contributions, the bulk of his efforts remains under the radar and can only be appreciated by those who experience the seamless and effective coordination and teamwork.

Dennis has ensured that projects are properly formulated, technically sound, policy compliant, consistent with administrative priorities, and supported by cost-shared sponsors and other regional/national stakeholders. He has developed close horizontal and vertical teaming relationships with the Districts, Division, and Headquarters staff to facilitate the timely completion of quality work products. "I know I can always trust the professionalism and standards at NWD," says Carol Angier "It's the best Division anybody could work with."

"He's one of a kind, a true leader and a wonderful human-being. The world needs more people like Dennis," says Andrea Walker. "There's no one else like Dennis Wagner," says Gary Bunn. Dennis is certainly a unique individual. He simply cannot be replaced.



Dennis and wife, Debi.

Using current dollars, and assuming standard within-grade progression, the value of Dennis's contributions to the Corps and the nation totals \$2,873,314. Given that Dennis has brought a considerable number of planners and economists into the Corp, whose contributions and value are incalculable, we will assume an exponential function. Simply squaring the sum value of Dennis's total wages for those employed, mentored and promoted by Dennis, we get an estimate of: **\$8,255,933,340,0005!**

Dennis and his wife, Debi, have two sons who've continued the Wagner tradition of national service in both the Air Force and Army. Debi currently works for NWD and their oldest son is an employee with Sacramento District. Their youngest son is still in the Army assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, Ft. Drum, N.Y. and is currently in his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

PLANNING ASSOCIATES UPDATE

by Dana Needham, Little Rock District

PHEW! Anyone have any ice water?? It's truly been the dog days of summer and around the country most of us have been battling heat waves and setting record high temperatures. The Planning Associates Class of 2006 (PAs) have just wrapped up their 7th trip: Kansas City/Osage Beach, Missouri for the course on Endangered Species Act (ESA), Hydropower, Water Supply, and Recreation; and Anchorage, Alaska for the course on Small Boat Harbors and Intergovernmental Coordination. My classmate, Joan Lanier, has written about our time in Missouri; I will try to capture everything that happened on our Alaskan adventure.

Upon finishing our week in Missouri, we departed from the continental United States and headed for the great unknowns of Alaska. This would be a first time visit for several of us, myself included. We left on a Saturday afternoon and by traveling through many time zones (and with one stop in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada), we arrived in Anchorage that same Saturday night (and yes, it was still light outside). We were greeted by the cool and refreshing Alaskan air, and after being stuck in an airplane for several hours, it was a welcome event. Some of the PAs took in a late-night dinner at the Winter Tyme restaurant—a place that quickly became a favorite among the group and if you're ever in Anchorage, you have to ask for the homemade ice cream sandwiches.

Sunday morning began a new day in the Alaskan adventure. Some of the PAs got up early and explored local Anchorage, including a market and festival; while others took the opportunity to catch up on some much needed sleep. By Sunday afternoon, however, most of us decided something needed to be done (as we were in Alaska after all), and so we drove south on Seward Highway (rated as one of the most scenic highways in the United States).



Driving on Seward Highway, Alaska, July 2006

Our first stop was the Alaskan Wildlife Conservation Center, just outside of Portage, where we were able to see caribou, musk ox, deer, buffalo, moose, eagles, porcupines, and bears. Our drive continued into Portage, where we visited Portage Lake, the Begich/ Boggs Visitor's Center, and viewed Portage Glacier. We even caught site of some icebergs! Our final stop for Sunday was in Girdwood, at the Mt. Alyeska Ski Resort, where we took a 2,000 ft. tram ride up the mountain, with more glacier viewing, hiking, and playing in the snow! Monday started our introduction to the Small Boat Harbors and Intergovernmental Coordination course hosted by Carl Borash of Alaska District. During our introductions, the class was asked which animal they hoped to see while in Alaska—our answers ranged from otters, goats, and puffins to polar bears, whales, and Dungeness crabs, all of which we were told we had a very good chance of seeing during our stay.



(L-R): Maria Chin, Randy Campbell, Jason Needham, Joan Lanier, Alicia Kirchner, Martin Gonzalez, Jeremy Weber, and Barbara Blumeris enjoy the tram ride.



Carl Borash addresses the PA Class of 2006 in Anchorage, Alaska.



Steve Cone, HQ, receives a class coin from Clarke Hemphill, Alaska District



The Small Boat Harbor at Seward, Alaska.

After our intros, we went through a general overview of what exactly are “Small Boat Harbors” and how they fit in with Corps missions. Carl, Forrest Brooks, Pat Fitzgerald (PA Class of '05), Brian Harper, and Alan Jefferies gave us a crash course in topics like the Planning Process for Small Boat Harbors, Small Boat Harbors benefits, Section 107 CAP/Specifically Authorized Projects, and Hydraulic Design Considerations for Small Boat Harbors. We also looked at two case studies—Kodiak Harbor and Port Lions Harbor. One major point that came across in this introduction of Small Boat Harbors was the main methods of transportation of materials and goods are by sea and by air. Therefore, it is critical and crucial to maintain and operate these boat harbors—through all kinds of weather.

Our day ended with a Pacific Ocean Division Command Briefing from Brigadier General John Peabody, 27th Commander and Division Engineers of POD. General Peabody spoke of the capabilities of POD; a big military program with 1,655 personnel located in offices in Alaska, Hawaii, Korea, and Japan. He talked about the Corps support of many countries overseas, and included the Corps employment of civilians from Korea and Japan, a real-world example of regionalization.

We began Tuesday with a stakeholder panel. Representatives from the Aleutians East Borough, Department of Environmental Conservation, USFWS, Juneau Harbormaster and President of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities gave the class a brief presentation of what they do and how they interact with the Corps, followed by a candid question and answer session. The stakeholder panel session was followed by a presentation over the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance and Mitigation in dealing with Small Boat Harbor projects given by Guy McConnell.

Other presentations on Tuesday included Harbor Legislation Stimulated by Sponsors (Carl Borash) and HQ Policy Compliance Review Hot Buttons and Economic Analysis Expectations of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (Brian Harper). We also had one more case study—Nome Harbor.

The class was given an assignment Tuesday afternoon. We broke into our three different work teams (Neptune, Quadriga, and Pathfinder) and were given a simulated boat harbor project. We were asked to come up with 3 different alternatives to improve the boat harbor’s condition using all the information we had been given from previous presentations. Our alternatives were to be presented Wednesday afternoon.

As Wednesday approached, many of us found it hard to believe our week in Alaska would soon be over. On the topic menu for Wednesday were presentations over the American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, Communications (with Natives and Indians) in Rural Alaska (Margan Grover), the Denali Commission Planning Process (Kathy Prentki), and HQ Review Process (Steve Cone). We also presented our alternative findings back to the course instructors, discovering that many of our alternatives were similar in theory. As Wednesday came to a close, we began to prepare for our field trip to Kodiak Island and Port Lions on Thursday and Friday.

Thursday began a very early and very long day for us. Our flight to Kodiak was scheduled for a 6 AM departure from the Anchorage Airport. We left the Captain Cook Hotel promptly at 4:30 AM, arriving at the airport and meeting with our course instructors. The sun was already shining high by the time we got to our departure gate. We boarded a modified Alaska Airlines plane (they also use this plane to load cargo to carry on to Kodiak Island—important in remembering that the major

methods of transportation are by sea and by air), and made ourselves ready for the quick flight to the island. Only we didn't quite make it to Kodiak Island. We hovered on the plane in the air for a few minutes before the pilot announced over the speaker system that we would not be landing due to inclement weather conditions (wind, rain, and fog do not equate to good landing conditions). So, we turned back toward Anchorage.

The class and course instructors met back in the airport for a quick conference on what we should do and the decision was made to make our way southbound to Seward and the small boat harbor located there. On our way to Seward and going through the Chugach National Forest, several stops were made to view the wildlife and natural resources of Alaska. We stopped to walk around the Turnagain Pass Rest Area, known for viewing wild bears upon the hillside and it is also one of the highest points (988 ft.) along the highway. We also stopped in Moose Pass, once known for a construction camp for the Alaska Railroad, but now is a quiet suburb of Seward. Exit Glacier was the second to last stop of the day—located just nine miles from the town of Seward, it was only a half mile up from the visitor's center to view the glacier. And finally, the small harbor town of Seward. We were able to see the true conditions of a small boat harbor and we discussed what we had learned from presentations during the week, ranging from marina expansions to fish cleaning stations.

Friday, we were given the opportunity to work in our teams on our Critical Think Piece presentations (coming up in September at graduation).

I would like to take this opportunity to say that I have truly enjoyed being a part of the Planning Associates Program and I highly encourage anyone interested to ask questions about it and to apply. The travel is strenuous and work back home can be stressful, but the overall end-products are well worth the time and efforts. I would like to thank all my friends and colleagues back home (Little Rock District) for their understanding and support this past year. I would also like to thank all the PA course instructors, plus Joy Muncy, Harry Kitch and their admin staff from HQ—they work behind the scenes every day to put on an amazing program with magnificent results...it doesn't go un-noticed. And finally, I have to say thank you

to my fellow PAs—we've been with each other for the past 10 months, have grown and learned from one another, and each of you has touched my life. It has been an amazing experience and one that I will never forget.

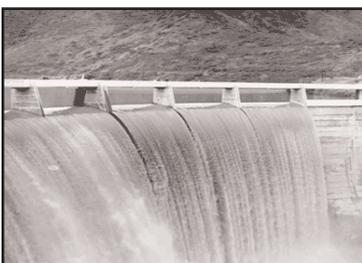


The Planning Associates Class of 2006 in front of Exit Glacier, Seward, Alaska.

PLANNING WEBS AHEAD

Badware Beware and Moving Dams

by Jim Conley



The Los Angeles District and sponsors would like to remove Matilija Dam in Ventura County. Removal will allow sand to replenish downstream Southern California's beaches and fish passage upstream. Trapping sediment since 1947, six million cubic yards, there is only 7% of its storage capacity remaining.



Award winning study manager, Mr. Jon Vivanti, said that releasing all that sediment is a major concern. Removal will also open up more than 17 miles of pristine steelhead spawning habitat, a Federal Endangered Species. The watershed and project have numerous collaborators and a bunch of great web pages:

<http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Matilija/matilija.htm>
<http://matilijadam.org/>
<http://pages.sbcglobal.net/pjenkin/matilija/>



Another prominent watershed study web page is the St. Louis District's Dardenne Creek Watershed Study. The planning assistance study is a collaborative effort consisting of a primary and six local sponsors. Mr. John Boeckmann, Senior Hydraulic Engineer, and the Corps' Dardenne Creek web page designer, said "this study will not produce a project.



But it is being done to better understand the watershed. The information being produced will be used by others as a basis to improve the watershed."



But it is being done to better understand the watershed. The information being produced will be used by others as a basis to improve the watershed."

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/DardenneCreek/>
<http://dardenne.naturallystcharles.com/>
<http://www.cares.missouri.edu/dardenne/>

Where does all that spam come from? Some even make it through our firewalls. Much comes from web pages, as McAfee reports in its spam quiz web page: <http://www.mcafee.com/spamquiz>. When an e-mail address was submitted to a site, it "received 440 spammy e-mails per week," in return. But a similar site produced "only 1 e-mail per week." The quiz asks you to decide between two similar web pages and choose the safer. In addition, <http://stopbadware.org/home/help> is a "Neighborhood Watch" campaign aimed at fighting badware". The joint venture project between Harvard and Oxford also includes a conglomerate of tech firms, notably Google. Now if that doesn't intimidate the badware guys, then maybe nothing will! They are assembling a database of badware sites, and Google is beginning to provide warnings on its search engine.

DISCLAIMER: The first e-mail, Subject: I saw it first, received may claim a Starbucks' (or alternate) ten-dollar gift certificate. Also providing hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the Corps for any site, products or services contained herein

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Vacancy Announcements****

Mobile District is both a Civil Works and Military District and has a diverse program that includes deep and shallow draft navigation, flood control, hydropower, water supply, shore protection, ecosystem restoration and other Corps missions and functions. Mobile District area of responsibility also includes Central and South America and frequently water resources planning expertise is required in foreign countries. The District's mission is growing and is in need of experienced water resources planners. Mobile District will soon be announcing the following vacancy in the Plan Formulation Branch, Planning and Environmental Division:

Vacancy Announcement Number: SCGU06452833, Plan Formulation Specialist-Deep Draft Navigation: Serves as the District's technical specialist for deep-draft navigation planning and provides support to the Deep Draft Navigation Planning Center of Expertise (DDNPCX). Assignments involve work in a broad range of activities and highly specialized deep-draft navigation plan formulation functions. As a technical expert is consulted by others and serves as an instructor for the Deep Draft Navigation Planning Course for the Planning Associates Program. Leads teams or provides technical leadership in areas of expertise on the most complicated, local, regional, and nationally significant deep-draft navigation projects. Serves as a senior technical reviewer in area of expertise for studies assigned to the DDDNPCX. Provides authoritative review & guidance on methodologies used. Leads study teams & is responsible for coaching, teaching, & communicating team objectives, mission, goals, problems to be solved, milestones, techniques, work methods, procedures, and parameters of a viable solution. Click here () for additional information.

Vacancy Announcement SCGU06452770 - Plan Formulation Specialist, Interdisciplinary GS-12: Mobile District will soon begin recruiting for a plan formulation specialist in the following series: GS-0020, Community Planner; GS 0110, Economist; GS-0150, Geographer; GS-0401, General Biological Scientists; GS-0408, Ecologist; GS-0430, Botanist; GS-0801, General Engineer; GS-0807, Landscape Architect; GS-0810 Civil Engineer; GS-0819, Environmental Engineer; GS-1301 General Physical Scientist; GS-1350, Geologist; GS-1360, Oceanographer; GS-1515, Operations Research Analyst. This position will be in the Plan Formulation Branch, Planning and Environmental Division. The person selected will serve on Project Delivery Teams and be responsible for leading the planning process to identify water resources problems and opportunities, develop planning objectives and constraints, formulate and evaluate alternative solutions, and recommend a plan for implementation. Announcement closes 19 September 2006.

The City. Mobile is over 300 years old so it has a remarkable trove of historical treasures and traditions. The city's undeniable charm was born of time and tradition, of a long and rich history. Founded in 1702 by French naval officer Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville – a center-city square bears his name today – Mobile is named for the Maubila Indians. The city has grown from a small settlement on the banks of its namesake river to a lively port city primed to take on the challenges of the 21st century. Throughout the years Mobile has cherished the rich traditions that made the city what it is; Mobile's Mardi Gras (second only to you-know-who's) provides a most exciting way of celebrating its unique history. At ease in the present, Mobile commemorates the past; history is displayed in house-museums, forts, cathedrals, cemeteries, a battleship, and many landmarks. Mobile's welcoming climate and waterside location allow guests to enjoy white sandy beaches and scrumptious seafood. The city enjoys a mild climate with average low/high temperatures of 40/64 degrees in the winter and 71/91 degrees in the summer. Mobile is highlighted with alluring azaleas, and accented with gorgeous live oaks, dripping Spanish moss and shading exquisite old mansions. A port city infused with three centuries of history, Mobile presents new sights and experiences with the turn of each corner. For additional information on the city go to: <http://www.mobile.org/>

If you are interested in these positions, be sure to provide your Resumix information to the South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center (CPOC), Huntsville, Alabama, in response to the vacancy announcement. Please call Mr. Roger A. Burke at 251/694-3809 if you have any questions or need additional information.

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) is offering a wide variety of Internet-based training courses on innovative environmental technologies and approaches specific to the areas of site characterization, monitoring and remediation as well as other environmental topics. ITRC is a state-led coalition working together with industry and stakeholders to achieve regulatory acceptance of environmental technologies. ITRC is a program of the Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS), a nonprofit corporation operating in support of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS). Courses for September are listed below. If you are interested please follow the instructions provided to register for the courses.

COURSE REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

Registration: <http://clu-in.org/studio/seminar.cfm> or at <http://www.itrcweb.org> click on "Internet-based Training". Course registration opens 4-6 weeks prior to each course offering.

Cost: Sponsored by ITRC and EPA with no cost for the participant. These ITRC courses are delivered via our partnership with USEPA OSRTI on their website at <http://www.clu-in.org/studio/>.

Associated guidance documents: Available from <http://www.itrcweb.org>. You can download the ITRC guidance documents that are the basis for the training materials click on "Guidance Documents".

NOTE: If you have questions after completing the on-line registration, call us at (402) 201-2419 or send an e-mail to training@itrcweb.org.

UPCOMING COURSE DATES (registration opens 4-6 weeks in advance):

Sept. 12th - Remediation Process Optimization Advanced Training
2:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. EASTERN Time

Sept. 14th - Planning and Promoting Ecological Land Reuse of Remediated Sites
11:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time {NEW} [Registration expected to open in mid-August]

Sept. 19th - Perchlorate: Overview of Issues, Status, and Remedial Options
2:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. EASTERN Time

Sept. 21st - Triad Approach: A New Paradigm for Environmental Project Management
11:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time [Registration expected to open in mid-August]

NOTE: All dates/times are subject to change – check <http://www.itrcweb.org> for the most up-to-date information.

SAVE THIS IMPORTANT DATE: June 3 - 8, 2007, for ASFPM's 31st annual conference "Charting the Course: New Perspectives in Floodplain Management", at the Waterside Convention Center in Norfolk, Virginia. Abstracts are due November 10, 2006. See [page 5](#) for more information.

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO PLANNING AHEAD?

This newsletter is designed to improve the communication among all the planners and those we work with throughout the Corps. We hope that future editions will have mostly information and perspective from those of you on the front lines in the districts. We hope that these notes become a forum for you to share your experiences to help all of us learn from each other. We can't afford to reinvent the wheel in each office. We welcome your thoughts, questions, success stories, and bitter lessons so that we can share them on these pages. The articles should be short (2-3 paragraphs) except in some cases where you just have to say more, and should be a MS Word document. We highly encourage you to send pictures to accompany your article.

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue is: **Thursday, September 28, 2006.**

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

WANT TO SUBSCRIBE TO PLANNING AHEAD?

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**"

(Editor's 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.

THE PLANNING AHEAD TEAM

Harry Kitch	Publisher	Headquarters
Monica Franklin	Editor	Institute for Water Resources
Larry Buss	<i>Nonstructural News</i>	Omaha District
James Conley	<i>Planning Webs Ahead</i>	South Pacific Division
Susan Durden	<i>Regional Technical Specialist</i>	Institute for Water Resources
Monica Franklin	<i>Announcements, Planning CoP Calendar</i>	Institute for Water Resources
Ted Hillyer	<i>Planning Centers of Expertise</i>	Institute for Water Resources
Joy Muncy	<i>Planning Associates Update</i>	Institute for Water Resources
Darrell Nolton	<i>Masters Program</i>	Institute for Water Resources
Paul Rubenstein	<i>Cultural Resources</i>	Headquarters

To read past issues of *Planning Ahead*, visit:
<http://www.prw.iwr.usace.army.mil/planningahead.htm>