

PLANNING AHEAD

*Notes for the Planning and Policy
Community*



US Army Corps
of Engineers

September 2011

Volume 14, Issue 2

Planning Community of Practice Monthly Update

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Activities Last Month

- Director of Civil Works issues memorandum on Civil Works Cost Definitions and Applicability

On August 25th, Mr. Steven Stockton, Director of Civil Works, issued a [memorandum](#) on the subject of Civil Works Cost Definitions and Applicability. The memorandum is intended to define and clarify cost terminology to be used in Chief's Reports and other documents processed through Headquarters and/or the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Planning Investigations Reclassification and Feasibility Reset Initiative

In response to Major General William T. Grisoli's memorandum of 12 July 2011, work continues on the effort to review ongoing feasibility studies and reclassify studies as active or inactive. Once this review of studies has been completed, the Planning and Policy Division will review the scope of the active studies, and adjust if necessary, to align resources to complete the most viable studies for project authorization.

- Recent Items posted to the Planning Community of Practice website (www.corpsplanning.us)

[Requirements for Type I Independent External Peer Review \(IEPR\) Reports and Posting](#)

[Section 104 of Water Resources Development Act of 1986 Credit Eligibility Requests](#)

[Webinar on Common Problems in Washington Level Review](#)

[Economic Guidance Memorandum \(EGM\) 11-05 Deep Draft Vessel Operating Costs FY 2011](#)

[Models Certified for National Use](#) (HEC-FDA 1.2.5; IWR Plan Annualizer Module; HarborSym Widening)

Activities This Month

- First Decision Point for the first two National Pilot Program Studies, the Sutter Basin (Sutter County, California) Feasibility Study and the Jordan Creek (Springfield, Missouri) Feasibility Study. Additional information on the Pilot Studies can be [found here](#).

- Continued participation in the development of the [Levee Safety Engineer Circular](#) (EC). To learn more about the Levee Safety Program please visit the Levee Safety Program [website](#).

News Items

- [USACE Water Supply Community of Practice holds Second Biennial Workshop](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Supply Community of Practice held its second biennial Water Supply workshop in Savannah, Georgia on May 31-June 2, 2011. Among the topics discussed at the workshop were the status of Corps water supply policies, the use of and improvements to water supply models and software (HEC-ResSim), the status of water supply activities in various geographic watersheds, and the impact of political and economic realities on water supply decisions. The workshop [presentations](#) are available at the Corps [Value to the Nation](#) website.

- [USACE Announces Establishment of Collaboration and Public Participation Community of Practice](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proud to announce the establishment of the Collaboration and Public Participation Community of Practice (CoP). The CoP was officially recognized by USACE leadership in April 2011 and Mr. Steven Stockton, Director of Civil Works, became the inaugural Champion. Mr. Stockton is committed to supporting the day-to-day leadership of the CoP, which currently resides with a 17 member volunteer steering committee drawn from the CoP's membership and the [Conflict Resolution and Public Participation Center of Expertise](#), which is an organizational element of the [Institute for Water Resources](#).

If you have any questions concerning the activities of the CoP or would like more information about the CoP, please contact either [Mr. Seth Cohen](#) or [Mr. Hal Cardwell](#) at the Conflict Resolution and Public Participation Center of Expertise.

Recently Released Publications

- “[Social Vulnerability Analysis Methods for Corps Planning](#)” by C. Mark Dunning and Susan Durden, IWR Publication 2011-R-07, May 2011.
- “[The State of Collaboration in the Corps: A Field Perspective](#)”, IWR Publication 2011-CPC-R-04, May 2011
- “[Converging Waters: Integrating Collaborative Modeling with Participatory Processes to Make Water Resources Decisions](#)”, Lisa Bourget, Editor, May 2011

Upcoming Events

- [36th Annual Climate Diagnostics and Prediction Workshop](#)
3-6 October 2011 Fort Worth, TX

NOAA's 36 Climate Diagnostics and Prediction Workshop will be held in Fort Worth, Texas on 3-6 October 2011. The workshop will be hosted by the National Weather Service (NWS) Southern Region Headquarters and the National Climate Data Center (NCDC) Climate Services Division, and co-sponsored by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) of the National Centers for Environmental prediction and NWS Climates Services Division. The American Meteorological Society is a cooperating sponsor.

The workshop will address the status and prospects for advancing climate monitoring, assessment, and prediction in the context of the NOAA Climate Services Societal Challenges with an emphasis in five major themes:

1. Changes in weather and climate extremes on timescales from daily to decadal.
 2. Performance of NOAA coupled models on timescales from daily to decadal, including reanalysis, reforecasts, and multi-model ensembles.
 3. Status and prospects for improved understanding and more realistic simulation and prediction of drought/fluvial, including objective drought tools and impacts on water resources.
 4. Prospects for improved understanding and prediction of warm season North American hydroclimate variability.
 5. Development and delivery of climate information that meets the evolving needs of users, including business, government, resource managers, scientists, sectoral stakeholders, and private citizens.
- [5th Partnership Conference “Celebrating a Decade of Success with a Vision to the Future”](#)
15-18 November 2011 Memphis, TN

The sustainable management of the nation's water resources is fundamental to a healthy and productive environment and our long-term economic strength. The Fifth Partnership Conference focuses on building and cultivating collaborative relationships and approaches and developing strategies to meet the challenges facing our Nation. Recognizing that collaborative approaches are needed to accomplish these goals, this conference brings together colleagues from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Nature Conservancy, and The Conservation Fund, as well as other Federal, State and Non-Governmental Organizations, to advance the sustainable management of river, floodplain, and coastal resources. This conference will provide an opportunity to build upon a decade of success and define the future of collaboration to meet the missions and goals of the partners.

The first Partnership Conference was held at Lake Tahoe, CA in 2004. At that time, there were approximately 30 attendees. Each National Partnership Conference has seen a steady increase in participation, from Stowe, VT, to Wheeling, WV, to most recently Stevenson, WA where over 150 colleagues gathered to advance sustainable water resources solutions under the partnership, including attendees from China and Colombia.

The Partnership Conference brings together organizational leadership, planners, water managers, scientist, policy makers and engineers to advance sustainable water resources practices that can be applied to the Partnership and beyond. Attendees benefit from a wealth of opportunities to exchange information on projects, programs and emerging work throughout the organization and mission areas, develop strategies for future collaboration and offer an engaging mix of speakers, workgroup sessions, a poster session, training on project scope and development and a technical field tour.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE 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. Please send articles to Mr. Kenneth E. Lichtman, at Kenneth.e.lichtman@usace.army.mil

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue of *Planning Ahead* is
Wednesday, October 12, 2011

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