MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS


1. Section 2005 of WRRDA 2014 provides that, following submission of the report required by Section 2004(b) of WRRDA 2014 to the Congress, the Secretary shall conduct an inland waterways stakeholder roundtable to provide for a review and evaluation of issues related to the financial management of the inland and intracoastal waterways. A copy of Section 2005 of WRRDA 2014 is enclosed.

2. Following submission of the report required by Section 2004(b) of WRRDA 2014 to Congress, Army will initiate the process to select individuals to participate on the roundtable. Coordination funds provided in the Inland Waterways Users Board Construction Account remaining item may be used for this purpose.

Encl

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SEC. 2005. INLAND WATERWAYS STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an inland waterways stakeholder roundtable to provide for a review and evaluation of issues related to financial management of the inland and intracoastal waterways.

(b) SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress the report required by section 2004(b), the Secretary, in consultation with the Inland Waterways Users Board, shall select individuals to be invited to participate in the stakeholder roundtable.

(2) COMPOSITION.—The individuals selected under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) representatives of the primary users, shippers, and suppliers utilizing the inland and intracoastal waterways for commercial purposes;

(B) representatives of State and Federal agencies having a direct and substantial interest in the commercial use of the inland and intracoastal waterways;

(C) representatives of other nonnavigation beneficiaries of the inland and intracoastal waterways infrastructure, including individuals benefitting from—

(i) municipal water supply;

(ii) hydropower;

(iii) recreation;

(iv) industrial water supply;

(v) flood damage reduction;

(vi) agricultural water supply;

(vii) environmental restoration;

(viii) local and regional economic development; or

(ix) local real estate interests; and

(D) other interested individuals with significant financial and engineering expertise and direct knowledge of the inland and coastal waterways.

(c) FRAMEWORK AND AGENDA.—The Secretary shall work with a group of the individuals selected under subsection (b) to develop the framework and agenda for the stakeholder roundtable.

(d) CONDUCT OF STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress the report required by section 2004(b), the Secretary shall conduct the stakeholder roundtable.
(2) ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED.—The stakeholder roundtable shall provide for the review and evaluation described in subsection (a) and shall include the following:

(A) An evaluation of any recommendations that have been developed to address funding options for the inland and coastal waterways, including any recommendations in the report required under section 2004(b).

(B) An evaluation of the funding status of the inland and coastal waterways.

(C) Identification and evaluation of the ongoing and projected water infrastructure needs of the inland and coastal waterways.

(D) Identification of a process for meeting such needs, with timeline for addressing the funding challenges for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress the report required by section 2004(b), the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that contains—

(1) a summary of the stakeholder roundtable, including areas of concurrence on funding approaches and areas of disagreement in meeting funding needs; and

(2) recommendations developed by the Secretary for next steps to address the issues discussed at the stakeholder roundtable.