

# Update on the Corps Planning Process NAFSMA 2010 Annual Meeting San Diego, California

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®

US Army Corps of Engineers  
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# Planning What's It All About?

- Program Development
- Sound water resources recommendations for the Nation
- Quality execution of missions and workload.



# Importance of Planning

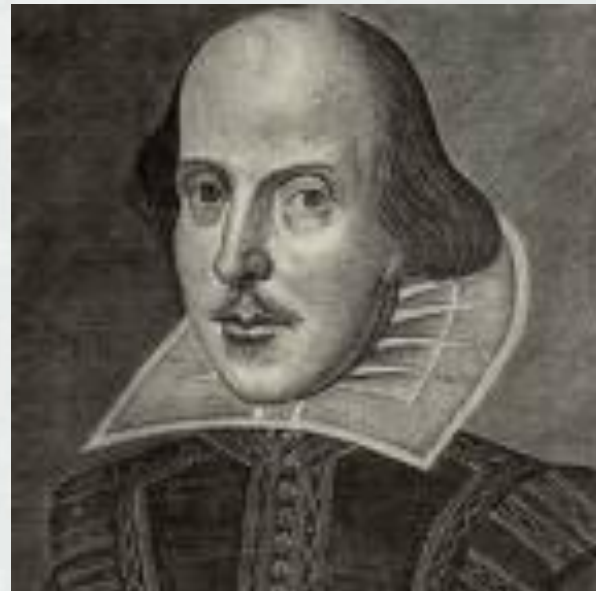
*“Planning is a very specialized discipline within the Corps. It is not something that everyone in the Corps either wants to do or is capable of doing. The Corps has been hemorrhaging talent in this area for years and has been unable to hire replacements due to budget constraints. Once this planning capability is lost, the Corps will be unable to rebuild it rapidly, if ever. This will greatly impact their relevance to water resource development.”*

**Roger K. Cockrell Senate Energy and Water  
Appropriations Subcommittee staff 9 March  
2006**



# Why Do We Plan?

- To Determine the Federal Interest for Authorization and Make Quality Credible Sound Recommendations
- ***“To B or Not to B? That is the question!”***  
***(B=Budget)***



# Budgets & Appropriations

FY06      FY07      FY08      FY09      FY 10

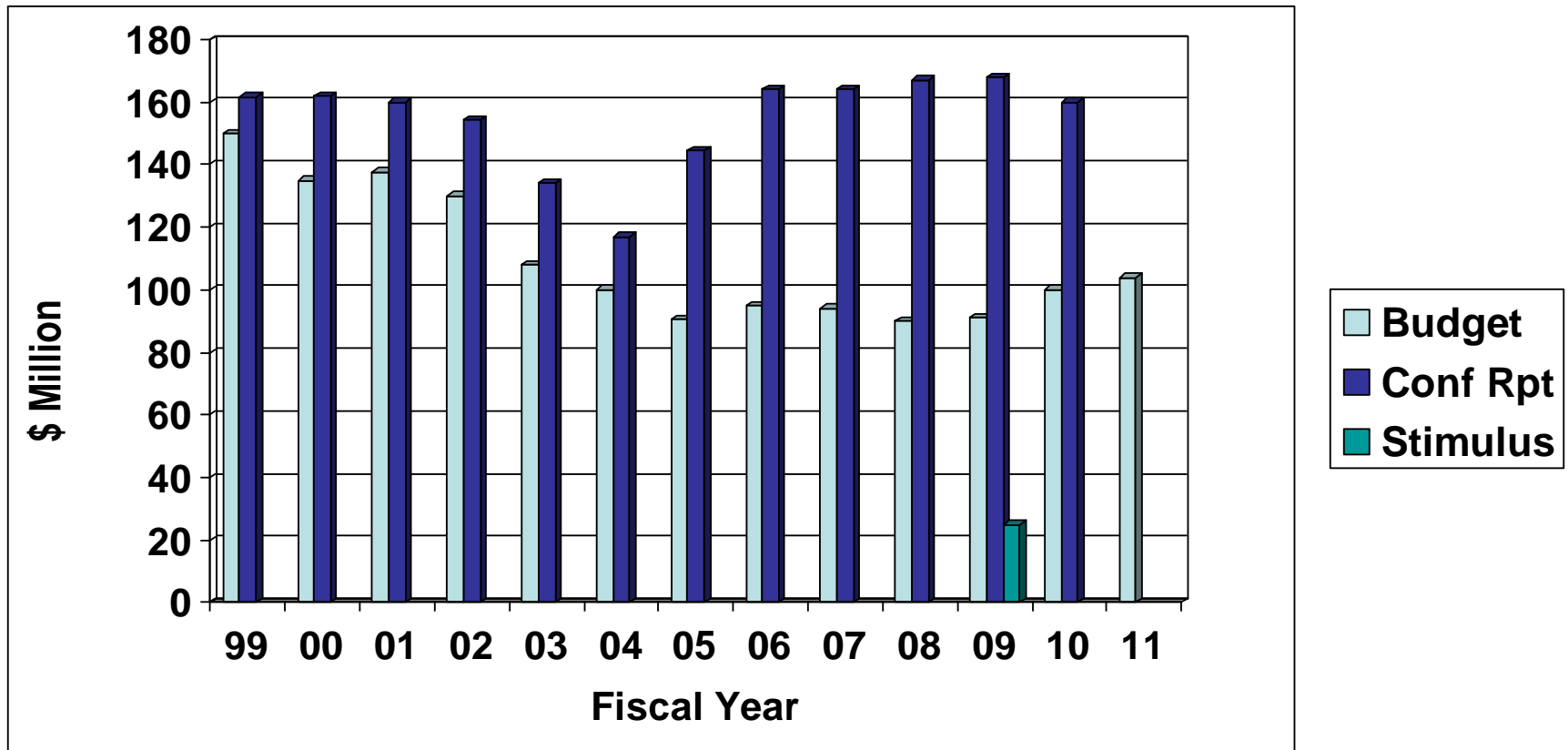
\$ Millions

Investigations	95	94	90	91	100
Operations & Maintenance	1,979	2,258	2,471	2,475	2,504
Construction	1,637	1,555	1,523	1,402	1,718
Miss. River & Tributaries	270	278	260	240	248
Regulatory Program	160	173	180	180	190
Flood & Coastal Emergencies	70	81	40	40	41
F.U.S.R.A.P.	140	140	140	140	134
Expenses	162	164	177	177	184
<u>ASA(CW)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
<b><u>Total Budget Request</u></b>	<b><u>4,513</u></b>	<b><u>4,743</u></b>	<b><u>4,881</u></b>	<b><u>4,751</u></b>	<b><u>5,125</u></b>
<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>5,329</b>	<b>5,340</b>	<b>5,592</b>	<b>5,403</b>	<b>5,445</b>
<b>Increase from Budget</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>320</b>

78%



# General Investigations Budget vs. Appropriation



# FY 11 E&W Senate Report

- The Committee is very concerned about the Corps planning program.
- Corps should have a robust planning program to address new water resource needs and to evaluate changes throughout the project development process.
- Proper planning is critical to the success of every project
- Planning in the Corps is a specialized skill set and once that ability is lost, it is difficult to re-establish.
- Most of the criticisms of the Corps' project development process in recent years have centered on problems in the planning process.
- The Committee has attempted to maintain consistent planning funding in order to retain these skills.



# FY 11 E&W Senate Report

- Despite meager planning budgets provided, some improvements such as the Planning Associates Program and Planning Centers of Expertise (PCXs) have begun
- PCXs have not been funded to the extent necessary to develop them into an effective planning tool
- The planning process is the most difficult phase of the project development process and that a myriad of factors can lengthen or derail a planning study. However, a study that lasts longer than 10 years seems excessive.
- The Corps is directed to report to this Committee by September 30, 2010, on ways to improve the planning program to reduce these extended planning schedules.



# Planning Program Initiatives

- 1. Achieve Excellence in Planning Execution**
- 2. WRDA 2007 Implementation**
- 3. WRDA Future Development**
- 4. Modernize PL Program for 21<sup>st</sup> Century**
- 5. Transform the Current Preauthorization Study Process**
- 6. Strengthen Collaborative Relationships**



# Modernizing Planning Program for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- Strengthen PL Capability and Leadership
  - ▶ Planner Certification Pilot– FY11
  - ▶ Establish Targets for Completion of PL Core Curriculum
  - ▶ Sustain Planning Advisory Board Actions – Ongoing
- Enhance PL Process and Tools
  - ▶ Update PL Guidance
  - ▶ Develop new Tools for Implementation of P&G
- Assess PL Business Model and Organizational Structure
  - ▶ PCX Mission Analysis
- Participate in Watershed and System Based Budgeting Model Development

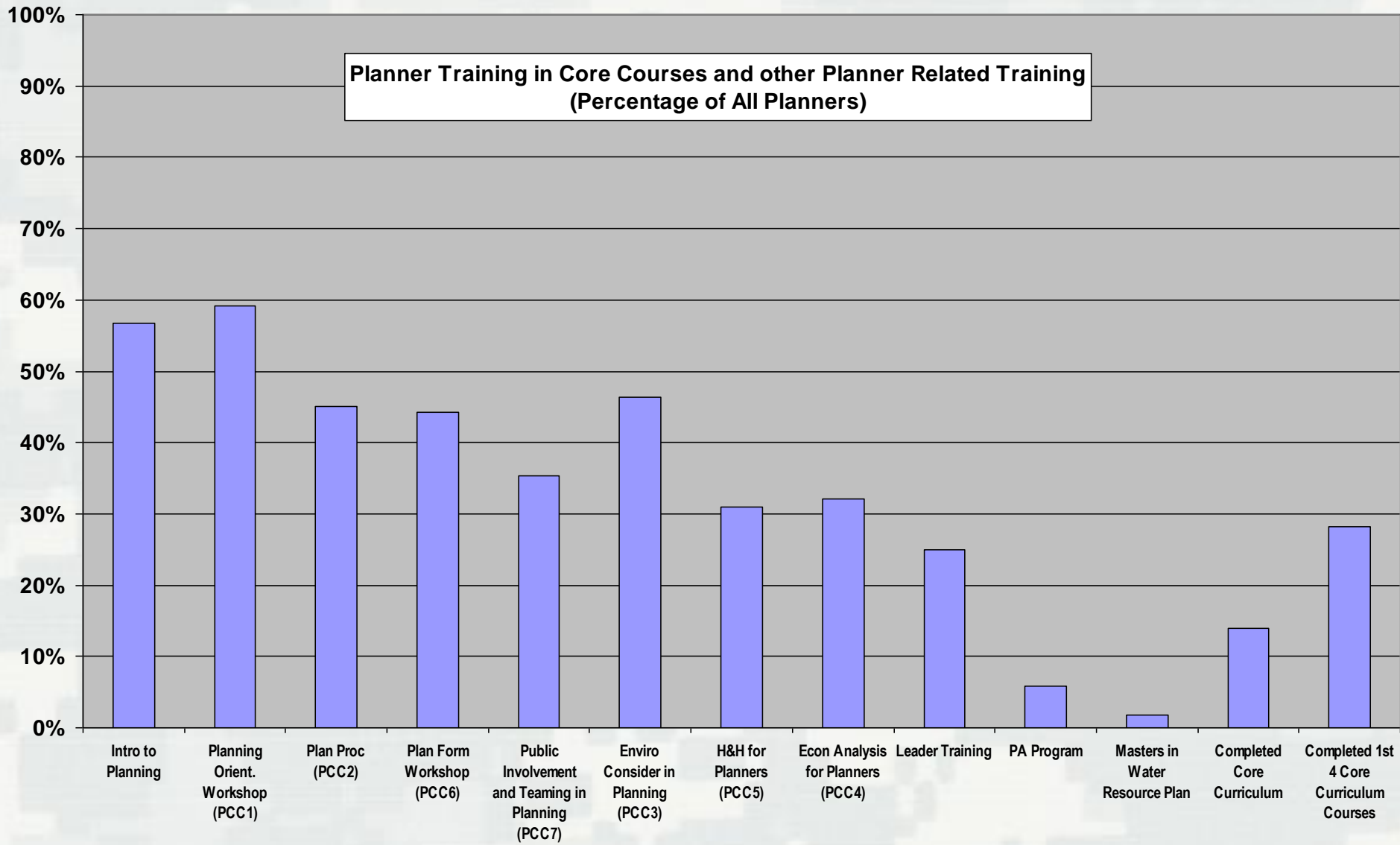


# Planner Training & Development

- 7 Planning Core Curriculum Courses as minimum requirement for journeyman planner
  - ▶ Target: 90% of district planners to complete by end of FY13
- Planning Associates Program
- Master's Program in Water Resources Planning & Management



**Planner Training in Core Courses and other Planner Related Training  
(Percentage of All Planners)**



Data as of FY 08



# Transforming the Current Pre-authorization Study Process

- **Goal** – Transform the CW Planning Process to conduct feasibility studies in 18 months maintaining the integrity of the analysis
- **Objective** – Convene Task Force to attend offsite to focus on alternatives to achieve the goal
- **Premises:**
  - ▶ Unbounded and unconstrained alternatives
  - ▶ Aware of current revisions to P&G under CEQ
  - ▶ Ensure Corps' ability to provide credible, quality, & sound recommendations



# QUESTIONS

**PLANNING SMART**



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