Planning Modernization & WRRDA Implementation

Theodore “Tab” Brown, Chief of Planning and Policy
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters
19 August 2015
The “Four Ps” of Planning Modernization

**People**
*Investing in Planner’s Knowledge*
Enhance the capability and competency in the Planning Community

*Why: Our People are our future.*

**Process**
*SMART Planning, 3x3x3 and WRRDA*
Improve and develop efficient and cost effective processes for GI and beyond

*Why: Deliver a sound investment in infrastructure planning for taxpayers.*

**Projects**
*Delivering on our Commitments*
Deliver timely, cost effective, and high quality products

*Why: Plan for the future by addressing the nation’s water most critical water resources needs.*

**Program**
*Sustainable for the Nation’s Future Needs*
Manage an accountable and responsive Program

*Why: Provide the Water Resources Planning experience and expertise unique to the Corps of Engineers.*
What Do the 4 Ps Look Like in Practice?

**Investing in Planner’s Knowledge**
- Civil Works Project Development Process (PCC1) On-line
- Planning Essentials- Launched on 13 July 15
- Plan Formulation & Evaluation Capstone - Beta-test 10 August 2015
- PCOP Training, 2-4 Jun 15, in Atlanta
- Monthly Webinars - Ongoing
- 241 Planning Certifications issued in FY15

**SMART Planning, 3x3x3 & WRRDA**
Legislative changes in the Water Resources Reform Act of 2014 (WRRDA 14), Provisions Include:
- Elimination of Recon Studies
- Strict time and costs for feasibility studies
- Expansion of contributed funds
- Sponsor role in requesting new study authorization
- 45% of WRRDA 14 Implementation Guidance(s) addressed

**Delivering Commitments**
- WRRDA 2014 included $25 Billion in project authorizations for 34 Projects
- 36 Chief’s Reports completed in 2007-2014 recommending an investment total of $28 Billion
- 16 Chief’s Reports completed since WRRDA 14 signed into law on 10 June 2015
- 6 more Chief’s Reports scheduled in FY15
- 12 legacy studies tracking for completion

**Sustainable for the Nation’s Future Needs**
- 9 new start reconnaissance studies in FY14
- 10 new start feasibility studies in FY15 (single phase)
- 10% Increase in the 2015 Investigations budget
- 12 legacy studies tracking for completion
SMART Planning

- One component of Planning Modernization that works across all four Ps
- Focused on creating a more efficient, effective process for feasibility studies
- Key Principles:
  - Meeting the needs of our customers and the nation
  - Risk-Informed
  - Decision-Focused
  - Integration across the Corps
SMART Planning Feasibility Study Process

SMART Feasibility Study Process

SCOPING

ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION & ANALYSIS

FEASIBILITY-LEVEL ANALYSIS

CHIEF’S REPORT

Execute FCSA to Begin the Feasibility Phase

1. Alternatives Milestone
   Vertical Team concurrence on array of alternatives

2. TSP Milestone
   Vertical Team concurrence on tentatively selected plan

3. Agency Decision Milestone
   Agency endorsement of recommended plan

4. Civil Works Review Board
   Release for State & Agency Review

5. Chief’s Report
   Chief’s Report Signed

Sample federal funding stream.

$300K YR 1
$700K YR 2
$500K YR 3
WRRDA 2014

Deauthorizations & Backlog Prevention

Water Supply and Reservoirs

Naval Supply and Reservoirs (including 408)

Levee Safety

Alternative Financing

Dam Safety

Non-Federal Implementation

Credits

Project Development and Delivery (Including Planning):
Non-federal entities can:

- Conduct projects authorized by Congress on their own
- Contribute funds for any study or project Corps deems in public interest
- Fund locks where Corps has proposed to reduce operations
- Receive assistance for drinking water, wastewater and other water infrastructure.

- Corps authorized to enter into agreements with non-federal interests, including private entities, to finance at least 15 water projects.
Water Resources Reform & Development Act

Other Provisions

- EIS process must be timely and concurrent with other federal, state, local or tribal review process
- Nonstructural alternatives for damaged flood control projects
- National Levee Safety Initiative
- Inventory of all levees
- New requirements for reporting
- Corps to conduct inventory of properties it controls, with eye to disposing of unneeded property.
WRRDA Implementation

- Staff continues to work through all the provisions of WRRDA. There are 202 provisions that need to be addressed in some manner. 90 have been addressed to date.

- Corps submitted Annual Report required by Section 7001 of WRRDA 14 on activities related to USACE missions that require specific authorization in law.

- Initiated development of lists of candidate projects for deauthorization to reduce backlog pursuant to Secs. 6001 and 6003 of WRRDA 14.

- Actively evaluating and developing guidance for provisions in WRRDA that support other mechanisms for funding development of water resources infrastructure – either public-private partnerships or enhanced non-Federal participation.

- Updated guidance on acceptance of contributed funds Section 1015 & Section 1023.
WRRDA Implementation, Continued

- Issued guidance on Secs. 1001 and 1002 that support streamlining Corps study processes, limiting feasibility studies to 3 years and $3 million Federal cost as well as eliminating the reconnaissance phase of the study process.

- Developed guidance for Sec. 1006, Expediting the Evaluation and Processing of Permits,
  - Permanent authority for Corps to accept funds from non-federal public interests and allowing public utility and natural gas companies to participate in the program for 7 years.

- Addressing requirements for expenditures from Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund through the Budget process.

- Finalizing development of implementation plan for Levee Safety Initiative, per Sec. 3016 of WRRDA 14.

- REMINDER: WRRDA IS AN AUTHORIZATION BILL ONLY; MANY ACTIVITIES CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL THERE ARE ALSO APPROPRIATIONS!
WRRDA 2014 Focus on Planning

- Section 1001 – Vertical Integration and Acceleration of Studies
- Section 1002 – Consolidation of Studies
- Section 1005 – Environmental Streamlining
- Section 7001 – Annual Report to Congress
WRRDA Section 1001
Vertical integration and acceleration of studies

- Puts 3-year; $3 million study caps into law – with exception and extension provisions
- Emphasizes Vertical Integration
- Provides a role for ASA(CW) in approving time and cost increases
- Potential loss of study authority if study is not completed within timeframe
- Report to Congress
WRRDA Section 1002
Consolidation of Studies

- Amends Section 905(b) WRDA 86 by removing the reconnaissance study
- Consolidates study efforts to single-phase feasibility approach
  - Applies to all feasibility studies with FCSA executed after 10 June 2014, except those with Recons already underway
- Requires establishing feasibility study milestones & reporting on meeting milestone schedules to non-federal sponsors, public and Congress
Single Phase Studies: Key Points

- Reinforces use of SMART principles from the start of a seamless feasibility study process.
  - Preliminary analysis and scoping completed within first 3-6 months and used to establish Project Management Plan
- Provides for up-front and rigorous portfolio management
  - Assists in identifying studies with greater opportunity for success
  - Allows for studies to be completed within 3 years with seamless funding streams
- Takes advantage of more generic and adaptable FCSAs and PMPs
  - More realistic starting point based on decisions to be made for single phase study, building details as studies progress
Non-Federal Sponsor Notification

- District sends schedule of 5 Key Milestones via Certified Mail by June 10, 2015 to all sponsors – or 90 days after FCSA signed for new studies
- If study schedules slip, DE sends letter within 30 days, including:
  - Reasons why schedule missed
  - Revised schedule
- Up-to-date schedules published on public website
Identifies proposals for new study authorizations, new project authorizations, and modifications to existing project or feasibility study authorities.

Based, in part, on annual requests from non-Federal interests.

Secretary certifies proposals meet five WRRDA criteria.

Proposals that don’t meet criteria are included in an appendix.
Criteria For Inclusion in the Report
Established by Congress

1. Reports, proposed studies and modifications are related to USACE missions and authorities
2. Require specific congressional authorization
3. Have not been congressionally authorized
4. Have not been included in the main table of a previous annual report
5. If authorized could be carried out by USACE
An Important Note

- Inclusion in the Report does not provide authorization or appropriation for a study or project
- The Report does not replace the new start selection process for studies or projects
- The Report does not prioritize studies or projects

Deadline is September 23, 2015
Section 7001 Webpage Resources
http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/ProjectPlanning.aspx

Click Here

Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development
Section 7001 Webpage Info


Top of page with general information and links to other resources, including Federal Register Notice.
Instructions on Preparing and Submitting Proposals

Preparation of a Proposal

Please see the Federal Register Notice for details on how the proposals will be reviewed. For inclusion in the 2015 Report, proposals must be received by September 23, 2015.

Submit proposals online at http://www.wrda7001proposals.us. Please submit one form for each study or modification to a study or project being proposed. We recommend completing the proposal form in one sitting and having all letters of support assembled before completing the form. You will need to submit the following information:

1. The name of the proposal.
2. The name of all non-Federal interests planning to act as the study or project sponsor, including any non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.
3. Whether the proposal is for a feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE water resources development project or feasibility study and, if a modification, the name of the authorized water resources development project or study.
4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed. USACE missions and authorities are primarily focused on flood and storm damage reduction, commercial navigation, or aquatic ecosystem restoration. Following longstanding USACE practice, related proposals such as for recreation, hydropower, or water supply will be considered for inclusion if undertaken in conjunction with a such a project or effort.
5. An estimate, to the extent practicable, of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, and estimate of the cost of construction or modification.
6. A description, to the extent practicable, the anticipated monetary and non monetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.
7. A description of local support for the proposal.
8. Confirmation of the non-Federal interest’s financial ability to provide for the required cost share.
9. Letter or statement of support from each non-Federal interest.

All information submitted as part of the proposal may be included in the Annual Report to Congress. Please do not include information that is Confidential Business Information. Information whose disclosure is restricted by statute, or other information that you would not want to appear in the annual report.
Information Each Submission Includes:

- Sponsor Name(s)
- Study or Project Purpose
- Estimated cost (Fed and non-Fed)
- Anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits
- Letter or statement of support
- Financial capability of Sponsor

Costs and Benefits estimates are “to the extent practicable”
For the Latest Information

- **Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development / WRRDA 7001 Webpage**
  - Includes Links to Fed Register Notice and Proposal Form
  - FAQs on the Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development (posted soon; Updated as additional questions arise)
  - Questions? Email: wrrda7001proposal@usace.army.mil

- **Implementation Guidance for All sections of WRRDA**

- **Planning Toolbox**
  - [www.corpsplanning.us](http://www.corpsplanning.us)
A Perfect Storm: U.S. Water Resources Challenges

- Increased Competition for Water – Population Growth & Demographic Changes
- Aging Civil Works Infrastructure and Implications to Resilience
- Increasing Demand - Mega Nexus Drivers – i.e. Water Supply, Domestic Hydrocarbon Production, Agricultural Needs
- Nonstationarity and Adaptation to Climate Change
- Paradigm Shift to IWRM /Systems Perspective Focused on Sustainability
- Technological Advancement and Knowledge Management
- Global Economy & Increased Importance of U.S. Maritime Transportation System
- As “World Shrinks” – Increasing Concerns Over International Water Security
- US Debt Pandemic & Constrained Federal Budgets
Questions?

PLANNING SMART
BUILDING STRONG