Focusing on the USACE Infrastructure Conference, June 2007

To download presentations from the ISC visit the website: http://www.usaceiscconf.org/

Letter from the Editor — Harry Kitch, HQ

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our business line's new communication tool – the Flood Risk Management Newsletter. I am excited about the possibilities this newsletter opens for us as practitioners in this area. I want everyone from all disciplines involved in our Corps Business Line to use it and to contribute to its success. Each issue of this quarterly newsletter will focus on a Major Subordinate Command (MSC) or address a particular topic. We will share experiences and learn together.

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You should have learned already that the business line has changed its name to Flood Risk Management to better emphasize the Corps' approach to a comprehensive, integrated watershed (read "systems") approach. It highlights the need to better incorporate risk management principles in all aspects of our work.

Communication is an important key to our work. It is important to stay connected with all in our Business Line, not just with those within our own discipline, or those within our own offices. This newsletter will be an avenue for staying aware of others' challenges and innovations as well as for sharing our successes and lessons learned. We are also starting the Flood Risk Management Gateway on the web for our business line and we welcome your contributions as well as ideas and suggestions to make it more effective. (http://operations.usace.army.mil/flood.cfm)

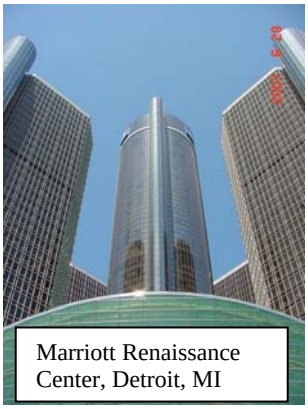
I would like to thank Bill Curtis for proposing this newsletter and getting it started and for the help and support from Jack Davis, Dinah McComas, and Doyle Jones. Also thanks to Bill Chapman for getting the Gateway started.

Make use of these tools – peruse the information they provide, submit your own input, and let us know how to make the Flood Risk Management Newsletter and Gateway ever more useful.

Thanks, Harry E. Kitch. P.E. Flood Risk Management Business Line Leader

Wrap-up of the ISC 2007

Lynn Hales, Bill Curtis
Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory



Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit, MI

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), with logistic support from the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), convened the 2007 Infrastructure Systems Conference (ISC), 25-29 June at the Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan. The theme of the conference was "Engineering in an Increasingly Complex World: What Does the Future Hold?" Approximately 800 Corps employees from around the nation attended about 400 technical presentations.

Plenary sessions and technical breakout workshops covered: (a) construction; (b) civil engineering and transportation; (c) geotechnical engineering; (d) materials engineering; (e) mechanical engineering; (f) electrical engineering, (g) dam safety; (h) structural engineering; and (i) hydrology, hydraulics, and coastal engineering. Additional workshops were held on research and development, security engineering, standards and criteria, specifications, cost engineering, engineering software systems, surveying/mapping, GIS, CAD/BIM, and other inter-disciplinary topics, along with individual Community of Practice (CoP) meetings.

The Technical Directors (TDs) from the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory (CHL) seized this opportunistic gathering of highly qualified Division and District field engineers to present an overview of current Hydraulics, Hydrology and Coastal (HH&C) research and seek immediate and direct feedback from the field. The goal was to reinvolve Corps field operating personnel in the direction and outcomes of HH&C research. Based on feedback from attendees, the consensus was that present research activities indeed address problems and issues related to the particular CoP toward which they are directed. It is imperative that continuous interaction exist between ERDC researchers and field engineers to maintain research activities consistent with changing requirements on the ground.

Presentations throughout the week made it clear that decision-making in the future will be risk-based and depend on reach-based analyses. Designs should evaluate the quantitative impact of all actions with respect to risk and regional impacts and benefits. For coastal projects, regional sediment management is a critical component of all modifications to the nearshore environment. For inland waterways and dam projects, analyses of effects on the entire watershed must be incorporated into any significant design activity. Proposed actions should be evaluated over a varying life cycle, starting with an initial optimization of a 50-year life cycle. After-construction project performance should be evaluated by monitoring and field data collection and analysis. Performance criteria should be established in a risk-based manner. Environmental windows should continue to play a highly significant role in risk-based decision making.

The degree of risk must still be conveyed to the public. It is important to state risks in precise terms that fully communicate the meaning of statements made, to convey to the public that risk exists regardless of the measures are in place.

Risk-based numerical simulation models developed by ERDC often become more comprehensive and complex yet they simultaneously provide results necessary for

sustaining justifications of project modifications. When such models are applied by ERDC researchers on a project-specific reimbursable basis, opportunity exists for enhancements to be developed that can later be applied at other locations. When the models are applied by District field engineers, the field engineer benefits from developing an understanding of the intricacies involved with the numerical description of the physical processes of the phenomenon under consideration. Hence, technology is transferred from the research laboratory to the field operating engineers for direct application of research products. The goal of R&D is to further the state of knowledge so Districts can improve their standard business practices. The R&D community can then focus on new research efforts.

While the emphasis is on defining risk and capturing uncertainty, there is no consistent guidance on specifically how to describe risk and uncertainty, or to determine how uncertainty is carried through an entire study. Risk and uncertainty are fertile areas for new and innovative analyses with respect to life-cycle project performance.

The field pointed out that the furtherance of a closer ERDC/HEC relationship, especially through sharing information regarding what each is working on, provides for a linking of numerical models that results in better products. Model integration is essential to developing better products.

Evolving World of Levees

Tammy Conforti
Institute for Water Resources-at-HEC

The nation is currently undergoing dramatic changes in relation to the awareness of risks associated with levee systems. Under the umbrella of the National Flood Risk Management Program, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has launched the USACE Levee Safety Program in an effort to answer the many questions being asked. The Levee Safety Program mission is to assess the integrity and viability of levees and to recommend actions to assure that levee systems do not present unacceptable risks to the public, to property, and to the environment.

The Levee Safety Program is implementing many activities to address the lessons learned evolving from the evaluation of existing levees and to incorporate these lessons into the design of new levee systems. These activities were the topic of many workshops and discussion sessions during this year's ISC. Some key levee initiatives and a summary of the discussions follow.

Levee Database and Inventory – In 2006, USACE launched a major effort to create a National Levee Inventory (Geospatial Database) to serve as a national source of information. This database will be a key tool to facilitate and link activities, which include flood risk communication, levee certification, levee inspection, floodplain management, and risk assessments. Several districts are in the process of populating the database with detailed information. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is using this database model to collect information during their mid-term levee inventory. The information they collect will be merged into the National Levee Inventory. Some process details are still being resolved, such as, type of information that will be accessible to the public (Homeland Security), involvement of states and other stakeholders in contributing data, and resolving data conflicts.

Risk Assessments – A USACE team is developing a risk-based methodology to perform technical risk assessments on levee systems. The purpose of the risk assessments

is to identify the possible failure modes associated with loss of life and economic risk for the purpose of facilitating prioritization of remedial actions and identifying residual risk. The methodology is currently being beta-tested on several federal systems. Through this testing process, because of the complexity of levee systems, a screening-level process was introduced. This screening phase will facilitate the selection of systems in which to perform the full risk assessment.

Inspection Program – USACE is revising and streamlining its inspection program for flood damage reduction systems. The more rigorous inspection methodology will aid districts in being able to communicate the overall condition of the levee system and will help ensure more consistent national application of inspection standards and criteria. Inspection guidelines have been streamlined using the same inspection rating criteria for all systems (federal and non-federal). An automated GIS inspection tool will feed information back into the National Levee Inventory, and will be available to districts soon.

Levee Certification Engineer Technical Letter (ETL) – This ETL will provide a consolidated document of USACE procedures for levee/floodwall systems certification determinations in support of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as administered by FEMA. The draft ETL was released to USACE field offices for use and comment in September 2007. This document is compatible with FEMA certification regulations but does contain some differences, such as: continuing to require risk analysis for the hydrology and hydraulic analysis; establishing a 10 year validity period for certifications performed by USACE; and taking a systems approach to certification by addressing all components including residual risks. Some concerns raised by interested parties include impacts of having criteria different from FEMA, liability with certifications, and how to deal with existing certifications as related technical guidance is revised in the near future. These and other concerns will be resolved through the comment and review process.

Vegetation White Paper – One of the biggest challenges some levee systems are facing today is the existence of vegetation that does not meet current USACE policy. A white paper was released in April 2007 that outlined current vegetation and encroachment policies and related issues. To keep our process transparent and to encourage collaboration, the document was released early in the process to help guide the way ahead. Based on numerous comments and discussions, it became evident that a well-collaborated reevaluation of our existing policy and standards based on engineering and science would be required first, followed by development of an implementation plan to transition from the present state of maintenance to the required minimum maintenance levels. A team has been established for these purposes. The goal is to create a process to address the vegetation issue, holding public safety paramount while taking into consideration environmental and social impacts and seeking collaborative solutions to address those impacts. One main comment is a request to elaborate on the engineering and science behind the policy.

The goal of the National Flood Risk Management Program is to integrate and synchronize the ongoing, diverse flood risk management projects, programs and authorities of the Corps of Engineers with counterpart projects, programs and authorities of FEMA, other federal agencies, state organizations, and regional and local agencies. Two things quickly became evident during the ISC: 1) all the activities described will have multidisciplinary impacts; and 2) those same activities need to be synchronized not only within USACE but with other stakeholders, such as FEMA. A newly formed Levee Policies and Procedures Team will be developing processes to ensure that these and future

levee-related initiatives are aligned as USACE continues to incorporate risk-based methods into all aspects of evaluating, planning, designing, operating, and maintaining flood risk management infrastructure.

For more information on the National Flood Risk Management Program visit the website, http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/nfrmp/.

Note: The theme of the December 2007 issue of this newsletter is Levees – safety, assessment, certification, vegetation.

Hydrology, Hydraulics and Coastal Community of Practice meeting — Jerry Webb – Headquarters

Jerry Webb at HH&C CoP

The Corps' Hydrology, Hydraulics, and Coastal Community of Practice (HH&C CoP) met and held special sessions throughout the Corps' Infrastructure Systems Conference (ISC). The ISC afforded the Corps' engineers, scientists, and construction professionals an opportunity to share experiences and information. Held every other year, the ISC is the primary vehicle by which the various engineering CoPs within the Corps can assemble and transfer technology.

The Corps' HH&C CoP Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) met Monday morning prior to the Conference. The HH&C CoP EAC was formally established in October of 2005 to provide hydrologic, hydraulic, and coastal engineering support to Corps employees that conduct water resources studies and to help set the direction for these disciplines. In Detroit, the EAC discussed topics that included addressing the Corps' field office needs in the Research and Development program, identification of Subject Matter Experts, reservoir sedimentation issues, and partnering with other agencies and international counterparts such as the Canadian Energy Association. The EAC meets, usually via teleconference, once a month.

Tuesday morning the entire CoP met in an HH&C CoP plenary session that discussed the role of the CoP, the CoP's organizational structure, the National Technical Committees that support the CoP, and virtual teaming though the National FEMA PDT. The purpose of this session was to make HH&C CoP members aware of the CoP purpose, organization, benefits, and processes. Up until this meeting, many within the CoP were unaware of the level of implementation that has been accomplished.

This plenary session was followed by two other general technical sessions where a number of topics were discussed, including: the Corps' dam and levee safety programs; applying risk analysis to coastal flood protection; combined wave and storm surge overtopping of levees; an introduction to the Corps' Climate Focus group; climate variability impacts on flood-control operations; and the Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Program. All sessions were well attended and provided considerable opportunities for technology transfer. Also, presenters took this opportunity to allow broadened field participation with these efforts.

Wednesday and Thursday were consumed with many, varied technical presentations. Presentations were made in four separate HH&C CoP tracks: Environmental and Ecosystem Restoration; Coastal; Hydrology and Hydraulics; and Water Management.

There is not enough space to discuss all the presentations, but it is safe to say the presentations were well attended and, again, they generated significant information-sharing opportunities. One of the primary benefits of the conference is that each presenter was able to discuss material in front of a knowledgeable peer group. This kind of opportunity enhances personal development and product quality.

Thursday evening also included a special session on the state of our levee policy and guidance. The new Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) on Levee Certification was discussed, as was the vegetation on levees white paper. Both topics generated energetic discussions. Comments from the audience will be useful as both pieces of guidance develop.

Finally, one of the primary objectives of the conference was to find ways to reintroduce the Corps Field Offices back into the Corps' R&D programs. The Corps' HH&C CoP R&D leads incorporated three methods to involve the field during the conference. First, an R&D Presentation Roadmap was developed, which identified for the conference participants the times and locations of all HH&C CoP R&D presentations. Secondly, survey forms were made available at each session for the field to provide input on research products and needs. Next, the HH&C CoP held a session on Friday morning where all HH&C CoP R&D efforts were presented. The purpose of this session was to give the field participants an opportunity to see what future products are expected from the R&D programs. Feedback from field participants indicated the session was extremely informative and useful, but recommended that for future conferences this session be at the beginning of the conference rather than the end. They also stated that the level of presentation detail was sufficient.

Overall, the conference was a great success. The goals and objectives were met and the participants and presenters alike learned much from this opportunity to collaborate.

2007 Coastal Working Group Meeting

Lynn Bocamazo
New York District

The 2007 Coastal Working Group meeting was held on Friday morning, 29 June 2007, at the USACE Infrastructure Systems Conference. A two-day track of coastal presentations preceded and served as a warm-up for this meeting.

Participants from 12 of the 21 coastal Districts (from the engineering, planning, project management, and operations disciplines), ERDC, Headquarters and the South Atlantic Division contributed to lively discussions on timely topics in the Corps' coastal field of practice. Presentations are listed below; feel free to contact the presenters for additional information on each.

Review of CERB activities, Joan Pope, CHL
Needed Changes in Coastal Design Guidance, Greg Williams, Wilmington District
Sea Level Rise Guidance and Policy Issues, Kevin Knuuti, CHL
Communication Tools for the Coastal CoP, John Winkelman, New England District
Coastal Systems & the National Planning Center of Expertise for Coastal Storm Damage Reduction, Donald Cresitello, New York District (NAN)
Identifying Coastal Workshop Needs, Lynn Bocamazo, NAN

Meeting attendees agreed that increased group communication will help the Working Group grow and mature as a source of information, guidance, and consistent policy application. Districts should encourage attendance at existing workshops, such as Regional Sediment Management, at the Coastal Engineering Research Board meetings, and at CHL-sponsored training. Additional coastal and regional workshops are being planned. The communication tool the group agreed to implement was a monthly one-to-two hour Coastal Working Group teleconference with a group-generated agenda. The goal is to begin these teleconferences in October. Please contact John Winkelman for more information on the upcoming Coastal Working Group teleconferences.

Another goal of the Coastal Working Group is to be more inclusive across disciplines. Hopefully, through this FRM Newsletter we can reach out to Corps staff in the planning, engineering, construction, operations and project management fields. An active membership is the lifeblood of any working group.

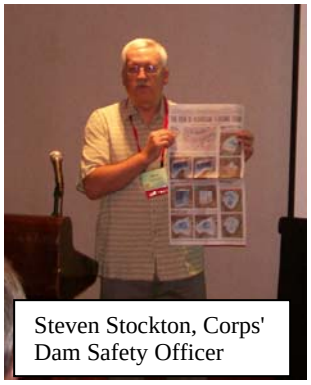
Planning for the 2008 Coastal Working Group meeting will commence this fall. Please contact Lynn Bocamazo, CENAN, if you would like additional information regarding the Coastal Working Group, are interested in joining the 2008 meeting organizing committee, or have any suggestions regarding 2008 meeting agenda items.

Dam Safety Program Community of Practice Meeting
Daniel Rodriguez, North Atlantic Division

Senior Members of the Corps' Dam Safety Community

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dam Safety Program CoP met in June 2007 at the ISC. Members had the chance to listen to presentations on the remediation of dams and the application of a variety of technologies in the Dam Safety and Geotechnical subject tracks. The message that was communicated with a special emphasis throughout the conference, and to the standing room only audience during the meeting was that risk assessment was going to be a common currency adopted by USACE to supplement the traditional criteria-based dam safety program. Engineers, scientists and technicians once looked at dam deficiencies with an equal intensity, and got in line for funding to remediate the problems with a limited understanding of the consequences of the problem. Now, with the change to a risk-informed program, consideration for funding will be given to projects that have the highest combination of risk for loss of life, economic loss, and poor performance.

The long transition to a risk-informed program began three years ago when Don Dressler, Special Assistant for Dam Safety at HQUSACE at the time, hired Jerry Foster (retired Corps) and Dr. Bilal M. Ayyub, BMA Engineering, to develop a tool to screen the USACE Dam Inventory. The overriding purposes were to provide a defensible framework to support a performance-based budgeting process and to put public safety on par with economics in the program. Eric Halpin, who replaced Dressler more than 2 years ago, has guided the dam safety program during this time of transition. The Screening Portfolio Risk Assessment (SPRA) Tool that was created has since gone through several rounds of modifications. It has been used to screen and prioritize 210 of the 610 USACE dams. The most noticeable changes to the Dam Safety Program are that dam deficiencies which are



Steven Stockton, Corps' Dam Safety Officer

related to the normal operation of a project are getting funded for remediation rather than projects that are deficient under loads infrequent or less common loads like seismic and hydrologic deficiencies. The SPRA Tool screenings have given HQUSACE decision-makers the ability to prioritize project remediation to reduce the potential risk to life, property and the environment posed by the USACE Portfolio of Dams. The SPRA process has helped identify 6 projects in active failure and has highlighted issues at many of our projects that need to be better understood. The result is that funding for dam safety studies has increased from $3 million three years ago, to $30 million for FY08.

In order to facilitate the USACE Dam Safety transition to a risk-informed program, Halpin has engaged the assistance of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, USACE Districts and MSCs, and risk experts from academia and the private sector. The SPRA Tool is a relative-risk ranking tool that allows us to compare inventory internal to USACE. Halpin developed two teams: a Methodology Team to create the tools that will allow us to assess our projects and be able to compare them to risk posed by projects that are not Corps owned or operated; and a Risk Policy and Procedures Team to rewrite criteria, policies and guidance to make the transition to a risk-informed program smooth, with a long-term view of establishing the risk informed Dam Safety Program. Some new products coming from the effort are: EC 1110-2-6064, “Interim Risk Reduction Measures,” the “Dam Safety Action Classification Chart,” the glossary of risk terminology, over 200 individual project reports prepared by the SPRA Cadres, a “Communication Plan” of the ongoing transition process, a series of external Peer Review Reports on the USACE highest risk projects, and a great deal of enthusiasm as USACE engineers, scientists, technicians and decision makers continue to learn how to do work in a risk-informed environment. There is still much to be done to achieve the goal of having a fully risk-informed Dam Safety Program. It will require a great deal of training and effort on the part of the Dam Safety community. The end result will be a better program.

Eric Halpin addressing the Dam Safety CoP

Got Economics?

Susan Durden
Institute for Water Resources

Now, wherever you are, the Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) National Economic Development (NED) manual is accessible to you –

http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/nedp/index.asp

The NED manual series outlines the procedures for economic analysis by flood damage reduction, coastal storm damage reduction, deep draft navigation, and other missions. The original manual series was published between 1987 and 1991. The blue-cover manuals were a prized possession of Corps' economists and were frequently requested by contractors and even other countries. As the science of economic analysis evolved, the hard copy manuals became dated. At the request of Headquarters, the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) has been updating the manual series with the objective of

making current, accurate information easily available to the Planning Community of Practice. The updated FDR NED manual is the first of the new series to be completed.

The manuals contain detailed procedures to measure and calculate NED benefits. They also discuss the concepts and principles associated with NED analysis. Of particular importance is illustrating the interaction of economic evaluation with plan formulation, engineering, hydraulics and hydrology, and other key technical elements. To ensure the needs of the field were understood and included, an NED Field Review Group was established to provide input on content, technical issues and the structure of the manual.

The updated manuals are web-based learning tools – they allow an experienced person to easily check a specific topic as well as taking a novice step-by-step in learning how to perform an analysis. The manuals incorporate links to guidance, data sources and case studies from a variety of sources. They also include historical facts which illustrate the impact of flooding on civilization. The web-based format increases accessibility for field personnel, facilitates maintenance and updating, and responds to the needs of a diverse audience.

Check out the Flood Damage Reduction NED manual! Go to
http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/nedp/index.asp

Note: The updated versions of the Coastal Storm Damage Reduction and Deep Draft Navigation manuals are in development.

Beach-*fx* National Roll-out

Mark Gravens
Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory

Beach-*fx* Workshop Attendees

The Beach-*fx* national roll-out workshop was held 28-31 August in Vicksburg, MS, at CHL. The first day and a half of the workshop provided a detailed overview of Beach-*fx* concepts, including motivation for development, model framework, interface description, data requirements, input and output files, project layout, and development of economic and coastal processes input data streams. These discussions were attended by 37 participants. The last two days involved guided hands-on training exercises and were attended by 24 participants. The training session involved development of a complete example project application including population of the input databases and specification and simulation of with and without project alternatives. Workshop participants included representatives from South Atlantic Division, Mobile District, Wilmington District, North Atlantic Division, New York District, Norfolk District, Philadelphia District, and Los Angeles District. Beach-*fx* is a comprehensive new analytical framework for evaluating the physical and economic benefits and costs of shore-protection projects. The model has been implemented as an event-based Monte Carlo life-cycle simulation tool that is run on desktop computers. The Beach-*fx* development goals are to

- Improve on the analytical shortcomings of traditional, frequency-based approaches

- Provide more realistic estimates of life-cycle benefits and costs
- Incorporate elements of risk and uncertainty
- Integrate coastal process simulation with economics
- Generate science-based information to aid decision-making
- Develop information to communicate plan performance to stakeholders

Beach-*fx* was submitted for certification under the Planning Models Improvement Program. This model was submitted as a USACE Corporate Model that requires a Level 1 review. A certification report was produced in June 2007. The PCX-CSDR and model developers are currently working to resolve issues identified by the certification review team and to complete the certification process for this new corporate model.

For more information about this model and research program, please contact Mark B. Gravens at 601-634-3809 (Mark.B.Gravens@usace.army.mil)

Upcoming meetings

This is not a complete list of FRM-related meetings. The meetings listed are not endorsed by the Corps of Engineers.

October 10-12, 2007 – Water Policies and Planning in the West: Ensuring a Sustainable Future, Salt Lake City, UT, http://www.westgov.ord/wga/initiatives/water07.pdf

October 22 - 24 2007 – The American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) Fall Coastal Conference, Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, TX. http://www.asbpa.org/

October 22-26, 2007 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 32nd Annual Climate Diagnostics and Prediction Workshop, Tallahassee, FL http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/outreach/CDPW32.shtml

October 23-25, 2007 – Interstate Council on Water Policy Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, http://www.icwp.org

October 24 - 26, 2007 – "Headwaters to Ocean (H2O)" Conference California Shore and Beach Preservation Association, Long Beach, CA. http://www.coastalconference.org/

November 7-9, 2007 – Water in the Pacific Northwest: Moving Science into Policy and Action Stevenson, WA, http://capps.wsu.edu/WaterPolicy/index.html

November 12-15, 2007 – AWRA Annual Water Resources Conference Albuquerque, NM, http://www.awra.org/meetings/New_Mexico2007/index.html

December 4-6, 2007 – Riparian Habitat Joint Venture Conference Sacramento, CA, http://www.prbo.org/calpif/rhjvconference/index.htm

30 Jan – 1 Feb 2008 – National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology Hyatt Sarasota, Sarasota, FL

April 13 - 16, 2008 – The Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute (COPRI) of ASCE, Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference 2008. Oahu, HI http://content.asce.org/conferences/cd2008/index.html

31 Mar – 4 Apr 2008 – National Hurricane Conference, The Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL. http://www.hurricanemeeting.com/

May 14-1 6, 2008 – 4th International Symposium on Flood Defense Toronto, Canada, http://www.flood2008.org/flood/

18 – 23 May 2008 – Association of State Floodplain Managers Annual Conference, John Ascuaga's Hotel, Reno-Sparks, NV. http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/Reno-Sparks.asp

August 31 - September 5, 2008 – 31st International Conference on Coastal Engineering (ICCE 2008) Hamburg, GERMANY. http://icce2008.hamburg.baw.de/

26-28 May 2009 – 4th Tsunami Society Symposium, East-West Center, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

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Our newsletter covers all aspects of FRM – geotechnology; hydrology; hydraulics; coastal engineering; ice engineering; material science; mechanical engineering; planning and policy; and research and development – as well as various business lines involved in FRM - water allocation, shore protection, emergency response, planning, dam safety, levee safety, ecosystems, and recreation. To cover such varied interests, we encourage your submitting articles. Recommended article length is ½ to 1 page. Article should be submitted to Mr. Doyle L. Jones, Canvassing Editor, Doyle.L.Jones@usace.army.mil .

We would appreciate your feedback. Contact Dinah McComas, Managing Editor, Dinah.N.McComas@usace.army.mil or Doyle Jones.

Upcoming Newsletter Themes

So you can begin to formulate articles for future issues, here is the current plan for newsletter themes:

December 2007 - Levees – Safety, Assessment, Certification, Vegetation

March 2008 – Climate Change

June 2008 – Integration of Flood Risk Management with Environmental Restoration – highlighting projects

September 2008 – Coastal Flood Risk Management – LACPR, MSCIP, etc.

We welcome articles on any subject at any time, so please let us hear from you. For the next issue, December 2007, we ask that articles be submitted ASAP. Again, submit articles to our Canvassing Editor, Doyle.L.Jones@usace.army.mil .

Meet the folks behind this Newsletter

Doyle Jones, Canvassing Editor

Doyle Jones is physical scientist in the Coastal Engineering Branch of Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory (CHL) in Vicksburg, MS. Doyle has worked on MACE (Microcomputer Applications for Coastal Engineering, the predecessor to ACES), the early versions of the CERC web site and CEDRS (Coastal Engineering Data Retrieval System).

Dinah McComas, Managing Editor

Dinah N. McComas is a civil engineering technician in the Technical Programs Office (TPO) of the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory at the Engineering Research and Development Center. Dinah has an M.A. in Modern Humanities and has worked at the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory for almost 30 years. She has worked on physical models, both fixed- and moveable-bed, and computer models. She has been with the TPO for about 3 years and is now heavily involved in tech transfer.