

Flood Risk Management Newsletter

May 2012 vol 5 no 3

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Charles R. “Ray” Alexander, Jr. – Deputy Chief, Office of Homeland Security

The USACE Office of Homeland Security is pleased to welcome Mr. Ray Alexander as the Deputy Chief, replacing Alex Dornstauder. Alexander previously served as Acting Deputy Chief of the Office of Homeland Security. As Deputy, he provides oversight on all matters associated with Flood Risk Management, Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resilience, and Emergency Management. Alexander also previously served as the USACE Deputy Chief of Operations, responsible for the command’s programs involving engineer force structure, current and future operations, plans and concept development, and training and exercises.



Alexander spent 5 years in the private sector with experience in program management, business development, and contingency operations before returning to Federal service in March 2011. He had completed over 26 years of military service, retiring at the rank of Colonel, having commanded at every level from platoon to brigade. His diverse experience

includes service as a District Commander in the U.S Army Corps of Engineers; as a faculty member at the U.S. Army War College; as a division chief at the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center where he oversaw the \$18 billion Army Engineer program; as a combat engineer battalion commander in a mechanized Infantry Division; and as a program manager with experience in the Department of Defense's Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution System (PPBES) at both Army and Joint Combatant Command staff level. He also has staff experience at the Headquarters of both Department of the Army and U.S. Army Europe as well as command and staff experience in combat engineer troop units with service world-wide. Alexander is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, the University of Virginia, and the University of Richmond.

Improving Levees – Reducing the Public's Risk from Floods **Pete Rabbon, IWR**

The system-wide improvement framework (SWIF) policy, released in November 2011, allows levee sponsors to remain eligible for rehabilitation assistance under PL 84-99 while they implement broader system-wide improvements to their levee. The SWIF allows eligible levee sponsors to correct deficiencies as part of a larger system-wide improvement plan. Thus, improvements can be implemented in a prioritized "worst first" way to optimize achieving risk reduction. The SWIF can be found at http://www.nfrmp.us/docs/SWIF_2011-11-29.pdf. The system-wide improvement framework policy is part of an overall strategy to reduce flood risk and is synchronized with updating the policy for obtaining a permanent vegetation variance process as well as with developing the next phase of research and development regarding the interaction between vegetation and levees.

Situations vary across the nation and the SWIF policy allows for consideration of regional differences. USACE recognizes that implementing system-wide improvements needs to be done within a collaborative intergovernmental framework and that it takes time to develop and implement improvements. One of the more complex improvements may include addressing environmental and ESA considerations in order to ensure that both levee safety imperatives and environmental and ESA concerns are adequately served.

Submitting a SWIF plan is a two-step process: the applicant (sponsor) submits a Letter of Intent followed by submission of a SWIF plan. The applicant can have up to two years to develop the plan.

USACE had a 60-day public comment period on the draft [*Process for Requesting a Variance from Vegetation Standards for Levees and Floodwalls*](#), which ended April 17.

The existing vegetation variance request process, issued in 2001, is being revised to reflect organizational changes and approaches. Main revisions included:

- Variance requests will be considered on an individual levee system basis to account for site-specific levee and natural resource conditions.
- Variance requests must meet specific technical requirements.

- A technical review and final approval by Headquarters are required to ensure national consistency in approaches and decision-making.
- A corresponding vegetation management plan is required to ensure that vegetation retained on a levee will not increase risk over time from lack of attention.
- Environmental compliance responsibilities were clarified to promote effective collaboration with federal and state natural resource agencies.

The draft was posted in the Federal Register the first time for public comment in February 2010, with the comment period ending in April 2010. Comment review revealed a need to clarify additional overlap with existing authorities and to further coordinate with resource agencies at the national level, and thus delayed issuing the current draft pending further review. Responses to the initial public comments are available at www.nfrmp.us/guidance.cfm.

The key revisions between the 2010 and current drafts include clarification of responsibilities during the request process; clarification of technical requirements so the likelihood of obtaining an approved vegetation variance is identified early in the process; incorporation of language to ensure resource agencies and Tribal Nations are engaged throughout the process; and description of the overlap with the System-Wide Improvement Framework policy.

USACE safety programs provide the foundation to ensure that flood risk management decisions and activities are applied consistently for the benefit of all. They also support a “fix-the-worst-first” systems approach to flood risk management infrastructure to reduce risk to life safety, the economy, Tribes and the environment. Additionally, USACE is committed to reducing risk to life safety by working with sponsors and stakeholders toward long-term, sustainable solutions to complex flood risk management challenges. (POC: Pete Rabbon, Peter.Rabbon@usace.army.mil)

Changes Coming to the Community Rating System

Stephanie Bray, HQ

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a FEMA program that provides discounts on flood insurance premiums to individual property-owners within participating communities. Participating communities must go further than meeting the minimum requirements of the NFIP in managing their flood risk. The three goals of the CRS are to reduce and avoid flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support insurance aspects of the NFIP, and foster comprehensive floodplain management. While FEMA makes all final decisions about this program, there is a guiding task force, composed of representatives of various departments within FEMA, the Insurance Services Office, Inc., the insurance industry, local government, other Federal agencies, including USACE and NOAA, and non-government organizations, including the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA). This Task Force has been heavily involved in developing a revised CRS Coordinator’s Manual, to be released later this year, with an effective date no earlier than July 1st. If approved by FEMA, the new manual will result in significant changes to the CRS program.

Several trends emerge when considering the many changes expected in the new manual. There is a new focus on natural floodplain functions, which corresponds to the goal of encouraging comprehensive floodplain management. There is also a shift in many outreach activities toward using these activities to bring about changes in behavior. The program is also focusing more on their second objective, strengthening and supporting the insurance aspects of the NFIP, through a new activity focused specifically on the promotion of flood insurance coverage. A new online tool has been developed, the Community Self-Assessment, which will help communities better understand the risks and natural functions associated with their floodplains and identify the most appropriate CRS activities to undertake. Other significant changes in activities include new criteria incorporated into the process of developing and implementing a floodplain management plan, as well as changes in the activities associated with levees and dams. These activities now focus more heavily on threat recognition and emergency response plans. Maximum credit for protection of critical facilities will now be awarded for prevention of new critical facilities in the 500-year floodplain, with partial credit available for lower levels of protection provided. In modeling and mapping studies, consideration of future conditions and use of best available data, such as improved topographic data, which go beyond typical FEMA studies, will also be rewarded with more credit. These are just a few examples of the many changes that will go into effect with the new manual.

In the coming weeks, a number of webinars will be held to go over these changes. To see the schedule of webinars and to register, please see the CRS 2012 Manual website, <http://www.crs2012.org/outreach-and-feedback/webinar-schedule>. More information about the updates to the manual can also be obtained from <http://www.crs2012.org/>. For questions specifically about the CRS Task Force, please contact Stephanie Bray (Stephanie.N.Bray@usace.army.mil).

**Review of the 5th National Nonstructural Floodproofing
Conference and Exposition**
Stephanie Bray, HQ

The 5th National Nonstructural Floodproofing Conference and Exposition was held 28 November to 1 December 2011 in Sacramento, CA. The theme of the conference was *Levees and Beyond: Making Wise Choices*. Representatives of various Federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector, met to share success stories and challenges related to the use of nonstructural floodproofing techniques and to strategize methods for encouraging use of these techniques.

There were two keynote luncheon speakers. Larry Buss spoke about the political implications associated with nonstructural floodproofing. Dr. Gerry Galloway spoke about the role of nonstructural techniques in achieving effective flood risk management. Ray Alexander, Acting Deputy Chief of the Office of Homeland Security at the time, highlighted the National Flood Risk Management Program and the Silver Jackets Program. In doing so, he asked several representatives of Divisions and Districts to speak about their experiences with nonstructural

techniques within different levels of the Corps. The Corps' programs were also frequently highlighted in various break-out sessions.

Several common themes emerged through discussions over the course of the conference. One prominent theme was the need for a change in terminology, as "nonstructural" is not a term the public has really understood. Another important theme was the need to change the way we think about and measure success in flood risk management, so we can more accurately portray the positive contributions of nonstructural techniques

After a plenary session on regional, state, and local perspectives, all attendees were invited to attend a field trip in the Sacramento area. The tour included areas of Old Sacramento, Natomas, and the City of Roseville. In Old Sacramento, the city's history of flooding was discussed, and the practice of raising the streets and buildings was showcased. In Natomas, a stop was made at a new fire station located in the floodplain, which was constructed such that it could be floodproofed, including elevation of all equipment and living space above the base flood elevation. Corps and city representatives gave presentations on the structural improvements being planned for Natomas. The City of Roseville is the only participant in FEMA's Community Rating System to receive the program's highest possible rating. In a tour of the city, a number of nonstructural techniques, such as acquisitions, elevations, and property-scale protective measures were illustrated. (POC: Stephanie Bray Stephanie.N.Bray@usace.army.mil)

Got Risk Analysis? **Miki Fujitsubo, SPK**

Flood risk analysis (RA) has been a policy of the Corps planning studies since the mid-1990's, especially relating to the engineering, economic, and environmental aspects of decision documents. It has been the responsibility of Corps teams to properly employ risk analysis techniques and evaluation, and then to clearly communicate those results to the public and decision makers in terms of risk and uncertainty. Inconsistency of communication and of understanding of risk analysis has been noted in decision documents submitted to Headquarters, raising concerns about risk analysis proficiency within Project Delivery Teams.

In November 2010 James Dalton, the Corps' Chief of Engineering and Construction, directed that the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) work through the Hydraulic Engineering Center (HEC) and the Hydrology, Hydraulics, and Coastal Community of Practice (HH&C CoP) to "prepare a strategy for developing and fielding guidance and training on the appropriate identification, analysis and written communication of risk and uncertainty for Planning decision documents."

Dalton also directed HEC to coordinate with the Risk Management Center (IWR-RMC), the Flood Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise (FRM-PCX) and the Planning Center of Expertise for Coastal Storm Damage Reduction (PCX-CSDR) on Agency Technical Reviews (ATRs) to "ensure all Planning decision documents involving HH&C related risk reduction measures are fully reviewed and all issues resolved," until vetting enough subject matter experts from the field to support the ATR process.

In December 2010, HEC proposed a "Strategy for Developing and Maintaining Risk Analysis Competency." The primary elements of the plan are listed below.

- Updating Corps guidance that addresses risk analysis such as ER 1105-2-101 "Risk Analysis for Flood Damage Reduction Studies" and EM 1110-2-1619 "Risk-Based Analysis for Flood Damage Reduction Studies."
- Identifying the Corps' current experts and establishing a risk analysis area of expertise within the HH&C CoP.
- Creating a review checklist to promote consistency in reviews.
- Creating a template risk analysis report to guide Project Delivery Teams and other risk communicators.
- Preparing and conducting training in the application of EC 1165-2-209 to ATR of risk analysis reporting, including the use of the checklist and template.
- HEC staff members serving on ATR teams regarding risk analysis as needed.

Implementation of the strategy began in the summer of 2011 and culminated in a workshop held in January 2012 at HEC in Davis, CA, in partnership with the FRM-PCX and the HH&C CoP. The workshop group consisted of 31 subject matter experts (SMEs) in hydrology, hydraulics, geotechnical, economics, and planning from USACE Headquarters, the FRM-PCX, the CSDR-PCX, IWR, the RMC, HEC, the HH&C CoP, and various field offices across the Corps. The group focused on the new risk analysis review requirements; worked on clarifying the purpose of risk analysis ATR team members; confirmed availability of the vetted pool of reviewers; provided feedback on a list of review considerations for both the ATR and DQC level; determined the need for a section in Planning reports that summarizes the key risks and uncertainties of a project; and discussed the proposal for a separate "appendix" consolidating this risk information.

Currently all FRM studies are required to perform a risk analysis review as part of their ATR, coordinated through the FRM-PCX and HEC. For more information on RA Reviews, please contact Matt McPherson of HEC or Eric Thaut of the FRM-PCX. (POC: Miki Fujitsubo, Miki.Fujitsubo@usace.army.mil)

Upcoming Release of Levee Safety Action Classifications **Stephanie Bray, HQ**

In the past year USACE has begun performing screening-level risk assessments on levees in its portfolio. Central to this approach is how USACE assesses and quantifies inundation risk. The essential questions are: what is the range of possible levee system loading events (flood, storm, or earthquake, etc.); how will the infrastructure perform when subjected to these events; and what are the consequences if the infrastructure doesn't perform well, with life-loss as a paramount concern. More simply: what is the likelihood and severity of undesirable or adverse consequences?

Screening-level risk assessments include a limited engineering assessment of performance-related items such as seepage, erosion and settlement. This assessment relies on readily available information, such as design, construction, inspection and historic performance records. This assessment is followed by a consequence analysis (life safety and economic damage) for several ways by which the floodplain could become inundated due to poor levee performance. The last step of this screening-level risk assessment involves experts interpreting and discussing the outcome of these assessments and assigning a Levee Safety Action Classification (LSAC) to the system. Action classifications range from “extremely high risk”, warranting urgent and compelling action to reduce inundation risk, to “normal,” where there is a low probability of inundation and risks are considered tolerable. USACE will use the LSAC assignment to discuss the benefits and risks associated with levee systems with sponsors and the public.

USACE also assesses the consequence of levee overtopping but not breaching and reports those findings as well. This ensures officials and floodplain occupants understand that a levee system cannot completely eliminate inundation risk. This improved understanding enhances our ability to talk about the risks, drives the most effective action to reduce risk, and builds the foundation for shared responsibility to develop risk reduction measures.

Flood Risk Managers and Silver Jackets Coordinators have an important role throughout this process. While the initial group of Levee Safety Action Classifications are being finalized, Flood Risk Managers and Silver Jackets Coordinators, Levee Safety Officers and Levee Safety Program Managers, should build a foundation with external partners for a shared responsibility approach to developing risk reduction measures. This provides an excellent opportunity to discuss the levee safety portfolio management process, including inspections, risk assessments, the LSAC assignment process, and opportunities to partner with USACE to plan risk reduction measures with their external partners, including Silver Jackets teams. Once the LSACs are finalized, Flood Risk Managers and Silver Jackets coordinators should assist Levee Safety and Public Affairs in communicating the results. They should also work with their interagency partners to assist with developing interim risk reduction measures. While working with external partners, it is imperative that Flood Risk Managers and Silver Jackets Coordinators stay in close contact with their internal partners in the Levee Safety Program, the Public Affairs Office, Planning and the project sponsors. (POC: Stephanie Bray Stephanie.N.Bray@usace.army.mil)

Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force Guidance on “Unwise Use of Floodplains” – March 9, 2012

The Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force developed the following guidance to define unwise use of the floodplain and is providing it for consideration to Federal agencies as they make decisions that impact floodplain and flood risk management. “Unwise use” refers to actions that unnecessarily increase or transfer flood risks that can result in adverse impacts to human health, safety, welfare, property, natural resources, or functions of floodplains. Floodplains include low-lying areas adjacent to and the water bodies of streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastal zones that are inundated or may become inundated as a result of changing conditions.

Regulations, programs, policies, or practices that could be considered unwise use of the floodplain include, but are not limited to, actions that:

- are inconsistent with the provisions of the Floodplain Management Executive Order (E.O. 11988) and associated federal guidance;
- unnecessarily increase or transfer flood risk geographically, governmentally, socioeconomically, or generationally;
- fail to consider a systems approach (e.g., integrated water resource management, ecosystem-based management, or context-sensitive solutions);
- disproportionately affect minority, low-income, or vulnerable populations; or
- fail to consider relevant current, future, and potential economic, environmental, and social risks, costs, impacts, and benefits.

The Task Force recommends this guidance for use when evaluating potential activities impacting a floodplain. This guidance does not override or supersede the missions, legislative requirements, or policies of any of the Task Force member agencies.

Civil Works Transformation – Planning Modernization

Kim Gavigan, SPL

The Civil Works National Pilot Program for Feasibility Studies was initiated in February 2011 to test a new Planning Paradigm within our policy to shorten the timeframe for completion a study while retaining the quality of the analyses. Five pilot studies are currently being conducted:

- Sutter County, CA (flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation). Project partners are the California Central Valley Flood Protection Board and the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency.
- Jordan Creek (Springfield), MO (flood risk management). Project partner is the City of Springfield.
- Lake Worth Inlet, Palm Beach County, FL (navigation). Project partner is the Port of Palm Beach.
- Westside Creeks, San Antonio Improvement Project, TX (ecosystem restoration and recreation). Project partner is the San Antonio River Authority.
- Central Everglades, FL (ecosystem restoration). Project partner is the South Florida Water Management District.

Lessons learned from the pilot studies will be used to develop and refine methodologies and processes for feasibility studies across all business lines in a manner that will be sustainable, replicable, and will inform future Civil Works guidance.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been working collaboratively to modernize the Civil Works Planning Process that is focused on improving the delivery of quality planning products, in order to make timely decisions regarding solutions to our Nation's water resources needs. The revised pre-

authorization (feasibility) study process is intended to be more predictable, more efficient, and to take significantly less time than the current study process. The new Planning Paradigm was introduced in January 2011 and is focused on risk-based scoping to define pertinent water resources needs and opportunities and the appropriate levels of detail for conducting investigations, so recommendations can be captured and succinctly documented and completed in a target goal of 18 months. It will rely on the current USACE planning fundamentals; continue to use quality engineering and environmental and economic analysis; and incorporate appropriate levels of review, while being more flexible and scalable. Additional information can be found on the [Planning Community Toolbox](#) website. (POC: Kim Gavigan, Kim.M.Gavigan@usace.army.mil)

**USACE & IWR ICIWaRM Recognized During Announcement
of the U.S. Water Partnership at U.S. State Department World
Water Day Event
April News Release, IWR**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and IWR's International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM), under the auspices of UNESCO, participated in the March 22, 2012 World Water Day event at the U.S. State Department at which the Secretary of State, The Honorable Hillary Clinton, announced the creation of the U.S. Water Partnership (USWP), a public-private partnership aimed at leveraging the vast capabilities of U.S. expertise, knowledge and resources and applying these capabilities to water challenges around the globe, especially in the developing world.

Secretary Clinton stated that:

.... today, we are launching a new public-private partnership to help answer that call for leadership and to expand the impact of America's work on water. The U.S. Water Partnership exemplifies the unity of effort and expertise we will need to address these challenges over the coming years, and it advances our work in three critical ways. First, it brings together a diverse range of partners from the private sector, the philanthropic community, the NGOs, academics, experts, and government. This approach will help catalyze new opportunities for cooperation. For example, if Coca-Cola has the best data on available water supplies, and the Army Corps of Engineers has the capacity to advise on how to build water delivery systems, and the Nature Conservancy knows how to minimize the disruption to the environment, then we want everybody sharing information and delivering clean water in a sustainable way to communities in need.

The USWP is being constructed principally by the Global Environment and Technology Foundation (GETF), with five founding partners: Global Water Challenge; Environmental Law Institute; University of North Carolina Water Institute, World Resources Institute; and the U.S. Department of State.

In her remarks, Secretary Clinton made reference to Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) of which the Mekong River Commission-Mississippi River Commission Sister River Partnership (USACE

Memorandum of Understanding) is a key element. In making a connection to “Water Security,” the Secretary used the event to highlight the concurrent release of the unclassified version of the National Intelligence Council report on Global Water Security. Secretary Clinton also made reference to the U.N. report by the Nation’s Children’s Fund and the World Health Organization, which highlighted promising news that progress has already been achieved, four years ahead of the target date, to achieve the Millennium Development Goal to “halve the number of people without access to clean water”. The full text of Secretary Clinton’s speech can be found at <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/03/186640.htm> .

The U.S. Water Partnership will connect people and resources, making information easily accessible and leveraging the capabilities of its partners to offer a range of solutions tailored to priority water needs. The three levels of service include (1) access to knowledge; (2) technical assistance and training; and, (3) partnership development.

Also making remarks during the event were Undersecretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, Maria Otero, and Congressman Earl Blumenauer.

Almodovar New PIANC USA-Latin American Liaison
Kelly Barnes, IWR

With the upcoming retirement of David Grier, US Army Corps of Engineers’ Institute for Water Resources, Lillian Almodovar, also of USACE’s IWR, is transitioning into the role of PIANC USA Latin American Liaison. David Grier has served as the Liaison since 2007, representing PIANC USA at industry meetings such as the Organization of American States Inter-American Committee on Ports (OAS-CIP). He also serves on the PIANC Cooperation Commission (CoCom) and other PIANC working groups. He has provided tremendous support for PIANC over the years and his involvement will be greatly missed upon his retirement!



Lillian Almodovar



David Grier

At the recent PIANC USA Commissioners’ meeting in January, Grier gave an update on the PIANC USA Latin American Initiative. The primary purpose of this initiative is “outreach to maritime agencies, ports, commercial interests and other stakeholders in Latin America to introduce PIANC USA and PIANC International, with the goal being to share information on PIANC activities, leverage expertise, and attract new individual and corporate members -- with the longer term goal that they coalesce to form new national sections”. Brazil and Argentina have recently formed PIANC National Sections. Recent PIANC USA Latin American activities include

participation and presentations at regional conferences which provide opportunities to share information about PIANC and network with maritime representatives from throughout the region.

In addition to her new PIANC duties, Almodovar serves Senior Manager and Deputy Director of IWR. Her responsibilities include overall program development and integration, management of the Institute and development of strategic initiatives. Additionally, she has distinguished herself within the Corps as a strong advocate for the recruitment and advancement of women and minorities, particularly Hispanics. She provided valuable input to the development of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Hispanics Engineers National Achievement Awards Conference (HENAAC) and the Corps which has opened the door to significant improvements and advances on the recruitment of Hispanics. Almodovar is a native of Puerto Rico and received a B.A. in Economics and a M.A. in Planning from the University of Puerto Rico. She is also a graduate of the Department of Defense Executive Leadership Development Program and the Certificate Program in Technical Entrepreneurship in the Federal Government from George Mason University at Virginia. Almodovar attended the PIANC CoCom meeting and the PIANC COPEDEC Conference in Chennai, India in February, and several OAS-CIP functions this spring.

Other Links – Information, Newsletters, Fun Stuff

Silver Jackets newsletter is available on the **Silver Jackets** website – <http://www.nfrmp.us/state/>

CIRP Newsletters are available at <http://cirp.usace.army.mil/news/>

PIANC Working Group 125 report ‘Guidelines and Recommendations for River Information Services (RIS)’



PIANC Working Group 125 report ‘Guidelines and Recommendations for River Information Services (RIS)’ - a 3 part report - has been released and can be found on the PIANC website at <http://www.pianc.org/>.

Membership in PIANC includes access to the password protected “Members Only” area of the PIANC website, with access to ALL of the downloadable technical reports, magazines, on-line PIANC membership directory, and more! Email pianc@usace.army.mil if you have any questions about joining.

Calls for Abstracts/Proposals

Open Call for Session Proposals
Deadline: 10 May 2012

The Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference will be held 21-24 January 2013 in New Orleans, LA. The conference goal is to improve society's ability to

understand the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, which includes humans, to ensure its long-term environmental health. One important aspect of this is understanding the impacts of petroleum pollution and related stressors on the marine and coastal ecosystems, as it will support future response, mitigation, and restoration following spills (Note: this conference will not include NRDA for the Deepwater Horizon incident). But the Gulf is a dynamic and complex system that is facing several issues, such as non-petroleum pollution, hypoxia, coastal development, erosion and inundation, and climate change. This conference will engage and build a community of researchers working on all aspects of Gulf of Mexico ecosystem science and initiate dialogue with the users of that information. There are 7 conference themes. See the website for details.



<http://www.gulfresearchinitiative.org/news-and-events/gulf-of-mexico-oil-spill-ecosystem-science-conference/>



Dredging 2012 Conference Update

The fourth specialty conference on dredging and dredged material disposal, Dredging 2012, will be held in San Diego, California from October 22-25, 2012. The theme of this year's conference is *40 Years of Dredging and Environmental Innovation*. The conference will bring together professionals and practitioners from developed and developing areas of the world to discuss the new topics and "debates" that have emerged over the last decade, as well as future issues. Dredging 2012 is a four-day technical specialty conference organized by PIANC USA and the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute of American Society of Civil Engineers (COPRI ASCE).

A student poster session is planned for Dredging 2012, and is open to all graduate and undergraduate university students. The subjects must be the same as the general dredging topics listed for the conference. See website for complete list of topics. Please submit abstracts to

dredging@pianc.us by May 15, 2012 and the selection will be completed by June 1, 2012. Successful authors will be asked to bring their posters to the Dredging Conference for setup beginning on Monday afternoon (October 22), and will have a time scheduled during Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (October 23 – 25, 2012) to explain their posters to attendees.

Also, a Young Professionals Reception and Happy Hour is planned from 5:00 to 6:00 pm on Monday evening, October 22, 2012, at the conference hotel. All Young Professionals (YPs) are invited. PIANC defines YPs as “40 and under”. This networking event is free and is a great way to kick-off the conference. You’ll have the opportunity to meet other young professionals and become familiar with current work that is being done in the field. All young professionals are also invited to join us for a Happy Hour on Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at a location to be announced.

For more information on the technical program, exhibiting and more, visit <http://dredging12.pianc.us> or contact us at dredging@pianc.us.



**Diagnosing the Marine Transportation System: Measuring Performance and Targeting Improvement
Washington, DC – 26-28 June 2012**

TRB's Marine Board is cosponsoring the conference on Diagnosing the Marine Transportation System: Measuring Performance and Targeting Improvement on June 26-28, 2012, in Washington, D.C. The conference will serve as a forum to examine the use of performance metrics in maritime transportation and waterways management. Through collaborative input from stakeholders in government, academia, and the private sector, conference participants will explore how the marine transportation system and intermodal connectors perform through the application of performance metrics. For further information and registration details, see <http://www.event.com/events/diagnosing-the-marine-transportation-system-measuring-performance-and-targeting-improvement/event-summary-241138fcf31e4682a7fd7939d70e80ab.aspx>



Save the date! Attend the 2012 USACE Flood Risk Management - Silver Jackets Workshop 20-24 August in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Plenary, breakout tracks, open houses and a field trip will provide a variety of formal and informal venues for a robust exchange of ideas. As always, federal and non-federal partner participation at this workshop is critical to its success, and is greatly encouraged. Please visit the conference website periodically for updated information:



<http://www.nfrmp.us/frmpw/> . POCs for this workshop are Jeffrey Jensen, Jeffrey.D.Jensen@usace.army.mil or Jennifer Dunn, Jennifer.K.Dunn@usace.army.mil .

3 Coastal Webinars

The Coastal Inlets Research Program is planning on webinar training for two of their products: the Coastal Modeling System (CMS), an integrated wave, current, sediment transport and morphology change model in the Surface-water Modeling System (SMS); and GenCade, a regional shoreline and inlet shoal evolution model also in the SMS. Two of the webinars will be on CMS and the last will teach GenCade.

Please register on the CIRP website, <http://cirp.usace.army.mil/webinars/> :

- #1 - Coastal Modeling System (CMS) Basics (11-15 June)
- #2 - Advanced Topics with the CMS (18-22 June)
- #3 - GenCade (11-13 September)

All webinars will be from 1-3 pm CDT each day. Please register on the CIRP website and we will send more information as these dates approach.

POC: Mitch Brown (Webinar #1), Mitchell.E.Brown@usace.army.mil

POC: Alex Sanchez (Webinar #2), Alejandro.Sanchez@usace.army.mil

POC: Ashley Frey (Webinar #3), Ashley.E.Frey@usace.army.mil

Some Reports Published in 2011 by CHL

ERDC/CHL TR-11-1. *Coastal Storm Surge Analysis System Digital Elevation Model: Report 1: Intermediate Submission No. 1*

ERDC/CHL TR-11-3. *Adaptation of the Levee Erosional Equivalence Method for the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS)*

ERDC/CHL TR-11-6. *Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico Floodgate Study*

ERDC/CHL TR-11-9. *Storm Damage Reduction Project Design for Wallops Island, Virginia: Version 1.01*

For information about these reports, see <http://chl.erdcl.usace.army.mil/chl.aspx?p=Publications>

Subscribe – Unsubscribe – Feedback

To subscribe/unsubscribe: <http://operations.usace.army.mil/flood.cfm>.

We would love your input – recommended article length is ½ to 1 page. Articles should be submitted to Doyle L. Jones, Canvassing Editor, Doyle.L.Jones@usace.army.mil.

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

FY12 PROSPECT Courses

Course Title	Location	Start Date	End Date
Risk Analysis For Flood Risk Management	Davis, CA	21-May-12	25-May-12
Coastal Project Planning	Duck, NC	11-Jun-12	15-Jun-12
Flood Frequency Analysis	Davis, CA	23-Jul-12	27-Jul-12
Wetlands Development and Restoration	Olympia, WA	10-Sep-12	13-Sep-12
For more information: http://ulc.usace.army.mil			

Conferences

This listing is for information only and is not a complete list of FRM-related meetings. These meetings are not endorsed by the Corps of Engineers unless specifically stated. If we have failed to list a conference/meeting/symposium that would be of interest to the Flood Risk Management community, please forward the conference details to us.

20 – 25 May 2012 – ASFPM 36th Annual National Conference, “Mission Mitigation” – San Antonio, TX – <http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuid=740>.

21 – 23 May 2012 – Global Conference on Oceans, Climate and Security – Boston, MA – <http://www.gcoocs.org/>

30 May – 1 June 2012 – FRIAR 2012 – 3rd International Conference on Flood Recovery, Innovation and Response – Dubrovnik, Croatia – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/friar2012cfp.html>

3 – 6 June 2012 – Coastal Society’s 23rd International Conference – Miami, FL – <http://thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs23/index.html>

3 – 8 June 2012 – 9th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference – Wetlands in a Complex World – Orlando, FL – <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/intecol/>

17 – 21 June 2012 – XIX International Conference on Computational Methods in Water Resources – Champaign, IL – <http://cmwr2012.cee.illinois.edu/>

26 – 28 June 2012 – Diagnosing the Marine Transportation System: Measuring Performance and Targeting Improvement – Washington, DC – www.trb.org/conferences/metrics2012.aspx

1 – 6 July 2012 – International Coastal Engineering Conference – Santander, Spain –
<http://www.icce2012.com/index.html>

2 – 4 July 2012 – Environmental Impact 2012 – 1st International Conference on Environmental and Economic Impact on Sustainable Development – New Forest, UK –
<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/impact2012cfp2d.html>

10 – 12 July 2012 – Water Pollution 2012 – 11th International Conference on Modelling, Monitoring and Management of Water Pollution – New Forest, UK –
<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/water2012rem2d.html>

20 – 24 August 2012 – 2012 USACE Flood Risk Management - Silver Jackets Workshop – Harrisburg, PA – www.nfrmp.us/frmpw

21 – 22 August 2012 – 2012 Asia Pacific Water and Sewer Systems Modeling Conference – Australia – www.asiapacificwater.com

17 – 19 September 2012 – 2nd International Conference on Island Sustainability – Croatia -
<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/islands2012rem2c.html>

19 – 21 September 2012 – Risk Analysis 2012 – 8th International Conference on Simulation in Risk Analysis and Hazard Mitigation – Croatia – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/risk2012cfpc.html>

20 – 23 September 2012 – Ocean-2012 – Dalian, China –
<http://www.bitconferences.com/wco2012/fullprogram.asp>

26 – 28 September 2012 – FSBPA Annual Conference – Naples, FL – www.fsbpa.com

9 – 12 October 2012 – ASBPA National Coastal Conference – San Diego, CA –
<http://asbpa.org/conferences/conferences.htm>

14-19 October – Oceans 2012 MTS/IEEE – Hampton Roads, VA –
<http://www.oceans12mtsieeehamptonroads.org/>

17 – 19 September 2012 – 2nd International Conference on Island Sustainability – Island of Brac, Croatia – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/islands2012rem4.html>

18 – 20 October 2012 – ASCE 142nd Annual Civil Engineering Conference – Montreal, Quebec, Canada –
http://content.asce.org/conferences/annual2012/index.html?utm_campaign=Annual%202012%20Montreal%20-%20Call%20for%20Papers&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

22 – 25 October 2012 – Dredging 2012 PIANC-COPRI-ASCE Conference – San Diego, CA –
<http://www.asce.org/copri/News/Headlines/2011/PIANC-USA-and-COPRI/ASCE-Announce-Dredging-2012/>

23 – 26 October 2012 – ATC and SEI of ASCE “Advances in Hurricane Engineering Conference” – Miami, FL – www.atc-sei.org

20 – 24 October 2012 – Restore America’s Estuaries (RAE) – 6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration – Tampa, FL – <https://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

4 – 7 November 2012 – 10th International Conference on Hydrosience and Engineering – Orlando, FL – <http://iche2012.org>

20 – 22 November 2012 – FLOODrisk 2012 – The 2nd European Conference on Flood Risk Management – Rotterdam, The Netherlands – www.floodrisk2012.net

10 – 13 December 2012 – ACES and Ecosystem Markets 2012 – Ft. Lauderdale, FL – www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aces

11-13 December 2012 – 4th International Conference on Sustainable Irrigation and Drainage: Management, Technologies and Policies – Adelaide, Australia – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/irrigation2012rem3.html>

21 – 23 May 2012– 7th International Conference on Sustainable Water Resources Management – New Forest, UK – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/wrm2013cfp.html>

22 – 24 May 2013 – 7th International Conference on River Basin Management including all aspects of Hydrology, Ecology, Environmental Management, Flood Plains and Wetlands – New Forest, UK – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/rbm2013cfp.html>

11 – 13 December 2012 – Sustainable Irrigation 2012 – Adelaide, South Australia, Australia – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/irrigation2012rem1.html>

9 – 14 June 2013 – ASFPM 37th Annual National Conference – Hartford, CT – <http://www.floods.org>

18 – 19 June 2013 – 9th International Conference on Ecosystems and Sustainable Development – Bucharest, Romania – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/ecosud2013cfpc.html>

19 – 21 June 2013 – 4th International Conference on Energy and Sustainability – Bucharest, Romania – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/energy2013cfp.html>

1 – 6 June 2014 – ASFPM 38th Annual National Conference – Seattle, WA – <http://www.floods.org>