

Navigation Gateway Web Meeting 2 December 2008 Initial Needs

Overview

The navigation community and the Corps of Engineers are intricately intertwined throughout each district and across the nation. However, there is no standard, single point of access for all things navigation-related. The navigation gateway aims to become that, improving communication within the navigation community and federal, state and local interests, and preserving the institutional knowledge in the Corps.

The immediate audience will be the commercial navigation community. This audience will eventually grow to include recreation users, academia, casual viewers, etc.

The Navigation Gateway will be modeled after the CorpsLakes Gateway, which was demonstrated during the teleconference.

Phases

The development and deployment of the navigation gateway will be done in phases, aiming to grab the “low hanging fruit” first, so that progress can be quickly seen and realized.

Phase I

Create a series of template visitor's page with a new, simple and logical URL that's easy to access for the public. The pages should be templates for the future organization of the (visitor's portion of the) Navigation Gateway.

Initial Needs for Phase I:

- A short, easy-to-access URL. Options that were discussed were:
 - www.CorpsNav.us
 - www.CorpsNavigation.us
 - The group was asked to think about other possibilities.
- A finalized hierarchy of organization that will be easy to understand by the public user and will translate into template pages. Options discussed were:
 - National>State>Project
 - National>Project>District>State
 - National>Waterway>State
- Three template pages based on the organization stipulated above.

Phase II

Once the template pages have been created and a URL has been chosen, the group must finalize datasets to be included and then break into groups to begin researching links for each topic.

Initial Needs for Phase II:

- A finalized list of initial datasets to link from each district's existing navigation web pages. Options discussed were:
 - Hydrographic surveys
 - Navigation charts
 - Lock schedules/closures
 - Channel condition reports
 - Notices/hazards to mariners
 - Dredge schedules
 - POC access/directory for mariners – something like a public smart book
 - Bridge heights – These are under Coast Guard authority, and are for informational purposes only. A good option would be to partner with the Coast Guard and link to the bridge heights on their site.
- The Steering Committee must break into smaller groups based on datasets or districts and begin researching the links needed.

Phase III

The groups must assemble and submit a list of links to be included in the Navigation Gateway. The web designer and technical manager will then include the links in their appropriate places and begin transforming the template pages into actual live website pages, or Prototype A of the gateway. After Prototype A is completed, it will be presented to a group of users for feedback.

Phase III Initial Needs:

- List of links from each group
- Web designer and technical manager working to incorporate links into live pages to form Prototype A.
- Group of commercial navigation users to test and provide feedback for Prototype A.

Notes:

- *If a District does not have or provide electronic data for any of the datasets the group has identified, that District will be left out of that particular Gateway dataset until the electronic data is provided.*
- *Data in some Districts may require some degree of reformatting to be consistent with formats identified for the data presentation on the national Navigation Gateway site.*