

**Natural Resources Management Career Development Steering Committee
Annual Meeting Minutes
for
20-22 September 2011
Naples, FL**

On 19 September 2011, the NRMCDs Committee received a briefing on the Jacksonville District and its role in the re-establishment of the Everglades and the new Big Cypress Basin restoration.

On 20 September 2011, Marilyn Jones, Chair of the NRMCDs Committee (the Committee) brought the meeting to order. Introductions of new Committee members were made with welcome back of existing members.

Steve Austin, Senior Policy Advisor for Park Ranger Activities, US Army Corps of Engineers' Headquarters provided an update on Headquarters' activities and the Park Ranger CoP restructuring. Highlights of Steve's presentation included:

- History of the Committee,
- Recreation Strategy Plan,
- The AGO Report,
- Program Identification through looping Power Point presentation on HQ closed circuit TV and other Division and District Offices,
- Park Ranger CoP restructuring:
 - Will continue to include Park Rangers in the Commander's Course for Pre-Commanders. Park Rangers will brief the Commanders on the NRM Program as a whole and what Park Rangers do for the Corps,
- Safety Survey:
 - Mike Ensich has received the survey results and is reviewing and will soon release the findings to the field.
 - The Survey found a large percentage of the NRM Community is satisfied with the overall Program.
 - The 1995 Survey was compared to the 2009 Survey. Out of the 1995 Survey came 52 recommendations and of those recommendations, Pepper Spray and the Professional Series came about,
- Uniform Program:
 - There were 3 proposals to the contract. 1 was unacceptable, 1 was new to this type and size of contract and one was the previous contractor, VF Wear. VF was awarded contract. One of the contractors that did not get the bid filed a protest with the Contracting Officer, who is in the National Park Service and they ordered a halt to filling any and all orders until the protest was reviewed and resolved.
 - BLM is now in the contract with the other Federal agencies.

- Maintenance Uniform will not be picked up under this contract as the funds for the Ranger uniforms comes from centralized funding while maintenance uniforms come from Project funding (onsite funding).
- Life Jacket Mandatory Wear Study:
 - 3rd year of the study ended and in the first week of October 2011, the PDT will review results and provide Mike Ensich as recommendation. After the review of the report, Mike will provide the report to our various partners and stakeholders. The Corps specifically will address regulation changes that would only enforceable by the Corps.
 - The US Coast Guard is interested in our results of the study. Looking to us to provide the data to them to make it work across the nation. National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is also interested in the study results.
 - MG Temple will be briefed this fall on the study results and recommendations.
- The Ban memo:
 - This memo was brought about when some US District Courts supported a Project's recommendation to ban someone from the public from a Project in lieu of a fine.
- Force Protection Standards for Civil Works:
 - A memo requesting that Civil Works Projects, those with non-critical structures, we relieved or the Standards relaxed for them, has been signed by the Chief and sent to the Army. Will keep everyone posted.
- CAP and OPM CAP Assignment Memos:
 - Nominations for the HQ CAP Assignment are due to Steve Austin by no later than 7 October 2011.
 - The OPM CAP Assignment is due 30 September 2011.
 - 75% of those in the OPM CAP Assignment were successful in achieving a OPM position within 3 years of completion of the Assignment.

Marilyn Jones began the overview of the Recreation Strategy Plan (the Plan) and more specifically Goal 4 of the Plan. Phil Deffenbaugh provided a brief overview of what the Goal 4 Recreation Strategy PDT had been working on and what that PDT was looking from the Committee to provide or assist with. Please reference the attached NRMCDSC Task Matrix to understand what the Committee's has committed to assisting with, what the Committee will support but not take any action and what the Committee would recommend being deleted from the plan or reworded.

On 21 September 2011, the review of the Plan and the America Get Outdoors Plan continued and both plans are referenced in the NRMCDSC Task Matrix. Tasks were identified, assigned and due dates established.

Vin Gualteiri reviewed the NRMCDSC Gateway Website pages with the Committee and assignments were made to providing updated information back to Vin to consolidate and provide to the Chair for changes to be made through ERDC.

Marilyn Jones provided a short brief on the NRMOTS final stages and deployment timeframe and she and Steve Austin updated the Committee on the Park Ranger CoP restructuring. The most significant change to the CoP would be the running of it by Park Rangers with guidance from HQ. The Committee saw both of these items as moving the Park Ranger training and visibility forward within the Corps and the nation.

Marilyn Jones briefing noted that the Corps Natural Resources Education Foundation is standing ready to assist the Corps in providing the courses and training identified in the Plan and for the Park Ranger to convert to the 0401 series or for others to increase their knowledge base.

In Other Business, Marilyn Jones noted the Corps' Natural Resources Education Foundation has sent a letter to Mary Coulombe that the Foundation stands ready to assist the Corps any way that they can to move the Plan forward in a positive way. Marilyn noted that everyone should be on the lookout for projects that the Foundation can assist with obtaining funding for to move a project forward.

Marilyn did a brief wrap up on the many due outs and taskers assigned to various Committee members and what would be discussed on the Committee's First Quarter Conference Call.

The First Quarter Conference Call was decided on for 2 November 2011 at 1000 hrs EDT (0900 CDT, 0800 MDT and 0700 PDT). Topics of discussion will be the various taskers and status of them.

The next Annual Face-to-Face Meeting is scheduled for the SWD area, specifically the Table Rock Lake area.