



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
441 G STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

FEB 03 2015

CECW-CO

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, Major Subordinate Commands and District Commands; Chiefs, Operations, Major Subordinate Commands and District Commands

SUBJECT: 2014 Excellence in Partnerships Award Selection

1. I am pleased to announce that the Roanoke River Basin Association – Upper Reach in the Wilmington District (SAD) has been selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recipient of the 2014 national Excellence in Partnerships Award.

2. Roanoke River Basin Association – Upper Reach was chosen due to their efforts to provide ecotourism, recreational therapy, and environmental education throughout the Roanoke River Basin. Their innovative universally accessible canoe and kayak launch project has created recreational opportunities that empower communities to connect with the outdoors through waterways.

The partnership has resulted in a greater appreciation and involvement by the community, and has acted as a springboard for larger partnerships and the addition of more than a dozen new partners that have invested \$60,000 to promote the region through the creation of the Southern Virginia Wild Blueway marketing and branding campaign. This has also prompted the completion of a second universally accessible launch downstream, creating one of the first fully accessible blueways on the east coast, which has strengthened an existing partnership with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion to help provide recreational therapy to wounded warriors.

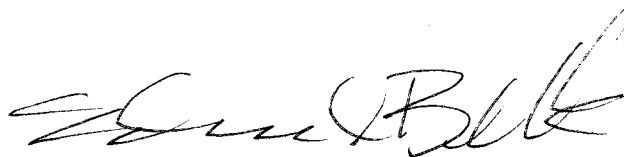
3. The Excellence in Partnerships award is co-sponsored by the Corps Foundation in recognition of exceptional contributions to the recreation and environmental stewardship programs at Corps projects. The award will be presented to Roanoke River Basin Association – Upper Reach in the spring of 2015.

4. All of the nominees for this year's award made significant contributions to their partner projects and are deserving of special mention. They are: the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (NWD), Marklesburg Volunteer Fire Department (NAD), and First Midwest Bank (MVD). I sincerely appreciate your efforts to nominate top quality partners for this significant award.

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5. Please pass along my congratulations to Roanoke River Basin Association – Upper Reach as the 2014 overall winner and to all of the nominees for their many achievements! My point of contact for this award is Ms. Sara Jones, who can be reached at (559) 787-2589.



EDWARD E. BELK, Jr., P.E.  
Acting Chief, Operations and Regulatory Division  
Directorate of Civil Works

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