

The updated ER 1130-2-500 Partners and Support (a multi-functional O&M ER) was recently published, with an effective date of 10 April 2025. (see attached) This version replaces the Dec 1996 ER and EP, combining them into one document and updating former policy, as needed.

The file can be also found online here:

[https://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Publications/EngineerRegulations/ER%201130-2-500\\_FINAL%2013Mar2025.pdf](https://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Publications/EngineerRegulations/ER%201130-2-500_FINAL%2013Mar2025.pdf)

This ER establishes the policy for the management of operation and maintenance activities of USACE personnel performing civil works functions related to flood control, navigation, dredging, hydroelectric power generation, environmental stewardship, and recreation services at water resource, waterway, and other related projects.

Changes to the programs directly related to NRM include:

- **Chapter 5: Sign Standards Program for CW Projects**
  - This is no longer a requirement to have the district Sign Program Manager be NRM affiliated.
  - OPMs designate a project-level Sign Program Manager
  - The role of the district Sign Program Manager is better defined
  - The role of the division Sign Program Manager is now defined in approval for new safety signage
- **Chapter 7: Energy Program (formerly Ch 8)**
  - Replaced guiding Executive Order (EO) 12902 with EO 14057 - Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability.
- **Chapter 8: Cooperating Associations Program (formerly Ch 9)**
  - Sample cooperating association agreement moved out of EP Appendices to NRM Gateway
  - Sample Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation samples removed from Appendices
- **Chapter 9: Volunteer Program (formerly Ch 10)**
  - Incorporated changes from the 12 August 2016 Implementation Guidance for Section 1047(d) Services of Volunteers, of WRRDA 2014
  - Incorporated changes from the 06 March 2020 Background Investigation policy memo
  - J-2 visa added to acceptable foreign volunteer list
  - Incorporated guidance from 12 March 2020 Civilian Inmate Labor Program policy memo
  - National Guard, inmate labor and partner funded personnel services referenced to other authorities
  - Added volunteer background investigation decision matrix
  - Defined 'regular contact' for volunteers working with children
  - Added reimbursement for fingerprint services if volunteer pays out of pocket.
  - Added clause about ability to grant waivers for Tier 1 background investigations for 6-month+ volunteers
  - Updated volunteer networked computer access process from VOLAC to NEATS
  - Added clause about volunteer carry of firearms
  - Expanded list of what may be included in volunteer lodging incidental expenses

- Added clause about volunteer t-shirt purchases
- Changed references from OMBIL to CWBI
- Deleted ER Appendix E – Samples of Acceptable Documentation for Foreign Volunteers, replaced with reference to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and U.S. Department of State websites.
- Deleted EP Appendices R and S volunteer forms and certificate of appreciation, replaced with reference to NRM Gateway
- **Chapter 10: Contributions Program (formerly Ch 11)**
  - Incorporated guidance from October 2008 Contributions, Fundraising and Recognition Reference Guide
  - Added paragraph about acceptance of Title 32 troop labor services
  - Added paragraph about acceptance of inmate labor per 2020 memo
  - Added Table 10-1 to outline acceptance levels for contributions
  - Developed a checklist for accepting contributions, referenced to the NRM Gateway
  - Added paragraph on acceptance of memorial contributions
  - Added paragraph about online contributions
  - Updated paragraph about partner contribution boxes on USACE property, and developed sample memorandum referenced on the NRM Gateway
  - Updated account # for depositing contributions, per USACE Civil Works Collections Policy change
  - Changed references from OMBIL to CWBI
  - Developed example contribution acceptance letter and referenced on the NRM Gateway
- **Chapter 11: Challenge Partnerships Program (formerly Ch 12, titled Challenge Cost-sharing Program)**
  - Officially changed name of program from Challenge-Cost Sharing to Challenge Partnership Program to reduce confusion with traditional cost-sharing authorities
  - Changed oversight and approval levels to more closely match contributions acceptance levels
  - Incorporated guidance from 31 January 2017 policy memo that created an updated template for acceptance of long-term Partner-funded services
  - Changed references from OMBIL to CWBI
  - Updated account # for depositing revenue collected from partners, per USACE Civil Works Collections Policy change
  - Sample challenge cost-sharing (AKA challenge partnership) agreement and financial worksheet moved out of EP Appendices T and U to NRM Gateway
- **Chapter 12: CW Housing Program**
  - Reflects changes based on the recommendations of the Civil Works Housing EIG inspection.
  - Reaffirms the current inventory of government-owned structures used for living quarters will not be expanded.
  - Eliminates the requirement for housing management plans.
  - Requires the use of ENG 6251 which serves as the approval, tracking, and management plan for CW Housing.
- **Chapter 13: Aquatic Plant Control Program**

- Incorporated 30 March 2018 Implementation Guidance for Section 1155, Management of Recreation Facilities of WRDA 2016 pertaining to challenge cost-sharing cooperative management agreements (often referred to as cooperative joint management)
- Added clarification on when to use the authority
- Simplified definition of eligible areas
- Moved agreement template to the NRM Gateway
- Changed approval level for agreement template deviations to Chief of Operations and Regulatory, HQUSACE
- Changed initial term of agreement from 5 years to 10 years
- Changed Partner Operations Plan requirement to be updated annually with a two-year plan of operations, and added requirement for approval by MSC Operations Chief and concurrence from HQ NRM branch
- Added clause about background investigation requirements
- Changed annual budget requirement to two-year budget and review by MSC Operations Chief with coordination through District/MSC/HQUSACE business line managers
- Changed references from EC 1130-2-550 to ER 1130-2-550
- Add more detailed guidance on where to use the cost savings from these agreements
- Removed reference to reservation service (this will be added back in with the next policy update now that we have full authority to use, per WRDA 2024)
- Added clause about USACE safety standards

- **Chapter 14: Challenge Cost-Sharing Cooperative Management Agreements**

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