

COOPERATING ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND
EASTERN NATIONAL

This Agreement is for the mutual benefit of both parties and is between the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (hereinafter referred to as the "Corps") and Eastern National (hereinafter referred to as the "Association"), acting through the Chairman of the Board of Directors or the Board's designee.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, The Corps operates the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center at Utica, Illinois, for public recreation and the understanding of the Corps missions at the Illinois Waterway; and,

WHEREAS, The Corps achieves its operational goals for natural resources management through a wide range of activities, programs, and events; and,

WHEREAS, the Corps operates its program for the benefit of the public. The public requires information and facilities for the safe and appropriate use of Corps projects. This information is conveyed through a variety of interpretive media such as; programs, exhibits, and displays which rely heavily upon the use of audio visual materials, photographs, models, interactive displays, lectures, artifacts, and other materials which illustrate the Corps, its mission and activities in and around the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center as well as the archaeological, natural and cultural history of the area; and,

WHEREAS, the Association has as its purpose the interpretation for the public's benefit and education of the archeological, natural, cultural, and historical environment, and the Association intends to assist the Corps in its interpretive activities at the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center through the use of its programs, exhibits, displays, and materials at the Visitor Center;

WHEREAS, the Association has the authority to assist the Corps in its presentation to the public of the natural, cultural, historical and project related features of the Illinois Waterway through programs, exhibits and materials;

WHEREAS, the Corps has the authority, pursuant to Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, 16 U.S.C. § 460d, to permit the maintenance and operation of recreation facilities at water resource development projects by local interests and may enter into leases with non-profit organizations for park and recreational purposes;

WHEREAS, the Corps has the authority, pursuant to the Federal Water Recreation Act, Public Law 89-72; the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, Public Law 89-665; The National Environmental Policy Act, Public Law 89-190; and the Archaeological Resource Protection Act, as amended, Public Law 96-95, to provide Natural Resources Management programs, activities, and interpretive functions;

WHEREAS, any revenues collected from the Association's activities, memberships, sales of publications and materials, as part of this agreement will be used to support the continued operations of the Association and USACE management efforts as detailed in this agreement;

WHEREAS, the Corps wishes to accept and the Association wishes to provide the hereinafter described interpretive and educational services to the visiting public at the Illinois Waterway;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Corps authorizes the Association to provide, and the Association agrees to provide, the hereinafter described interpretive and educational services to the visiting public.

2. CORPS RESPONSIBILITIES.

- A. Timely Review and Approval.

1. The Corps agrees to review and give necessary approvals or disapprovals in a timely manner to the Association for any and all proposals, programs, special events, suggestions, and other activities that the Association might wish to engage in.

- B. Use of Government Facilities

1. Should the Association, as part of its activities, require the use of Corps facilities at the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center the Corps agrees, in recognition of the services the Association is contributing to the public, to provide at no cost to the Association such facilities, utilities, janitorial services, and routine and general maintenance when incidental to the normal operation of the facility by the Corps.

2. Should the Association require facilities, utilities, or services over and above what the government would normally require for operation of the facility, or area used by the Association, the Association will reimburse the Corps at an agreed upon cost in recognition of the services

that the Association is contributing to the public.

3. ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. Corporate Requirements.

1. The Association's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws shall comply with the requirements of the state(s) in which the Association is incorporated. Non-profit 501(c)(3) status must be maintained in accordance with state and Federal laws. The Association will make available for inspection, at the request of the Corps, documents demonstrating non-profit status.

2. This agreement will automatically terminate if non-profit 501(c)(3) status is not maintained.

3. The Association shall have liability insurance which indemnifies, saves, holds harmless, and defends the United States against all fines, claims, damages, losses, judgements, and expenses arising out of, or from any omission, or activity of the Association in connection with activities under this Agreement.

4. The Association will exercise reasonable care to prevent damage to any Government property used, or occupied during its operation and shall, insofar as possible, protect all such property.

B. Interpretive Activities.

1. The Association may offer educational and interpretive services which support the mission of the Corps and/or the project. This includes assisting, planning, designing, implementing, and conducting interpretive and educational programs, activities and exhibits.

2. The Association will cooperate with the Corps in the following activities:

a. Produce and make available to visitors, by sale or free distribution, suitable interpretive and educational literature and aids to increase the visitors' understanding and appreciation of the natural history, cultural, historical, and man-made features of the project area (or other Corps site) and the Corps of Engineers.

b. Acquire specimens and/or objects pertaining to the history, cultures, environment, or recreational activities of the project area for the purpose of adding them to the exhibitry or programs at Corps visitor centers (or other Corps facilities) and assist in preservation programs as appropriate.

c. Assist in the development and improvement of interpretive devices, and educational materials including signs, exhibits, materials, and audio-visual aids.

d. Assist in the sponsorship and coordination of professional workshops, training opportunities, and special events.

e. Assist in all practical ways the interpretive, educational, and community programs of the Corps and the Project (or other Corps site) for the benefit of the American public.

C. Sales Option

1. As part of this Agreement, the Association may operate a sales area on a continuous or intermittent basis.

2. The Association is hereby authorized to sell and/or distribute interpretive and educational items such as publications, maps, audiovisual aids, crafts, and other objects directly related to the interpretive and educational themes of the project, visitor center, region, and Corps. The Corps may request that the Association sell specific items of interpretive value.

3. The Association shall order, receive, inventory, stock, and otherwise manage all items offered for sale and/or distribution.

4. The Association will sell only items that are appropriate and of high quality. The Association will not sell any item that has not been approved by the District Commander or his authorized representative. The Association will sell items at their fair market value and prices of said items will be submitted and approved in writing, in advance, by the District Commander or his authorized representative.

5. The Association will not sell any original artifacts, sacred items, or antiquities to which the Archaeological Resource Protection Act, as amended, would apply, whether or not such items were discovered on lands owned or controlled by the United States.

6. The Association will display the sales items in good taste and in keeping with the general design and decor of the facility which houses the sales area.

7. Association sales are restricted to a location approved by the Corps, which will be kept clean and presentable at all times.

D. Fiscal Management.

1. The Association will conduct its fiscal operations in accordance with accepted business practices. This includes the appropriate use of a funds accountability system, purchase orders, receipts, invoices, and inventory records.

2. The Association shall annually submit (within 135 days following the end of each fiscal year) a complete financial report to the Corps which includes a written summary of Association activities for the year.

3. The Corps may review the fiscal records of the Association at any time during the term of this Agreement.

4. JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. Donation of Interpretive Services or Materials.

1. The Association may, at the discretion of its Governing Board, loan materials and/or services to the Corps. The Corps reserves the right to accept or decline, without obligation, any service or loan by the Association.

2. The Corps will take reasonable precautions to protect items loaned by the Association, but assumes no other responsibility for these items. The Corps will return loaned property or items as requested by the Association.

B. Personnel.

1. The Association and the Corps shall each designate, in writing, an Association member and a Corps person and alternate who will act as points of contact for the purpose of implementing this Agreement.

2. The Association will provide such personnel as are reasonably necessary to conduct, operate, and manage its activities. This does not preclude Corps personnel, during the course of their normal duties, from assisting the Association with nominal duties, including sales.

3. Corps personnel may not serve in a voting capacity on the governing board, or as Treasurer for the Association. Corps personnel may serve in an advisory capacity on the Association's governing board or committees. Corps personnel may not act as the official

representative of the Association in any matter relating to the Corps or the terms of this Agreement. However, if the Association has a membership program, Corps personnel may join and participate in membership activities.

4. The Corps will orient all Association personnel, staff, and/or volunteers with regard to Corps rules, regulations, and requirements, particularly with regard to the project and facilities, safety, and appropriate emergency procedures. Association staff and volunteers involved in visitor contact will receive additional orientation in regard to interpretive services. All orientation will be conducted prior to assumption of duties.

5. Association employees or volunteers may not wear the Corps uniform, or any items of clothing that resemble the uniform. Employees and volunteers of the Association, when working at duties that bring them into contact with the public, will wear visible identification that identifies them as an Association employee or volunteer.

5. ASSIGNMENT.

No transfer or assignment of this Agreement or any part thereof or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntary or involuntary, shall be made by the Association unless approved in writing by the Corps.

6. MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS

Modifications and amendments to this agreement in the form of Supplemental Agreements may be made from time to time upon the mutual written consent of the District Commander for the Corps and the Board of Directors of the Association.

7. DURATION.

This agreement shall be effective for five years commencing on the day following the ratification of this agreement by the Corps. This agreement will automatically renew for another five year period on October 1 of the last year, unless notice of cancellation is given by either party before the date of renewal. The Corps reserves the right to terminate the agreement, or any part thereof, at any time upon written notice. Prior to giving such notice, the Corps will meet with the Association to set forth the reasons for such termination.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

A. The rights and benefits conferred by this agreement shall be subject to the laws of the United States governing the Corps of Engineers and to the rules and regulations promulgated


thereunder whether now in force or hereafter enacted or provided; and the mention of specific restrictions, conditions, and stipulations herein shall not be construed as in any way impairing the general powers of supervision, regulation, and control by the Corps.

B. This Agreement in no way obviates the responsibilities of the Corps or the Association as may be required by a Lease Agreement. In situations where the Association leases facilities or areas from the Corps, this Agreement would automatically become null and void upon the termination or cancellation of the Lease Agreement.

C. The Association agrees that all its activities shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, both state and Federal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Association has caused this agreement to be executed this 16th day of January, 2024.

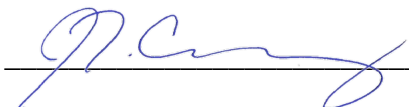
EASTERN NATIONAL

By  _____

Kevin C. Kissling, President & CEO

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The Corps has caused this agreement to be ratified this ____28____ day of _February_____, 2024_____.

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

By  _____

Jesse T. Curry
Colonel, US Army
Commander & District Engineer