

**APPL 2011**  
**Corps of Engineers Forum and Update Meeting**  
**February 22, 2011**

**1. Welcome by Mary Coulombe, Chief Natural Resources Management HQUSACE**

- Introductions by participants: Jeff Krause, Charlie Burger, Juliana Smith, Nick Baggett, Alana Mesenbrink, Amy Shultz, Mike Hosey, Doug Cox, Lou Ann McCracken, Erin Parnell, Greg Carpenter, Richard Bingham, Scott Rice, Jeremy Rasnick, Steve Perrin, Allen Gwinn, James Stegall, Heather Burke, Sam Wagner, Dorie Murphy, Marty Reynolds, Renee Guin, Jamie Gyolai, Eric Haskell, Brandon Randig, Titus Hardiman, Daniel Thomasson, Ginger Bjornson, Ryan Hartwig, Kimberly Turner-Hawkins, Chris Gallagher, Maria Shafer, Chris Rapenchuk, Kathleen Grim, Kevin Keape, Scott Moore, Chad Eller, John Voeller, Ruth Millsaps, Miriam Fleming

**2. Recap of Partners Outdoors**

**3. America's Great Outdoors Initiative**

- April 2010: President Obama roll-out
- Major goals: Connecting the American people with the great outdoors, conserving and restoring landscapes, better partnerships and cooperation between federal agencies
- 51 listening sessions around the country. Corps hosted one at Great Rivers Museum in Alton, IL with approximately 700 participants. Sessions emphasized the importance of access to the outdoors by the public. Attendees expressed that they want more transportation options, more recreational opportunities, and more places to recreate near their communities.
- AGO = transformational and durable; not just a short term initiative. It connects with educational concerns, existing national priorities such as health, and is the "right thing to do"
- The Corps is dedicated to promoting the ideas and goals of AGO
- February 16, 2011: President Obama released his AGO report with goals, recommendations and action items. [www.americasgreatoutdoors.gov](http://www.americasgreatoutdoors.gov) has the entire report and executive summary
- Chapters of significance to the Corps
  - Chapter 1: Quality jobs, career path, service opportunities.
    - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps to engage youth and college students.
    - Interagency coordination committee
    - Pathway to Federal jobs
    - Improve capacities for recruitment, training, recognition of volunteers
  - Chapter 2: Enhance recreation access and opportunities
    - Federal interagency on recreation will coordinate policies and programs
    - Expand Recreation.gov beyond reservations
    - Partner with schools for outdoor activities
  - Chapter 3-7 (Limited actions related to the Corps... mostly for Dept of Interior and Dept of Agriculture)
  - Chapter 8: Conserve and restore Federal lands and waters
    - Larger landscape context and integration
    - Through USACE environmental stewardship programs, restore and sustain watersheds, environmentally sensitive areas, wetlands
    - Cultivate private, state, and federal partnerships for conservation goals
    - Develop climate change practices
    - Science inventory and monitoring programs

- Update shoreline management plans and master plans to identify and sustain wildlife habitat and corridors on USACE lands
  - Elevate protection of cultural resources
- Chapter 9: Protect and renew waters
  - Establish AGO National Recreation Blueways Trail initiative to designate recreation waterways
  - Provide technical assistance to plan and implement initiatives
  - Increase access for water based recreation
  - Decrease fish passage barriers
  - Expand recreational fishing opportunities
- Chapter 10: Working together for AGO
  - Establish interagency AGO council (ASA-CW level advocate for USACE)

#### **4. Legislative Proposals Update**

- Fee Retention: legislative proposal to add USACE to FLREA, up for reauthorization in 2014
- Joint cooperative management leases: drafted legislation for Senator Blunt (MO), stalled
- Partnership legislative package: in development by Office of Counsel
  - Special event fee authority: rescinded by FLREA, trying to add in-kind services and fees
  - Shared resources on leased areas with other agencies/states
  - Transfer of funds through cooperative agreements with non-profit, state, city partners
  - Cost-share funding: eliminate requirement for 100% up-front funding
  - Clear authority to expend funds off Corps lands (i.e. purchasing educational materials for NWF)
  - Volunteer recognition/expenses, clothing
- Next step: look for WRDA or Congressional proponent to insert in legislation