

Partnership Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
15-16 September 2010

Meeting Location: San Francisco Bay Model Visitor Center, San Francisco, CA

Attending

Jeff Boutwell, SWF

Chris Gallagher, SPN

Mike Hosey, SAW

Richard Otto, MVP

Alana Mesenbrink, NWS

Allen Gwinn, NAD

Chris Rapenchuk, LRL

1. Team Member Information

- a) Welcome to Allen Gwinn, who joined the team representing NWD.
- b) Jeff Boutwell, SWF has assumed the duties as the team chair.
- c) The Senior Policy Advisor for Partnership position in HQ is not going to be filled in the near future due to a shortage of FTE's. The position justification provided by the PAC in 2008 has not been forwarded by the Deputy Chief to the Chief of Operations for review.

2. OMBIL

- a) Alana Mesenbrink has assumed duties as the lead team member for the Partnership OMBIL Web page.
- b) A series of webinars was conducted in the field in September to demonstrate the operation of the new partnership page. The new OMBIL data entry page is attempting to identify both informal and formal partnerships in an effort to obtain data on the number of partnerships and the value partnerships across the nation.

3. Cooperative Management

- a) HQ has provided guidance that all Cooperative Management Agreements will be terminated at the end of the recreation season.

4. Conference Call with Mary Coulombe

- a) Cooperative Management Agreements.
 1. HQ has requested that each District review and identify agreements and leases associated with Cooperative Management Agreements.
 2. Congressmen in Missouri and North Carolina are working as a drafting service to introduce legislation that would allow the COE to retain recreation fees like other federal agencies.

3. Mary has briefed Ms. Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, that authorities and the COE's ability to retain fees needs to be addressed and that other partners have indicated that the COE is, "hard to work with", due to authority restraints.
 4. Headquarters OC has determined that the Lands and Water Foundation lease used in Fort Worth may not be legally binding. The OC in Fort Worth does not concur with HQ determination.
- b) America Outdoors Initiative
1. An initiative to conserve water and promote outdoor recreation is anticipated to be released to the President on 15 November 2010.
 2. Ms. Darcy and Mary have attended public listening sessions from youth and community leaders on outdoor recreation to support the initiative. The recreation portion of the initiative may include a partnership focus to include Authorities, Fee Retention, and Challenge Cost Share.
- c) WRDA
1. No WRDA is expected soon, however fee retention and partnership authorities remain on her list. OC will not develop language unless an unanticipated WRDA occurs.
- d) Volunteer Regulation Update
1. The revision is pending signatures but should be released prior to Labor Day.
 2. OC has reviewed the revisions.
 3. Background checks on potential volunteers were not incorporated into the revisions.
- e) Recreation Strategy Update
1. Chris Gallagher has briefed the Recreation Strategy Team on authority changes dealing with challenge cost share partnerships.
 2. The COE Foundation needs to be identified as a stackholder.
 3. The Chief of Operations will decide to move forward with the road map concept once a green light is given, the concept will be released to the MSC & District Operations Chiefs for comment, then incorporate stakeholders for discussion.

- f) Partnership Center of Expertise Concept
 - 1. The concept has been introduced to HQ and will be discussed between Mary and the Deputy Chief.

4. Handshake Update

- a) As of 14 September only four applications have been received, therefore the team has extended the deadline to 29 October. The documents to extend the deadline will be forwarded to HQ.

5. COE Foundation

- a) The foundation is currently restructuring by revising its by-laws and is developing a strategic plan.
- b) During the restructure phase they are not accepting any new projects.
- c) Claudia from APPL has volunteered to assist the foundation in setting priorities and they being encouraged to attend APPL in conjunction with their annual meeting.
- d) Chris Gallagher will discuss with Mary the concept of Lake Projects joining the Foundation.

6. Association of Partners of Public Lands Conference (APPL)

- a) The next conference will be held in Dallas Texas on 21-24, February 2010 at the Hyatt Regency .
- a) The agenda has not been finalized, but the Corps may host a session during the conference and Partnership 101 will be offered. In addition, on 25 February the USACE Partnership Training will be held and may include site visits to lake projects.

7. Excellence In Partnership Award

- a) The Excellence in Partnership will now be an annual award. Projects will nominate their non-profit 501.C.3 partners based upon criteria that will be provided in mid November.
- b) Each MSC can only forward one (1) nomination.
- c) The award will be presented during the APPL Conference in February.
- d) The POC for the award is Dick Otto or Allen Gwinn with Chris Rapenchuk assisting in the rating of the nominations.

8. Partnership Discussion with Staff from Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma

- a) Lake Mendocino - with assistance from the Project Staff- Nancy Rogers, Kevin Heape, Valerie Mavis and Margot Royal and their handshake partners, the Ukiah Rod and Gun Club, the team examined the Egg Collection Facility. The project received Handshake funds to create interpretive murals on the Egg Collection Facility to educate park visitors on the life cycle of native trout. The murals painted by Judy Geer Linney are beautiful and have significant

interpretive value that park visitors can relate too and better understand the COE operation.

- b) Lake Sonoma – with assistance from the Project Staff – Nancy Rogers, Merle Griffin, Charlie Fenwick and Joel Miller, along with their handshake partners Friends of Lake Sonoma, the team toured the Milt Brandt Visitor Center and the Don Clausen Fish Hatchery. The project received handshake funds for a stream restoration demonstration area to improve habitat for native fish as they enter the COE egg collection facility. The facility is operated by the CA Department of Fish and Game, Elliott Doss and David Moore were on-hand to explain the ecological and interpretive benefits of restoration project which is model for the State of California.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Rapenchuk