

## Partnership Advisory Committee – Willamette Valley Meeting April 16-17

- Heather provided an update on the efforts of the Corps Foundation and APPL working together to reach out to the cooperating associations and supporting the new CJM proposed House and Senate bills. 20 partners signed letters to Congress in support of the acts. The Foundation has drafted a letter to send to our 60+ associations giving a history of the CJM legal decision, impacts, and a call to action
- Joel Miller will be stepping down from the PAC team. Heather sent a request for replacement to SPD with suspense of May 6. Hoping to get new team member to June Prospect class to audit along with Courtney.
- Team discussed lessons learned from this year's EIP ceremony planning and regional award ceremonies. Each of the other divisions were asked to coordinate the ceremonies and attend if possible/reasonable travel distance.
- Erik indicated the Forest Service is partnering with commercial concessions to provide light maintenance. Cottage Grove is a natural fit for this. Is there some way we can accomplish this in light of the current CJM situation? Mary discussed the current status of the CJM process. (Senate Bill 2055 and House Bill 4100)
- PAC discussed concerns on the handling of the CJM issue and how it was disseminated to the field and the distrust it created with our partners.
- Mary discussed why we don't want to move some items further at this time. Mary indicated SES is paying more attention to what is coming out of counsel due to CJM. Mary indicated we need to let the tensions relax before we push issues like the question of partnering with "sin" partners.
  - Original decision to include alcohol and tobacco in 2008 Contributions guide was following similar guidance from National Park Service
  - Some of this can be traced back to the illegal placing of gambling docks by the tribe at Lake Sacagawea. The tribe questions whether or not they have to comply with Corps regulations. While alcohol is addressed, gambling is not addressed in Title 36 or the Reg. The only place it is mentioned is in the real estate reg.
  - Mary indicated you never know where counsel will take this and she wants to avoid stirring up trouble. Mary indicated there was also the perception issue and the connection to water safety.
- How do we as a PAC continue to be innovative if we are going to be stymied because of the current climate? Mary indicated it depended on the idea. Mary also indicated the current idea to turn over hydropower facilities to public/private partners may change the climate. These are the types of ideas that are running up against our authorities.

- Alana asked if Mary had heard anything about changing the process in Economy Act. Specifically, Alana mentioned the previous process which took 3 days but now takes up to six months to get through. Heather indicated that may be something that may need to be addressed through the Cooperative Agreement PDT. Mary also said she will discuss the process with Pep as he is involved with Economy Act agreements for these multi-agency processes.
- Joel asked if we would get authorities for special use fees again. Mary indicated we do have an authority, and it's called a Letter of Permission. It's part of a regulation that is currently being routed. Special use authorizations were moved to FLREA and we weren't grandfathered in. This update of Chapter 9 is waiting for publishing by ACE-IT. What is the limit on how long a permit remains "special?" Joel said the current understanding is 4 days, but Mary indicated the legislation has no limit nor does the new regulation.
- Alan asked where we stood with Heather's job. Mary discussed her recent meeting with Portland District Ops to make sure they understood the history of the partnership programs. Mary indicated she wanted this to be the start of the conversation with Portland. Ops asked why Portland District and Mary indicated it was based on willingness by the Districts to support the program. Command Support is essential or it won't work.
- Allen asked if it was possible to get some labor dollars for writing the guidance after WRDA to appease managers. Mary indicated that was possible and we could certainly investigate that.
- Heather indicated she would send a link out to everyone to review the rough cuts from the video. **Everyone should send their comments to Heather by May 5.**
- Handshake: Allen discussed changes to the Handshake application, instructions and scoring matrix per our discussion in Boston. **Allen will finalize and send out for review.**
- Jeopardy: **Everyone is going to send comments and Miriam will finalize.** Try to set up a webinar to review the final produce prior to the June class. **Comments were received from Heather, Alana**
- Volunteer Award. The team decided to allow 2 nominees per division with each being from a different District. We can change this as needs arise. No time limit for service is established. Eligibility must state that the volunteer cannot have received payment by others. Volunteers can come from all business lines. Nominees can be an individual or a family unit (does not have to be formal) and cannot be acting as part of a larger organization. **Miriam will work on a draft for June.**

