

**Fall 2021 PAC Team Meeting and
Excellence in Partnerships Award Ceremony Minutes
Rend Lake, IL
15-19 November 2021**

Monday, 15 November: travel day

Tuesday, 16 November: Rend Project Office, 11981 Rend City Rd, Benton, IL

8:30 am: Intro to Rend Lake – OPM/Natural Resource Manager

PAC team business

- Welcome newer members/team orientation
- Selection of NWD and LRD new team members
 - Keith Hyde & Mike McCoy
- FY 22 PROSPECT class revisions:
 - Take recommendations from Virtual October class and incorporate changes with new photos, examples, update test questions
 - Heather Provided Notes that she had from the oct training week, as well as student comments.
 - Discussion how to edit the volunteer section of the prospect class.
 - Possibly break the presentation into 2 sessions vs 1- Heather
 - Update Handshake exercise examples
 - Train new PAC members on topics
 - Refine class exercises- Heather update teaching instructions
 - Determine instructors and topics for Allatoona, Seattle, and Eugene classes
 - Allatoona- Heather, Scott, Francis, Taylor (HSV funded); Miriam, Allison? (self funded)
 - Seattle- Heather, Phil, Jennifer, Keith or Mike (HSV funded); Alana?, Tennille? (self funded)
 - Eugene- Heather, Scott, Jennifer, Keith or Mike (HSV funded), Francis, Miriam (self funded)
 - Develop field trip itineraries for remaining FY 22 classes- Francis/Miriam (Allatoona), Heather/Keith (Seattle), Heather/WVP (Eugene)
 - Set up hotel blocks for Allatoona at Home2Suites or Tru by Hilton Cartersville- Francis; Seattle at Hyatt House or Place downtown-Heather; and Eugene at Home 2 Suites or Hyatt Place- Heather
- Handshake program changes and selection of FY 22 winners.
 - Develop winner memo and send to Heather- Phil
 - Update NRMG Handshake page with winning applications, memo, spreadsheet- Phil
 - Changes to next year instructions and score sheet
 - Include Maps/Pictures/plans/specs as part of the package. To show foresight, commitment, and planning.
 - Simplify the scoring sheet
 - Longevity/O&M: change to “O&M Impacts” Score 0-10
 - Recreation Benefit: Change to be like ENS, Score 0-10.
 - Partnership Value: Intangible section-add: higher value for number of partners.
 - VC improvements are not eligible? Heather check with Jeff/Ryan

- Bonus Pts: Partnering with a organization with diversity or inclusion as part of their mission. (Explain how you meet this requirement in its own section)100pts
- Bonus Pts: This Lake/River Project has never received Handshake funds. 100pts

Wednesday, 17 November: Rend Project Office

8:30 PAC business

- Volunteer of Year and Excellence in Partnership award program changes
 - Reviewed scoring criteria and provided guidance to new team members
- NRM Gateway- Team evaluation of current partnership pages/content to determine how pages are used, relevancy, priority, need for reorganization, what needs to be added, etc
 - Heather will submit comments for making a few minor changes to the homepage lay out to Ginny
 - All PAC members assigned pages to monitor and keep up to date.
- Update Corps Lakes Gateway partner page and hand out sheet (Keith, Mike, Tara)
- Partnerships and Volunteers ER/EP update- team discussion on program changes, anything that still needs to be added/edited
 - Reviewed
- 1:00- 4:30 Site visits with partners for lessons learned, BMPs, brainstorming new partnership project ideas.
 - Great Discussion with Rend Lake Team and Partners. Visited 2 Handshake winning projects as well as future development areas. The PAC visited sites to include trails, Archery Range, Archery Trail, Day use area improvements, wetland ag lease in kind partnerships, and volunteer village location plans.

Thursday, 18 November: Rend Project and Sesser High School

- 9:00 Innovations team presentation of Volunteer app for PAC team input
 - Nicole Govan, Nathan Seibert, Brandon Dubble, Francesca Gullion presented Volunteer App. Good presentation and discussion as Innovations team works toward bringing this App online. Francis will act as PAC rep to coordinate team review
- NRM Assessment data review and suggested system improvements. Review projects with zero input and assign PAC team members to reach out to educate
 - Add radio button for Activity or No Activity.
 - Change: Step 1 – Review existing partnerships activity/add new partnerships
 - Change: Step 2 – Annual Data Update
 - Add Step 3 – Data Summary/Approval
 - No Partnerships page: "ALERT Before you sign and provide and explanation of 'no partnership', have you considered the following?
 - Informal partnerships with other agencies, businesses, nonprofits, community groups (should be entered as contributions)
 - Working with a local chapter or a partner with a national MOU (Such as boy scouts, ducks unlimited, NEEF,etc)

- Received grants such as FLTP, Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
 - Held a National Public Lands Day or other special event such as Kids to Parks Day, FLW Fishing tournaments, etc. with partners
 - Env Stewardship Partnerships
- NRM Strategic Plan action items for PAC consideration: Further Discussion for each item below.
 - Explore opportunities for changes to legislation that align USACE authorities with those used by other federal land management agencies.
 - Collaborate with adjacent federal and state land management agencies for shared invasive species and fire management.
 - Seek new authorities to partner with adjacent public lands that allow expenditures of appropriated funds for joint management activities.
 - Develop new and update existing partnership agreement templates and share best management practices for increased efficiencies.
 - Gateways updates
 - NRM assessment user tool
 - Receive delegation authority for Civilian Inmate Labor Program from MSC Commanders to District Commanders.
 - Receive delegation authority for WRDA 2014 Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes from the DCW to MSC and District Commanders.
 - Update the Partnering with the Corps flier.
 - Develop a public-facing website with FAQ for potential partners.
 - Designate PAC team member on NRM Strategic Plan Workforce Team to assist with Park Ranger Training Manual as Partnership SME- review of the outline and review of manual once put together (for sections of the training manual such as the volunteer and partnerships seeking assistance with development of text, available resources, and an appropriate knowledge check form that a team leader or supervisor could use)
- Spring newsletter- topic brainstorm, partnerships to focus on
 - Scott – Franklin Falls Disc Golf Club –
 - Taylor – Pine Flat
 - Everyone should be looking for articles- look at FY 21 NRM Assessment data for ideas and POCs at the projects to reach out to
- MOU status updates and review of drafts
 - Update from PAC Members. All assigned MOUs
 - Girl Scouts- Phil
 - Trout Unlimited- Taylor
 - 4H- Jennifer
 - Pheasants Forever and Boy Scouts- Scott
 - NWTF- Mike
 - PVA- Keith
 - NPT- Heather
- National volunteer week outreach material development –
 - Use VOY nominees, coin recipients, enduring service nominees (Promote in advance to field to encourage recognition. – Each team member assigned one day of the week for their MSC
- New OMB approved volunteer 301 suite of forms-

- review by team
- Annual work plan update of tasks for team members
 - PAC member tasks have been assigned.
 - PAC Charter was reviewed
- 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm EIP ceremony in conjunction with SVOC annual banquet

Friday, 19 November: travel day

Next Meeting: Dec 16, 2021, 2pm-330pm Central Time