

Cooperating Associations

Titus V. Hardiman
Chief NRM Section
Little Rock District



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG



Partnerships

- Traditional Partnerships
 - ▶ State Wildlife and Enforcement Agencies
 - ▶ Municipalities, Civic and Community Orgs
 - ▶ Boy and Girl Scouts
 - ▶ Trail Groups
 - ▶ Volunteers

- Recent Partnerships
 - ▶ Hospitals
 - ▶ Non-Profit Organizations
 - ▶ For-Profit (Businesses)



Cooperative Agreements

- Types of Agreements Used:
 - ▶ MOU/MOAs
 - ▶ Challenge Partnership Agreements
 - Handshake program
 - ▶ Cooperative Agreements
 - w/Non-Profits
 - Law enforcement services
 - Fire protection services
 - Others



Cooperating Associations

Authorities:

- [P.L. 102-580](#), Water Resources Development Act of 1992, Section 225
- ER & EP 1130-2-500, Chapter 9-Cooperating Associations



Cooperating Associations

Cooperating Association vs. Friends Group:

- **Cooperating Association:** refers to a legal entity, organized under state law, which enjoys a non-profit and tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Service codes and which operates under the terms of a Cooperative Agreement with the Corps.
- **Friends Group:** generally refers to local volunteer groups of citizens organized for a specific purpose or interest in a particular geographical area. Friends groups may or may not have 501(c) status. A friends group does not become a cooperating association unless a cooperative agreement is signed.



Cooperating Associations

What are the benefits of partnering with Cooperating Associations?

- ▶ Associations can purchase materials, equipment, programs, exhibits, services, and publications to be used at the project.
- ▶ Fundraising, sponsoring, collaborating
- ▶ Associations can develop an organized constituency not typically accessible to the Corps.
- ▶ Associations can be advocates for the Corps. Some can lobby if they are established with that mission.
- ▶ Can hire support staff to help Corps missions.



Cooperating Associations

- Getting Started with Cooperating Associations:
 - ▶ Consult with Office of Counsel early in the process of trying to develop a new cooperating association.
 - ▶ Determine if there is an existing association or non-profit group in your area.
 - ▶ USACE employees can facilitate activities that lead to creation of a cooperating association.
 - ▶ Nonprofit groups must have a developed structure and operating procedures.



Cooperating Associations

- Getting Started with Cooperating Associations:
 - ▶ Provide them resources to assist with forming an association
 - Web resources (IRS.gov, etc.)
 - Supporting associations (APPL)
 - Training
 - ▶ Look for established umbrella organizations or chapters



Cooperating Associations

- Cooperating Associations must have:
 - ▶ Board of Directors
 - ▶ Complete Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
 - ▶ Incorporation
 - ▶ Non-profit 501 c status
 - ▶ Mission that aligns with the Corps mission



Cooperating Associations

- USACE Efforts
 - ▶ Provide the Association with Corps' goals, programs and activities.
 - ▶ Provide members with a sample Cooperative Agreement to review
 - ▶ Sign the agreement
 - ▶ Establish annual goals
 - ▶ Now the hard work begins...



Cooperating Associations

- USACE Efforts
 - ▶ Currently 58 Cooperating Associations in Partnership with the Corps
 - ▶ <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/coopassoc/coopassoc.cfm>



Cooperating Associations

- Remember: Successful Partners...
 - ▶ Want the partnership to succeed
 - ▶ Seek win-win solutions; being flexible but focused
 - ▶ Are open and clear about their own goals
 - ▶ Listen well and respond to other views
 - ▶ Are prepared to trust
 - ▶ Have integrity and act consistently
 - ▶ Effectively and efficiently carry out tasks and responsibilities
 - ▶ Will not just sweep difficulties under the carpet



Questions?

