## **Building Partnership Capacity**

Partnerships in NRM PROSPECT Course



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG<sub>®</sub>



## Internal Capacity Building

#### Culture

- Loosen control
- 2. Embrace private/public partnerships
- 3. Understand value of diverse resources

### Integrate into NRM Business Lines

- 1. Build capacity through collaborative management
- Build relationships internally with Office of Counsel, Real Estate, Resource Management, Planning, and Operations early in the process
- 3. Strengthen interagency relationships
- 4. Consistency between districts
- Clear focus on external views

### Training

- 1. NRM Gateway as an up-to-date resource
- 2. Partnership webinars, APPL, PROSPECT 328
- 3. Best practice sharing



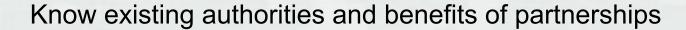


## Keys to Internal Success

Not "Can I" but "How can we?" – the art of possible

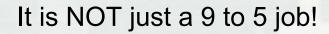


Don't reinvent the wheel – internal trust





Cultivate the "profession" of partnership









# **External Capacity Building**



## **External Capacity Building**

Where do I start??

# Get Blank Piece of Paper – Let's Brainstorm!



## 5 Steps to Finding the Right Partner

#### Where to Start

- 1. Get clear on what you bring to the table. List 3 things.
- 2. Define the qualities you are looking for. <u>List 5 things</u>.
- 3. Figure out what is stopping you.
- 4. Spread the word and make a plan.
- 5. Be yourself and tell your greatest story.





## Community Engagement

- ❖ Local chamber of commerce or visitor bureau
- Volunteers
- People who use the parks
- Get involved in your community
- Current national partners list on NRM Gateway
- APPL, tradeshows, conventions...where people with similar interests gather
- Community leaders
- Non-profits or for-profits in the area
- Who I know or someone I know who might know someone (network). Invite 10 people to invite 10 friends/partners each
- Write down 5 relationships you have or will build





### Interest and Assets

- What are the interests and assets of your 5 relationships?
  - 1. Social, environmental, recreational, employee lifestyle, tourism, historic....
  - 2. Corporate foundations, past involvement, volunteer programs, training needs...
  - 3. Who do they partner with today, what works well today, what doesn't...
  - 4. What are their values, vision, goals?
- What are your top 5 goals for next year?
- Any potential partnerships?



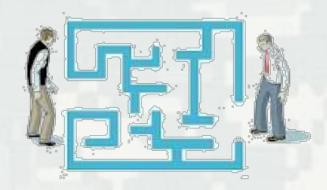
### Questions to Ask?

- 1. What do you need from your partner/what do they need from you?
- 2. What is your potential partner's sustainability?
- 3. What are your respective expectations about time commitment?
- 4. What happens if you can't work it out?
- 5. What is their reputation or standing in the community?
- 6. What questions does your potential partner have for you?



### Common Ground

- Focus on important needs/goals
- Adopt shared mission/vision
- Understand each other's culture, strengths and weaknesses
- Determine the key players to develop team and begin leveraging strengths





## Common Ground



## Developing and Sustaining

- Formal agreements leverage NRM Gateway and other internal resources
- Multi-level relationships between organization (team buy-in)
- Make it work attitude to get over hurdles
- Honor commitments long term trust always wins in building partnerships
- Find wins even if small and celebrate them
- ❖ Invite other partners if possible it can help both parties
- Don't just talk when you need something
- Honest communication and expectations
- Have fun!



## The 4 "I"s of Partnerships

### **Individual Excellence**

- Both partners are strong and have value to contribute
- Motivation to pursue opportunities

### **Importance**

- Relationship fits the major objectives of the partners
- Plays a key role in long-term goals of partners

### Interdependence

- Partners need each other and neither can accomplish alone what they can do together
- Complementary assets and skills

#### Investment

- Partners invest in each other
- Long-term commitment by devoting \$\$ resources



Source: Association of Defense Communities

# **Building Partnership Capacity**

Questions?

