

Hello, NRM professionals! My name is Chris Alford, and I am wrapping up my fourth and final year as the Chair of the Recreation Leadership Advisory Team (RLAT). Prior to serving, I was not completely aware of what this team did, but I've been blown away at the extent of the RLAT's responsibilities. This team touches all things USACE REC. The RLAT's Project Manager is Dr. Wen Chang, with the Institute for Water Resources, and the Program Manager is HQ Recreation Business Line Manager, Ryan Hartwig. The team provides guidance to the HQ Chief of NRM, Jeff Krause. The RLAT is made up of each USACE Division's NRM Program Manager and an additional representative from each Division. The RLAT discusses various policies, programs, and issues that affect the recreation mission from around the country. The team routinely gets updates from the Partnership Advisory Committee, Ranger Community of Practice, Sign Program Manager, Water Safety Program Manager, NRM Innovation Team, and other NRM teams. The RLAT meets semiannually with the Stewardship Advisory Team (SAT) so we can discuss the many NRM programs and challenges that cross business lines.

My time on the RLAT has been very eye opening. I have learned so much about processes, national stakeholders, and who we are within the recreation program. The innovative ways that my peers find to accomplish the mission and serve the public are incredible. Our NRM community is well-developed nationwide and comprises the hardest working, most resourceful, most dedicated team I've ever had the pleasure of serving with. I am very proud to be working alongside you.

Since this is my last year as Chair of the RLAT, we are in the process of identifying new leadership. I am happy to announce that beginning in January 2023, we will have two new people leading the RLAT as Co-Chairs: Lori Brewster (LRD) and Allen Earhart (SAD). The team will be in great hands with these two at the helm. A few other members will be rotating off the RLAT, so look for the new team roster in future recreation newsletters.