

# CWRBs and SMART Planning – Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead

**Wes Coleman**

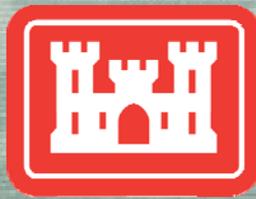
Chief, Office of Water Project Review

HQUSACE

21 May 2015



**U.S. ARMY**



US Army Corps of Engineers  
**PLANNING SMART  
BUILDING STRONG**

# Purpose of the Webinar

- Discuss lessons learned regarding the execution of CWRBs and the application of those lessons to future CWRBs.
- This will not be a discussion of policy issues related to the final decision document.



# Purpose of the CWRB

- Determine if the proposed Report of the Chief of Engineers and the accompanying final decision and NEPA documents are ready to release for State and Agency (S&A) Review as required by the Flood Control Act of 1944, as amended, as well as final NEPA review.



# Timing of the CWRB

- “The goal is that all CWRBs will be scheduled and executed no more than 60 days following log-in of the complete MSC Final Report Submittal Package.” *DCG-CEO Memorandum, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) Expectations and Guidelines, 2 May 2014.*

Q - What needs to be completed prior to the CWRB?

A - The question needs to be “What needs to be completed prior the District Commander’s signature on the final report?”



# Size of Reports

- The target for length of the main report for feasibility studies will be 100 pages or less. The environmental document should conform to guidance in ER 200-2-2. The entire feasibility report and appendices shall not exceed 1- three inch binder.” *DCG-CEO Memorandum, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Feasibility Study Program Execution and Delivery, 8 February 2012*
- Additional review time is being added for reports that exceed this requirement.



# Post-Final Report Costs

“To ensure that the sponsor is afforded the opportunity to participate in any significant effort as a result of Washington level policy review, review support will be included as a work item in the PMP for District and non-Federal sponsor costs only. These costs, including any necessary travel, will be limited to those reasonable costs associated with the review and processing of the feasibility report. This item will be 5 percent of the total study cost or \$50,000, whichever is less, and will be cost shared equally.” *ER 1105-2-100, paragraph G-8c(7)*



# Post-Final Report Costs

- \$50,000 or less for 3x3x3 compliant studies.
- The District Commander must be significantly engaged and prepared prior to signing the final report. Preparation for the CWRB should be a “refresher”.
- Limit in-person PDT attendance at the CWRB.
- Significant comments are not expected during the S&A and final NEPA reviews.
- Active participation by the RIT, the HQUSACE policy review team, and the MSC helps limit study costs during the Administration’s review.



# Helpful Hints

- Graphic/visual portrayal is needed to buttress arguments and add a degree of clarity.
  - ▶ The “placemat” is an effective tool that is also used as the primary briefing tool for the Chief of Engineers.
  - ▶ The “Fly-Over” is an effective way for orienting the panel to the study area and the water resources problems and opportunities. This is a tool that should be generated at the beginning of the study.



# Helpful Hints

- Include a slide on the cost and schedule for the study & the drivers.
- Summarize the screened array of alternatives and the rationale behind the screening criteria.
- Discuss analyses and application of risk that affected the screening of alternatives.
  - ▶ EO 11988.
  - ▶ Sea Level Rise/Climate Change.



# Helpful Hints

- Provide a specific analysis on how NED/NER was determined.
  - ▶ “Reasonably maximize net benefits”.
  - ▶ CE/ICA
- In the economic summary, show the BCR at 7% in addition to the current FY discount rate.
- To the extent allowable, discuss the timeline for PED funding.



# Helpful Hints

- Highlight the results of the District-level peer, legal and policy compliance reviews.
- The vertical team needs to be more diligent in documenting how the PDT addressed IEPR comments.
  - ▶ The IEPR comments and their resolution will likely become a more prominent point of discussion at the Agency Decision Milestone (ADM).



# Helpful Hints

- Lessons Learned.
  - ▶ Considering the addition of a vertical team AAR with the District Commander prior to signing the final report.
  - ▶ Lessons gathered from other studies prior to study initiation and throughout project development.
  - ▶ Post-CWRB webinar.



# Recommendations to the CWRB

- Guidance does not require the District or Division Commanders to recommend a CWRB action.
- If the Commanders want to recommend a CWRB action, it is to release the draft Chief's Report for S&A review and that it be accompanied by and consistent with the District Commander's final report and NEPA document.
- The purpose of the CWRB is not to decide on the release of the District Commander's report and the CWRB does not "approve" or "disapprove" the report.



# Looking Ahead

- Inclusion of a rigorous ADM could affect, but not eliminate, the CWRB.
- A rigorous ADM is expected to drive a “scaled” CWRB that would focus more on the actions in the post-ADM Decision Management Plan than on the pre-ADM project development.
- The ADM is focused on the District Commander’s Report while the CWRB is focused on the draft Chief’s Report.



# Looking Ahead

- The ADM would resemble the current CWRB, without Division Commander participation (home MSC or on the panel)
- The ADM engages senior executives that are likely to be members of the CWRB panel.
- Effort and resources currently expended post-final report for CWRB preparation may be reallocated to preparation for the ADM.



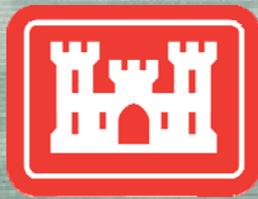
# Questions?

Type questions in the chat box.  
We will answer as many  
as time allows.

*For more information:*  
<http://www.corpsplanning.us>



**U.S. ARMY**



®

US Army Corps of Engineers  
**PLANNING SMART  
BUILDING STRONG**®

