

**Executive Summary
RLAT Meeting Minutes
19-21 May 2004**

Attendees:

Larry Bogue	SWD-PMD-O
Bonnie Bryson	LRL-OP-TO
Wen Huei Chang	ERDC-EE-E
Don Dunwoody	NWD-CM-O
Bob Hanacek	NAE-CO-TR
Tim Hiltz	CW-IN
Scott Jackson	ERDC-EE-E
Brad Keshlear	SAD-CM-OC
Michael A. Loesch	LRD-P-P-DST-HN
Brad Long	SPK-CO-SF
Jim Lynch	MVS-CO-T
Maggie Moses	IWR-NDC
Brad Myers	NWK-OF-MI
Kathy Perales	ERDC-EE-E
Judy Rice	CW-CO
Will Rogers	NAD-CM-O
George Tabb	CW-CO
Phil Turner	SPD-RB-T

Day 1 - 19 May

Welcome and HQ Update from Brad Myers and Judy Rice

- Welcomed new member, Bob Hanacek, NAE, office located at Hodges Village Dam
- FY05 President's budget includes a recreation modernization initiative - 6 new partnership demo lakes
- Doing Recreation Program Assessment Tool for OMB now
- Judy has been working almost full time on the budget - EC, RecBEST, web casts for RecBEST, etc. Recreation's initial program differs from Navigation, Flood, Environmental and Hydro by focusing on outputs instead of prior year budgets. MSC representatives must take a proactive approach to developing and reviewing the FY06 recreation budget, to assure the field understands the intent.

- RecBEST will be used to rank packages based on performance values, but each MSC can enter different rankings in ABS if they wish. All information will be used by the Recreation Program Team to develop a final budget in July. June is suspense for entering data in RecBEST. Complete FY06 budgets are due to HQ on 9 Jul.
- Hope to have new NRRS contract awarded in June, with go-live in December.

RMSP Activities

- VERS - Sammy Franco: Currently covers 365 projects, should be 410. Concern about Q/A on visitation numbers submitted.
- Modernized Visitation - Wen Chang: Pilot study with 3-4 Little Rock District projects to test new survey instrument, data collection technology and survey design. Co-funded study by Corps and states of Arkansas and Missouri. Includes traffic stop survey and mail back survey. Hope to go nationwide for summer 05.
- Comment Card - Wen Chang: Redesigning this. We need a reliable, customer satisfaction instrument at the project level. Refines methodology used at 20 projects in 03.
- Communications - Julie Marcy: RecBEST guides, ISOP workshop in mid-August, mini-cultural field guides, regional and national recreation brochure artwork provided.

Day 2 - 21 May

RMSP Continued

- NRM Gateway - Kathy Perales: Partnership CD's, still need 142 projects to review visitor pages, SmartBook, OPS CoP support, NRM network discussion forum incorporated.
- Other - Scott Jackson: Need to balance short-term needs with long-term R&D projects. Benefits research is our foundation. May want to pursue interagency collaborative research.

Strategic Initiatives

Healthier US - Don Dunwoody

- Draft handout of communications plan
- Kickoff is 5 June - Memo at HQ for General Strock's signature to implement in Corps.
- Focus on Get Fit with US - emphasize this summer at our projects

Park Efficiency - Update from Judy +

- Intended to provide lessons learned from Nashville
- Confusion between evaluating packages for efficiency improvements versus how to make operation more efficient

ReRAMP - Jim Lynch

- Management changes for efficiencies or financial investments.
- Provided handout
- Need evaluation criteria and methodology
- Decision to combine this effort with efficiency.
- George needs a concept for efficiency improvement ASAP

RLAT Member Status - Brad Myers

- Need a replacement for Joe Sigrest (Jim Lynch interim)
- Don Dunwoody replaced Tom Peek
- Larry Bogue replaced Bill McCauley
- Brad's term as chair ends next meeting
- Dan Bentley and Dan Keir will rotate out after the fall meeting

Recreation Program PgMP and RMSP PMP - Julie Marcy

- Numerous comments received
- Change some critical assumptions
- RLAT is governing body for RMSP PDT

Strategic Planning Update - Judy Rice, Tim Hiltz, Julie Marcy

- Need better alignment between CW strategic plan, PART requirements and current Recreation Program goals/objectives.
- Consider use of Balanced Scorecard
- Reviewed draft PART instrument
- Assessed questions to determine refinement needs

Day 3 - Roundtable Discussion (included, not comprehensive list)

- Pittsburgh situation and national budget shortfalls
- Losing NRM/Ops champions under 2012 in some areas
- DST's not working well in some areas
- 401 series conversions
- RecBEST is critical - we must be honest in submitting data and we must get it right. - Very important for our program and our credibility. - Don't game it.
- Great Lakes of Georgia initiative - brochure and web page
- P2 implementation
- Inflatable pfd test
- Concern that money allocated for recreation isn't reaching the projects
- Tread Lightly Inc. partnership
- Cooperative advertising on publications

Combined Efficiency/Modernization Initiative - Jim Lynch

- George needs a package for Mike White on ReRAMP that addresses efficiency investment for a better future state (beyond closure).
- Don Dunwoody to prepare a few paras on theme of initiative.
- Jim Lynch to prepare how the methodology would work
- George will develop a name - something like Recreation Performance Improvement System. - Includes toolbox, measures, cultural changes, etc.
- Julie and Tim to help with wordsmithing of brief concept paper
- Important to stress how these improvements impact performance
- Need a consistent assessment tool to determine condition
- Use Facility Standards committee's work - Bonnie to provide
- Use NRPA's accreditation standards for reference

- Need concept package to George in early June, hope to have evaluation criteria straw man by end of June
- Be sure strategic goals/objectives cover this efficiency effort

Budget Issues - Judy Rice

- Wen was asked to provide interim RecBEST data for evaluation on a request basis
- A telecom/web cast was scheduled on 10 June, 1100 EST, to do a preliminary evaluation of data following the 4 June suspensions.
- Meeting was scheduled in July to finalize the recreation program budget - Week of 19 July in DC.
- Concern that highest visitation/highest revenue projects won't receive adequate funding under RecBEST.

New Initiatives - Larry Bogue

Looking for a national funding system (something like a 59 account) to pay for some of these initiatives. Does anyone have something similar?

Next Meeting - The next meeting will be moved from its previous October timeframe to the end of January, first of February timeframe. The "spring" meeting will change, too. These will be permanent changes in schedule because the group thought these times would be better for travel. The next meeting will be somewhere in South Florida.