



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

FINAL AGENDA

USACE-NMFS Engineering With Nature Collaboration Meeting

Wednesday, October 5, 2016 (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Dinner – 6:00 p.m. (Latitude 43°; 25 Rogers Street)

Thursday, October 6, 2016 (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

**55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office**

Hearing Rooms A, B and C

Participants: Participants will include a cross section of people from the USACE and NMFS, including those responsible for project management, operations, engineering, planning, regulatory, environmental, ESA and EFH consultation, etc.

Meeting Purpose: The purpose of the meeting is to identify opportunities to use the principles and practices of EWN to further the missions and projects undertaken by USACE and NOAA-NMFS. Information regarding the scope of responsibilities, challenges and opportunities will be shared between the two organizations. Opportunities to collaborate in developing EWN-based solutions will be identified.

The opportunities identified will span the full spectrum of USACE's missions and projects (i.e. Civil Works -- Navigation, Flood Risk Management and Environment) and NMFS regulatory programs under EFH and ESA section 7.

Objectives:

The objectives for the collaborative meeting are to:

1. Provide an overview of EWN, review progress to date and the path forward;
2. Discuss USACE and NMFS opportunities and challenges with respect to applying EWN;
3. Using tools developed to guide EWN project teams, identify specific EWN-based opportunities;
4. Prepare detailed *Opportunity Statements* for the highest value solutions;

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

9:00 Registration

Welcome and Introductions

9:30 Welcome, Dan Morris and Kim Damon-Randall

9:40 Introductions, Cathy Tortorici and Todd Bridges

9:55 Structure of the Meeting, Cynthia Banks

The EWN Opportunity

10:00 Implementing EWN: Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions, Todd Bridges

10:30 Overview of NMFS Mission Areas, Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities, Cathy Tortorici

10:50 Overview of USACE Mission Areas, Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities, Joe Wilson

11:10 Break

Case Examples of Practice

11:25 USACE Progress on ESA 7(a)(1), Todd Swannack

11:45 Case Examples in Coastal NJ, Monica Chasten

11:55 Case Examples in Coastal Baltimore District, Danielle Szimanski

12:05 Lunch (Brought in from Willow Rest)

12:50 Case Examples on the SE Atlantic, Mark Messersmith

1:00 Case Examples on the Gulf Coast, Jeff Corbino and Andrea Catanzaro

1:10 Case Examples in California, Larry Smith

1:20 NOAA-NMFS Case Examples #1, Dan Marrone, Chris Vaccaro, and Zach Jylkka

1:50 NOAA-NMFS Case Examples #2, Karen Greene

2:00 NOAA-NOS Coastal Zone Management Act, Betsy Nicholson

2:20 Discussion of breakout group structure and process

2:30 Break and transition to breakout groups

Breakout Session

2:45 Identify opportunities, potential EWN demo projects and/or current projects that could/do incorporate EWN principles; prioritize. Develop an *Opportunity Statement* for the top priority opportunity.

Plenary Session

4:15 Each group presents its list of the top 5 – 6 priorities identified and their Opportunity Statement for their top priority.

5:00 Wrap and overview of Day 2

5:10 Adjourn Day 1

6:00 Optional Dinner

Latitude 43° Restaurant and Bar
25 Rogers Street, Gloucester, MA

<http://www.latfortythree.com/>

Thursday, October 6, 2016

9:00 Address comments/questions from Day 1, review agenda and desired outcomes for Day 2, discuss breakout group assignment

Breakout Session

9:00 Use worksheets provided to develop their top priority EWN opportunity

Plenary Session

11:00 Each breakout group presents their top priorities, 15 minutes each

12:00 Lunch (Brought in from Willow Rest)

Breakout Session

12:45 Use worksheets provided to further develop top priorities

2:45 Break

Plenary Session

3:00 Breakout teams present their priority opportunities

Wrap-up

4:00 Next steps discussion

4:30 Closing thoughts, Cathy Tortorici and Todd Bridges

5:00 Adjourn Day 2

Pre-Meeting Assignment:

1. Review the 'Introduction to EWN' (shown below).
2. Bring at least one idea to the meeting to collect, review, and distill into a general set for group discussion on where/why/when/how we might be able to act on EWN opportunities.

Introduction to EWN:

Pursuing the objective of sustainable development of water resources infrastructure poses both challenges and opportunities. Advancing our practices involves identifying the practical actions that can be taken to better align and integrate engineering and natural systems to produce more socially acceptable, economically viable and environmentally sustainable projects.

The USACE Engineering With Nature (EWN) Program supports more sustainable practices, projects, and outcomes by working to *intentionally align natural and engineering processes to efficiently and sustainably deliver economic, environmental and social benefits through collaborative processes* (www.engineeringwithnature.org). EWN's focus on developing practical methods provides an achievable path toward an ecosystem approach to infrastructure development and operations. Consequently, EWN principles and practices can and are being applied across multiple USACE missions and business lines.

There are four elements critical to the success of EWN projects:

- 1) Advancing sound science and engineering to improve operational efficiency;
- 2) Using natural systems and processes to maximize the benefits;
- 3) Broadening the benefits of the project – economic, environmental and social; and
- 4) Using collaborative processes to engage stakeholders throughout the project.

There is a long history of implementing some of the elements of EWN in the US and elsewhere. Today, the EWN program is focusing attention on these successes and enabling expansion of this approach to challenges and opportunities across the US. We are working to develop opportunities to draw together leading practices across organizations while expanding and leveraging those practices to seek a broader range of opportunities to apply EWN. With the support our USACE Leadership Team, collaborating USACE research programs, and partnering organizations like NOAA we are advancing the use of EWN to solve problems and create value.

Our strategy for the first five years was to expand the application of EWN principles and practices across USACE business lines and mission areas by first engaging internal leaders and early adopters and then reaching out to our external partners and stakeholders and effectively collaborating with them to establish and achieve common goals. We drew on leading practices in science-based strategic risk communication¹ along with other leading social science practices to do so.

Building on the success of the first five years, our Vision for EWN over the next five years is:

- To systematically integrate EWN principles and practices into USACE culture by continuing to expand its application across our mission areas, while actively demonstrating and communicating its value.
- To broaden and deepen engagement, participation and collaboration with colleagues across USACE mission areas and divisions, and with key agency partners and stakeholders.
- To formally engage with other organizations on EWN-focused R&D, training and education.

¹ Strategic Risk Communication is a purposeful process of skillful interaction with stakeholders supported by

appropriate information. It is an essential component of integrated risk management. Strategic Risk Communications helps decision-makers and stakeholders make well-informed decisions and take appropriate actions.