



Engineering With Nature

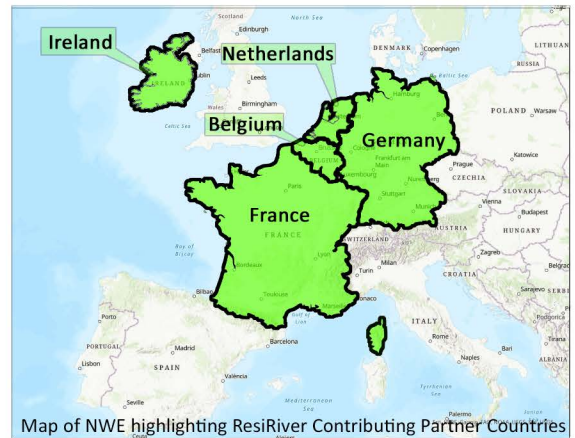
EWN Participation in Northwestern Europe’s ResiRiver Project Kick-off



Partner group photo, credit: Laura Oonk

Background:

On October 26 and 27th, representatives from the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, Ireland, Scotland, and the USA gathered in Nijmegen, Netherlands to officially kick-off an effort to upscale and mainstream Riverine NBS across northwestern Europe: the ResiRiver project. The goal of the ResiRiver project is to bridge the gap between the partners’ river management organizations NBS efforts. The partners will aim to align pilot project construction, improve stakeholder engagement, and monitor completed projects with an emphasis on clear effectiveness of NBS features and quantification of ecosystem service co-benefits. The ResiRiver project includes a trans-disciplinary team of government and university engineers, planners, researchers, biologists, economists and others from across 11 partner organizations and 18 associated partner organizations. The Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat) serves as the lead agency for the ResiRiver.



The ResiRiver project is an international effort supported by Interreg North-West Europe (NWE). Interreg NWE is a European Territorial Cooperation program aiming to support a balanced development across the area, making all regions more resilient, and contributing to a better quality of life and well-being of all NWE citizens. The ResiRiver projects aim to emphasize real-world application of NBS, with dedicated monitoring and management efforts to help knowledge exchanges, joint planning, and facilitated NBS decision making across the countries. The ResiRiver partner countries receive cost-shared funding from the Interreg program to help advance NWE’s NBS priorities.

EWN participation:

Dave Crane, EWN Riverine Practice Lead, attended and presented at the kickoff meeting as the United States’ ResiRiver associated partner representative. Supported by EWN funding, Dave shared information regarding "Riverine NBS Application in the USA." Topics covered in his 40-minute presentation included: an EWN Program overview; USA riverine NBS case studies, including a highlight on the massive levee setbacks along the Lower Missouri River; current barriers to NBS consideration/ implementation; and a summary of actions EWN and others are taking to not only overcome these barriers, but advance and mainstream NBS consideration and implementation. Through continued involvement during the project’s 5-year schedule, Dave will serve as a conduit for NWE connections with local, state, federal, NGO, Tribal, and industry riverine NBS practitioners. As EWN embarks on NBS engineering guidance development, much can be learned and applied from the resources NWE has on hand. NBS policy and statute development lessons learned will be shared between NWE and USA professionals.



Dave discussing levee setbacks, credit: Laura Oonk

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ResiRiver Contributing Partners



Rijkswaterstaat
Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management



WSV.de
Wasserstraßen- und
Schifffahrtsverwaltung
des Bundes



VALLÉES DE L'AUTHIE
ET DE LA CANCHE



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clean waterways | waterway development | healthy waters

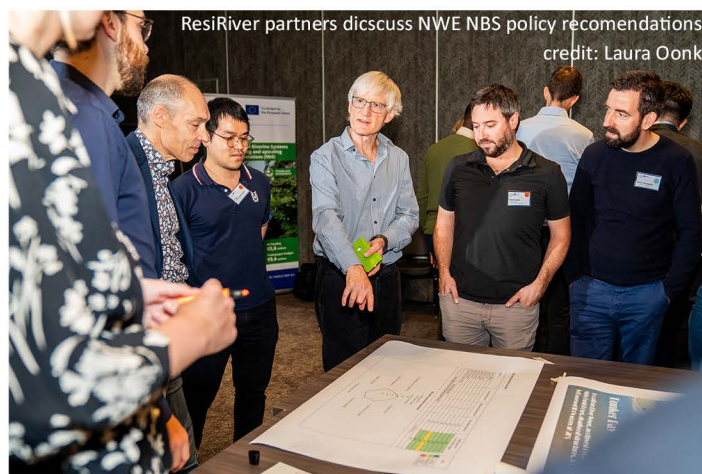
Vision Alignment:

The ResiRiver project involves a 4-pronged approach that mirrors many efforts being pursued by EWN:

1. Construction of NBS pilot projects across NWE partner countries.
2. Development of communication material for stakeholder and practitioner knowledge transfer.
3. A science team to monitor pilots, quantify benefits, and translate lessons learned into future design guidance.
4. Synthesizing ResiRiver outcomes into policy and statute recommendations to facilitate NBS implementation across NWE.

Relevant EWN analogs include:

1. Providing direct SME support to USACE planning teams looking to study, design, and construct NBS concepts into new USACE projects.
2. EWN case study atlases and engineering guidance development for riverine and coastal NBS topics.
3. EWN and N-EWN funded NBS research tasks.
4. EWN researchers, staff, subject matter experts, and other partners producing new guidance, drafting updated policy language to agency leads, and recommending statute updates to law makers.



USACE ResiRiver Next Steps:

- What USACE can contribute to ResiRiver:
 - Keep ResiRiver partner team up to date on novel USACE NBS engineering guidance development.
 - Act as conduit for NBS examples, research results, and points of contact in USA (within USACE and beyond- local, state, federal, NGO, Tribal, industry, and academic POC's).
 - Share results from relevant NBS research tasks (benefits quantification design guidance development, etc.).
 - Maintain participation in Northwestern Europe NBS efforts via in-person meetings, email, and web calls as often as needed.
- What USACE can gain from participation in ResiRiver:
 - Information regarding current state of NBS statutes and policy across NW Europe.
 - Lessons learned from NWE practitioner use of technical design and construction guidance for NBS.
 - Methods NWE counties use for NBS benefits quantification, determine how USACE can incorporate into planning studies.
 - Observe and emulate NWE NBS knowledge transfer efforts (e.g., government programs, European Centre for River Restoration).

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ResiRiver website: <https://resiriver.nweurope.eu>

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