

**LOCKHEED MARTIN CORPORATION**

**Moderator: Courtney Chambers**  
**March 27, 2012**  
**12:30 pm CT**

Courtney Chambers: Okay. Now I'd like to give you today's speakers on Urban Waters. Shawn Komlos is a Physical Scientist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources in Alexandria, Virginia. At the institute he assists with review and development of water resource planning guidance and provides technical and logistical support to the planning community of practice on matters pertaining to water resources and ecosystem restoration planning.

Prior to joining IWR, Shawn worked for the EPA Ecosystem Restoration Task Force in South Florida, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ecological Services Office and in the Jacksonville District Planning Division and its interagency modeling center. Shawn's non-federal experience involved international environmental control themes and working for the Audubon Society's everglades campaign.

Our second speaker Roy Simon has been with the Environmental Protection Agency working on water resource protection programs since 1987. He is currently the Special Assistant for Urban Waters and the designated Federal Officer for the National Drinking Water Advisory Council in the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water in the U.S. EPA. He has been at the forefront of working with urban communities to renew them as a part of EPA's Urban Waters initiative and worked on implementing the Federal Stimulus Package. Previous to his work in EPA, he worked on implementation of social and employment programs at the National Governor's Association and at Federal Department of Health and Human Services.

More information about both of our speakers can be found in their bios posted on the learning exchange with the rest of today's meeting documents. We're very thankful to you all for your willingness to share with us today. And now I'm going to proceed to give you the presenter rights and we can begin.

Shawn Komlos: All right. And before Roy gets started, this is Shawn. I just want to thank everybody for showing up. I do want to extend a special thank you to members of the federal partnership, the interagency teams who are out there if you're on the phone as well as representatives from the conflict resolution and public participation center who may be on the call.

As Courtney mentioned, these are - this is a standing Webinar series so anybody on the call as well as others who may not be in the call who might be interested are welcome to register and we strongly encourage that as part of the federal partnership.

So with that said, I'll hand it over to Roy.

Roy Simon: Okay Shawn. Thank you very much. We've been working with Shawn and Army Corps and 12 other federal agencies on this effort and I look forward to doing a short presentation and Shawn will add to it and then we'll take some questions.

I'm hoping you can hear. So I'm going to lean into the phone here. I went to the first slide where I'm going to talk about a little bit of background vision and some of the participation activities that we're involved in. And then Shawn will take the rest of it.

So on the third slide you can see that we have the 12 agencies. We've also been involved with the White House has several groups, the Domestic Policy

Council and the Council on Environmental Quality that have been involved. And we're trying to add the Department of Energy to this so eventually would be 13 agencies hopefully in the not too distant future.

We worked on the vision, mission and principles document, which all the agencies currently that are involved actually signed through their political officials and you can see our general vision is to try and bring back these urban waters and all the neighborhoods near them.

And we have a couple of things that are really important with regards to where we're working, they have to have an urban water involved, typically a river or a lake; sometimes ground water but mostly surface water rivers and lakes. And then there's a community that is underserved and distressed community, economically disadvantaged community that's near these urban waters that we work with. And most of the - most of the localities have some connection between rural, suburban activities on a river and urban community that are linked on the same river and it's very interesting to try and link urban, rural and suburban on a particular river or a lake. And that's sort of the general aspect and vision principles of where we're going.

On the next slide, the partnership principles, essentially we cover a lot of social, economic and environmental endpoints. So we're talking here as you can see about clean urban waters and the people connecting them to the waterways, conservation ideas, conserving water. And for the use of the water whether it's agriculture or drinking water or other uses, industrial uses, trying to conserve water for all the users.

We're trying to promote economic revitalization and community improvements. We're trying to work directly with local organizations in all the communities that we work in so that we really hear what local agencies and

organizations and governments are really interested in doing and relative to the urban waters and the community so that we're not - and federal agencies aren't just talking among each other. We're talking among each other collaborating but also with local agencies. And then we're trying to figure out how to measure the results. It's not so easy with all the goals that we're talking about in terms of environmental, social and economic outcomes that we're focused on as well as the process of collaboration.

I'm not going to go through this slide on Agency commitments. As you can read through it, each of the agencies have a very general description of what it is that they're going to be working on with the partnership in whatever localities they're involved.

Next slide are these pilots. What we did was we decided that we needed to work on collaborating locally among the federal agencies and with local entities and to try all this collaboration out. We don't have real new resources or new authorities in law so we're trying to bring current authorities and current resources to the table.

So that requires that all the agencies actually know what their current authorities and current resources are. And as you can see, we're working in a variety of different places from the East in D.C. and Baltimore and New York and then in the West in LA and California - LA - Los Angeles, California and then in South New Orleans and then middle of the country Northwest Indiana, which is Gary, Indiana - not too far from Chicago and Colorado - Denver, Colorado.

What we're doing there is really trying to implement these social, economic and environmental activities and collaborate to achieve these purposes and principles that I just talked about for the whole effort.

So what we've done is in the short run we're trying to put one person who does this coordination among the federal agencies in each of the seven pilot locations. We call this person an ambassador. Hopefully over the next two to three months we'll get ambassadors working and really doing the collaboration.

We have had lead agencies. Two of the pilots have been led by EPA. One is jointly EPA and the Department of Agriculture. Agriculture is lead in a couple of those. And the Department of Interior is the lead in two others.

And we've done a lot of partnering between the agencies. I had a phone call every week for a while. Now we have every two weeks. We have all the pilots talking to each other about how to implement this effort. And each of them are putting together work plans for projects and other activities.

Potentially we're going to be enrolling some new communities. We haven't quite decided exactly how to do that. You can get all the information on [urbanwaters.gov](http://urbanwaters.gov). We put up here on [epa.gov/urbanwaters](http://epa.gov/urbanwaters) as one Web site but we also have another Web site, which is the federal partnership [urbanwater.gov](http://urbanwater.gov) and you'll have all the information as well as a ten-minute video on our kickoff in Baltimore.

So I think now...

Courtney Chambers: Hey Roy, can you - I'm sorry.

Roy Simon: Yes.

Courtney Chambers: Can I ask our participants just to double check that they're on mute? We're getting a little bit of feedback if you would just double-check that. Thank you.

Roy Simon: So I moved to Slide 8 and I'm going to turn it now over Courtney to Shawn to continue.

Courtney Chambers: Okay. Excellent.

Shawn Komlos: All right. I'm not sure if you can hear me.

Courtney Chambers: Yes we can Shawn.

Shawn Komlos: Okay. All right. We're getting some background noise from an office location where there might be something going on in office.

Okay. So just a helpful clarification is early on in the process I was fortunate to work on this while I was actually on a temporary assignment over at the ASACW's office. And one of the primary sources of question and confusion had to do with prior programs and initiatives, one of which was the Urban Rivers Restoration initiative.

So just for clarification is they are now identical to one another. And this also goes for the America's Great Outdoors initiative, which has an urban waters or an urban area working group or work unit. They're not identical but there's a lot of overlap as there are with agency actions and a lot of the watershed in which the Corps of Engineers work. So we should be no strangers to that.

But you will see a blurring of terms and some overlap between what's going on with America's Great Outdoors initiative, which is focused on outdoor recreation, getting people outdoors and actually improving the quality of our

outdoors environment as well as the Urban Waters Federal Partnership that Roy just described.

So the organization of the two - I'm going to focus on the right hand side, which is the Urban Waters. There are the principle agencies and (signatories) to the actual partnership. Looking down, there's a national working group and that's one of the working groups that Roy is the lead on.

There is an Urban Waters pilot location at seven different locations throughout the nation. And there are pilot specific activities that different agencies contribute to the work. So that is the general structure of the partnership as it stands today.

As Roy mentioned, there is a desire to have an ambassador at each site, which would be akin to a planning technical lead or a - or kind of a project manager or a study lead at each site trying to coordinate the initiative and organize what's going on and maintain connectivity with all the different stakeholder groups.

Urban Waters Federal Partnership, once again, it's just a restatement of the vision and the mission and the principles. But to summarize, I mean it's about improving the quality of waters in urban areas particularly those that are going - that are experienced or a minority and disadvantaged or economically disadvantaged communities.

It's about improving the quality of the waters as well - or increasing the accessibility to those waters for people and helping them to enjoy and benefit whether it's socially, culturally or economically from those waters.

The purpose of the initial pilots was to see what we could do to align federal resources to improve communication and collaboration across the agencies. It was essentially about, you know, what can we do without changes to our existing authorities and existing funding resources. How can we best leverage our actions across the agencies at these different sites to benefit the communities?

This was one of the - probably one of the biggest challenges for the Corps early on is the Corps of Engineers has this authority assigned for it and has its resources provided to it. And the discretionary authority within the Corps of Engineers is not (on power equivalent) to those of some of the - several of the other agencies.

So there were a lot of questions early on about just how can the Corps of Engineers engage and what I'll characterize as sort of a bottom up planning study type of initiative.

There was a screening process for, you know, to evaluate the different agencies and their capacity to collaborate and how (unintelligible) can be involved.

There was a screening process for our availability of federal resources, what can be leveraged, what's going on? How can we better be working together? And (what) momentum and probability of near term action and success might there be at the different locations across all the different agencies that are working.

So where were the greatest opportunities for us to leverage resources to work together to collaborate and actually put good product on the ground in urban

corridors? That resulted in 26 initial locations that were screened down to a total of seven and those seven became the pilot sites that Roy mentioned.

This is just a graphical depiction of where the pilot sites are. There are recent efforts to try to consider expanding the Urban Waters Federal Partnership to a broader or a more national scale.

I'm going to step outside the bounds of the partnership for a second and offer that this may be an opportunity to use the partnership not just as the pilot sites at designated locations but to affect how we actually plan projects and studies and how we do investigations, how we go about leveraging resources.

I mean this is just a matter - I think Michael Rains with the USDA mentioned this is just about culture change and about actually doing effective interagency collaboration and coordination of efforts.

So when we talk about watershed studies and identifying all those federal and non-federal actions and authorities that can be brought to bear on a water resources challenge, I mean this is a golden opportunity to make it happen. This is where we can actually make those connections and get the appropriate agencies involved to take the appropriate actions for the common vision.

So the federal partnership has information about each of the seven pilots. The Corps has some level of activities. It's actually contributing to outcomes on the ground at each of the different seven pilot sites.

Once again, it's that [www.urbanwaters.gov](http://www.urbanwaters.gov). A lot of other information is out there too about the partnership and about ongoing activities. But we like to offer that - I mean there - while our authorities may be limited and our agency funding resource may be allocated to ongoing projects, I mean as a project

funded organization. One of the questions that's come up recently is how can other agencies engage with the Corps of Engineers when there is an immediate need to get something on the ground?

So the concept of the interagency and international support program has come under some discussions. Not sure to what extent it's being pursued as individual pilots. So it's just in terms of how the Corps of Engineers might be engaged or how other agencies might view the Corps of Engineers. There might be opportunities that exist there as well as on existing planning - or existing and funded investigations and projects that are ongoing.

Corps of Engineers engagement. Here's an example of one study and how the Corps of Engineers has engaged or have been viewed by some of the pilot sites. In this case this is the Anacostia pilot. The Anacostia pilot and the stakeholders involved were really looking at the watershed study as prepared by Baltimore on the Anacostia watershed itself.

Three thousand eighteen state sites. And the Corps of Engineers authority does not span the entire 3000 some odd candidate actions that were identified in the study. So a lot of the questions that Anacostia partnership and other stakeholders were raising is how do we get a lot of these good features implemented? This is one of those opportunities that the partnership seemed well suited to try to fill.

However, once again, just trying to keep expectations managed. The partnership is not capable of bringing new resources to the table although there may be opportunities to do better alignment. And this is where having some sort of guiding architecture has potential to contribute to a more effective alignment of resources.

So the Corps of Engineers, you know, the watershed study, some of the ongoing studies are contributing to writing the background analysis and information that would support (alignment), and justification for alignment of different grants from different agencies, different involvement from different agencies at local state and federal levels.

Prioritization of problems and opportunities; how can we best align or most strategically think about which actions we're funding at the same time? And also in terms of developing the data and models research in the report that we might use to evaluate requests for federal funding of different activities that are coming up through the different agencies; State, Interior, USDA, Department of Commerce and others.

So in terms of relevance, we've been asked several times about how the Corps of Engineers might be more engaged at different pilot locations. Thinking beyond the existing limitations of funds and authorities for a moment, contributions can range from our, you know, our existing investigations.

What's going on on the ground? Where can we be reaching across the boundaries to the other agencies to see how we can work toward common goals and visions that have come about during the, you know, collaborative planning process at the Corps, employees at different locations?

Vision of technical service, technical assistance, planning and engineering, technical support to different agencies. We have a lot of standing MOUs with just about every agency in the partnership. How can we leverage those MOUs and those MOAs in support of improvement in water resources that benefit urban communities including those that are actually taking place on the upstream parts of the watershed or downstream parts of the watershed?

Actual benefits of the scoping of solutions. The partnership opens up doors for actions that might not be possible within the limited authorities that the Corps does have on a given investigation or a given project. There may be opportunities for other agencies to contribute to solutions or to management measures that are within their jurisdiction but might contribute significantly to the benefits realized by the project.

Land use planning for instance is something that we typically struggle with. Water quality is another thing we typically struggle with. Our local sponsors are struggling with those needs too. And this may be an opportunity to help our local sponsors find those agencies and find the resources to take those actions.

Potential impediments. It's been throughout the discussion, authority, funding and authority to leverage funds and resources. Some instances other agencies grants can be used toward their local cost share for a project. Same thing with some of the other agency grants.

Matching funds in many instances need to be non-federal but in some instances some federal grants can be used in matching funds for other grants. Potential concerns has to do with I guess who's actually ultimately accountable for what actually occurs on the ground.

How do we manage quality of the products and services that we're providing to the public when we're actually working across agency boundaries and the quality of our products might be a function of each of our individual efforts?

Thinning of resources. When we make a decision to align resources with another agency's needs, there's an opportunity cost that's being foregone and

that needs to be taken into consideration. That's also been a big discussion on different pilot activities.

Differences in organizational tempos, some agencies work faster than others, some agencies are you know Titanic, big ship small rudder and take a lot of time to be redirected or move through the water. So in some instances it may take agencies a year or two to become effective partners at a different, at different locations so there's a different tempo that the different agencies march to.

And mission priorities, once again this goes back to the opportunity costs when we are allocating resources we are at a cost to other initiatives that may be agency priorities or it may be national priorities that our agencies are accountable, satisfying.

So this participation and the partnership doesn't come without cost but all the agencies are facing the same issue in terms of trying to satisfy this priority of the administration.

So here's contributions, the Army, and leading up to the announcement of the Federal Partnership Army Civil Works was participated in the identification and the screening of different locations, in terms of allocating resources Army Civil Works identified points of contact that could be contacted or made available as points of contact or points of entry to the Corps of Engineers should a role or need for Corps involvement be identified at a given pilot location.

And then when it came to the individual pilot sites and identifying what ongoing activities there were and how resources might be better leveraged the

various Corps offices provided input about their activities at the pilot locations for those summary sheets that you saw earlier.

So in terms of ongoing involvement Army Civil Works remains, is still a member on the national, or the Urban Waters National Work Group that meets bi-weekly. Civil Works has participated in the various media events, once again in the national announcement in Baltimore was attended by registrant (Amy Geiss) as well as (ASACW), the initiative was announced for public consumption.

Also opportunities to help identify, or to help, and help develop what solutions there might be. Given the Corps of Engineers involvement and these numerous studies it had ongoing at a lot of these different locations there may be a wealth of knowledge to be gained by asking the right people in the different districts, maybe help the partnerships better align their resources at those locations, it would benefit our sponsors to maybe allow them to action, or do some of the actions that have been on hold for such a long time because of efficiencies and existing conditions or other impediments to actually pursuing some projects that have been planned or targeted for implementation and construction.

In the future there may be opportunities also for once again under the IAS program to help get partnership implement actions or help individual agencies and actions on the ground if those agencies determine best interest in the nation to take those actions and if they have the funds to actually do the design and from the design and construction of those features that may be an opportunity there.

But I'd offer that the skies the limit, I mean this is an open door for collaboration across agencies. We talk about watershed planning and systems

planning but once again our authorities don't necessarily allow us to go there in all instances and this is an opportunity to reach across to the other agencies and you know help us walk the talk that we've been preaching all along.

So federal partnership maybe in the very near future being asked for, to help report on actions that are going on on the ground at different, or pilot locations for instance the Los Angeles pilot because we're really looking forward to the Corps of Engineers investigations that are ongoing with respect to the Los Angeles river to help it, help that pilot project or that pilot location align its actions of the different agencies that are involved.

And there's lots of other collaborative and communication opportunities that are coming up too to try to once again just improve the overall effectiveness of the different agency's programs I mean EPA, DOI, USDA, we all in some way, shape or form lean on each other in terms of I mean the quality of the waters, whether they're in the rural parts of the watershed, the urban part of the watershed or the coastal parts of the watershed. They're all linked and we're hoping to see increased and improved communication as a result of the partnership over the next year or so.

But as Roy mentioned the partnership is, there's an interest in expanding the partnership, getting increased representation, getting increased stakeholder engagement as well as a broader application of the piloted concepts of the different pilot spaces, that's where lessons are being learned.

There is an urban waters idea Web site where there are ideas that are being promoted, there's this little graphic, I'm not sure if you can see the mouse on the screen but its similar to the whole idea about you know how can we reduce the budget, what can we do better in urban areas or how can we more effectively improve body of urban waters. They're accepting different ideas...

Shawn Komlos: All right. So the idea Web site is more of a brainstorming area so that good ideas don't get lost in the mix. A lot of good ideas out there but the timing of the partnership is still fairly young and it's maturing and it's going to take some while to figure out how we can work best with one another.

So with that said there is an effort to try to distribute the leadership roles at pilot locations or to help maybe identify the best agencies for the more specific purposes at the different pilot locations.

And I see a question that's popped up from the Fort Worth District and I would refer this question probably to Roy. It's a question about if there was an ongoing study that wanted to tap into the resources for collaboration who should they call and who might be the, or you know, what would be the time and range in funding that they would need to think about in order to get those collaborative resources, those other agencies resources involved?

So I'm not sure if we have an answer but in terms of the contacts I would strongly recommend maybe contacting the Director of the Urban Waters Program for EPA and I will go ahead and maybe, you know promote that e-mail myself and forward that inquiry.

But it's, these types of questions I mean people just need to know that this partnership is out there and I mean it could be one of those things that grows on its own and takes on a life of it's own over time.

But this would be the question to ask, because a lot of the time the question, I mean the question's turned on it's head and you know how is it possible you guys should get the resources to be involved in some, in an action like this or a partnership like this when maybe the question should be you know how can

we effectively utilize and leverage the resources that this partnership can bring to the table.

So with that said I'll open it up for questions.

Courtney Chambers: Yeah that sounds great Shawn. Thank you. So please do remember if you want to ask it over the phone please unmute it so that we can hear you or feel free to type in your question.

Shawn Komlos: So silence means either, either everybody is wowed or floored by the opportunities that this partnership presents, or it's after lunch and everybody's hitting that sugar low, or it's a combination of both.

Or it's just that I think people are still struggling maybe with the concept of, you know what this partnership means for them in terms of how can, you know, what's the benefit for the resource, what's the benefit for the costs in terms of you know the priorities that each district has or each division has or that each agency has.

Courtney Chambers: Right. We can wait a few more seconds here to see if anybody else, oh hey there's one from Rock Island. Great. It says why isn't Fish and Wildlife involved in this partnership?

Shawn Komlos: Fish and Wildlife is involved. Department Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service the refuge system depending on the file location they do have involvement at different levels. So USGS is also involved, let me see here, Interior, yeah you know Interior as a whole is involved but each of the different bureaus depending on the locality is involved in differing extents.

Courtney Chambers: Great. Thank you.

Shawn Komlos: Okay. So the Corps, okay let me see the Corps' roles as a pilot site once again the Corps' roles have been fairly limited to existing, authorized and funded action as our projects, investigations, and basically contributing information to the different pilot leads.

So to me that's a baseline, that to me that's just about a, you know effective communication, and to you know just sharing of information, just that whole concept of I can't remember the term that was used for it but it's a force multiplier by sharing information we actually spark new ideas and maybe get the information into the hands of people that have the authority and the funds and the resources to act.

So in the case of the Anacostia study that was definitely the case and the case of L.A., Los Angeles, once again I believe that's definitely the case and the case of other locations once again it's about information, people can't act on information if they don't have it at their fingertips.

So first and foremost, I mean the partnership has been doing I think a much more effective job at getting that cross agency communication.

Courtney Chambers: All right. Philadelphia had a question; they said how do we get Urban Waters prioritized when OMB and others are comparing them to places like the Everglades for funding?

Shawn Komlos: That is a very good question and by the way I think the Phili district might be interested that there is a, there is definitely interest in, hey Roy are you still there?

Roy Simon: Yeah. Shawn the Phili folks need to tell us who can be contacted. There's already a discussion in the Philadelphia, Delaware River Basin area, you know even in the absence of being a pilot, between USDA and NOAA are already in discussion and would love to have the Army Corps folks in Philadelphia part of the discussion.

We would just need, you would just need a name of someone in Philadelphia who could send it to you and then you could send it to (Michael Rains) and (Michael Rains) would be happy to contact them to be part of the discussion.

Shawn Komlos: Yeah. So in terms of the direct question about OMB I think that's a question that's asked by everybody considering that this isn't really bringing new resources to the table but if I remember correctly in this year's budget guidance there was a request for highlighting, you know to what extent project or study, or activities were related to an inter agency priority. I think it was in the context of America's Great Outdoors but once again with Urban Waters and America's Great Outdoors being, overlapping significantly I'm not sure how it's treated by OMB but it's definitely been asked for, I mean they're asking the questions about how the different agency actions are linked to one another and whether or not they're linked to one another.

Courtney Chambers: All right. I received a, another question through the chat feature but I think it was sent only to me so I reposted it. It says that you mentioned rivers and lakes, what about urban creeks are those eligible? That was from (Debbie).

Shawn Komlos: Well in the case of Bronx and Harlem rivers I'm not sure if they, like I said not being there and I apologize if I offend anybody by this but I mean, the urban creeks, I mean to me they're urban waters and they're contributing to their tributaries to urban rivers and urban waterways.

This issue came up on some of the other pilots too where they're asking about actions that agencies might take in the headwaters, that improve the quality of the fish ability, the swim ability of waters that are flowing through urban corridors so there's been a lot of discussion about the watershed concept from a raindrop to faucet drop.

I think the big issue is if you can make a connection and a logical person can recognize what would be going on in that part of the watershed or that part of the stream system two benefits that accrue to urban communities, particularly those that are economically disadvantaged I think you're walking down a path that would get the attention of the Urban Waters Fertile Partnership.

Roy Simon: Shawn it's Roy. If you look at the slide that you had called Army Corps of Engineers and Engagement and you have this picture of the Anacostia River what you're going to see is there's a lot of creeks that are tributaries to the river, in fact they're actually identified right on the map.

At least five or six of the creeks are identified on the map and those are all part of this Urban Waters effort because they feed into the main stem of the river or into a tributary of the river or in fact the creek is a tributary of the river. So any of the activities near the water quality of the creeks as well as communities near those creeks are all part of the Urban Waters effort in the Anacostia, and would be so in any of the Urban Waters locations.

Shawn Komlos: All right. Two other questions popped up, I mean one of which is are there any socioeconomic criteria for qualification as a pilot? I think criteria is a strong word however once again the, I mean the focus of the partnership is on minority and economically disadvantaged urban communities.

So once again making that connection I think is a critical part of the partnerships or but as (Michael Rains) might suggest I mean it's, maybe growing broader than that about just effective water resources management, planning and planning of action and sort of action planning.

Roy Simon: Yeah this is Roy. So I mean if you look at the principles what you find is that when we're working for example in Denver on the South Platte River we're working from the headwaters down into the South Platte River as it goes into Denver and the low income community is in Denver for the most part. But there is efforts both in the low income community in terms of jobs, in terms of the quality of the river, in terms of projects related to both of those and then there are projects in the headwaters to try and increase the quality of the water as it goes down the South Platte River and becomes part of the Denver water system.

So the water system is involved mostly with cleaning up the water that comes from the headwaters but it supplies the water to the City. So it's the full range of the South Platte River from headwaters, which has less economically disadvantaged folks down into the City, which has more economically disadvantaged folks.

But all of that, all of that communities and all of the river is part of the Urban Waters effort so there needs to be some community involved that has economically disadvantaged, there is not specific numbers, housing conditions, social conditions, economic conditions but usually low income is usually the qualifications of the communities near the urban rivers in order for any project to be considered to get into this effort.

Shawn Komlos: Okay. So there's another question about is HUD involved in the partnership? And I would say yes, they are actually a member of the partnership.

Roy Simon: There is a HUD representative in each of the seven pilot locations that is participating, they're involved in different ways, sometimes housing projects are near these urban rivers or near the lakes and those housing projects include both the housing issues as well as the people in the housing that are part of this, that are part of this effort.

In some cases I think HUD's being very involved in Los Angeles and I think in New York in the Bronx, Harlem Rivers area I think they're less so involved in Denver at this point.

So and it'll depend on the, depend on where the location is and what kind of housing projects that HUD has or is thinking about in the future to the more ore less intensity of HUD's involvement, I know they're involved in Baltimore also.

Shawn Komlos: Yes.

Roy Simon: But they do have representatives on each of the local collaboration committees in all seven pilot locations and they're, and nationally they've been involved ever since the beginning, as well as Army Corps has been involved in terms of I think it's the Assistant Secretary Darcy and Rock Salt I think is her Deputy right Shawn?

Shawn Komlos: That is correct.

Roy Simon: And they have been involved from the very first day when we started April 6, 2010.

Shawn Komlos: So and with the respect to HUD's involvement I think that they're facing a similar issue that the Corps of Engineers and other agencies are likely to face and the question is you know where is there a role that can be served by the authorities, resources, and expertise of that specific agency?

And if a strong case can be made by you know by that specific pilot or locality, you know I've seen discussions occur, I mean just this is my own personal observation of the partnership and seeing how it works, I mean but I've heard discussions occur where the case is made and ultimately there's a strong justification for the involvement and the subsequent involvement of that agency at the given location. But the big thing is once again is if there's a role to be served and that's been, seems to be the trigger for involvement how is economic development work within the partnership and help justify a project?

I'm not sure I understand the true scope of the question but economic development or economic re-development and economic benefits that accrue to economically disadvantaged communities is one of the goals so when we're talking about improving the quality, character and recreation, recreate, fish-ability and swim-ability of the waters to me we're tiptoeing around a regional economic development.

So once again it is one of those factors of concern or that's of concern to the partnership. It may, these may be some of the elements of the partnership or activity that are targeted at the pilot locations that the Corps may have complications in participating in, but once again our local sponsors may have interest that could be served by other agencies that can bring resources to the table to implement some features that they would like to see on projects or at some of our project locations or study locations.

Roy Simon: Hi it's Roy again. The Forth Worth folks we have a person very involved in New Orleans but they work out of Dallas and if the folks in Fort Worth can send Shawn or me an e-mail we can hook you to the folks involved in Dallas, and they have projects they're thinking of in Port Arthur, Texas and a couple other places I think in Texas and they would be happy to hook you to a variety of the different cities.

There's a lot of cities that aren't necessarily part of the partnership right now but that do have multiple federal agencies working on urban waters related projects so there's a lot of opportunity even outside these pilot cities to get involved with other federal agencies.

And you know any of you want to be hooked to any of the leaders of any of these seven pilot locations you can send us an e-mail and we'll make sure you can communicate directly with them.

Shawn Komlos: And if nothing else I would just offer it might be worthwhile just even calling a pilot lead to find out what they've been through, to find out what it's like to be a pilot lead and to see if there are similarities for instance that you might be able to benefit from the pilot but then again they may be doing things to the pilot location that might help you with an ongoing study.

Roy Simon: Yeah. There's a question about economic development, we have the economic development administration involved from the Department of Commerce, they changed a little, a few of their criteria for grants, economic development grants to relate to urban waters activities so they're trying to do some targeting of their grant work to urban waters projects not necessarily only in the pilots but also in other towns.

So some of that economic development effort is adjusting to support this kind of work through the Economic Development Administration, there's other, a lot of other economic development projects, for example in New Orleans they are rebuilding a lighthouse that was announced and is I think it's described on UrbanWaters.gov for the New Orleans project that is a development project to redo a lighthouse that was brought down by Katrina I think.

And so that's sort of, that's a smaller project but it does have education benefits, they're going to make it into an education center and a museum and so that's a kind of an economic development project. And I think there's others, clearly L.A. has a whole list although they haven't implemented them yet but that's a big part of this effort.

Shawn Komlos: So there was another question from Fort Worth district about how do we quantify and justify unknown future economic development and with and without activity scenarios and this is where it, these pilot locations and these pilot activities differ from our, the Corps planning process so there isn't, there is no real work that's being done to identify future with and without project conditions or future with and without activity conditions.

There is an attempt to try to identify how the partnership is working, how effective is the partnership and how effective is the partnership to actually putting products on the ground that have outputs. So that's been kind of the, that's been an elusive end point that we're trying to get to in terms of coming up with a ways of measuring the effectiveness of the partnership in terms of collaboration and in terms of actions or impact on the ground.

So I don't want to say that the question isn't necessarily applicable to the pilots but it's not necessarily the same thing in terms of how we formally define what the without project condition is and what the with project

condition is. And I may be once again missing the backbone, I just, anybody from Forth Worth if you want to e-mail me directly I'll try to get you an answer to that question or maybe call you offline.

So the last question that I see up there is what are the funding sources for the chosen projects. And I'll defer that to Roy after saying that with respect to the Corps of Engineers it's basically what we've got. There have been no real or no new access to funds or financial resources other than the potential realignment to some of the grants of some of the agencies that have granting authorities. Roy?

Roy Simon: Yeah this is Roy, Roy Simon again. For me, for the, I mean for the lighthouse for example there was a combined set of funding between I think EPA, the City of New Orleans and actually FEMA, that is a sort of a partner in the New Orleans location pilot but not a national partner.

So there is a wide range of funding for that particular project. There are a variety of projects in the different locations that will be funded from money already appropriated federal, state, local and there may be state and local funds that will go to projects that the feds are not funding in a particular location that could've either started before this partnership, which was last year, but could come after this partner, you know as now part of the whole partnership effort.

So for any particular activity there could be either a variety of federal agencies, one federal agency, federal, state, local agencies or even private organizations. We're having discussions now with an organization out of the Department of Interior that may be able to pull federal funds as well as garner corporate funds for dealing with a variety of clean water projects, water

quality mostly restoration projects at rivers, lakes and creeks and other urban waters.

So there may be, I mean maybe we'll actually conclude this and we'll have a set of corporate money coming into this effort too so there's things afoot but nothing firm but we're all working on it.

Shawn Komlos: Yeah. So I mean so I mean all the agencies partnerships, I mean the Corps has partnerships with, you know with TNC and with NRCS and other agencies too and in terms of various MOUs and MOAs and I mean but this is one of those situations where there are actually you know, as Roy mentioned non-federal partners getting involved at the pilot locations wondering how they can contribute to seeing actions that are being, you know plans put into action.

So in terms of funds once again the federal agencies are kind of bound by what they've got but it is getting, I mean there is some traction among some of the stakeholder groups and other organizations who want to, who are basically coming to this as kind of like a light post, there's a light, there's a beacon at each of these different pilot locations and it seems to be sparking a lot of interest.

Roy Simon: So we've got a lot of beacons and lighthouses in this discussion.

Shawn Komlos: Yeah. Sorry, it's a navigation thing.

Courtney Chambers: I did have one other private note here that asked are other pilot sites not selected, listed on your Web site?

Shawn Komlos: I'm trying to recall, there may be, I think there were some, and depending on which Web site you're looking at I think there were a couple, I think there was one in Puerto Rico for instance, which was a possible site.

Like I said there were 26 original sites that were identified by the different agencies that were involved, however pursuit of actions at the different pilot sites was largely contingent upon having a lead agency or a willing leader, somebody who is funded or authorized to lead the activity and to see it move forward at the time.

Roy Simon: Shawn let me answer it a little broader, there's, there is an enormous amount of activity in a lot of communities and cities throughout the country that relates to urban waterways.

Some of that activity is funded and initiated through federal agency action; some of it is initiated and funded through state and local action. The EPA has been working to try and provide resources both financial and technical assistance through a wide range of activities, which is described I think for the most part on that EPA Web site that we put up earlier on one of the slides, I think it's EPA/UrbanWaters.gov, and that Web site has a lot more information on a lot of locations that EPA has been involved in through Urban Waters.

However a variety of the other agencies, Interior and Agriculture are you know are providing assistance and working in a variety of locations that are not part of this particular federal agency pilot effort that coordinates 11 to now potentially 13 agencies.

So there is this distinction between those locations that are pilots in the partnership and those locations that are working on Urban Waters issues outside of this partnership and we're not sure when all of that will be pulled

into one system, right now it's still all in formulating processes, but you will notice a lot of locations involved that are not yet part of this formal Urban Waters federal partnership.

Shawn Komlos: All right. So once again I'm trying to maybe close this up, it's rapidly approaching 3:00 but in terms of you know our actions on the ground and what we're trying to do to restore, I mean going back to the R&D program and initiatives that are, ecosystem restoration initiatives nationwide that the Corps is trying to pursue in urban corridors it's been very difficult sometimes to actually, to justify Corps involvement because of various other conditions maybe satisfied prior to the Corps or actually doing anything that would be justified or that would provide the ecological lift.

I would just offer that this is a huge opportunity to maybe look at those other agencies that might have a role in delivering some of those actions or might be able to help get those actions implemented to allow for a meaningful restoration to occur in addition to a lot of the other things that are going on in terms of discussions about ecosystem services and environmental justice and all the other facets.

I think once again the, the reason for this Webinar of actually being performed of ecosystem restoration Webinar series is because of its strong tie and a lot of outcries from the different districts in pursuing ecosystem restoration in urban corridors, which seems to be traditionally a very difficult road for the Corps of Engineers to travel.

Roy Simon: Shawn this is Roy. EPA thanks you very much for running this Webinar and we look forward to a lot more activity and working with the Army Corps on all of these efforts. Thank you again and thanks for inviting me to help out here today.

Shawn Komlos: Thank you all too. Thanks.

Courtney Chambers: Thanks Roy. And thank you Shawn for sharing today and thanks participants for joining us.

END