

National CWRP Annual Meeting
 Washington, DC
 June 6, 2012
 2:00-4:00 PM EST

Participants:

Pat Hester (National CWRP Chair), George Olson (National CWRP Vice-Chair), Frank Sweet (National CWRP Treasurer), Bill Hubbard (USACE-NERIT), John Bowie (USEPA), John Mackenzie (National CWRP), Virginia Tippie (Coastal America), Kameran Onley (National CWRP), Carli Bertrand (Coastal America), Andy Lipsky (RI CWRP), Russ Furnari (National CWRP), Barbara Ransom (CA CWRP), Tai Ming Chang (USEPA/FWS), Samantha Buckley (Coastal America), Mary Brandreth (USACE), Erika Ammann (NOAA)

- Pat Hester opened the CWRP 2012 annual meeting at 2:00 PM EST.
- **Review of accomplishments to-date:**
 John Mackenzie presented the 2012 CWRP Report which summarized CWRP performance as follows:

	1999 – 2009 (10 Year Report)	2010 -2011	1999 -2011
Total Projects	243	65 (1)	308 (1)
Wetland Restoration	99	6	105
River/Stream Restoration	66	6	72
Education	56	34	90
Research	17	13	30
Species Protection	5	6	11
Total Projects Cost	\$115,918,000	\$3,729,000	\$119,647,000
Total CWRP Investment	\$3,666,000	\$1,276,000 (2)	\$4,942,000 (2)
CWRP Cash Investment	\$2,238,000	\$1,248,000	\$3,486,000
CWRP In-kind Investment	\$1,428,000	\$28,000	\$1,456,000
Acres Restored/Protected	44,069	20,687	64,756
Stream Miles Restored/Protected	976	93	1,069
Students & Teachers Educated	2,588	510	3,098
Project Volunteers	810	-	810
Volunteer Partnership Management Hours	11,420	6,616	18,036

(1) Includes 22 Education & Outreach projects not captured in 10 Year Report

(2) Includes \$689,640 spent on Education & Outreach not captured in 10 Year Report

In addition, John asked that the MS members to approve a standard metrics report form for all projects and programs supported by the national CWRP and state chapters. Submittal of this form would be

required when requesting disbursement of funds or in-kind services. The Board approved the measure and John will distribute the metrics form to all MS members and state chapter corporate leads.

➤ **Collaboration With National Ocean Council**

On June 6, 2012, the National CWRP Executive Committee and several state chapter representatives met with the National Ocean Council (NOC) Director Deerin Babb-Brott and several of the NOC federal partners in Washington DC. NOC federal partners attending the meeting included the Department of Agriculture - NRCS, Department of Interior, Department of the Army for Civil Works, EPA & NOAA. Companies that attended the meeting included Spectra Energy, P&G, AECOM, The Nature Conservancy, EA Engineering, ConocoPhillips, Coca-Cola, & Blue Water Strategies.

Topics discussed at the meeting included:

- An overview of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Strategy and how does Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes restoration and CMSP fit with CWRP interests
- NOC federal partners perspective on the NOC/CWRP collaboration
- Discussion of several proposed projects including marine debris in Alaska and along the West Coast of the U.S., St. John River restoration projects in Maine, and several NRCS projects in Florida, Vermont, Maine , and the Mississippi River Basin.

The CWRP and NOC will meet again in July or August to finalize a forward strategy. George Olson asked “what can we do to help the NOC start taking action towards CWRP activities?” Andy Lipsky replied that CWRP is a good connection for the government to the business community and that the CWRP could provide a list of projects that they want to help support.

Tai Ming-Chang suggested that we target the major agencies and inform them about what the CWRP is/wants.

George Olson suggested that by making connections and appealing to the higher ups regionally, we could generate interest for projects in the region. He said that we should appeal to 5 core agencies and have them participate in CWRP meetings and activities and take part in action items in order to get them engaged. Two corporations should take the lead per region/state.

John Mackenzie noted that if federal agencies were mandated to participate in the Coastal America RITs more would be completed, it would be more efficient, and we could count on regular, not just voluntary ad hoc help. George Olson agreed, noting that we should appeal to the agencies – tell them that this is what projects you are going to do anyway, and use the CWRP to stretch your dollar. Suggested agencies should be required to show progress in partnerships.

It was suggested that Coastal America articulate several models of how the agencies have and can work with the CWRP to forward NOC objectives.

➤ **Administration Support**

The following concerns were raised regarding the recruitment and retention of corporate members and the future of the CWRP:

- In the Gulf, private companies are contributing funds but may not be involved with CWRP activities, how do we reach out to those companies?
- Does sitting in on the NIT/RIT meetings actually help move projects along?
- Will NOC/NOP get lost with election season?
- What is going to happen as a result for CWRP?

The National CWRP continues to talk with companies about taking the lead on regional projects. Not **titling** it with NOC/NOP but moving forward with CWRP and its partnership with CA as it stands, right now. J. MacKenzie noted that some companies are shying away from the NOP because of concerns with the policy, specifically CMSP.

It was suggested that the CWRP should recognize our champions in today's leadership: Eileen Sobeck (DOI), Sally Yozell (DOC), Rock Salt (USACE)...appeal on a regional federal level through them and engage their regional offices with a request for agency participation on state CWRP committees..

Kameran Only suggested that CWRP continue to make the case for long-term community benefits in restoration projects. Break down projects into priority by region. Which projects will have long term community benefits?

It was also suggested that the CWRP solicit letters of recognition, for our corporate members, from those agencies. Letters of recognition to corporate CEOs would go a long way in retaining existing members and would be an effective recruitment tool.

Funding of the National Committee operations as well as some national project support (see Alaska, Saint John and USDA projects) is critical to moving forward with CWRP creditability.

➤ **Status of State Chapters**

While many state chapters have maintained active and effective membership, others have struggled due to the poor economy. It is projected that 2012 & 2013 will be re-building years for the CWRP.

- The NY CWRP, under the leadership of Arcadis, has re-established their advisory board and will be in a position to support projects shortly.
- The National CWRP has agreed to focus its resources on helping the Alaska, California, and Virginia chapters get re-established.
- John Mackenzie will work with the RI, ME, & CT chapters to develop events focused on recruitment and retention.