SMART PLANNING TO SUPPORT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

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Former Feasibility Study Process

• Overly detailed, expensive & time-consuming.
• Detailed data generation for multiple alternatives was not consistently leading to a better product or decision.
• Reports were too long with too much technical detail.
• Sponsors, Congress and the Corps were increasingly frustrated with the situation.
• “Change or be Changed” situation or become irrelevant.
MG Walsh Memo (3x3x3)

- Introduces aggressive approach to **improve** feasibility study program management, performance, execution & delivery
- Establishes a **disciplined approach** for reducing current feasibility study portfolio
- Holds all Civil Works functional elements **responsible & accountable**
- Effective **8 Feb 2012**
- Applies to all planning studies with transition to new planning paradigm **by 2014**

3x3x3 Rule:
- $3M
- 3 years
- 3 levels of enhanced vertical teaming
- 100 page main reports (w/ appendices 3” binder)
The SMART Planning Feasibility Study Process

It is...

- **Specific**
- **Measurable**
- **Attainable**
- **Risk-Informed**
- **Timely**

- Studies completed in a more reasonable amount of time
  - Faster implementation to address flood risk
- Studies cost significantly less
- Decision documents high quality and concise
- Decisions informed by managing risk and acknowledging uncertainty
- Strong, viable Civil Works Project portfolio developed
SMART Planning

• Focuses on incremental decision making in a progressive 6-step planning process
  ▪ Identifies next decision to be made and manages uncertainty in making it
    ▪ Only collect data needed
    ▪ Make decision
    ▪ Move on to next decision
  ▪ Incorporates quality engineering, economics, real estate and environmental analysis
• Fully compliant with environmental law (NEPA, etc…)
• Includes public involvement
Feasibility Study Process

- Apply critical thinking throughout the study
- Focus on early identification of Federal interest
- Target Completion: No more than 3 years for Chief’s Report
What’s Different?

• Process is decision focused
  – Always making the next decision
  – Always scoping the decision after next

• Risk-informed

• Focus on making planning decisions under uncertainty
  – Managing uncertainty, hence budgets and schedules, intentionally
Flood Risk Management & SMART Planning

- Studies completed in less time at less cost
- Prioritizes data needed to make decisions
- Focuses on key areas of flood risk and associated uncertainties impacting life safety, property, environment
- Decisions informed by managing risk and acknowledging uncertainty
- Decision documents high quality and concise, enabling federal, state, and local action
Path Ahead

• Continue to communicate vertically and horizontally
• Engage with sponsors and stakeholders
• Coordinate with resource agencies at the national level
• SMART Planning Guide on www.corpsplanning.us
• Revisit guidance; incorporate feedback
• Evolve