

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES FUTURE

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this activity is to better understand how states are planning and managing water resources and to ultimately determine a more effective role for the federal government in support of state water planning and management initiatives. This enhanced understanding will be based upon documenting (1) the processes by which the states are undertaking water resources planning, (2) how states are managing water resources, (3) states efforts toward meeting future water needs, and (4) critical issues and obstacles states are facing in their water resources planning and management.

OUTLINE OF STATE SUMMARIES

The Corps' contractor, CDM, has been tasked with preparing a summary of state water planning and management activities. This is intended to be an objective summary of the state's activities and pertinent documentation. The following is an outline and topics that could be addressed in each state summary.

- **State/Regional Water Planning Status**
 - Is there a state water plan? What is the legislative basis for the plan? What are the key requirements?
- **Responsible State Agencies/Regional Entities**
 - What is the state/regional agency responsible for the plan? Are there multiple agencies? Provide contact information.
- **Water Management Vision and Goals**
 - Is there a published agency vision (missions, goals, objectives, strategies) for water resources?
- **Scope of Water Resources Planning and Management**
 - Planning process/framework (the WHAT are they doing? And HOW?)
 - Key external forces or trends impacting water resource
 - Key components of planning effort (water demand/supply assessments, water quality assessments, gap analyses, management strategies, etc.)
 - Key analytical tools/data support
 - Hot Spots/key issues
 - Challenges/uncertainties

- **Partnerships, Stakeholder, and Public Involvement**
 - Who are key partners in water resources planning?
 - What is the process for engaging partners?
- **Plan Implementation Strategy**
 - Are there goals or benchmarks?
 - Is there a timeline for periodic assessments or updates?
- **Outcomes Assessment Process**
 - Monitoring, Effectiveness of Process
- **References**

POTENTIAL INTERVIEW TOPICS --Interviewer may need to prioritize questions

After the summaries are completed, CDM will conduct follow-up interviews with key state points of contacts. These questions will be refined as the state summaries are completed. At that point, additional clarifying questions or questions of a more speculative nature may be asked during the interview.

The following are some general topics that may be addressed during the interview:

If the state has a comprehensive state water plan:

1. What is helping you most to implement your statewide water plan? What is handicapping you the most?
2. How do you know that you are making progress? How do you use this information?
3. Where are your greatest gaps between what you desire to achieve and what you are achieving?
4. What have been some of the impediments to developing a state water plan?

If the state has NO comprehensive or statewide water plan:

1. How do you plan for management of your water resources?
2. Do you desire to do comprehensive planning? Why or why not?
3. Where is the locus of control? Who has most responsibility for water resources planning?
4. What are some of the impediments to the development of a statewide or comprehensive water plan?

All Agencies:

5. Where are you currently putting your planning emphasis?
6. What/where are your major “hot spots”? Your greatest water resources needs?

7. If you had the resources, where would you put your emphasis?
8. What do you need to tackle your priority water resources needs?
9. What significant interstate water issues do you face?
10. How are you tackling regional water resources issues and needs? What are these issues and needs? [regional can mean watershed, river basin, coastal zone, or interstate]
11. How do you try to balance conflicting water needs (e.g., for water supply vs. for recreation or navigation)? To promote more integrated water resources planning and management (i.e., to balance multiple objectives with multi-stakeholder input to sustain the environment, economy, and quality of life)?¹
12. What prevents you from doing more integrated water resources management?
13. Have you considered climate change as a factor in your planning? If so, how? If not, why not?
14. What lessons have you learned in doing water resources planning?
15. What would you do differently and why?
16. Federal involvement in state water resource planning--How much involvement has the state had with federal agencies?
 - a. Which ones?
 - b. How would you characterize the relationship between your state and the federal government?
 - c. What role could or should the federal government play in supporting state water planning needs?
17. What should we know about your state that we have not asked?
18. Specific questions that came up from review of individual state water plans and related documents.

The interview notes and results (not a transcription) will also be incorporated as a separate section of the state summary and findings. After the completion of the interview and the incorporation of the interview notes, the Interviewer should provide the completed summary to the Interviewee. The Interviewee may provide specific comments on the "State Summary." These comments can be incorporated into the Summary, as appropriate. Also, Interviewee or other state agency comments on the Summary may be attached as an annex to the Summary.

1. Integrated water resources management is the practice of making decisions and taking actions while considering multiple viewpoints of how water should be managed. These decisions and actions relate to situations such as river basin planning, organization of task forces, planning of new capital facilities, controlling reservoir releases, regulating floodplains, and developing new laws and regulations. The need for multiple viewpoints is caused by competition for water and by complex institutional constraints. The decision-making process is often lengthy and involves many participants.