



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources

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USACE, Partners Explore Natural and Nature Based Project Features in Recent Meetings

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA. In support of the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study, the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) hosted a meeting November 20, 2013 to discuss policy challenges to using natural and nature-based coastal features for risk reduction and coastal resiliency.

The “Policy Challenges to Using Nature-Based & Green Coastal Features for Risk Reduction and Resiliency” meeting was one of several meetings aimed to inform the ongoing North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study.

The second meeting titled “Natural and Nature-Based Approaches to Support Coastal Resilience and Risk Reduction” was held on November 21-22, 2013 in Washington, D.C. The meetings support ongoing work of the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study to identify and support the development of a nature-based evaluation framework and aid in identifying natural and nature-based features that may be used in rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy.

Over 100 individuals from federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, engineering firms, and academic institutions participated in the meetings and breakout sessions that sought to determine the challenges and potential opportunities associated with implementing these solutions.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) staff from IWR, ERDC, USACE Headquarters, the North Atlantic Division, Baltimore District and New York District participated.

During the meetings, North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study leads Joe Vietri, Director, USACE National Planning Center of Expertise for Coastal Storm Risk Management (PCX-CSR); Roselle Henn, Deputy Director, USACE National Planning Center of Expertise for Coastal Storm Risk Management (PCX-CSR); and Amy Guise, Chief, Planning Division, USACE Baltimore District, welcomed attendees and reported on the ongoing progress of the NACCS.

Attendees listened to presentations on projects that have implemented natural and nature-based features and heard about tools to use in exploring new opportunities for incorporating these features into projects. Participants also participated in breakout sessions to identify policy and technical challenges and opportunities for implementing nature-based features.

IWR employee Paul Wagner and Todd Bridges of the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) are the project leaders for the multi-disciplinary team working on natural and nature-based features within the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study and were proponents for the meetings. Emily Vuxton, IWR, and Kara Reeve, National Wildlife Federation, organized the meetings.

Information discerned in these project meetings will be used to advance and support the work being conducted by the natural and nature based features and North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study teams.

Learn More

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