

jcline@bds.state.id.us
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To: Brig. Gen. Carl A. Strock

Subj: CORPS LISTENING SESSIONS

General:

I have a few comments about the working relationship between the Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services and the USACE. As you are aware, Idaho must work with the Corps through three different Corps Districts. This has been a frustrating, often counter-productive, process.

I am pleased that the Walla Walla District Management took the initiative to open up the Boise Field Office to support the state of Idaho. Boise is the strategic center where all of Idaho business is conducted. This office is helping to bring all levels of government together to serve all of the people of Idaho. LTC Wagenaar and his staff share our vision for a healthier, safer Idaho.

The Boise office has served as an excellent example of "One Door to the Corps", a concept I have been asking the Corps to implement for the past five years. Since the Boise office has been established, I have noticed that the Corps is working more closely with locals and other organizations who may have funding sources to help bring together all the resources necessary for project planning and execution. The Corps is working closely with a newly formed strategic planning group chaired by the Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services that is prioritizing flood control projects throughout the entire state.

Corps programs are complicated and often misunderstood by locals. The Boise office has made it a mission to ensure that state, local, and county representatives have a clear understanding of the programs.

Unfortunately, just when the office is being established, the cost share programs have become severely constrained. I have talked with Idaho congressionals about my deep concern with the limited funding available.

Another key concern I have is the ability for Idaho's rural communities to come up with their cost share amounts.

I have been impressed with the amount of energy that the Boise office brings. One is left with the impression that the resources of the three districts that represent Idaho is located here in Boise.

Like any new venture, there is a period when you have to wonder about its success potential. I believe strongly that the Corps has finally done the "right thing". It will produce the desired affects if you will give it the chance it deserves.

Sincerely,

John J. Cline, Director State of Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services