

THE CORPS, KATRINA & RESTORATION
CORPS REFORM NETWORK
ANNUAL MEETING
January 8 – 10, 2006
Doubletree Hotel, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Itinerary at a Glance:

- ◇ Arrive in Palm Beach: Saturday, January 7 or early Sunday, January 8.
- ◇ Corps Reform Network Annual Meeting, presentations and workshops at the Doubletree, starting Sunday at 12:00 PM
- ◇ Dinner at the beach, local Corps issues program -- Sunday at 4:30 PM.
- ◇ Continental breakfast, Monday at 7:30 AM
- ◇ Network Annual Meeting continues Monday, January 9, 8:30 AM to 12:15 PM
- ◇ Lunch and bus trip to Kissimmee - Depart at 12:30 PM.
- ◇ Kissimmee River Restoration project tour – 2:00 to 6 PM, Lunch on the bus, dinner on the way back. Return to hotel at 8:30 PM.
- ◇ Everglades Restoration Tour - Depart at 8:30 AM, Tuesday January 10. Breakfast on your own, lunch on the tour.
- ◇ Drop off at Palm Beach International Airport – Bus will arrive at airport at 4 PM, January 10 for those with return flights on Tuesday evening.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

(Doubletree Hotel, Palm Beach Gardens)

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

- 12:00 PM **Welcome, Introductions**
- *Manley Fuller, Florida Wildlife Federation*
 - *Melissa Samet (American Rivers) & Ted Heisel (Missouri Coalition for the Environment) Network Co-Chairs.*
- 12:15 PM **Talking About the Corps and Water Policy –Presentation & discussion**
- What are some of the challenges media face in covering the Corps? How can we sustain the attention being directed at water resource issues since Katrina and how can citizens be more effective working with the media?
- *Moderator - Lisa Swann, NWF, Communications Mgr*
 - *Michael Grunwald, Washington Post investigative reporter*
 - *Steve Ellis, Taxpayers for Common Sense*
 - *Terry Gibson, editor, Florida Sportsman & Shallow Water Angler*
- 1:30 PM ***Break***
- 1:45 PM **The Corps and Katrina – Lessons from the Gulf Coast - Panel Discussion**
- How did the policies and projects of the Corps and Congress in the lower Mississippi region contribute to the damage from the storm, and what can we learn from the disaster?
- *Moderator, Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation*
 - *Cyn Sarthou, Gulf Restoration Network*
 - *Pam Dashiell, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association*

- 2:45 **National Water Resource Policy After Katrina - Panel Discussion**
How should the nation's water resource agenda change in the wake of Katrina? Is the Corps the right agency to lead restoration? How do we capitalize on the public and media attention the Corps is getting to change national water policy?
- Moderator, Gerry Galloway, University of Maryland, Brigadier General, US Army Corps of Engineers (ret.)
 - Melissa Samet, American Rivers
 - Mark Wolf Armstrong, Restore America's Estuaries

- 4:00 **Adjourn for Dinner on the Beach**
Dinner will take place at a nearby beach. Terry Gibson (outdoor editor), Ericka D'Avanzo (Surfriders) and other local conservation leaders will provide a short tour and presentation about Southeast Florida resource issues, including the impacts of Corps beach sand pumping on reefs and beaches.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

- 7:30 AM **Continental Breakfast**

- 8:30 AM **Sharing the Wealth, Refining Our Strategies**
Network members and leaders have a wealth of experience – legal, science and economic - in dealing with Corps proposals. This will be a critical discussion of Network strategies for the coming year, and an opportunity for members to learn from each other on common challenges.
- Moderator, David Conrad, National Wildlife Federation

- 10:00 **Keynote Presentations:**
Reform and Restoration: What Will it Take to Change the National Agenda?
- Michael Davis, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of Defense

- 10:45 **Changing the Corps One 2 Million Acre Wetland Complex at a Time**
 - Senator Robert Smith, (R. New Hampshire, retired). Currently Board Chair, Everglades Foundation.

- 11:30 **On-the-Ground Lessons from Florida Restoration Projects**
 - Colonel Robert Carpenter, Jacksonville District, Corps of Engineers (invited)

12:15 BOARD THE BUS FOR KISSIMMEE – LUNCH EN ROUTE

MONDAY AFTERNOON TOUR: We will visit the Kissimmee River in south-central Florida. This joint project of the Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District is widely regarded as one of the most successful restoration efforts undertaken by the Corps. The project seeks to restore 43 miles of meandering river and 27,000 acres of wetlands. Lunch will be provided on the bus and there will be plenty of time to continue discussions from the meeting. We will stop for dinner on the way home. Return by 9 PM.

TUESDAY TOUR: BOARD THE BUS AT 8:30 AM! We will visit the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and several sites in the Everglades where we will learn about progress and challenges in the \$8 billion Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project. Though authorized by Congress in 2000, this massive project to save the rich and diverse habitat in Florida's "River of Grass," is struggling to get the funding promised, and to hold back development threatening to gobble up wetlands and groundwater storage and recharge areas essential for restoration. Lunch on the tour. The bus will stop at West Palm Beach airport at 4 PM for those with Tuesday evening flights, before returning to the hotel for those with flights on Wednesday.