



First-of-its-kind agreement signed by USACE, MWRD

The board of commissioners for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago holds a novelty check for \$33.8 million with Col. Aaron Reisinger, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Chicago District, following a signing ceremony, Jan. 31, 2019.

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District holds Business Opportunities Open House

The district hosted its second annual BOOH for companies interested in job opportunities with the district and others in the surrounding area

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USACE announces four Illinois coastal communities as recipient of beneficial use of dredged materials pilot project

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District celebrates National Engineers' Week

The district celebrated National Engineers' Week in the office, at partner schools

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CHICAGO

BREEZE

SAFETY OFFICE -

When it comes to electricity, it's best to play it smart

by Pete Flanagan, safety officer

My grandfather was never shy about paraphrasing Mothers just to prove a point. When I was about 8, he and I had a chat about electricity. Paraphrasing Francis Bacon, my grandfather warned that, "Electricity is a wonderful servant but a terrible master." Of course I didn't take much stock in what he said – primarily because I had only witnessed electricity in the role of servant. Undeterred, my skepticism was quickly reversed the first time I stuck a pair of scissors into a wall outlet and thereby daring electricity to exercise its authority.

Grandfathers the world over have certainly preached to many a grandchild about ceding control to electricity. On top of that, governing bodies have issued countless safety standards on electrical generation and distribution and have penned countless additional standards on protecting end users from wayward current. Nevertheless, over 300,000 persons in the U.S. receive non-occupational shocks annually. An additional 300 or so die every year as the result of their ill-fated encounters with household electricity. It's a safe bet that few of these victims understood the risks associated with whatever actions led up to their being shocked.

The dangers of electricity are not easily understood because electricity cannot be seen – for it has no corporal dimension. Electricity is much like a keg of beer. A keg of beer serves no useful purpose until it is tapped, at which time its benefits to society will be readily appreciated. Like beer, electricity has only has the potential for good until it is allowed to flow. As electricity flows, various laws of physics cause flowing electricity to generate heat, light, and mechanical energy. As long as electricity flows where it's intended to flow, all is right with the world. However, when electricity is allow to follow its own mind, trouble is in the works – especially if electricity flows through a human body.

Flowing electricity may injure the human body in several ways. Smaller amounts of current may disrupt the nervous system, which is why people shudder when they are being shocked. If electricity passes through the heart, it may cause irregular beats or even stop the heart from functioning altogether. Larger amounts of electricity passing through the body generate heat along the path the current travels. At lower levels, this heat can cause blood clots that could migrate to the brain, lungs, heart or other vital organs. Even higher current levels

will cause muscles to cook and blood to gel or even boil. At very high current levels, the body will be reduced to cinders in a matter of seconds. Such is reality when electricity is allowed to take control.

Ignorance is probably the chief underlying cause of most household electrocutions. Although this ignorance manifests itself in various ways, the outcome is always the same – death or serious injury. Below are some key examples of electrically-ignorant behavior.

Working on Energized Equipment. This mistake speaks for itself. Yet, government sources indicate that over 60 citizens a year are killed when they try to repair home appliances or electrical circuits without first shutting the power off and/or unplugging the appliance. Touching a "hot" terminal on an energized appliance or component while touching a grounded surface spells death or serious injury.

Playing "Electrician." For most household repair projects, do-it-yourself'ers are afforded a great deal of latitude when it comes to the quality of the work they do. Unfortunately for many, this is not the case when making repairs or modifications to the home's electrical system or electrical equipment. There is little room for error when wiring outlets, switches and other electrical devices. A small mistake could result in a shock, electrocution, or even spark and electrical fire. Unless a homeowner is well trained in electrical circuits, he or she should leave home wiring projects to professionals.

Disabling or Replacing GFCIs. Experts estimate that, over the past 20 years, wide spread use of Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) has reduced the number of residential electrocutions by 50%. However, some people believe that GFCIs are a nuisance because they "trip" frequently and so they replace the GFCIs with unprotected receptacles. If a ground fault does occur with an appliance such as a vacuum cleaner, hair dryer, or other device plugged into an unprotected outlet, the user may get shocked – especially if contact is made with a wet floor. All outlets in bathrooms, kitchens, basements, and outdoors should be protected by GFCIs. The following clip shows how quickly and unprotected receptacle may lead to tragedy (Not for sensitive viewers). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYrQyyvb04>

Removal of Grounding Prongs. Willfully removing the ground prongs from an electrical plug is just asking

for trouble – especially with devices having a steel case or chassis. The ground plug provides a pathway to ground in the event that something goes wrong while the device is energized. With the ground prong removed, the GFCI cannot protect the user should a fault develop within the appliance. Should a ground fault develop in a device where the ground was defeated, fault current will often flow through the operator with disastrous results.

Defeating Polarized Plugs. Most readers have experienced the annoyance of twisting and turning electrical plugs that just won't "go in." The "problem" is that one of the plug's prongs is wider than the other and the wall sockets are designed to accept plugs only when the wide prong is oriented to go in the wide slot. For most people, solving the problem of these polarized plugs is just a matter of twisting and turning the plug until it fits in the sockets. For other folks, doing it the right way takes too much patience, so they either file down the wider prong or they replace the polarized plug with a non-polarized plug. This is a very dangerous practice. Let's use a toaster for example. When switched "off," a properly wired toaster with a polarized plug is not energized. When switched "on," the properly wired toaster will allow current to flow into the device and toast your bread. In the case of an improperly-wired toaster with the plug polarity reversed, the toaster actually becomes energized whenever it is plugged in. When the toaster is switched "on," the current will flow out of the device and your bread will be toasted. The problem is that if you touch the kitchen sink faucet and the improperly wired toaster at the same time, you could be electrocuted. Again, another example of why it is a bad idea to alter the original configuration of an electrical appliance.

Those are just five of many ways a homeowner can get into trouble with electricity. The best way to avoid risk of shock or electrocution is to utilize appliances in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines and relying on professionals to do electrical work in the home. That way, electricity will always be your useful servant.

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Commander's Column

Chicago District, retirees, friends and stakeholders,

I remain extremely proud of being a member of a World-Class Organization and doing everything in my power to retain that distinction. One way that we do that is to ensure that we consistently recognize and thank our team members for all that they do, every day, to protect and leverage our vital national resources.

Since our last publication, we have recognized some of the top performers in the District. In January, we named Kristine Meyer as our Employee of the Month for her incredible H&H engineering efforts to support many critical projects. In February, we honored Frank Veraldi, from Planning, for his extensive efforts implementing so many ecosystem restoration and NEPA projects.

In March, we named Mario Majewski, from the Chicago Lock, for going above and beyond every day to keep that critical facility in top shape. Most recently, we named Colin Smalley from Regulatory as the April awardee. Colin has made a tremendous impact on policies and systems since joining the team last fall.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to two of our top leaders in the next two months. Gail Mazzola, our Resource Management chief, is leaving the District for retirement at the end of June. She is as good as it gets. We are also saying goodbye to our Deputy District Engineer, Katarzyna

Chelkowska-Risley, as she joins the team in Cincinnati. Nobody has worked harder to help improve the District. We wish them both the very best.

To help sustain our World-Class Organization, we recently hired a work force manager, Julie Rimbault, to better manage, synchronize and implement our staff planning, recruiting, hiring, in-processing and training of our team. We are also building more effective recruiting and hiring teams and identifying a wellness coordinator to enhance our physical and emotional strength.

We also designated Stasi Brown, from Regulatory, as the District's Victim Advocate to support our efforts to keep our work place free of harassment and assault. She is making a great difference helping to inform and educate our workforce. Each of us know that it is our responsibility to sustain a healthy work environment. These are the things that great organizations do to fully realize each person's full potential.

We believe that fulfilling everyone's potential is the best way that we will deliver on the incredible work that we have ongoing. And we have a lot ongoing;

In January we signed a project partnership agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to complete Phase Two of the McCook Reservoir Project. MWRD now has the funding to complete the project with federal funds under authority of Section 1043 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.

Under another pilot program, the materials dredged from Waukegan Harbor, Illinois, will soon be used to provide public beach protection at six sites in four Illinois coastal communities.

In Gary, Indiana, we broke ground on a sewer improvement project for more than 16,600 feet of sewers under Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended.

We just finalized an agreement with Galveston District to provide about 30 full-time employees of engineering

support over the next two years. This equates to full time work for 10-15 people per year for the next two years. This is a huge win and a project that will require incredible grit and skill to complete.

Our team has put the final touches on the Great Lakes & Mississippi River Interbasin Study - Brandon Road report, and wait on the Chief to sign and submit to Congress. Some folks in the District have worked on the Asian Carp problem set for nearly 20 years. This is just another huge accomplishment!

We have to be really proud of the efforts that our barrier and lock teams have made in the past few months. Our Barrier team has completed extensive repairs and upgrades that will guarantee the right power in the water!

The lock team just finished a major repair to keep the lock functioning at full capacity as we get deep into boating season. Our teams at these facilities don't get a lot of limelight but I can't emphasize enough how important each of you are to our mission!

I had a great visit recently with our construction branch out at Hines VA hospital, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, and Forest View Levee projects. They are bringing great value our veterans and our communities. I'm really proud of our construction team.

I was recently in California meeting with our sponsors and other stakeholders on the Westminster flood risk management project. This is about a \$1.5 billion project that we are developing with our partners. Our team is setting new standards on this project as we innovate and find new ways to maximize benefits and minimize costs.

We held public meetings for our plan to maintain our ability to dredge in Calumet Harbor. The project team has done a really incredible job remaining flexible and responsive to serious public concerns. I believe we have done a very good job trying to balance public concern with completing our mission.

We are Building Strong and Taking Care of People!



The board of commissioners for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and Col. Aaron Reisinger pose after the Jan. 31 project partnership agreement signing ceremony.

First-of-its-kind agreement signed by USACE, MWRD to complete vital infrastructure project

by Patrick Bray, chief, Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District signed a project partnership agreement allowing the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to receive \$33.8 million in federal funds Jan. 31.

Acting on behalf of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, R.D. James, this first-of-its-kind agreement allows the Chicago District to transfer funds to MWRD for the federal share of stage two of the McCook Reservoir combined sewage overflow project.

“We want to implement this pilot program with an organization that has the engineering, leadership, management and resources necessary to see this through. That organization is MWRD and the professionals that work there,” said Col. Aaron Reisinger, commander and district engineer of the Corps’ Chicago District.

The project partnership agreement was approved by the MWRD board of commissioners Jan. 24, which lead to the official signing Jan. 31. The transfer of funds happened immediately thereafter

under authority of Section 1043 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, which allows federal funds to transfer through the Corps to local sponsors for authorized projects.

“We thank the Chicago District for believing in the MWRD and the significance of this meaningful project that will help us protect our water environment and mitigate area flooding through the completion of the McCook Reservoir,” said Kari Steele, president of the board of commissioners at MWRD.

The McCook Reservoir project is part of Chicago’s Tunnel and Reservoir Plan that reduces water pollution by holding raw sewage in a reservoir until it can be treated – sewage that otherwise could have flooded into streams and rivers during heavy rain events when treatment facilities are overburdened. Stage one can hold 3.5 billion gallons of combined sewage overflow and stage two will hold an additional 6.5 billion gallons when it goes into service in 2029.

Both USACE and the federal government remain fully committed

to the completion of stage two of the McCook Reservoir project. In this next stage, the Corps will ensure that the funding is used for the federal purpose and that the quality meets federal standards. An amount of \$880,000 was retained by the Corps from the authorized total amount in the fiscal year 2018 work plan to oversee the project as it is built.

“Stage two of the reservoir is not yet complete and that is why we are here today,” said project manager Mike Padilla at the signing ceremony. “Together the Corps and MWRD will draft a project management plan that will set out all of the components of the project and schedule and we will work together to approve plans and specifications.”

Stage two completion activities include control of seepage from stage one to stage two during the period of performance; rock wall stabilization; rock wall and slope monitoring instrumentation; completion of inter-stage connecting tunnels; installation of an aeration system; and access improvements.

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Officials sign the project partnership agreement, Jan. 31.

“It is great to know that funds to complete the reservoir have been secured and will be transferred to MWRD,” said Padilla. “Until now there was great uncertainty if federal funds would be available to finish the project.” Construction began on stage one of the McCook reservoir in 1999 and completed in 2017.

“The McCook reservoir is a nationally significant engineering marvel. There are many unique things about the design and construction of the project itself that made it especially challenging,”

said Reisinger during the ribbon cutting ceremony for stage one in December 2017. “As we understand, there is nothing quite like it in the world.”

As if to showcase the monumental achievement of USACE and MWRD, following stage one becoming operational on Jan. 1, 2018, the reservoir was put to the test when a storm event in February 2018 filled the reservoir to capacity. The reservoir performed as designed and prevented an estimated \$30 million in flood damages in its debut performance. It is estimated that throughout 2018 the

McCook reservoir saved approximately \$144 million in combined sewage overflow damages.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District has partnered with MWRD on the reservoirs of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan since 1976 when the Corps’ Chief of Engineers recommended that the Chicagoland Underflow Plan be accomplished under the Corps’ flood control program. This plan eventually led up to the construction of the McCook reservoir.

The Chicago District’s mission focuses on flood risk management and storm damage reduction, navigation, environment, regulatory, emergency management, and interagency and international services in the Chicago metropolitan area, an area of about 5,000 square miles with a population of more than nine million.



McCook Reservoir.



Monica Ott and Damian Allen, Operations Technical Support Section, talk navigation to a BOOH participant.

Businesses learn more about federal opportunities during open house

by Vanessa Villarreal, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District hosted its second annual Business Opportunities Open House Feb. 20 for companies interested in job opportunities with the district and others in the surrounding area.

"It's an honor to meet you and make some connections and talk about doing business," Col. Aaron Reisinger, commander, USACE Chicago District, said. "Today is about building partnerships and gaining a common understanding. So please ask questions. We want more bids on our projects to support a greater array in our region. We want you to understand the Corps and enjoy working with the Corps. We are Chicago District but we represent the entire Corps and we want to work with you."

About 125 business leaders attended the event at the Chicago District's headquarters on South La Salle St. The Corps set up tables around the room

where businesses could meet experts in construction, safety, civil, mechanical, electrical, structural, interagency and international services, public affairs, emergency management, contracting, and small business.

The purpose of the event is to provide direct access to leadership and to Corps officials most knowledgeable about the district's operations, missions, and future requirements. The Chicago District's mission focuses on flood risk management and storm damage reduction, navigation, environment, regulatory, emergency management, and interagency and international services. It's one of seven districts that comprise the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. Its other districts include Buffalo, Detroit, Huntington, Louisville, Nashville, and Pittsburgh.

"I love coming here," Donald Pellico, business opportunities specialist from the Small Business Administration, said.

"I meet a lot of interesting people. It's cozy enough where you can form a good conversation. And the Corps is trying to be helpful. These are very sincere interactions. It's real. Not fake. We love coming here and my firms who come here brag about coming here."

The participants had three hours to get to know Chicago District personnel, and early feedback indicates many took full advantage of the opportunity of the free-flow of information. The majority were from the state of Illinois followed by Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, and Wisconsin with a good mixture of small, other-than-small, service-disabled, women-owned, 8(a) small disadvantaged, and veteran-owned small businesses.

"We need to attend events like this to look at what opportunities are upcoming," said Dave Krueger of Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc. in Morton Grove. "It's a way to communicate. I'm here

(continued on next page)

to tell people about EMT, a DOD-certified testing lab. Not only are we DOD certified, but we are also a Service-Disabled-Veteran-Owned Small Business. There is a heightened awareness of SDVOSBs and a highlighted outreach. It gets us a seat at the table but it doesn't guarantee success. But it gives us a chance to compete and that's what we're looking for. A chance to compete."

Michelle Williams, deputy for Small Business, encouraged everyone to continue to attend outreach events like this, and to monitor the district's (www.lrc.usace.army.mil) and Federal Business Opportunities websites (www.fbo.gov).

"The event was successful and we had a great turnout for the BOOH," Williams said. "I hope that individuals learn more about working with the Corps, and about the current opportunities that we have."



Phil Stavrides, chief, Construction Branch, talks construction with a guest.

District celebrates Black History Month



The Chicago District played Family Feud and Name that Tune: Motown Style, Feb. 19, to celebrate Black History Month.

The district's Special Emphasis Program conducted the event to include prizes with light refreshments.





Waukegan Harbor.

USACE announces four Illinois coastal communities as recipient of beneficial use of dredged materials pilot project

by Patrick Bray, chief, Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced in December 2018 that four Illinois communities will be the recipient of a very competitive USACE pilot program for the beneficial use of dredged materials.

The coastal communities of Evanston, Glencoe, Lake Bluff, and North Chicago, together, will be one of 10 recipients. The pilot program was established under the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, Section 1122, which requires the Corps to recommend 10 projects for the beneficial use of dredged material. Ninety-five proposals were received nationwide from Feb. 8, 2018, to March 11, 2018. Under the pilot program, the materials dredged from Waukegan Harbor, Illinois, will be used to provide public beach protection to the four Illinois coastal communities.

“Erosion is a real concern and this assistance is a positive step forward to restoring public beaches and promoting erosion control,” said Ron Salski, executive director of the Lake Bluff Park District.

The dredged material from the Waukegan Harbor will be placed onshore to protect 54,560 yards of shoreline at six sites: Sunset Park and Beach in Lake Bluff; Foss Park in North Chicago; Glencoe Beach in Glencoe; and Dog Beach, Greenwood Street Beach, and Lee Street Beach in Evanston. The project will also support planting of trees, shrubs,

and grasses in all four communities that reduce shoreline and bluff erosion and enhance these habitats. These plantings will help dredged material to stay in place and ensure more lasting ecosystem benefits.

“The Chicago District looks forward to working with the four partner communities through this Section 1122 pilot project effort and through continued participation in the Illinois Sand Management Working Group,” said Alex Hoxsie, a USACE planner with the Chicago District. “The products of these collaborative and innovative approaches to shoreline management are likely to increase coastal resiliency in Illinois and benefit to the Corps’ shoreline protection and ecosystem restoration mission areas.”

The Chicago District currently maintains a positive working relationship with these communities through participation in the Illinois Sand Management Working Group, an initiative led by Illinois Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Program. Dating back to 2015, the Illinois Sand Management Working Group is a network of elected officials and leaders from federal, state, and local organizations who collaborate on regionally-impactful and tangible approaches to public shoreline management.

“Intergovernmental agreements and collaboration are essential strategies to

achieve goals and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Management Program are incredible partners and supporters. These agencies should be recognized and commended for their hard work and teamwork,” said Salski.

This proposal for the beneficial use of dredged materials came as a result of conversations and the critical relationships built through the Illinois Sand Management Working Group.

“Thanks to the strong commitment of this partnership network, the Illinois Sand Management Working Group creates the foundation that makes our shared successes in improved public shoreline management possible,” said Diane Tecic, program director of the Coastal Management Program. “The Coastal Management Program is thrilled that our facilitation and support of this network has led to such a meaningful opportunity for our state. Our close collaboration with USACE through this network is such a critical component of all of our efforts to build more resilient coastal communities in Illinois.”

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Commander Col. Aaron Reisinger talks WkRP at a district town hall meeting, March 19.

Workforce Readiness Program (WkRP) = taking care of people

The Chicago District Workforce Readiness Program is one way that the district is a world-class organization. WkRP focuses on the in-processing and onboarding of employees as well as USACE's Ready and Resilient Campaign. The program was developed to expand on the "Building Strong and Taking Care of People" aspect of Maj. Gen. Toy's DRIVE initiative - develop future talent, refine internal management, improve regional processes, value open communication and empower multidisciplinary teams. Whether you are just starting at the Corps or have been with the Chicago District for a while, WkRP is here to provide you with multiple opportunities to interact with your fellow colleagues.

The Chicago District has focused on the in-processing portion of a new employee's journey to the Corps by making sure that cubicles are stocked and ready with everything a person should need to work efficiently including a chair, phone, laptop, and various face charts to start to recognize members of their team. A Supervisor Checklist

was created to help supervisors make sure that all background processes are completed in a timely manner before an employee arrives so that they can receive their common access card on the first day and start to immerse themselves in training and projects. A sponsor is also assigned to help guide their new colleague through transitioning to the Chicago area as well as into the Army Corps family. Sponsorship enables a new employee the opportunity to ask questions about areas to live, school districts for children, places to shop, etc., while also providing someone to explain the processes in the District.

Onboarding involves navigating all the programs, processes, and networks to efficiently familiarize a new employee to the district itself. This includes items like CEFMS funding, travel, vouchers, timekeeping, ACE-IT, fleet vehicles, printer setup, etc. Many new employee guides have been developed to help navigate these tasks. The Chicago District Mentoring Program also offers an avenue for all employees to gain a mentor to help with career questions, networking, and

training opportunities.

Onboarding is a team effort and everyone can help a new employee adjust to work life in the Chicago District by answering questions and helping each other learn.

The Ready and Resilient Campaign provides programs such as Coffee with the Commander, Engineer Day, Employee Association activities, and learn-to-lead presentations to create a platform for employees to interact with colleagues and leadership. The diverse array of activities allows the workforce to participate in events related to safety, health and wellness, and recreation. Other events are included in National Engineers' Week, Women's History Month, Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and others.

All of these initiatives enable the Chicago District opportunities to interact with each other outside of just projects and enable the sharing of ideas. Overall, the Chicago District strives to make this a workplace to be comfortable working in and transitioning into through the Workforce Readiness Program.



Feb. 19, Faye Leffler, civil engineer, speaks to a group of juniors and seniors at our partner school, St. Laurence High School, about the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its engineering feats, the district's mission and key projects, and what it's like working as a full-time engineer.

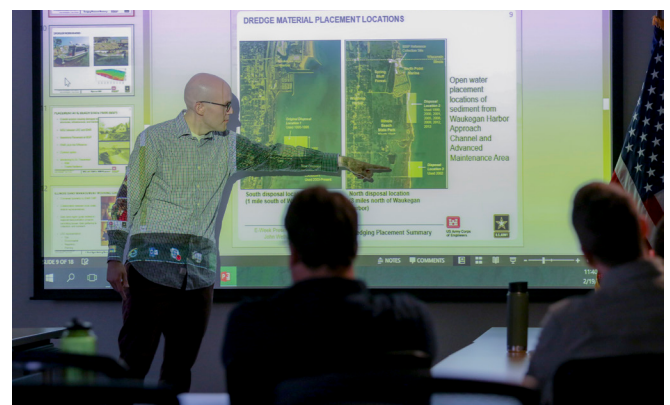
District celebrates National Engineers' Week in office, at partner schools



Feb. 21, Natalie Mills, civil engineer, speaks to students at our partner school, Dixon Elementary, about college and her experience as an engineer at the Corps. Here, she highlights teamwork and communication while working with groups on a bridge-building exercise.



Feb. 22, the Chicago District concluded National Engineers' Week with a competition to construct a tower in 20 minutes using spaghetti and a marshmallows. The architectural firm of "Hayden, Paluch and Spurlock and Associates" was determined to be the winner.



John Wethington, Planning Branch, gives a technical presentation about the background and progress of the Waukegan Harbor Continuing Authorities Program 107 study to address navigation issues in the approach channel and outer harbor.



A communication skills practice exercise at LDP Session 2 in Chicago.

LDPII in full swing with team building, group projects

by Julie Rimbault and Carin Frank, LDPII Chicago Steering Committee

The Great Lakes Leadership Development Program (LDPII) got into full swing in February. Justin Bennett (Resource Management), Brielle Cummings (Regulatory), Chris Giacalone (Technical Design), Alex Hoxsie (Planning), and Kaitlyn Pascus (Regulatory) are this year's Chicago participants. The group attended the first in-person session in Detroit in February, where they met their Detroit District (LRE) and Buffalo District (LRB) cohort, engaged in a week of team building, problem solving, and conflict resolution exercises, and met with LRE

senior leadership. As you can see in the picture, above it is a long week of being outside your comfort zone and thinking outside the box to solve a problem!

The LDPII cohort recently completed the second session, hosted here in Chicago. This session, facilitated by the Laugh Out Loud Comedy Group, focused on communication: formal presentations, ice-breakers, body language, and much more! Being an effective communicator is critical to being an effective leader, and the LDPII group is well on their way to that.

The LDPII program is designed

to develop future leaders through mentorship, team building, refining effective communication skills, learning conflict resolution, and internal reflection. So far, the Chicago District (LRC) participants have completed a personality assessment, attended learn-to-lead lunch and learn sessions, and - drum roll - are planning the LRC Engineer Day picnic on June 21. Throughout the rest of the program, the LRC crew have two projects: a "Make a Difference Project" focusing on how to improve something in their section, branch, or the district; and a group project, "Discovering the Unknown," to leverage little-known tools throughout the Corps to support the DRIVE and WkRP initiatives. Participants get to interview a leader of their choosing, and read a book on leadership. Finally, they will attend one final in person session: Continuing Professional Development in LRB.

Interested in LDPII? Contact Julie Rimbault or Carin Frank for questions on how to apply for next year's program!



A problem-solving exercise at Session I, Feb. 26, 2019.



SCENE ABOUT TOWN

Black-Engineer-of-the-Year awards, STEM conference



Feb. 7 to 9, the district participated in the 33rd Annual Black-Engineer-of-the-Year Awards (BEYA) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Conference in Washington, D.C. District Commander Col. Aaron Reisinger and Civil Engineer Natalie Mills shared their career experiences with attendees, highlighted USACE's engineering contributions to the nation, and accepted resumes. The conference is an annual celebration honoring scientists and engineers who are the best in their fields. Attendees also participated in STEM-related seminars and workshops.

Pictured at left, the group takes a moment to take snap a photo with Commanding General and Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite. From left, Col. Reisinger; Armoni Towner, student; Lt. Gen. Semonite; Taylor Hawkins, student; and Mills.

Regulatory training class



Colin Smalley, project manager in the Regulatory Branch, attended and participated in a Regulatory training class last week in Atlanta, Georgia.

Pictured here (second from right), Smalley instructs Corps Regulatory staff from the Savannah and Jacksonville districts on field identification of the Corps' jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Jersey Day



Jan. 29, the district showed its team spirit during a Jersey Day.

Chicago Maritime Industry Day



Tyrone Valley, Chicago Harbor lockmaster, presents at the annual International Shipmasters Association Industry Day, Feb. 21.

OSHA training



Engineers Brian Kootstra (l) assists Kirk Wallace, both from the district's Calumet Area Office, with donning personal protective equipment during a recent 8-Hour HAZWOPER Refresher Course. The training is required of all employees working in environments containing hazardous contaminants.

Denim Day



April 25, the district showed its commitment to Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAAPM) during a Denim Day.