

**MINUTES
of the
JOINT COMMITTEE
DoubleTree San Pedro
San Pedro, CA**

September 25, 2025

Table of Contents

Summary4

Updates on Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations4

NASA-ISRO NISAR Mission7

Committee Reports and Recommendations10

Approval of Minutes11

Staff Updates11

Other Matters13

**MINUTES
of the
JOINT COMMITTEE
DoubleTree San Pedro
San Pedro, CA**

September 25, 2025

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT (*virtually*)

ALASKA	--
ARIZONA	<i>Trevor Baggione Ayesha Vohra</i>
CALIFORNIA	Jeanine Jones Joaquin Esquivel
COLORADO	<i>Lauren Ris</i>
IDAHO	Mat Weaver John Simpson
KANSAS	Chris Beightel Earl Lewis Connie Owen
MONTANA	Anna Pakenham Stevenson
NEBRASKA	Justin Lavene <i>Jesse Bradley</i>
NEVADA	Cathy Erskine Jennifer Carr <i>Adam Sullivan</i>
NEW MEXICO	<i>John Rhoderick Tanya Trujillo</i>
NORTH DAKOTA	Jennifer Verleger
OKLAHOMA	Julie Cunningham Sara Gibson Robert Singletary

OREGON	<i>Doug Woodcock</i>
SOUTH DAKOTA	Nakaila Steen
TEXAS	<i>Brooke Paup</i>
UTAH	Candice Hasenyager Mark Stratford <i>Teresa Wilhelmsen</i>
WASHINGTON	Ria Berns <i>Leslie Connelly</i>
WYOMING	Jennifer Zygmunt <i>Jeff Cowley</i>

GUESTS

Jake Mohrmann, Montana DNRC
Elizabeth Ossowski, NOAA/NIDIS
Cathleen Jones, Jet Propulsion Laboratory
John Dupnik, Texas Water Development Board
Kerry Niemann, Texas Water Development Board
Ann Farris, Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality
Trent Blomberg, Arizona Department of Water Resources
William Carr, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Cary Talbot, U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center
Matt Manning, Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment

WESTFAST

Travis Yonts, Bureau of Reclamation
Chad Abel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jason Olive, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Christopher Carlson, USDA Forest Service
Paula Cutillo, Bureau of Land Management
Roger Gorke, Environmental Protection Agency

STAFF

J.D. Strong
Tony Willardson (former Executive Director)

Michelle Bushman
Elyse Campbell

SUMMARY

The WSWC San Pedro, California meetings marked a shift in format. Cary Talbot offered a virtual presentation about Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO). Cathleen Jones spoke in person about data from the recently launched NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR). The Council then broke into its three working committees: Water Resources, Water Quality, and Legal. Each committee concurrently worked on the sunsetting positions, wordsmithing positions as needed. Following the breakout session, the Committee chairs reported back on any recommendations for their respective policy positions, and any other business conducted. Those recommendations were forwarded to the Full Council for a final vote on Friday morning.

UPDATES ON FORECAST INFORMED RESERVOIR OPERATIONS

Cary Talbot is the National Lead for the FIRO Program Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory, U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center (ERDC). The National Lead position is new, and reflects the significance of this work to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).¹

The Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) program is a research and development effort initiated in 2015 to safely integrate advanced weather and hydrological forecasts into official water control manual updates and practices. The overarching goal of FIRO is to use this enhanced information to find a better balance among a reservoir's competing purposes—such as flood risk management, water supply, hydropower, and recreation—without negatively impacting safety or other authorized benefits. The program has gained significant momentum and high-level support, with the Army regulation governing water control management updated in 2016 to allow the use of forecasted conditions within certain limits,² but did not include implementation methods. This initiative was further reinforced by the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2024, which mandated that the Corps must assess and incorporate FIRO "to the maximum extent practicable" whenever water control manuals are updated, and to assess the opportunity to expand FIRO to geographically diverse reservoirs.

¹ Mr. Adam Telle, the new Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and the Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Graham, recently testified before the House Energy and Water Subcommittee. Both made statements about FIRO. Mr. Telle noted: "We can make the pie bigger, in terms of water supply [...], if we're willing to do what it takes to optimize the use of the reservoirs [...] in the form of water control manuals using FIRO." LTG Graham added: "We want to deploy [FIRO] throughout the country [...] wringing every ounce of value we can from these facilities. If this different way of looking at managing water is applicable, we absolutely want to apply it." There is significant momentum behind FIRO implementation. I can confirm the high level of interest from senior leadership within the Corps and the Pentagon; just this past week, I was preparing answers for Lieutenant General Graham regarding the acceleration of FIRO nationwide. Given this attention, it is important we focus on the implementation strategy.

² 2016 Regulation update: "Forecasted conditions may be used for planning future operations, but releases should follow the water control operations plan based on observed conditions within the watershed to the extent practicable."

To systematically expand FIRO nationwide, the Corps developed a three-stage screening process for the 593 dams under its Flood Risk Management (FRM) responsibility. Many of these are Section 7 dams (not owned by the Corps but where the Corps writes the water control manual for FRM purposes, such as many Bureau of Reclamation dams). Stage A was an initial light screening for any prohibitive barriers. It is now complete for all dams, and they identified approximately one-third as "red" (prohibitive barriers), half as "yellow" (significant barriers), and 19–20% as "green" (no significant barriers). Many classifications resulted solely from forecast skill limitations. Nationwide forecast skill is variable. Precipitation skill, based on the Critical Success Index (CSI) for a lead time of 1-3 days, is highest over the West due to terrain and Atmospheric Rivers (ARs). High skill is also seen over New England and the Mid-Atlantic, influenced by ARs and Nor'easters. Skill is lower in the Central and Southeast regions, primarily influenced by convection and tropical processes, though there are exceptions (e.g., along the Appalachians).

Sites flagged green, along with yellow sites promoted by local districts, advance to Stage B, where a more detailed assessment involves a survey of 22 questions for water managers, and scoring potential benefits against the required effort to determine a FIRO Suitability Index. This rating is adjusted based on a detailed forecasting skill evaluation. Stage C involves finalizing this score with local water managers and dam owners to ensure it reflects their perspective and the on-the-ground reality.

A detailed report on the Stage A methodology and results will be released next month. South Pacific Division (SPD) Stages B and C are complete for the San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Albuquerque districts. We will finish Stage C with the Sacramento District before the end of the year, completing the screening process for all four SPD districts. We are currently rolling out Stage B for the Northwestern Division (Seattle, Portland, Walla Walla, Omaha, Kansas City) and the South Atlantic Division (Mobile, Savannah, Jacksonville, Wilmington, and Charleston - though Charleston has no dams). We plan to complete this Stage B work by the end of the year. The screening for the rest of the country will pick up in 2026. This plan focuses on completing Stages B and C for all "green" dams, as well as any "yellow" dams that districts choose to pursue further for FIRO implementation.

FIRO testing at pilot sites, such as Lake Mendocino, has demonstrated concrete benefits. At Lake Mendocino, the use of forecasts in the 2025 wet season allowed the water manager to preemptively release water and generally operate at the top of the defined FIRO space, enabling increased water availability. In recent high-rainfall years, FIRO has enabled supplies for 22,000 to 58,000 homes per year in the Russian River watershed, with the total accrued value from operational deviations approaching \$100 million, exceeding the \$75 million R&D cost. The viability and flexibility of FIRO are directly linked to forecast skill, which is highest in the West and New England due to factors like Atmospheric Rivers.

FIRO operational flexibility is being codified into the Water Control Manuals, which are the legal documents dictating dam operations. This improves efficiency, resilience, and adaptation without requiring additional infrastructure or concrete. The viability of FIRO is driven primarily by forecast skill. Significant investment is being made in collaboration with NOAA to improve forecast skill, especially regarding Atmospheric Rivers in the West. The Corps is actively coordinating with

the Bureau of Reclamation on FIRO efforts, sharing best practices, and leveraging the Bureau's design expertise for the screening process. Increased forecast lead time directly correlates to greater flexibility and benefits from FIRO operations.

Questions/Answers

Mat Weaver asked if FIRO can be used to allow for surcharging reservoirs to store additional water.

Cary explained that the FIRO space is generally viewed as an increase in allowable storage within the flood control space. While he cautioned that this does not constitute a legal line change or guarantee extra storage, it offers water managers the flexibility to utilize that additional space if conditions warrant it, based on updated forecasts. He noted that the Walla Walla District is currently in Stage B of their viability assessment and is very interested in the FIRO potential for several of their dams, particularly in Idaho, where atmospheric rivers and other regional impacts are present.

Jeanine: How long might a typical FIRO process take once the initial pilot stages are complete?

Cary acknowledged that the process is lengthy because "every dam is different." He mentioned that speeding up viability assessments and updating water control manuals is a priority, specifically citing Lieutenant General Graham's recent request for a plan to accelerate the process.

While the initial pilot at Lake Mendocino took approximately 10 years, subsequent projects (Prado, Seven Oaks) are progressing much faster. The US Army Corps of Engineers is currently developing streamlined and expedited plans for viability assessments, though resource challenges, such as the current hiring freeze, remain a constraint. He expressed optimism that the continued high-level support for FIRO – including bipartisan Congressional backing and inclusion in national plans like Project 2025 – will eventually lead to increased resources for acceleration.

Question: Has there been discussion on the downstream ecological benefits of the winter releases resulting from FIRO?

Cary confirmed that evaluating downstream ecological benefits is a critical and time-consuming part of the viability assessment process. It requires looking beyond flood risk management and water supply to address existing biological opinions and environmental concerns. He highlighted that at Lake Mendocino, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) updated the biological opinion to incorporate the new FIRO operations.

Cary stressed that the goal is to involve agencies like NMFS or Fish and Wildlife throughout the scenario exploration to maximize the benefits across all competing purposes – flood control, water supply, hydropower, and ecology. He framed the outcome as a beneficial overlap, maximizing benefits where all stakeholders' interests converge.

Question: What role does the watershed that drains into the reservoir play, and can the amount of space available change based on the amount of pervious or impervious area in the draining watershed?

Cary responded that the analysis of a watershed is crucial, especially when considering changes to reservoir operations or a new proposed scenario, such as the implementation of FIRO. Historically, water control manuals are supposed to be reviewed regularly (e.g., every five years) to ensure they remain valid based on current watershed conditions, including inflow rates and downstream releases. With FIRO, we are looking at these issues in greater detail. Our primary focus remains flood risk management and life safety, so we will maintain a conservative approach. However, improved forecasting, particularly in the West, allows us to give water managers more flexibility. This includes understanding the impact of changes, such as increased impervious conditions in upstream watersheds.

For example, at Prado Dam, current operating decisions are based on inflow estimates that account for changes in the watershed. Given the serious consequences of a potential dam failure, which could impact several million people and extremely valuable real estate downstream (e.g., Disneyland) conservatism is essential. However, the FIRO Viability Assessment for Prado Dam (which is available for download) shows that there is flexibility that can be built into the water control manual update. This involves optimizing the water release strategy: switching from a fast release rate to a slower rate as early as possible. The slower rate is timed to align with the Orange County Water District's infiltration rate, allowing them to store as much water underground as possible, which provides overall benefits. We anticipate these updates soon, following the completion of the spillway work.

NASA-ISRO NISAR MISSION

Cathleen Jones, Sr. Research Scientist, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology gave a presentation on NISAR.

The NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) mission is a joint project between NASA, through the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). This advanced radar observatory is unique because it is the first mission to utilize two simultaneous radar frequencies, allowing it to generate high-resolution images of Earth's land and ice surfaces. The primary goal of NISAR is to study natural hazards, ice masses, and ecosystems. The instrument, which successfully deployed a large 12-meter (40-foot) diameter reflector, is highly sensitive to surface changes. The mission's applications include measuring ocean winds, which is crucial for forecasting major weather events like tropical storms and atmospheric rivers.

NISAR is a non-optical, cloud-penetrating radar instrument that provides "wall-to-wall," high-resolution global coverage of all land masses (excluding the far North and South poles) every 12 days. Its radar technology allows it to see through clouds and vegetation to take measurements, even in poor weather conditions. The precision of NISAR is critical for monitoring infrastructure and geological hazards, as it can detect surface movement down to a fraction of an inch, such as 20 millimeters (plus or minus one inch) over a two-year period. The mission collects an enormous amount of raw data, approximately 35 terabits per day, which is then processed into about 80 terabytes of products and made available to users within 24 to 48 hours. The mission was successfully launched

and is currently undergoing calibration, with data anticipated to be fully available for public use around November.

The data collected by NISAR is broadly useful across a wide array of applications, particularly for the Western U.S. These applications include monitoring small-scale movement of the Earth's surface, such as landslides, fault creep, subsidence caused by groundwater withdrawal, and ground deformation following earthquakes. It is also valuable for critical infrastructure monitoring—checking dams and levees for signs of deformation—and for environmental applications like measuring soil moisture, tracking subsidence from groundwater withdrawals and pollution from oil spills, and monitoring agriculture, wetlands, glaciers, sea ice, permafrost, flood inundation, and forest biomass. As the applications lead, Cathleen ensured that the mission included extensive ocean data around the U.S. to support the measurement of ocean winds, crucial for forecasting major weather events like tropical storms, hurricanes, and atmospheric rivers. A key benefit of the NISAR mission is that all data is publicly and freely available to the global community, a significant change from similar data that has historically been prohibitively expensive. The data is archived and easily accessible through the Alaska Satellite Facility (ASF) Distributed Archive Center.

Questions/Answers:

Jeanine offered insights on California's experience with land subsidence monitoring, noting that the state is particularly affected by geological movement. Initially, during the drought around 2014, data acquisition was prohibitively expensive, limiting monitoring to only a portion of the San Joaquin Valley. However, since the launch of the European Sentinel satellites and the recent launch of NISAR, California has shifted to using free satellite data. This transition has allowed the state to cover all SGMA-managed groundwater basins. This data is now provided to local agencies for "enforcement" and management, as controlling land subsidence is a core goal of SGMA. This also allows for external oversight to ensure local agencies are adhering to management standards.

Jeanine provided further examples of NISAR utility that were shared for landslides, structural monitoring, post-disaster mapping. Noting the key takeaway is the extraordinary cost-effectiveness of this approach. Satellite NISAR data is significantly cheaper than conventional land leveling surveys (which require updates every six months) or using field GPS units. The only major costs are purchasing image processing software and training staff, allowing users to obtain full grid maps of their area of interest as often as needed.

Someone raised questions regarding induced seismicity and surface deformation in West Texas, which is linked to produced water management and the injection of high volumes of water. This has sometimes led to surface deformation and blowouts from abandoned ("zombie") oil and gas wells. The speaker inquired whether InSAR/NISAR could be used as an early indicator to predict blowouts from injection activities, referencing existing work from SMU. Additionally, the speaker was curious about using this technology to map the extent of flood events, such as the recent Hill Country flood. Currently, the process requires significant time, money, and manpower to deploy staff with GPS units to physically collect high-water mark data, which is essential for calibrating flood models and characterizing the storm.

Cathleen confirmed the technology's effectiveness in both scenarios. She confirmed the value of NISAR for this application, noting that early airborne prototype flights conducted in the Houston area following Hurricane Harvey showed a strong correlation between the measurements and existing flood predictions and forecasts. She stated that surface deformation resulting from well blowouts would "definitely show up, no problem whatsoever," confirming its utility for this monitoring need.

Jeanine referenced one of the key presentation graphics, describing it as the "pink blob plot" showing a subsidence area introduced near a single well adjacent to their aqueduct during a drought. While this specific instance measured about 12 inches of subsidence in two years, she noted that other areas further east in the San Joaquin Valley experienced land subsidence of up to a foot per year during the drought due to over-pumping. She emphasized the enforcement potential of this data, noting that the technology can be used to identify specific wells, including oil and gas wells responsible for causing the subsidence.

Someone inquired if Cathleen or her team are available to present this information to other agencies, specifically expressing interest in coordinating a session in the State of Washington. Cathleen confirmed her availability, stating that she and other members of the science team are happy to give talks, though it might need to be done virtually due to current budget constraints.

They also asked if the data is capable of looking at trends in bedrock aquifers, or if it is limited to surficial materials like glacial aquifers. Cathleen clarified that the technology measures the surface, and since bedrock aquifers don't always have associated surface subsidence, those trends might not be visible using this method.

Joaquin: Given the critical importance and cost-effectiveness of remote sensing, we are interested in how this tool could support our work, particularly in measuring surface water elevation, stream gaging, and quantifying water resources. I understand the potential limitations regarding resolution and the measurement frequency, which I recall being either twice a week or every two weeks, or possibly every twelve weeks. To what extent is this tool helpful for in-stream flow measurement? Furthermore, as we utilize multiple satellites like Landsat 9 for things such as HABs early warnings, we are exploring how to integrate tools like NISAR with Landsat to improve decision-making. I'm curious if this tool would be helpful for in-stream flow.

Cathleen noted for actual stream flow measurements, the NASA SWOT mission is better suited as it specifically measures surface water elevation. This particular tool focuses primarily on water extent. While it might be possible to derive volume from the extent if an excellent Digital Elevation Model (DEM) is available, that is not the case everywhere. Crucially, this tool does not directly measure surface water level; it is designed to look at water extent. I have used it to measure water level change under vegetation (for example, in Louisiana), but it measures the change, not the absolute level. Therefore, you should continue relying on your existing streamgages for surface water level data.

Another person found the work impressive and specifically inquired about how ground truth data is used to calibrate the measurements.

Cathleen responded that each type of measurement uses ground truth in different ways. We rely on established ground truth sites worldwide that contain in-ground soil moisture instruments. For surface deformation, we utilize existing networks of point measurements from GPS. We will also incorporate data from the airborne sensor prototype shown earlier for fine-level deformation analysis. There are various international test sites dedicated to forest biomass measurement. Every critical measurement is calibrated and validated as an integral part of this mission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Legal Committee – Sara Gibson reported that members discussed Position #489, which supports legislation requiring the federal government to pay state filing fees in state general stream adjudications. No updates were made beyond those already implemented by staff (new date, location, WSWC information, etc.). The committee voted to move this position to the Full Council for approval.

The Committee also reviewed Position #499, which addresses the preemption of state law in federal contexts and is sunseting in Spring 2026. Sara asked members to review this position and send any comments or have their legal staff look into it.

Water Quality Committee – Jennifer Zygmunt reported that members reviewed Position #486, concerning EPA’s exercise of authority under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act. There was agreement on the core messages and the need to guard against federal overreach. The Committee’s recommendation is to let this position sunset and then either incorporate its messages into another existing resolution, or develop a new resolution that more broadly addresses the importance of cooperative federalism for CWA programs.

The Committee also looked at two positions sunseting in Spring 2026: Position #490, regarding water quality and federal reserved treaty rights for tribes; and Position #496, concerning the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and State and Tribal Assistance Grants.

For the record, other topics of interest for future exploration include water reuse, particularly water reuse for data centers (potentially through webinars or workshops), and increasing the involvement of water quality professionals in ongoing Good Samaritan hard rock mining pilot projects.

Water Resources Committee – Anna Pakenham Stevenson reported that a consensus was reached on several items. Regarding sunseting Position #488, which expresses support for the implementation of the SECURE Water Act, the Committee modified the resolution by removing specific data types and recommend that it move forward to the Full Council as modified. Sunseting Position #487, which urges the Administration and NASA to enhance their focus on research for water resources applications and promote long-term engagement with the WSWC, was also significantly edited to align with broader water data support. The Committee recommend that staff develop a one-page companion to the new #487 position, including values, stories, summaries, and identified budget appropriation line items.

In recognition of the eleven positions sunseting at our spring meeting, the Committee further recommends that staff compile and review all water resources policies to identify categories for potential grouping or splitting. Committee members plan to meet virtually to provide staff with direction on grouping these sunseting policies. If a consensus is reached on the groupings, those will form the drafts for review at the April meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Michelle noted that the minutes from the previous meetings held in Snowbird, Utah, in June 2025 have been posted. They are available on our website under “Past Meetings” on the Snowbird, Utah meeting page.

Sara inquired if there were any questions or changes to the Legal Committee minutes from Snowbird, Utah. With no further discussion, Jen Verleger moved to approve the minutes, noting that although she was not an appointed member at the time, she was present at the meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

Jennifer Zygmunt requested a motion to approve the Water Quality Committee Minutes. Cathy Erskine made the motion, which was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Anna then requested a motion to approve the Water Resources Committee minutes from Snowbird. A motion was made, seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Michelle concluded by stating that if anyone has concerns about the minutes after their approval, they should inform her so that any necessary changes can be made.

STAFF UPDATES

a. WSWC-NARF Indian Water Rights Symposium

Michelle provided an update on the virtual WSWC-NARF Indian Water Rights Symposium held in August. A special report on the symposium from the newsletter is included in Tab M of the meeting materials.

A key outcome of the symposium is a desire from WSWC members, NARF representatives, and tribal members to visit Washington D.C. next spring. The purpose of this trip would be to advocate for tribal water rights settlements currently before Congress, as it was decided a trip this year would not be effective. If we decide to proceed, we could also use the opportunity to address other WSWC priorities. We will begin discussions about this in the fall. If you are working on Indian water rights settlements and wish to participate, please let me know.

b. Federalism letter on potential CWA §401 guidance/rulemaking

Michelle - At the beginning of this month, we sent a federalism-focused letter regarding potential CWA Section 401 guidance or rulemaking from the EPA. The EPA had sought feedback from states, and we know several of you provided separate responses by the August 6 deadline. Elysse incorporated a summary of these responses into our newsletter special report last week, which is available for review in Tab N. Only four or five states responded, and the general consensus was a plea for careful and thoughtful consideration if any changes are made, citing “regulatory whiplash.” The WSWC letter and summary are on our website, along with the individual state letters.

We’ve also heard that a Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rulemaking is forthcoming. We may need to convene our water quality and potentially legal committee members virtually to discuss our collective response. While we have an existing policy position, this is a politically sensitive issue, and we want to ensure our response is sensitive to evolving state needs. We will notify you when the rule is released and provide an opportunity to participate in a discussion before we respond as a group. Participation is optional.

c. Legislation and Litigation Updates

Michelle - Updates on legislation and litigation can be found under Tab O. Elysse and I update these documents for each meeting, and they are also available on our website. We are actively working to not only ensure ongoing accessibility but also to provide advanced notice of hearings or markups. Our goal is to give you more lead time to emphasize your state’s perspective if you wish to participate.

Elysse noted that currently, the most reliable way to access these updates is via the link in the briefing book, as the website’s navigation is being improved. The briefing book contains priority bills, but please email me if there’s a bill you believe we should be tracking that isn’t included. Conversely, if you feel something is no longer a priority, please let us know so we can adjust our tracking.

d. Western Water Cooperative Committee

Michelle - The Western Water Cooperative Committee, which has approximately 10 participating members, has a recent email regarding upcoming meetings scheduled for December 3 and 4 in Bismarck, North Dakota. Nebraska and North Dakota have provided suggested topics. If you have additional suggestions or nuances you’d like to include, please let me know. Tab P also contains an updated list of appointed members. Please review it to confirm your state’s representation and take any necessary action, as a quorum of 16 members is required for the committee to function. We encourage attendance to engage with the Army Corps of Engineers.

These are in-person meetings, by statute, and are supposed to rotate. Chris Brown suggested holding winter meetings in warmer states and summer meetings in colder states, which has been noted. Chris is currently the Chairman, and he would greatly appreciate anyone willing to volunteer for this role. We now have a newly appointed Vice-Chair from the Texas Attorney General’s office.

Michelle noted that Section 7 Corps Reservoirs, which are Corps-operated for flood control but not Corps-owned, are included in these discussions. This point seemed to broaden the scope of potential discussion topics for some states.

Julie asked about the deadline to inform the Corps about plans to attend the meeting. Michelle mentioned that while she couldn't recall the exact date, it is soon. The Corps needs timely notification to arrange and cover airfare, hotel, and per diem for attendees. She believes the date was specified in an email and noted that the Corps needed information by the first week of October.

Jennifer Verleger read from an email indicating that (?) will be sending out a worksheet and instructions soon regarding invitational travel orders. There will be no registration fee for the meeting. For those flying, the government will book your plane ticket. Other travel expenses such as hotel, per diem, rental cars, parking fees, and mileage will be reimbursed. Flights will likely be on United, Delta, or American. The specific deadline for confirming attendance was not explicitly stated, but it sounds like someone at the Corps will contact each individual to gather this information.

Michelle advised members to look out for further emails and that staff would also try to keep track of those details.

OTHER MATTERS

There being no further matters, the Joint Committee Meeting was adjourned (and 10 minutes ahead of schedule!)