



## President's Letter to Members

### The Incredible Journey of the Monarch and Why We Should Care

Today we celebrate the 44th anniversary of Earth Day, an event which began on April 22, 1970. The year 2014 is also the 44th anniversary of the National Environmental Policy Act, a law which has influenced all areas of professional environmental practice. One of the most important concepts in NEPA is its focus on environmental significance, a concept which includes identifying valued ecosystem components and potential effects on them.

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In the summer, the monarch butterfly is a common resident of the eastern United States and Canada. Its caterpillars munch their way through milkweed plants and create a new generation of adult butterflies. During the summer, butterflies grow from egg, larva, and pupa to adult. By late summer, the generation of insects that matures enters reproductive diapause, meaning that the ability to reproduce is delayed. Instead of mating and laying eggs, the animals begin to migrate southwest. This migration will be the longest in the insect world, carried out by individuals who are descendants four to six generations removed from those that did the same thing the year before. It is an incredible journey for a tiny insect.

By November, the entire population of the monarch butterfly from east of the Rockies returns to a small area of mountaintops in the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt in the state of Michoacán. These mountains are 11,000 to 12,000 feet in height, and support oyamel fir forests at these elevations. Temperatures range from the 30s in the morning to the 60s in the afternoon. The latitude is 19 to 20 degrees north, so snow and freezing temperatures are rare. On cold mornings, the butterflies huddle together on the trunks and branches of fir trees. In the afternoon sun, they may flutter about and land to drink water from a spring or nectar from flowers which grow in sunny spots in the forest. It is then that you can hear the whisper of millions of wings flying about in the forest. In late February or March, they mate and begin their flight north, laying eggs first in Texas and the southern U.S. This generation hatches and matures to fly north, populating another section of the country. This pattern repeats itself until they reach southern Canada.

Since the winter roost was discovered in 1975 by biologists, the migration to Mexico has captured the imagination of millions of schoolchildren and adults. Monarch eggs are laid on a common plant genus, the milkweed, and the species is flexible—the caterpillars are able to grow on 100 species of milkweed.

Yet, the monarch butterfly is in trouble. It is not endangered because there are other populations west of the Rockies (which overwinter in California) and in Florida. However, for the population in eastern North America, the number of individuals that returned to Mexico in 2013-2014 is the lowest since the phenomenon was discovered. Because it is difficult to count butterflies, the population is measured by the area occupied. This

*Continued on page 19*

The NAEP National *E-News* is a publication of NAEP. NAEP can be contacted through the information below:

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2014, WEBINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

## A Smarter, Greener Grid

Go to [www.naep.org](http://www.naep.org) to register

The National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) and Vermont Law School (VLS) invite you to attend an educational webinar on “A Smarter, Greener Grid.” On June 2, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) proposed a plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants. States, cities, and businesses across the country are already taking action to address the risks of climate change. This proposal will catalyze the development of clean and renewable sources of energy and a smarter, greener grid to support the management and distribution of the energy that is vital to American businesses and families. A smart electric grid can supercharge efficiency and democratize demand response. CO2 emissions from the electric power sector contribute one-third of the total greenhouse gas emissions of the U.S. economy. Upgrading the nation’s antiquated electric grid can put us on a path to a cleaner environment and less economic uncertainty. The webinar will summarize the recent rule issued by the USEPA and how it is likely to affect environmental analyses pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the policies that are required to achieve the potential environmental benefits associated with the smart grid, and the technology and approach to technology integration by the public utilities that are working at the forefront of their industry. The webinar will examine a case study of an existing smart grid and characterize the legal and regulatory policy hurdles that must be overcome to fully realize the smart grid’s benefits.

*For information on speakers please see page 3.*

*A Smarter, Greener Grid: Forging Environmental Progress through Smart Energy Policies and Technologies.* available at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, June 25, 2014,  
at 1:00 pm ET (12:00 pm CT, 11:00 am MT,  
10:00 am PT)

**Duration:** Event will last 90 minutes

**Location:** Wherever it is convenient for you

**Questions:** Please contact Tim Bower  
at 856-283-7816 or email him at  
[naep@naep.org](mailto:naep@naep.org)

Go to [www.naep.org](http://www.naep.org) to register  
for this exciting Webinar!

### REGISTRATION FEES:

- NAEP members: \$79.00
- NAEP Affiliate Chapter Members (Non-NAEP Members): \$107.00
- Non-Members (NAEP or Affiliated Chapters): \$119.00  
(Save \$40.00) – Consider joining NAEP to receive the member rate for this and future events
- Full-time students: \$39.00

For more information, please contact Tim Bower at (856) 283-7816 or email at [naep@naep.org](mailto:naep@naep.org)



## Webinar

*Continued from page 2*

### Speakers:

**Michael Ernst**, Director of Regulatory Affairs at Tetra Tech, Inc. Mr. Ernst has 30 years of energy experience as an environmental attorney for state agencies, a law firm, an independent transmission company and now as senior consultant for a national engineering and environmental consulting firm. As Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Tetra Tech Energy Program, Mr. Ernst supports siting and permitting for various proposed onshore and offshore wind farms and interconnection cables in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Deepwater Wind Block Island, Rhode Island offshore wind farm, the Dominion Virginia offshore turbines, the Lanai Wind Farm on Lanai, Hawaii, and other projects off the Atlantic Coast. He also supports transmission development such as the SeaLink submarine cable from Boston to New Hampshire and underground HVDC connections to the grid. Mr. Ernst also helps lead policy analysis for the U.S. Department of Energy funded annual Offshore Wind Market Analysis and Supply Chain Studies and 2014 DOE Wind Vision Report. He is an active member of the Offshore Wind Development Coalition and AWEA Offshore Wind Working Group since 2007. Mr. Ernst has a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston and a B.S. from Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina.

**Kevin B. Jones** is the Deputy Director at the Institute for Energy and the Environment at Vermont Law School. At the IEE, Kevin leads the Smart Grid and Community Energy projects and is co-author of the forthcoming book from Praeger, “A Smarter, Greener Grid: Forging Environmental Progress through Smart Energy Policies and Technologies.” Seeking solutions to the energy and environmental policy challenges facing the electric power industry has been the focus of his career. He has been at the center of the transformation of the electric power industry in the Northeast as the director of power market policy for the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) and as the former director of energy policy for the city of New York. He has also consulted on energy issues as an associate director with Navigant Consulting and Resource Management International. He received a Ph.D. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s Lally School of Management and Technology, a masters from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, and a BS from the University of Vermont.

**Celia David** is a Director in the Energy Practice, Power Systems, Markets and Pricing group, in Navigant’s Chicago, Illinois office. Ms. David joined Navigant from Exelon Corporation, one of the nation’s largest electric utilities, in late 2007. Ms. David has more than 10 years of experience as an executive in the energy business and an additional 18 years of experience as a practicing lawyer. She has significant business and legal experience in a wide range of matters, including electric utility regulation, transmission policy and markets, compliance, and operational optimization. Ms. David recently assisted the Long Island Power Authority with management and implementation of a Smart Grid Demonstration Project funded in part by a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant. The project included installation and integration of a suite of smart grid equipment and applications, as well as cyber security testing and research, development of advanced system modeling and extensive public education and outreach. She also advised a number of parties and prepared multiple grant applications under DOE Smart Grid Investment Program and Smart Grid Regional Demonstration

Program. The projects involved a wide range of applications, including advanced metering infrastructure, distribution automation, communications technology and integration of distributed generation. In addition, she has provided in-depth analysis of wholesale demand response programs for a major multi-state client, as well as performing a study for the DOE of certain issues affecting the development of combined heat and power projects. Ms. David is the co-author of NERC and Mandatory Electric Reliability Compliance, (LexisNexis Matthew Bender, 2011) and contributed a chapter on project financing for distributed generation to Energy and Environmental Project Finance Law and Taxation: New Investment Techniques (Oxford University Press, July 2010). She has spoken at a number of conferences on various issues.

**Charles Nicholson** is a Manager of NEPA Compliance for the Tennessee Valley Authority. He has managed the development of numerous environmental impact statements and environmental assessments on a wide range of topics including diverse types of power plants, transmission lines and substations, land and natural resource management, reservoir system operations, dam safety modifications, and 404 permitting-type actions. Much of his recent focus has been on strategic environmental assessment for long-term power planning. He serves as TVA’s NEPA liaison to CEQ and is actively involved with the NAEP NEPA Practice committee. Prior to his NEPA Compliance role, he worked as a wildlife biologist with emphasis on migratory birds and endangered species. He received a BS in wildlife and fisheries science from the University of Tennessee, an MS in wildlife management from the University of Maine, and a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Tennessee.

### Moderator:

**Rebecca Purdom** is a professor of environmental law, the former assistant dean for environmental programs and the current Dean of Innovation at Vermont Law School. She directs all Vermont Law School’s online degree programs in environmental and energy law and policy.

## About Vermont Law School

Vermont Law School offers both graduate level courses and full legal degrees. The graduate programs can be completed in as little as one year, or up to five years. Students have the choice and flexibility to complete a master’s degree on campus or online. Masters degrees for non-lawyers, including the Master of Environmental Law and Policy and the Masters of Energy Law and Regulation offer practitioners and professionals working understanding of the policies, laws, and science shaping a wide variety of industries affected by climate change, pollution, land use challenges, and energy development. Lawyers can hone their expertise with the LLM in Environmental Law or the LLM in Energy Law and policy, diving deep into the technical legal and policy issues that shape global environmental solutions. All degrees prepare students to be real-world agent of change. For more information on any VLS Programs please contact Eric Sorg at 866-441-3807 ext. 5204 or by email at [e.sorg@online.vermontlaw.edu](mailto:e.sorg@online.vermontlaw.edu). VLS website is <http://environmentallaw.vermontlaw.edu>



## Tips for Successfully Planning and Permitting Projects in a Multidisciplinary World

By Derek Koellmann and Josh Jensen  
Anchor QEA, LLC

Planning projects in today's complex regulatory environment can be daunting. Many considerations must be assessed during the planning and permitting phase of a project in order to address complex regulatory requirements and see a project to construction. In today's regulatory environment, successfully guiding a project through the planning and permitting process requires a strong and coordinated multidisciplinary team. This article discusses four specific tools that you can apply to more successfully implement the planning and permitting element of multidisciplinary projects:

- **Virtual Collaboration Platforms.** Create an online site where a team can collaborate and openly exchange ideas.
- **Permit Strategy.** Develop a living strategy and schedule for developing, submitting, and obtaining permits and approvals.
- **Early and Frequent Communication.** Enable effective internal and external communication and messaging.
- **Driven Schedules.** Maintain a balance of urgency and efficiency to keep multidisciplinary teams on-task and productive.

### Virtual Collaboration Platforms

When working with multidisciplinary teams with members in different geographic regions, scheduling in-person meetings that everybody can attend can be challenging. Fortunately, recent advances in communication technology have provided new resources that allow teams to collaborate and share information about a given project in real-time. These virtual platforms are not a replacement for in-person collaboration, but can be valuable tools for teams that are composed of multiple organizations and/or span a suite of locations.

Virtual collaboration platforms, such as SharePoint, WebEx, or Egnyte, can be used to transfer important project data, provide meeting spaces, and can even be used to create 'social networks' where team members can get to know each other without ever meeting in person. For example, an effective use of virtual collaboration platforms during initial project plan-

ning phases is to develop an agreed-to universal project description that addresses the project needs and constraints and can be used by project engineers to inform the project design, natural resource specialists to develop appropriate mitigation plans, and planners to develop needed regulatory materials. Virtual collaboration platforms also allow for document version control by allowing users to "check-in and check-out" documents while they review them, thus maintaining version control by preventing other team members from editing documents while they are checked out. Using a virtual collaboration platform can allow for project teams to efficiently share information and address project issues in a concise and effective manner.

### Permit Strategy

A permit strategy is used to identify the needed permits, key regulatory issues, and timeframes for regulatory processes associated with a particular project. Developing a permit strategy allows a project team to identify and address information needs, key milestones, and critical path elements required to obtain needed project permits and approvals. The permit strategy should be developed and updated in collaboration with the overall project team so that the entire team understands the timelines for developing specific information in support of the project regulatory process and additionally to understand when permitting and regulatory milestones must be met in order to obtain permits and approvals in a timely manner. The permit strategy should be organized so it is easy for other people on the team to follow. Predecessors and milestones in the permit process should be clearly defined. Time-sensitive items can be highlighted for the rest of the team in order to emphasize deadlines and more clearly define the critical path. Project and regulatory process managers should also always remember to provide adequate time and factor in buffers as feasible to account for unforeseen events during the permitting process.

For example, if geotechnical investigations will be required to inform a structural engineering process that will in turn inform the overall permit package for a project, and the project planner determines that the local jurisdiction requires permits for such activities, then the permit strategy needs to identify how the various needed permit applications and associated timeframes

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## Planning and Permitting Projects *Continued from page 4*

will be coordinated. This will allow the geotechnical investigation and structural engineering processes to occur while maintaining the permitting and overall project schedules.

## Early and Frequent Communication

“Communicate Early, Communicate Often” is a mantra that is routinely repeated in the planning and permitting world. This phrase is often tied to regulatory coordination, which is a critical element of any multidisciplinary project. When planning for a project, consideration should be given to the needed number of team meetings and degree of early resource agency coordination in order to identify and develop the information for the regulatory portion of the project to be successful. For some projects, there are not only resource agencies, but stakeholders that need to be kept abreast of project developments. When communicating with people outside of the project team, consistent messaging is important. Therefore, project managers should consider developing an Outreach and Communications Plan to ensure that the entirety of the project team is relaying the same message in the same manner. In all cases, early and frequent communication can help project teams to identify project elements that will require specific and thoughtful consideration and address them in a manner most appropriate to the goals of the project.

In applying these practices on a recent project, a project team determined it would be helpful to hold weekly meetings. These meetings rotated between team leads meetings where high-level planning and design considerations were discussed amongst the team leads, and roll-your-sleeves-up technical meetings where project plans and specifications were discussed with staff from various disciplines. The latter meetings included the team leads, who would bring any useful information from the team lead meetings to the technical meetings so that the project’s high-level planning and design considerations were incorporated into the project plans and specifications. This rotating meeting schedule encouraged frequent communication amongst the entire team and helped the team maintain consistent external communications with agencies or stakeholders.

## Driven Schedules

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the regulatory process, integrating the delivery schedules for all of the project milestones can mean the difference between success and failure. A successful planner will drive not only the regulatory portion, but all elements of a project schedule related to the regulatory process to

ensure that each team member is aware of their responsibilities and timeframes for completing them. By developing a permit strategy and associated schedule that clearly identifies the key deliverables, milestones, and needed permits, and the interplay between them, a planner can have the best chance of successfully seeing the project regulatory process through to completion, on schedule.

While it is important to drive the regulatory schedule, it is equally important to develop a realistic schedule that provides adequate time to develop project components to the extent practicable. It is also important to communicate frequently with all team members as to any developments that affect the project schedule and the need to accelerate or slow down elements of the project schedule so that project team members understand where their time should be focused. Lastly, try to build extra time into schedules to allow for unforeseen circumstances; you’ll be glad you did when they arise.

## Conclusion

When working in a multidisciplinary team, everyone on the team should feel like they are an integral part of the project’s success. By taking the time at the onset of a project to establish—and then follow for the duration of the project—communication protocols and a comprehensive project strategy and schedule, a planner can help provide their project team with a much greater likelihood of success than if these steps are not followed.

## About the Authors



*Derek Koellmann is a principal environmental planner at Anchor QEA, LLC with 19 years of professional experience in project management, environmental permitting and long-term planning, Endangered Species Act compliance, National and State Environmental Policy Acts documentation, as well as experience developing permitting and regulatory strategies for a wide variety of projects.*



*Josh Jensen is an environmental planner at Anchor QEA, LLC with 6 years of experience in planning and permitting waterfront development, restoration, and linear transportation projects. Mr. Jensen also serves as a Board Member and Programs Committee Chairperson for the Northwest Chapter of NAEP in Seattle, Washington.*



*About the Author: At the time he wrote this article, J. Peyton Doub was a furloughed<sup>1</sup> environmental scientist with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. During that time, he could not legally perform any work in his capacity as a Federal official. He could however use that time to help advance his profession, in his capacity as a citizen of the United States. This article constitutes his effort.*

## Do We Overthink NEPA?

*J. Peyton Doub, PWS, CEP*

I was first exposed to NEPA in 1989, when my employer at that time, an environmental consulting firm, assigned me as an ecologist to contribute to an environmental assessment (EA)<sup>1</sup> for a proposed new coal-fired power plant in Virginia. The EA was to be prepared by our client, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to address granting a water allocation from a Federal reservoir to the developer of the power plant, as well as an easement to extend an intake pipe across Federal land. My memories of the project are vivid: We sent out letters to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, and the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer. We piled into a rental car and drove to the site, walked around to characterize vegetation and wildlife, delineated wetlands, took rolls of photographs, and took notes. We drove to the local Soil Conservation Service office and to Richmond (state capital) to meet with representatives of several state agencies. A few weeks later we returned to the site to oversee subcontractors performing an archaeological survey and a visual simulation. In the office, we overlaid estimated project footprints over various maps and aerial photographs to develop educated estimates of likely impacts to wetlands, habitats, and locations of other various sensitive resources. It all culminated in writing a relatively short EA followed by the usual rounds of comments from internal and external reviewers. One of the last steps was writing responses to a small number of comments submitted by various agencies and a few interested local residents. It was a great introduction to multidisciplinary environmental planning. It was also a lot of fun.

The paragraph above lays out what I do remember of this introductory experience. What I *do not* remember is poring over the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines<sup>2</sup>, pondering things like have I considered context and ten factors of intensity<sup>3</sup> or which impacts are direct, indirect, or cumulative<sup>4</sup>. This was a fast paced project. While the project manager was knowledgeable in such matters, I was needed on the project team

for my ability to rapidly and accurately delineate wetlands and assess effects on habitats. My prior environmental experience had been limited to wetland delineations and tree inventories. I knew that an action could have only minor environmental impacts or it would require an environmental impact statement (EIS). But as a botanist and wetland scientist with no prior exposure to NEPA, I relied only on an intuitive concept of what vegetation or wetland impacts were minor and which were severe enough to drive a more detailed consideration.

In short, I performed my analysis using common sense. And it worked. The project manager, (and indirectly the client) was satisfied with my work. The public got an opportunity to weigh in with comments. The concerns of state and local agencies were resolved. The USACE issued a FONSI based on informative science, the plant got built, and power flowed to the grid.

For those who really know NEPA, my story here should not come as a surprise. NEPA is after all a common sense statute, eloquently written in plain English. These are properties that the statute shares with the United States Constitution itself. If this assertion surprises you, read the NEPA statute again (you could likely do it over the course of a couple of commercial breaks while watching television tonight). If you are knowledgeable in your technical field, you simply do not need some kind of “cookbook” to contribute meaningfully to an EA or EIS. Carefully examine the proposed action, think of how it might affect your resource, use your scientific acumen to perform the requisite quantitative or qualitative analyses, think of what alternatives or mitigation might accomplish the purpose and need with fewer adverse impacts, and concisely express your evaluation in a manner understandable to the public. If you do this well, you should automatically find yourself doing what the CEQ Guidelines call for.

One might say that the conclusion of this project marked the end of my NEPA innocence. When I was later assigned to other EAs and EISs, I had time to read the NEPA statute and regulations in detail, to ponder issues such as which impacts are direct versus indirect, spatial and temporal context, etc. And I began to ponder perhaps the most overthought word of all in NEPA practice: Significance<sup>5</sup>. I became nit-picky. I wor-

*Continued on page 14*

- 1 Environmental Assessments in the context of NEPA are defined in 40 CFR 1508.9.
- 2 Regulations for Implementing the Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500 et seq.), commonly referred to as the “CEQ Guidelines”
- 3 40 CFR 1508.27
- 4 40 CFR 1508.7 and 40 CFR 1508.8
- 5 Significance in the context of NEPA is defined in 40 CFR 1508.27.



## 2015 PRESIDENT'S AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) is seeking nominations for our annual National Environmental Excellence Awards. We are requesting nominations from you, your company, or agency describing outstanding environmental contributions from applicable projects and programs. It is not necessary for you or your organization to be a member of NAEP and nominations may include projects or programs recognized by others. The Environmental Excellence Award nomination(s) are to be submitted to the NAEP Awards Review Committee and must be received by August 15, 2014. Each selected Award Winner will receive a beautiful award plaque and an invitation to briefly address participants at the Annual NAEP National Conference. This year's conference will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, April 13-17, 2015.

If you have any questions please call Abby Murray at 856-470-4521.

The form as a .pdf can be found at the link below:

<https://naep.memberclicks.net/assets/EnvironmentalExcellenceAwards/naep2015environmentalexcellenceawardnominationform.pdf>

The form as a word .doc can be found at the link below:

<https://naep.memberclicks.net/assets/EnvironmentalExcellenceAwards/naep2015environmentalexcellenceawardnominationform.doc>

For more information or to view past winners please visit <http://www.naep.org/awards-scholarships>.



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## Saying what we mean

An indefinite series of essays about words and phrases that do not necessarily mean what we say

Tenth in a series by Owen L Schmidt

### Enacted

So often we see or hear that NEPA was enacted into law on January 1, 1970. This is the date President Nixon signed NEPA into law. But NEPA was enacted the month before, by the Congress of the United States. We don't necessarily mean what we say, and we don't necessarily say what we mean.

What we mean to say is that NEPA became law on January 1, 1970, when the President signed it. It was a new decade. It was the year there would be the first Earth Day. Nixon is reported to have said at the time of signing that it was "particularly fitting that my first official act in this new decade is to approve the National Environmental Policy Act."

NEPA began its legislative life before 1970, obviously. There were bills both in the House and in the Senate. They differed in important ways, notably where the House bill did not have a requirement for a detailed statement of environmental impact but the Senate bill did. The conference bill conformed to the Senate bill and reported out in late December 1969. Thus it became the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

When the House and the Senate finally agree on the text of a new law, the bill is said to be enrolled. An enrolled bill begins with this notation: "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled ...." and then the title is given. There it is, the word "enacted." It is the House and Senate that enact legislation. Then it is prepared for presentation to the President for

signature as required by the Constitution (Article I, Section 7).

An enrolled bill becomes law when the President signs it, as President Nixon signed NEPA on January 1, 1970. The National Environmental Policy Act of

1969 was signed into law on January 1, 1970. If we were to say what we meant, that's what we would say.

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# NAEP Annual Conference

April 13—17, 2015  
Honolulu, Hawaii

# Call for Papers

The National Association of Environmental Professionals will host their **40th Annual Conference** in Honolulu, Hawaii in April 2015. The conference is a well-respected, international conference that brings together environmental professionals from across the industry for educational and networking opportunities. This year's conference will focus on environmental stewardship at local and global levels.

## Mauka to Makai:

*Environmental stewardship from the mountains to the sea*

Proposals for participation in the conference are sought for any of the following (or related) topics:

Air Quality

Archaeology/Cultural Resources

Aquaculture & Fishery Management

Biological Diversity

Brownfields / Land Use & Development

Climate Change

Coral Reef Impacts and Protection

Ecosystems Management & Services

Energy/Renewable Energy

Environmental Education

Environmental Economics

Environmental Management Systems

E-permitting and Other Online Tools

Incident Response and Recovery

LEED/Green Buildings

Life Cycle Analysis

Munitions and Explosives of Concern

Noise Impacts

Public Involvement

Risk Assessment and Application

Sampling & Analysis Methodologies

Sediments and Waterfront

Site Investigation & Remediation

Solid Waste Management

Stormwater Management

Sustainability

Transportation Planning

Upcoming/New Regulations

Visual Impact Modeling & Analysis

Waste Water Treatment Innovations

Water Quality

Watershed & Floodplain Management

Proposals will be accepted for full papers, posters, workshops, and special sessions.

Please submit your abstract online at [www.naep.org/2015-conference](http://www.naep.org/2015-conference)

Questions?

Contact Jennifer Lundberg at [NAEP2015@parametrix.com](mailto:NAEP2015@parametrix.com) or 360-265-1582

Submission Deadline: 30 September 2014





## 2014 Annual Conference Changing Tides & Shifting Sands

April 7 – 10, 2014  
St. Petersburg, Florida

The 2014 conference in St. Petersburg, FL was a great success with 3 very interesting keynotes, 50 different sessions, 34 exhibitors, 26 sponsors, 16 attendee posters, 15 student posters, a Dine-Around Town night, and an evening at the Dali Museum. Over 370 attendees enjoyed learning about new projects and networking with old friends and making new ones. The conference sessions were audio recorded, and those **recordings are now available** for purchase. To hear a sample (no charge) select Session 37 in the downloadable format.



## National Association of Environmental Professionals 40th Annual Conference Honolulu, Hawaii April 13 – 16, 2015

So, if you missed the 2014 conference, now is the time to start planning for the 2015 conference.

You may have heard that the 2015 conference will be held in Honolulu. Planning is well underway with various tracks (some old and some new), a fun offsite event, and numerous other activities.

The **abstract submission site** is open so get your abstract in for the committee to review, and plan on presenting your project (a good way to persuade your boss you need to attend). Come early or stay after and combine the conference with a family vacation.

The conference will be held at the Marriott Waikiki with both government and non-government room rates available in the NAEP block. Go to the **NAEP 2015 conference** website to find the links to the Marriott block reservation system.

If you have technical questions concerning the abstracts please contact **Jennifer Lundberg**. For general conference questions contact **Donna Carter**.



VERMONT LAW SCHOOL



## NAEP and Vermont Law School Announce an Educational Partnership

NAEP and Vermont Law School are very pleased to announce that in April 2014 the two organizations entered into an agreement that will provide NAEP Members and the Environmental Profession access to the professors and knowledge of Vermont Law School. Vermont Law School's Environmental Law Program has achieved an impressive reputation. Our residential environmental program has been ranked #1 by US News and World Report 17 times since the ranking began in 1991. This partnership will provide 2 additional educational opportunities in 2014. The NAEP Education Committee and the Vermont Law School Leadership will be working together on two webinars that will have a focus on the legal aspects of issues that we all face as Environmental Professionals. The initial webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25 2014. Please visit [www.naep.org](http://www.naep.org) for complete information.

### About Vermont Law School:

Vermont Law School offers both graduate level courses and full legal degrees. The graduate programs can be completed in as little as one year, or up to five years. Students have the choice and flexibility to complete a master's degree on campus or online. Masters degrees for non-lawyers, including the Master of Environmental Law and Policy and the Masters of Energy Law and Regulation offer practitioners and professionals working understanding of the policies, laws, and science shaping a wide variety of industries affected by climate change, pollution, land use challenges, and energy development. Lawyers can hone their expertise with the LLM in Environmental Law or the LLM in Energy Law and policy, diving deep into the technical legal and policy issues that shape global environmental solutions. All degrees prepare students to be real-world agent of change.

For more information on any VLS Programs please contact Eric Sorg at 866-441-3807 ext. 5204 or by email at [e.sorg@online.vermontlaw.edu](mailto:e.sorg@online.vermontlaw.edu) or please visit our website at <http://environmentallaw.vermontlaw.edu>.

## Advertising Opportunities in the NAEP Newsletter

The NAEP Newsletter is offering a limited amount of advertising space in the publication. Advertisements will be limited to two pages per issue for 2014 and once that space is filled per issue there will be no other advertisements accepted. Advertisers will have the opportunity to purchase space in all remaining issues of 2014 so that they can be assured of space in each issue. This is a great opportunity to both support NAEP and gain access to a potential readership of over 6,500.

Ads can be purchased in either quarter or half page sizes and is priced at a very affordable price that starts at \$375 per ad for a quarter page ad when 6 ads are purchased. The purchasing of ads in advance allows the advertiser to reduce their costs and allow you to make sure your ad space is reserved.

For more information on advertng opportunities or to reserve your space please contact Tim Bower at 856-283-7816 or by email at [naep@naep.org](mailto:naep@naep.org).





## *Even After 40 Years, We Still Need Articles*

**H**ere we are entering the 40th year of our organization and I am impressed with where we are. Speaking only from my experience on the newsletter, the quality of this particular publication is continually improving.

The run I have had as the Editor of the NAEP ENews has been amazing. I know that when I took on the job, NAEP had continued to publish a newsletter, but had not done a really good job of soliciting articles from the membership and other industry related authors. It seemed that we were stuck in a place where our managing director was left holding the bag and there was no one on the Board or in the membership who was willing to put the time into making the newsletter better. While it was interesting to get caught up on some of the happenings and people news, I felt that if we were going to put something together we really should try to publish something worth the time to read.

I do want to clarify that the newsletter has not always been a struggling enterprise. At a recent Board meeting it was pointed out to me that we have had some distinguished editors who have kept this publication going and provided great leadership. John Dougherty is one of them who comes to mind immediately. There have been others. As an aside, I would love to have former editors write articles about the newsletter and some of their ideas as to where we need to be going. For that matter, I would welcome that type of input from anyone. Possibly we could get old articles from past newsletters and republish them to give folks an idea of who we have been for the past 40 years.

As the editor I have been lucky enough to meet just the right people at conferences or meetings who were motivated enough to write an article. I had some people write articles in response to others, and I love those. What I am looking for is a wider group of contributors, say the entire membership of NAEP and the affiliated chapters! If you look around at any meeting of professionals, there are a truly awesome collection of experienced and intelligent folks in attendance. We are really fortunate in NAEP to have national level expertise anywhere we go. What I would like each member to do is to get those interesting people to contribute to the newsletter.

Each of us has regular interaction with other professionals. These meetings can be an opening for each of you to approach another professional, give them your card and solicit an article. After that the ice is broken and you can get to know them better. And isn't that what networking is all about? Our meetings are a way to get to know an enormous number of really talented individuals.

At the recent conference I ran across two students from the American Public University who were passionate about the Student chapter that had formed and is flourishing at APU. They had several ideas about how they would love to see the student chapters interact with each other. I invited them to get together and write something for us all to read and implement. This is the way we can move forward and help NAEP accomplish many of our goals. We really need more volunteers and the positions can be invented as we find a champion for a cause.

I have had some contributors who presented at the conference and I requested an article on the presentation content. These have been especially inspirational to me. There is a list of folks I have approached, but I also understand that we lead hectic professional and personal lives. So each month or so I email them and remind them that I am still ready to receive their writings. If you are on that list (tap, tap, tap, I am waiting...) I know you are busy and will gently remind you periodically. If you are not on the list, make it easy on yourself and write something before I have to get more obnoxious.

This is YOUR newsletter. As the Editor I am depending on the membership to help make this a premier publication of the premier Environmental Professional Association.

Here is what I am looking for: approximately 1,500 to 3,500 words (2 – 6 pages), MS word format. The content is up to you. Controversial issues are welcome. I am hoping to eventually receive letters to the editor where these articles can be discussed. Please keep the discussion respectful and we can all learn.

If you read our last newsletter you were a witness to a bit of history...we were cited in an article written originally for the Environmental Law Reporter. This turn of events should interest us all. The idea of a practitioner focused publication has finally been achieved. It has been interesting to get the number of articles and the amazing variety of articles. Some have been sent to me after publication of the most recent newsletter. Some have been requested by me as I peruse the information that comes to me daily.

Keep the articles and ideas coming; there is ALWAYS room for your voice. If you are not sure whether your idea or article can be included, please contact me and we can flesh it out together. This newsletter is getting better and I want all of us to feel we are a part of this

I am not much of a censor, so as long as the article is free of vulgar language, I believe it can be something we can all benefit from.

**Paul B. Looney, CEP, CSE, PWS, NAEP Newsletter Editor**  
[plooney@volkert.com](mailto:plooney@volkert.com)



## NEPA Annual Report now available online to NAEP members

The National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Practice Group (the NAEP NEPA Practice Group) has published its Annual NEPA Report for 2013.

In 2013, announcements of 377 Draft, Final, and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) were published in the Federal Register. Eighty-four percent of the EISs were filed by the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Defense, and Transportation. The Department of the Interior filed the most with 111, followed by the Department of Agriculture with 85, the Department of Defense with 64, and the Department of Transportation with 56 documents. (Based on information in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) database of EISs; <http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/nepa/eisdata.html>).

The NEPA Annual Report also found that the 172 Final EISs made available in 2013 were the fewest number of EISs since the study of preparation times began in 1997.<sup>1</sup> The time to prepare those 172 EISs (measured from Notice of Intent to Final EIS) varied widely from a minimum of 7 months (206 days) to a maximum of 19 years (232 months or 6,958 days). The average preparation time for Final EISs made available in 2013 was 4.7 years. Sixty-five percent of EISs were completed in five years or less.

From 2000 to 2013, the annual average EIS-preparation time for all agencies increased at an average rate of 37 days per year, with about 79% of the increase in the preparation of draft EISs. The increase in EIS preparation times is modest, considering EIS analysis has become more comprehensive and precise, with an increased emphasis on cumulative effects analysis, climate change, Cooperating Agencies, and increased opportunities for public involvement.

This year's Guest Editorial is from the Honorable John D. Dingell. One of the original authors of NEPA, Congressman Dingell announced his retirement from Congress at the end of this term.

[1] Piet and Carole deWitt, Preparation Times for EISs Made Available in 2013.

The 2013 NEPA Annual Report also includes:

- “Just the Stats” on the EPA review and comments on EISs;
- Preparation Times for Environmental Impact Statements Made Available in 2013;
- Excerpts from the CEQ's Eleventh and Final Report on NEPA for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Activities and Projects (November 2, 2011);
- Recent NEPA Cases from the U.S. Courts of Appeal;
- Reprints of the Department of Energy (DOE) “10 Years of DOE NEPA Metrics: 2003–2012” and “Historical Perspective on DOE EIS Completion Times”, Lessons Learned Quarterly Review, September 2013;
- Articles on NEPA Regulatory Update; Federal Highway Administration Implementation of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) Environmental Review Provisions; NEPA Legislation in the 113th Congress; and “Streamlining’ the NEPA process.”

This report is available to NAEP Members and is an NAEP Member Benefit. If you have questions regarding your membership status or need help renewing or joining with NAEP please call or email Tim Bower. He can be reached at 856-283-7816 or by email at [naep@naep.org](mailto:naep@naep.org).

Please also remember:

NAEP Environmental Practice - Available Online

The Environmental Practice journal (EP), the official NAEP journal, is now available online through the Members Only section of the NAEP website. This is a great members-only benefit since members have access to the current and many past issues of the journal. To access the online journal go to the Quick Links section and you will see “Environmental Practice Online”. Please click it and follow through to the Cambridge University website.



## Jim Roberts 2015 Scholarship Submission Information

NAEP announces the kickoff of the competition for Jim Roberts Scholarship Award at the NAEP 2015 Annual Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. The link to the Scholarship Application is below. Submissions are due Friday, January 23, 2015.

<https://naep.memberclicks.net/assets/documents/2015RobertsScholarshipApplications/naeprobertsscholarshipapplication-2015.doc>

For more information on the Jim Roberts memorial Scholarship please visit <http://www.naep.org/jim-roberts-scholarship-fund>.

### Do We Overthink NEPA?

*Continued from page 6*

ried whether I was following the Guidelines perfectly? In my wetland delineation work, I had to follow a step-by-step guidance manual<sup>6</sup> more or less exactly. It only seemed natural to me that NEPA had to have its own rigorous set of procedures. But NEPA is not like that. Section 101 of the NEPA statute<sup>7</sup> sets out broad objectives for agencies to meet, and Section 102<sup>8</sup> lays out high-level direction for what an EIS<sup>9</sup> should be. Agencies are given broad discretion regarding how they achieve NEPA's objectives, including how they structure their documentation. NEPA is a planning and decision-making tool, not an end unto itself.

Of course I am not advocating purposeful ignorance of any sort. Do read, and read carefully, the CEQ Guidelines and whatever NEPA regulations apply to your agency. If it has been a while, re-read them. They provide powerful insight into what agencies can accomplish when addressing NEPA. Even if the founders of the NEPA statute could not have envisioned much of the standardized protocol that has slowly crept into NEPA practice, the fact is that reviewers and users of NEPA documentation generally expect that protocol to be followed. Just do not let attention paid to regulations detract from your analytical process.

Do not leave common sense out of your toolbox. If you are assigned to analyze impacts to a resource in an EA or EIS, do not

begin by structuring your analysis to meet CEQ or agency regulations or to match the writing style of some previous EA, EIS, or other model document. Just relax for a while and let your mind flow. Think creatively about how the action could change your resource. Do not forget that some changes may be beneficial rather than adverse. Pretend to be Sherlock Holmes. Jot down your ideas – your conceptual impacts. Then draw on your unique technical expertise to perform the modeling, research, correspondence, and field observations needed to analyze those impacts. Do as I did decades ago for that early EA project I described above. Then, organize those thoughts and research into a written format that does ensure that the CEQ guidelines and agency regulations are met. Share your observations and insights with other members of your interdisciplinary team. Remember that the ultimate goal of NEPA is informed, transparent environmental decision-making conducted in a framework of reasonableness. The guidance is only a means to this end. Oh – and don't forget to keep having fun doing NEPA!

- 6 The Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (Technical Report Y-87-1)
- 7 42 USC 4331
- 8 42 USC 4332
- 9 The NEPA statute uses the words "detailed statement" to refer to what is now known as an EIS.





## NAEP is pleased to announce that we are instituting a new membership recruitment program!!

This new recruitment program is called the “Member Get A Member” program. NAEP appreciates all the support you have provided to the organization over the years and also realizes that you are uniquely qualified to help NAEP grow so we can continue to expand the services we offer our members. To put it simply more NAEP members means greater resources and that will help NAEP remain a resource for you.

The program is very simple and will also provide you a way to save money on NAEP membership and educational programs. This includes both the Annual Conference and Webinar registration fees. For every new General, Associate or Senior member that you recruit you will receive \$25 NAEP “Bucks” that you can use to trade in to help reduce your membership or education costs for any NAEP programs. There is not a limit to the number amount of “bucks” that you can accumulate so there is a possibility that you could fund your membership and conference registration through this program.

### The Grand Prize

The person who recruits the most new members in 2014 (minimum of 5 new members required to be eligible for the grand prize) will win either a free conference registration for 2015 (travel expenses would be your responsibility) or registration to 6 webinars in 2015. This prize is in addition to the “bucks” that you would accumulate.

### How the program works

As you talk with professional colleagues that would benefit from NAEP membership and the benefits and resources that we offer just tell them about NAEP, why you are a member and what you get from your affiliation with NAEP. If the person is interested in joining simply give them a printed membership application or tell them to go on-line to join. When the new

member joins NAEP they just need to put your name in the “Recommended by” field. If using the printed application they need to add your name to the field on page 4 of the application. This is important since them providing your name will make sure you get the NAEP “Bucks”.

Detailed instructions on how people can join online are below:

1. Go to [www.naep.org](http://www.naep.org).
2. Click the “Join Us” button in the top menu bar.
3. The new member needs to enter their email address and the new member application will come up.
4. The new member needs to complete the form and make sure they put your name in the “Recommended by:” field that is on the first page of the membership application.
5. The new member can pay on-line by credit card or they can send in a check later.
6. The person is now a member of NAEP and you will receive \$25 in NAEP “Bucks” to spend on NAEP membership or educational programs.

If you want to print out the membership application for any colleagues please use the link below. Please remember to have them place your name on page 4 of the application after they sign the Code of Ethics. Or if you want to print out a few copies of the application and distribute them you could pre-fill your name in that field. The membership application is on the website ([www.naep.org](http://www.naep.org)) and click the “Membership” selection on the side menu bar.

At the end of each quarter you will receive an email which includes the names of the new members you have recruited and the amount of NAEP “Bucks” you have remaining to be used. Any questions about the program please call Tim Bower at 856-283-7816 or by email at [naep@naep.org](mailto:naep@naep.org).

\*\* A new member will be defined as a member that has not been an active NAEP member for the last 2 years.



## Florida Association of Environmental Professionals Chapter Report

The Florida Association of Environmental Professionals ([www.FAEP-FL.org](http://www.FAEP-FL.org)) is comprised of the FAEP and eight local chapters. The local chapters enable the FAEP to remain active throughout the state of Florida, addressing issues that are of State, regional and local interests. The FAEP provides numerous monthly networking and educational sessions throughout the state via the Central ([www.CFAEP.org](http://www.CFAEP.org)) Northeast ([www.NEFAEP.org](http://www.NEFAEP.org)), Northwest ([www.FAEP-NWFL.org](http://www.FAEP-NWFL.org)), South ([www.SFAEP.org](http://www.SFAEP.org)), Southwest ([www.SWFAEP.org](http://www.SWFAEP.org)), Tallahassee (<http://faep-tally.com>), Tampa Bay ([www.TBAEP.org](http://www.TBAEP.org)), and Treasure Coast (<https://sites.google.com/site/tccfaep/>) Chapters. To see a list of upcoming events, please visit the local chapter website or visit the Calendar of Events on the home page of the FAEP website for a full list of events throughout the state.

If you have any questions about the FAEP, please contact FAEP President Mary Gutierrez at 850-549-7472 or [mary.earthethics@cox.net](mailto:mary.earthethics@cox.net).

### Around the Sunshine State – Chapter Programs and Events

#### Northwest Chapter:

Thursday, May 15th -The chapter is having a networking social.

Friday, June 20th - Dan Brown, superintendent of the gulf island national seashore issues and concerns as well as some of their programs.

Friday, July 18th – Dr. Ken Heck from the Dauphin Island Park giving an update on the facility and the on-going research that is being conducted.

#### Central Chapter:

Thursday, June 19, 2014 – Luncheon at Leu Gardens, 1920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando; 11:30-1:00 pm; Featuring Professor Royal C. Gardner, Stetson University College of Law;

Lawyers, Swamps, and Money: U.S. Wetland Law, Policy, and Politics.

Thursday, July 17, 2014 – Networking Social at AECOM, 150 N. Orange Ave., Suite 200, Orlando; 5:30-8:00 pm; Oyster Mat Making Event.

#### Tallahassee Chapter:

May 14th -Networking Social. 5:30-7:30 PM. Snacks provided free for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Ray's Steel City Saloon 515 John Knox Road Tallahassee, FL 32303-4117.

RSVP to: [slewin@cfl.rr.com](mailto:slewin@cfl.rr.com).

#### Tampa Bay Chapter:

May 21st - Lunch on the 21st will be Doug Ralston with USA Environmental and the topic is about removal of Underwater MEC Investigation & Response.

June is the joint lunch event with ASCE; details to follow. For more information, visit [www.TBAEP.org](http://www.TBAEP.org)

#### Treasure Coast:

Our two-part workshop on Emergency Management for Environmental Professionals, specifically for Marine/Coastal Environments begins tonight Wednesday May 14 (evening) and will be completed by a Saturday 17th (morning) session, followed by a social cook out in the afternoon. Please refer to the flyer attached. We have a handful of spots that remain available for this a space limited (25) and FAEP member-only event. RSVP NOW! If you plan on attending. This event is held in partnership with the South Chapter (SFAEP), will feature seven speakers, and will be a great opportunity to meet new faces.

RSVP NOW! to [pfitzgerald@pinnacleecological.com](mailto:pfitzgerald@pinnacleecological.com)  
Please indicate whether you will attend the two part workshop on Wednesday and Saturday, and/or whether you will attend the social cookout.

#### Southwest Chapter:

The next SW chapter membership meeting is on June 13th at 11am at the SFWMD office in Fort Myers. We will be discussing the newly listed endangered species the Florida Bonneted Bat and our speaker is Dr. Holly Ober from the University of Florida. Future meetings are TBD, but have generally been scheduled on a bi-monthly basis. Our website has also been updated ([swfaep.org](http://swfaep.org)).





## Illinois Association of Environmental Professionals Chapter Report

**President:** Robert Sliwinski, **Vice President** Greg Merritt, **Treasurer:** Christopher B. Burke, **Secretary:** Rene Kuruc, **Board Members at Large:** NAEP Rep: Ron Deverman (NAEP Past-President), Dr. James Montgomery, Patrick VerHalen, Larry Falbe, Nathan Quaglia and Liz Pelloso

**Newsletter Editor:** Eric Sikora,  
**Executive Administrator:** Debra Hatchett,  
**Website:** [www.iaepnetwork.org](http://www.iaepnetwork.org)

### Membership Update

IAEP currently has 220 members of which are 188 general, 5 national, 5 student and 22 are corporate.

### Recap of Events

Here is a recap of what we have accomplished thus far in 2014:

#### JANUARY

##### Student Career Seminar

On January 18, 2014, IAEP held its annual student career seminar at DePaul University, Lincoln Park Chicago campus. Approximately 30 students from local colleges and universities such as Northwestern, DePaul, Loyola, and University of Illinois Chicago attended this free seminar. Topics covered included career options, the different job sectors, networking skills, self-promotion, public speaking and presentations, interviewing, places to look for volunteer or paid internships, the importance of dress and body language during interviews and a discussion of the digital age in resume submission and key words. After the presentation IAEP members lead group discussions and resume reviews; and even provided one-on-one assistance. IAEP would like to thank James Montgomery, Ron Deverman, Renee Kuruc, Robert Sliwinski and DePaul University for hosting; and NAEP for providing funding to cover refreshments.

##### USFWS Endangered Species Update Webinar

On January 30, 2014, Kris Lah from USFWS Barrington office presented an update on the Federally threatened and endangered species from the Chicago area. Kris provided an update on several species, candidate species (including the Northern longeared bat) and an update on the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly recovery program.



#### FEBRUARY

##### Hydraulic Fracturing in Illinois

On February 20, 2014, IAEP invited Richard Trzupsek from Trinity Consultants to give an overview of hydraulic fracturing and the new regulations in Illinois. Fifty-eight members attended the presentation.

#### MARCH

##### NAEP Webinar

On March 12, 2014 IAEP hosted the Sustainable Remediation webinar at two event locations (Chicago, Rosemont). A total of 15 members attended. Speakers covered the project



approach philosophy towards more sustainable restoration/remediation of project sites to use less and re-use what can be re-used.

#### APRIL

On April 30, 2014, IAEP and Women in Transportation (WTS) co-hosted a NEPA workshop at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. The three hour workshop looked at the framework of NEPA in regards to Environmental Assessments. U.S. EPA, Private Consultant (HNTB) and Legal (Quarles and Brady) perspectives were presented as well as case studies and the lessons learned. Over 40 attendees from both organizations



## IAEP

Continued from page 17



Ron Deverman presents on EA case studies



IAEP and WTS members in attendance at DePaul

filled the room to capacity. The program was so successful that we intend on having another in the Fall.

### IAEP Student Research Grant Application Announced for 2014

The 2014 IAEP Student Research Grant Award program was announced in March and flyers have been distributed to local Illinois colleges and universities. Two awards will be given. First place is a \$1,000 and second place is \$500 award towards equipment and travel expenses for a student research project. Applications are due by May 16, 2014. Awards will be provided in June.



Larry Falbe

### NEW IAEP Board Member

Another vacant position on the IAEP Board of Directors has been filled by Larry Falbe, from Quarles and Brady, LLP. Larry is an environmental attorney and a partner with the national law firm of Quarles & Brady. He has focused his practice on environmental law. A graduate from DePaul's College of Law in Chicago. Larry has

litigated complex environmental cases in federal and state courts, as well as U.S.EPA administrative actions, generally dealing with issues under CERCLA and RCRA. Welcome aboard Larry! His term starts in January 2014.

## Upcoming Events –

Go to [www.iaepnetwork.org](http://www.iaepnetwork.org) for more information

**May 20** – Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance Update- Rosemont

**June 12** – Celebrating Women in the Environmental Profession - Featuring Karen Weigert, City of Chicago presenting Sustainable Chicago 2015. Lloyds, Chicago

**June 25** – An update to the Clean Water Act and Jurisdiction of Waters of the U.S. Wendy Melgin U.S.EPA

**September 4** – IAEP Annual Golf Outing

Go to [www.iaepnetwork.org](http://www.iaepnetwork.org) for more information about each event and times.



## Texas Association of Environmental Professionals

TAEP ([www.taep.org](http://www.taep.org)) sponsors monthly guest speaker luncheons, a yearly conference, monthly young professional networking events, sponsor seminars, and joint meetings with

other related organizations. One of the guiding principles of TAEP when it was founded was the promotion and fostering of environmental education. Consequently, a large portion of TAEP's revenue is given back to the community in the form of scholarships and grants. TAEP provides scholarships to full-time students seeking both graduate and undergraduate degrees in environmentally related disciplines from Texas colleges and universities. TAEP also supports the Texas Envirothon (for high school students) and the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston (for middle and high school students).

For chapter information and event registration, please visit [www.taep.org](http://www.taep.org)

## President's Letter

*Continued from page 1*

year it was about one acre, down from as much as 16 to 20 in the past. While the population fluctuates, it has always recovered within a couple of years. But this year marks a string of five or more years when the population has continued to decline. As with so many environmental phenomena, the causes are uncertain, and the seriousness of the problem is unknown. Has a tipping point or threshold been reached, in which case the species is on a downward spiral? Or is this just a population low from which the species will recover? Is the problem in Mexico with the wintering habitat? Or is the problem in the United States with the milkweed population?

In February 2014 I visited two wintering sites, at Sierra Chincua and El Rosario in Michoacán. The fir forests seem healthy and there appear to be thousands of acres of suitable wintering habitat. The area is protected as the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, and managed for ecotourism by local communal landowners. The area receives many weekend tourists, as it is a couple of hours west of Mexico City. The viewing areas are a safe distance from the clusters of wintering insects, and visitors are strictly monitored by guides to avoid disturbing the animals. In order to provide further protection for the fir forests, an active tree planting program involving pine trees which grow at lower elevations is supported by environmental groups such as American Forests and La Cruz Habitat Protection Project. One goal of the reforestation programs is to provide incentives not to cut the dense fir forests near the wintering areas. After studying the situation, my conclusion is that while there may have been problems

in the past, the current problem is not with the wintering forest habitat in Mexico.

That finding brings us to the rest of North America. One possible cause of the decline is the severe Texas and Midwest droughts of the last couple of years. These have been worse than usual, but droughts and extreme weather are not unknown in mid-America. Another possibility is that milkweed is declining due to changes in agricultural practices. A number of commenters have focused on this and blamed farmers or the agricultural chemical industry for eliminating all weeds. It seems unlikely that weed suppression could be so effective on a landscape scale, given the problem we have in controlling invasive species, but this at least seems an area where something could be done. The suggestion has been made that we should take action to grow, protect, and enhance milkweed along the migratory pathway.

The monarch is a valued component of our ecosystem. Environmental professionals know that NEPA is not a cookbook, so it is not enough to identify endangered species and archaeological sites from the checklist and then move on to something else. It is also about identifying uniqueness and value. An Environmental Assessment concludes with a finding of no significant impact on the human environment. The definition of the human environment is broad. On Earth Day, spend a moment considering what is unique and valuable in your ecosystem, and resolve to preserve, protect, and enhance it for future generations.

**Harold Draper, NAEP President**



# American Public University

## *NAEP/APU Three-Part Webinar Series 2014*

Join us for our third exciting year of interactive webcasts with industry experts sponsored by American Public University and the National Association of Environmental Professional (NAEP).

APU and NAEP are collaborating on this 3-part series focused on professional development for environmental professionals; helping you build the skills you need for success.

Below is a list of the topics of the 2014 webinars:

- **Part 1: Effective Project Management**  
Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 12:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m. ET  
ON DEMAND RECORDING AVAILABLE AT <http://www.apu.apus.edu/lp2/webcast/NAEP-2014/index.htm>
- **Part 2: Environmental Customer and Client Skills**  
Wednesday, July 16, 2014, 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. ET
- **Part 3: Top 5 Public Speaking Tips for Environmental Professionals**  
Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. ET

To register click this link: <http://www.apu.apus.edu/lp2/webcast/NAEP-2014/index.htm>

For a detailed description of each of the three webinars in this series please click below to read more.

### **Part 1: Effective Project Management** Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 12:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m. ET

Based on a complete report on the 2012-2013 National Environmental Employment Survey conducted by the Environmental Career Center, our panel of industry experts will cover the top ten effective project management strategies and tips for environmental professionals to help you improve your efficiency, as follows:

- Overview of the essential skills and principles for effective project management
- Top 10 tips, practical techniques, and tools that can help boost your efficiency.
- Surround yourself with the best team you can.
- Learn how to successfully coordinate efforts between a variety of stakeholders and how to prioritize projects and tasks.
- Cover the life cycle of a project, in order to break it into easy to manage stages.
- Define your project in terms of project scope, roles and responsibilities
- Organize and document a project by using a wide variety of tools that add value to the project management process.
- Don't forget risk assessment and risk management

#### **Speakers**

- Michael D. Smith, Ph.D. - Senior Program Manager at AECOM
- Kris Thoemke, Ph.D., CEP - APU Faculty Member and Senior Scientist at Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc. (CEC)



## NAEP/APU Webinar Series *Continued from page 20*

### Part 2: Environmental Customer and Client Skills Wednesday, July 16, 2014, 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. ET

Following the survey results, environmental customer and client skills are incredibly critical for the success of environmental professionals. For this webinar, our top experts will give you their advice on best practices and tips for how to improve your customer and client skills for overall successful interactions within your workplace and professional community, as follows:

- Industry experts share their “stories from the field”
- Address misconceptions and expectations about how federal contract, government agencies, and GSA schedule works
- Overall professional but at times overlooked skills that can help you excel on your customer and client interactions
- Tips on how to demonstrate your skills confidently and successfully
- Being a good listener, exercise great communication skills, and keeping your promises among other factors are critical
- Become the expert and the leader always offering a positive solution
- Take the extra step for your customer and clients to earn trust and leverage your projects
- Gain critical information and resources you can use to improve on these skills from a professional development perspective

#### Speakers

- Ron Deverman, Principal Environmental Planning Manager, HNTB; Former NAEP President
- Carol Pollio, Ph.D., Program Director for Environmental Sciences, American Public University System
- Kris Thoenke, Ph.D., CEP, APU Faculty Member and Senior Scientist at Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc. (CEC)

### Part 3: Top 5 Public Speaking Tips for Environmental Professionals Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. ET

Our panel of industry experts will cover the top public speaking tips for environmental professionals to help you be more confident, persuasive, and therefore, more successful as you interact in new projects and build your network, as follows:

- Cover the critical qualities and skills for memorable speakers
- Address best practices on how to put your thoughts into a compelled and engaging presentation
- Know your material, your audience, and address your topic appropriately considering their level of knowledge
- Use personal stories and suitable language to convey your important messages
- Remember to relax, pause, smile, and transform nervous energy into enthusiasm
- Visualize yourself giving a successful speech
- Take every opportunity to practice public speaking in board presentations, conferences, or client meetings as rehearsing and experience help build your confidence

#### Speakers

- Alison Turner, Senior Director, Katz & Associates, Inc.
- Marie Campbell, President, Sapphos Environmental Inc. and second term as At-Large Board Member for the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP)
- Kelly Reis, Ph.D., Faculty at American Public University



## Get your CEP — Save Thousands of Dollars

The Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP) has just partnered with American Public University (APU) to allow up to 6 transfer credits to those who hold the Certified Environmental Professional (CEP) credential. The value of these credits can substantially reduce the cost of a Masters of Science Degree in Environmental Policy and Management or can serve to offset elective credits in other Masters programs at APU.



*Certifying Environmental Professionals since 1979*

To find out the details, go to <http://www.apus.edu/TransferCredit/accepted/graduate/internal-policies/abc-env-prof.htm> or visit the ABCEP website: [www.abcep.org](http://www.abcep.org).

Some information on APU:

- It is the first, fully online university to receive the Sloan Consortium's (Sloan-C) Ralph E. Gomory Award for Quality Online Education (2009) and two-time recipient of the Sloan-C Effective Practice Award (2009-2010).
- APU has more than 150 degree and certificate programs as well as online courses to help with certifications and professional development in subjects ranging from Environmental Hazard Mitigation and Restoration (Grad Cert); Environmental Planning and Design (Grad Cert); Environmental Policy and Management (Capstone, MS); Environmental Risk Assessment (Grad Cert); Environmental Science with four concentrations (BS), Environmental Sustainability (Grad Cert); Environmental Technology (Undergrad Cert), Fish and Wildlife Management (Grad Cert, Undergrad Cert), Transportation & Logistics, Business Administration, Information Technology, and many others.
- APU's combined undergraduate tuition, fees and books are roughly 20% less than the average 4-year public university's in-state rates, helping to maximize your tuition assistance program. (The College Board, *Trends in College Pricing 2011*, October 2011.)
- APU will carefully evaluate prior learning, including eligible on-the-job learning, for the award of academic credit.

*This gives you another excuse to apply for your CEP today.*



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Thank you,  
Gary F. Kelman, Chair

James Roberts Scholarship Committee  
Mel Willis  
John Perkins  
Bruce Hasbrouck  
Teri Hasbrouck



## Become a Certified Environmental Professional (CEP)

### OBTAIN THE RECOGNITION YOUR CAREER DESERVES:

- *Do you have an environmental certification? Good*
- *Does this environmental certification measure your experience and depth of knowledge, not just facts? Yes*
- *Does this environmental certification include an objective peer review of your abilities? Yes*
- *Is your environmental certification accredited by a third-party certifying body? Yes*
- *Then your environmental certification must be a CEP from The Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP).*



### Certification is available in five areas:

- Assessment
- Documentation
- Operations
- Planning
- Research/Education

**B**eginning in 1979, experienced environmental professionals were able to become certified through a comprehensive peer review addressing years of experience, responsibility, and knowledge. Certifications are nationally-recognized and available for a wide range of eligible professionals including:

- Federal/state/local agency staff - Consultants - Researchers - Compliance managers
- Enforcement officials - Activists

Initially offered as a certification through the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP) established organizational independence in 1993. In 1999 ABCEP became a nonprofit organization. In 2005, the ABCEP achieved accreditation by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB – [www.cesb.org](http://www.cesb.org))

The ABCEP CEP brings heightened confidence in the professional quality of documents, evaluations, and decisions. Certified individuals satisfy the professional requirements outlined by the USEPA, ASTM, and other regulatory agencies, providing assurance to employers and customers. For the individual, certification increases opportunities for promotions, marketability, and career advancement. Certified individuals maintain their knowledge, experience, and credentials through continuing education, teaching, mentoring, publishing papers, and complying with the Code of Ethics.

**Become a CEP-IT:** The ABCEP offers mentoring and a CEP-In Training (CEP-IT) designation to junior and mid-level professionals developing towards CEP eligibility. The CEP-IT increases individual and firm marketability, enhanced career opportunities, and enhanced networking opportunities.

**More Information:** Contact ABCEP at [office@abcep.org](mailto:office@abcep.org); [www.abcep.org](http://www.abcep.org); or 1.866.767.8073 Do you have an upcoming meeting and need a speaker? Speaker opportunities by CEPs about ABCEP are available in certain geographic locations.



# ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE

The journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals

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## SERVE ON THE *ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE* EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

The editorial office of *Environmental Practice* is seeking to expand the membership of the Editorial Advisory Board. *Environmental Practice* is a peer reviewed journal published by Cambridge University Press for the National Association of Environmental Professionals. The journal has an interdisciplinary focus, and reaches thousands of scholars and practitioners across the United States.

As a member of the Editorial Advisory Board, we would rely on you to solicit two manuscripts a year to be subject to the journal's peer-review process, write one non-reviewed manuscript each year, and conduct double-blind peer reviews as your schedule allows.

The editorial standards of the journal are maintained in part by the knowledge, contributions, and enthusiasm of our members. We are actively seeking candidates with expertise in the following areas:

- NEPA
- Wetlands
- Brownfields
- Ethics
- Air and Water Quality
- Endangered Species
- Hazardous Waste
- Superfund
- Permitting and Project Management
- Restoration Ecology
- Climate Change
- Sustainability
- International Issues

Our goal is to maintain an active Editorial Advisory Board of 25 members, composed of both NAEP members and external experts. To indicate a desire to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board, please contact our managing editor with a copy of your resume or curriculum vitae.

**Applications can be submitted to:  
dcarro17@depaul.edu**

**Sample issues of the journal  
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*Environmental Practice* is located  
at DePaul University.

For questions, please contact  
Dan Carroll, Managing Editor, at  
773-325-2298, or by email at  
dcarro17@depaul.edu



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## Membership Benefits

### Who We Are:

- We are a multidisciplinary, professional environmental association.
- We are dedicated to the promotion of ethical practices, technical competency and professional standards in the environmental fields.

### What We Stand For:

- We stand for Integrity in the environmental professions.
- Our foundation is our Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.
- As environmental professionals, we serve the public, our employers, and our clients with integrity, fairness and technical objectivity.

### What We Do:

- We work for a diversity of employers, including government, industry, consulting, academia, and the private sector.
- We work in varied disciplines: air, water, noise, waste remediation, ecological resources, transportation, NEPA, sustainability, and education.

### How You Benefit:

- Annual Conference brings together nation's top environmental professionals
- Timely research through our peer-reviewed journal, Environmental Practice
- Access to Best Practices through our national committees
- Professional networking opportunities and activities through state and regional chapters
- On-line career center tailored to the environmental professions
- Bi-monthly eNews featuring research findings, perspectives and chapter activities
- Bi-weekly National Desk newsletter featuring reporting from the publisher of GreenWire and ClimateWire
- Educational webinars on diverse topics such as new regulations and guidance, review of recent case law, and other emerging issues
- Member enjoy discounts on conference, regional and local programs, and members-only page on our website [www.naep.org](http://www.naep.org)

### How We Are Unique:

- Interdisciplinary environmental practitioners
- Strong professional conduct through our Code of Ethics
- Achievement recognition through our Environmental Excellence Awards

### Affiliated Chapters:

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