

The Next Generation of ORM

Questions and Answers

General Questions

1. Wally Taylor, Sierra Club: Will GORM take the place/add to the public notice?
 - Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: GORM will not take the place of the public notice. But, this will be a source of information (back up or complement) for the public to evaluate.
 - Steve Martin, Corps: Public notice will still be required. Public notices are already available on each district's website.
 - Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: If you go to the HQ Regulatory website, you can access all of the districts where you can see some basic data and the nature of their availability in terms of mitigation bank information, permit information etc.

Data Availability

2. George Howard, Restoration Systems: Do you envision technical planning documents ever being available on the web (e.g. techniques used in mitigation plan for a particular project).
 - Steve Martin, Corps: In RIBITS there is a feature called the cyber repository, which is available to the public. The repository will include whatever information bankers choose to put in there (e.g. mitigation banking instruments, design drawings, monitoring reports, photographs etc.). Each district will potentially decide how much information is available. In Norfolk, the only information that won't go in is information about the permittee. This information will help to eliminate a number of standard FOIA requests, because all of the information will be available to the public online.
 - Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: There is an intention to put more info on the website (e.g. monitoring reports of mitigation) along with other data.
 - Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: Inside the WORM system new RIBITS there will be a lessons learned area, which will include success stories, designs that were implemented.
3. Mike Roldband, Wetlands Studies and Solutions Inc.: In terms of historic properties and endangered species, some of this information is already available from other state agencies online, so wouldn't it make sense to put this information online?
 - Steve Martin, Corps: The database won't screen any information. In terms of historic resources, that is available from the state. Endangered species information may be harder to get.
 - Ellen Gilinsky, VA DEQ: Endangered species information may be available from the states online too.

- Jessica Wilkinson, ELI: Not all states have this information available.
 - Steve Martin, Corps: There is a screen associated with endangered species data, not looking at the raw data or specific points, there is a buffer around it.
 - Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: RAMS did not track mitigation banking data so there is no historic banking database, unless a district did it on their own. Working on finding funding in the next year to implement a legacy data entry effort to get these data into the database for free.
 - Roldband Response: There is a risk that if someone knows where something is they may destroy, but if they know where things are they may go protect it.
 - Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: There are still FOIA issues to be worked out; this will be a dynamic process.
4. Mike Roldband, Wetlands Studies and Solutions Inc.: Have you thought about putting the delineations on a GIS system on the database so people could pull up approved survey delineations.
- Steve Martin, Corps: On a district basis they have considered it. In Norfolk they have considered it, but there are georeferencing and data entry issues to consider. In some cases might be able to upload some delineations into GIS if they have been made using GPS, but is probably some time before this occurs with all delineations.
5. Mike Rolband, Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc.: (To Steve Martin) Are some bankers not participating very well?
- Steve Martin, Corps: There are some bankers that are cooperating very well. However, there are some that require prying. They have almost all the data that is needed. There is still one bank that is not cooperating, but they are working on it. Currently, they working on finishing data uploading and doing quality controls. Should be a roll out soon.
 - Rolband Response: There is a suggestion that the Corps should suspend sales if not cooperating, because need to have good data to have a good system.
 - Jessica Wilkinson, ELI: ELI has agreements from all banks that were approved from 2001 on website from Banks and Fees report. All ILF agreements from the ILF study will be available online when the report is completed.

Data Accessibility

6. Doug Norris, MN DNR: Will or can data sharing be expanded to include state agencies?
- Steve Martin, Corps: In Norfolk, in RIBITS all state relevant agencies will have almost administrative (one super administrator) access to both sides of page.

- Bob Brumbaugh: There is already a joint 401 application which will be part of the overall system.
 - Ellen Gilinsky, VA DEQ: VA will not try to duplicate the system, but instead will work with the Corps.
 - Kelly Burks-Copes: Also RIBITS will track DOT banks and US FWS species conservation banks.
 - Steve Martin, Corps: The hope is to ultimately also be able to track at least large mitigation areas as well as ILF mitigation sites.
 - Kelly Burks-copes, Corps: ILF will be tracked with WORM, and in that case they will be tracking dollars.
 - Norris Response: Will data on permits and spatial data on permits in WORM be sharable with state agencies.
 - Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: Yes. And, the intent is to have this data sharable with public. Suspect that each district will have a relationship with the state agencies, to use the system to share reports as they come in to augment existing systems.
 - Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: Set up at the end of this month to have role based security issues settled.
7. Bill Ainslie, EPA: Will the spatial data that is available in ORM be accessible to agencies?
- Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: Yes, most of the data will be accessible. But, some of the spatial data layers are not public information. They are still trying to work out some FOIA issues.
 - Bill Ainslie, EPA: Will they come out as shape files so they can be imported directly into the agencies data base, or only within web based application
 - Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: They will be shape files and in RIBITS you will be able to load your shape files.
 - Steve Martin, Corps: A lot the data going into RIBITS is coming from EPA.
 - Palmer Hough, EPA: EPA is setting up web service that will allow ORM to link up to EPA's spatial data on NPDES discharge points, information on water quality issues, etc. to help Corps with permit decisions. In addition, EPA is going to set up similar web service that will link to ORM to get permitting information on impacts and mitigation. Corps will probably reach out to the other federal agencies to set up similar two-way exchanges of information.

Data Integration

8. Michael Thabault, US FWS: Have there been conversations about how to integrate this kind of database with US FWS's master geodatabase for the national wetlands inventory to create a common platform so they can incorporate this in next status and trends report

- Palmer Hough, EPA: If there is someone at the Department of the Interior who wants to be a partner between status and trends and the ORM effort, Mark Sudol (Corps) will love to hear that.
9. Susan-Marie Stedman, NOAA NMFS: Comment on information going from WORM to FWS's status and trends. Status and trends is a statistical sampling and not comprehensive coverage of the US and it is different from the NWI maps. Whether or not mitigation information could be combined with status and trends would depend upon whether one of their sampling points happened to occur on a mitigation site; the odds of that may be low.
- Bob Brumbaugh: But the mitigation information could be used in a statistical way to answer some question, if there were enough data points to make it significant.
10. Mike Rolband, Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc.: Is there a way to link delineation surveys/ JDs with NWI maps and data, because most of the wetlands that they delineate are not on the NWI maps. Would be helpful for Corps data to flow to NWI maps to improve their data.
- Jeanne Christie, ASWM: There is another effort between ASWM and NWI. NWI is trying to develop capability to add these data in real time. FWS is working on developing this capability. By the time this is finished, it might be feasible that this could be updatable through ORM (or something).
 - Rolband Response: If the industry is told what data is necessary in what form, everyone could email it to those who need it.

ORM Next Steps

11. Jeanne Hanson, NOAA NMFS: What part of the program is about to be tested?
- Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: RIBITS is being tested this year. Three districts have developed variations on RIBITS and now testing how to integrate RIBITS into the spatial database WORM. The test for this integration is Portland district.
12. Jeanne Hanson, NOAA NMFS: What is the mid-May meeting on data sharing you mentioned?
- Palmer Hough, EPA: Corps will be hosting a 4-hour meeting with existing and potential partners on ORM on May 18.
 - Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: Will make the 1st connection between ORM and RIBITS and show how they will work.
 - Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: RIBITS: regional internet bank information tracking system. The database tracks mitigation, credits, banking ledger, MBRT/IRT calendar, meetings, pictures, habitat classification system for each district, and all assessment tools for crediting (calculators, databases with techniques or ratios). On public side what is banking and how do you establish a

bank, also allows you to shop for banks, no cost per credit tracked in RIBITS.

13. Rob Shreeve, MD State Highway: Is FHA involved in the mid-May meeting about data sharing. Most state DOTs would be glad to share information with FHA.
 - Dennis Durbin, FHA: Yes, FHA is involved.
 - Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: FHA has been involved in previous meetings.
14. Jeanne Hanson, NOAA NMFS: Was the funding you mentioned for development of the database or was it funding for project managers or data entry people etc.?
 - Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: Have used a lot of funding this year on historic data conversion, and staff training. The funding from congress has been used to develop the system. But, don't know if the data sharing will require out year funding.
15. Tara Kelly, Angler Environmental: questions answered