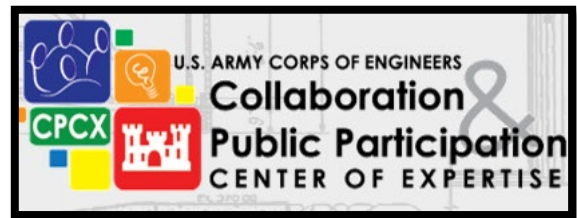


**USACE Tribal Nations  
Technical Center of Expertise**



*Our Expertise is Building Relationships*

## **Strengthening Collaboration Opportunities for Water Resources Projects with Tribal Nations**

### **TNTCX/IWR CPX Partnership 2018-2020**

**Mr. Michael Fedoroff, TNTCX  
Dr. Seth Cohen, IWR CPCX**

USACE's Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX) and the USACE Collaboration & Public Participation Center of Expertise (CPCX) have been coordinating with HQUSACE to explore ways to strengthen and enhance Civil Works water resources project development opportunities with Tribal Nations. Overarching goals of this effort include: (a) identifying how to help USACE and tribes enhance water resources planning capabilities and (b) suggesting collaborative processes and new (or improved) tools to promote efficient partnering between USACE, tribes, and other federal/state agencies under existing laws and authorities. Understanding how potential projects navigate through Section 203, FPMS, PAS, CAP, and IIS application/selection process will help us gain greater insights into the nuances associated with Tribal Nations pursuing these types of activities with the Corps.

Our intent is to develop a report that identifies the range of Civil Works authorities/ project opportunities available to Tribal Nations, showcasing good examples of success. We will also provide a description of challenges that may impede or delay those project opportunities as well as suggest recommendations on how to remove barriers, clearly describe project approval pathways, and design outreach materials that support productive dialogue.

We have been conducting discussions with individuals and small groups to: (1) to better understand the past and present projects/activities pursued with Tribal Nations and (2) to learn about the procedures/ steps that are followed when evaluating projects/applications. Group discussions and individual interviews targeted staff from MSC leads, HQ Program Leads, and District personnel. The outcome of these interviews, the survey summary, and findings from our background research will be incorporated into a final report on Strengthening Collaboration Opportunities for Water Resources Projects with Tribal Nations.

Raising awareness of best management practices already in place and sharing success stories will be helpful to strengthening project development efforts with Tribal Nations. In addition, the implementation of suggested recommendations can support furthering those efforts and will build stronger, meaningful relationships and partnerships with Tribes— while

also supporting Corps efforts that work to improve water resources planning and management.

There are always challenges to carrying out a study like this, but the joint effort of IWR's CPCX and the USACE TNTCX has been a great team effort and a positive example of two CX's collaborating on a project. CPCX Director Hal Cardwell states, "It has been wonderful to have the TNTCX acting in a technical capacity for this project, reviewing all the material and contributing to its refinement. It is great to have them be able to review, contribute to, and fully support the current technical approach developed with MS-Day."

If you have questions about this work please contact us for more info:

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