

# Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution Forum

## Meeting Notes

White House Conference Center  
726 Jackson Place NW, Washington, DC

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**Tuesday, May 16, 2017**  
**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Eastern**

### Welcome, Agenda Review, and Brief Introductions

Ted Boling welcomed everyone and went over the agenda. Everyone in the room and on the phone introduced themselves by name and agency.

### General Updates from CEQ

Ted Boling has been in talks with CEQ leadership and OMB about the upcoming *ECCR Benefits and Recommendations* Report. After May 23, CEQ leadership and OMB will be excited to look at it and provide feedback.

### Discussion of ECCR Benefits & Recommendations White Paper

#### Working Group Members

- Jake Strickler, EPA
- William Hall, DOI
- James Lawton, USACE
- Michael Saffran, USACE
- Sarah Palmer, DOI
- Robert Fisher, DOI
- Maria Lantz, USACE
- Katrina Durbak, USACE (HUD detailee)
- Stephanie Kavanaugh, US Institute
- Dana Goodson, US Institute
- Courtney Owen, US Institute

#### General

- Working Group members are working with Pat Collins to change the case study on the Air Force.
- Reminder: The Working Report Group may not be able to take on all of the edits that every Agency has submitted due to this being an ad hoc assignment on top of regular jobs, but will do their best to accommodate all comments as appropriate.
- Calling this a “white paper” versus a “report” was discussed. No strong feelings about which to call it, but Ted Boling shared that he thought the term “white paper” was appropriate.

#### Title

Change the title to “Enhancing Agency Efficiency and Making Government Accountable to the People. A Report from the Federal Forum on Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution.”

## Audience

- New people to CEQ and OMB
- New people to your Agency
- General public

## Report Structure

The ECCR Forum decided to keep the report in full report form but to pare it down to 5-7 pages and to strengthen the Executive Summary. Most of the Forum felt that the Executive Summary was the most important part of the full report. It was decided that the Executive Summary would start with the recommendations and then list the benefits.

Suggested changes and additions made by forum members included:

- Graphs or pictures to put in the beginning
- Incorporate the footnotes into the text or put it as endnotes
- “Get to the point” earlier in the executive summary (push ECCR definition back so the benefits and recommendations are the first thing reader sees)
- “Outcomes” section of the executive summary needs more to it
- Include somewhere the total number of cases from all reporting agencies since the 2005 memo
- Add more to the “recommendations” section of the executive summary – just 1-2 sentences for each bullet
- Create a one page version that may actually get read by new administration
- Add the text: “Agencies need to maintain and support the systems that are in place through existing ECCR offices or structures by utilizing current resources and maintaining current budget levels.”
- Follow the sentence above with explanation of “why” currently at line 81 in the document.

## Reviewers

After CEQ and OMB review and submit their comments and edits, the report will need reviewers from the heads of each agency that are appropriate to review and sign off on it.

## Next Steps

- **Please submit any comments on the report by Friday, May 26, 2017 COB to either Steph or Courtney.**
- A smaller, high level, working group was created to work on the Executive Summary and report synthesizing.
  - Participants:
    - Hal Cardwell, USACE
    - William Hall, DOI
    - Jake Strickler/Jeanne Briskin, EPA
    - Steve Miller, DOE
    - Ted Boling, CEQ
    - US Institute

## Other Topics

USFS discussed their new project with USGS and ESRI: “TALKING POINTS Collaborative Mapping”. A demo may potentially be on the agenda during the next forum meeting, September 12.

## Next Forum Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 10:30am – 12:00pm (tentative)

(Depending on results of the high-level work group mentioned above, may schedule a special meeting in June or early July.)

## Attachments

Attachment 1: Attendees

Attachment 2: ECCR Benefits and Recommendations Report