

US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



# **USACE Partnered Studies**

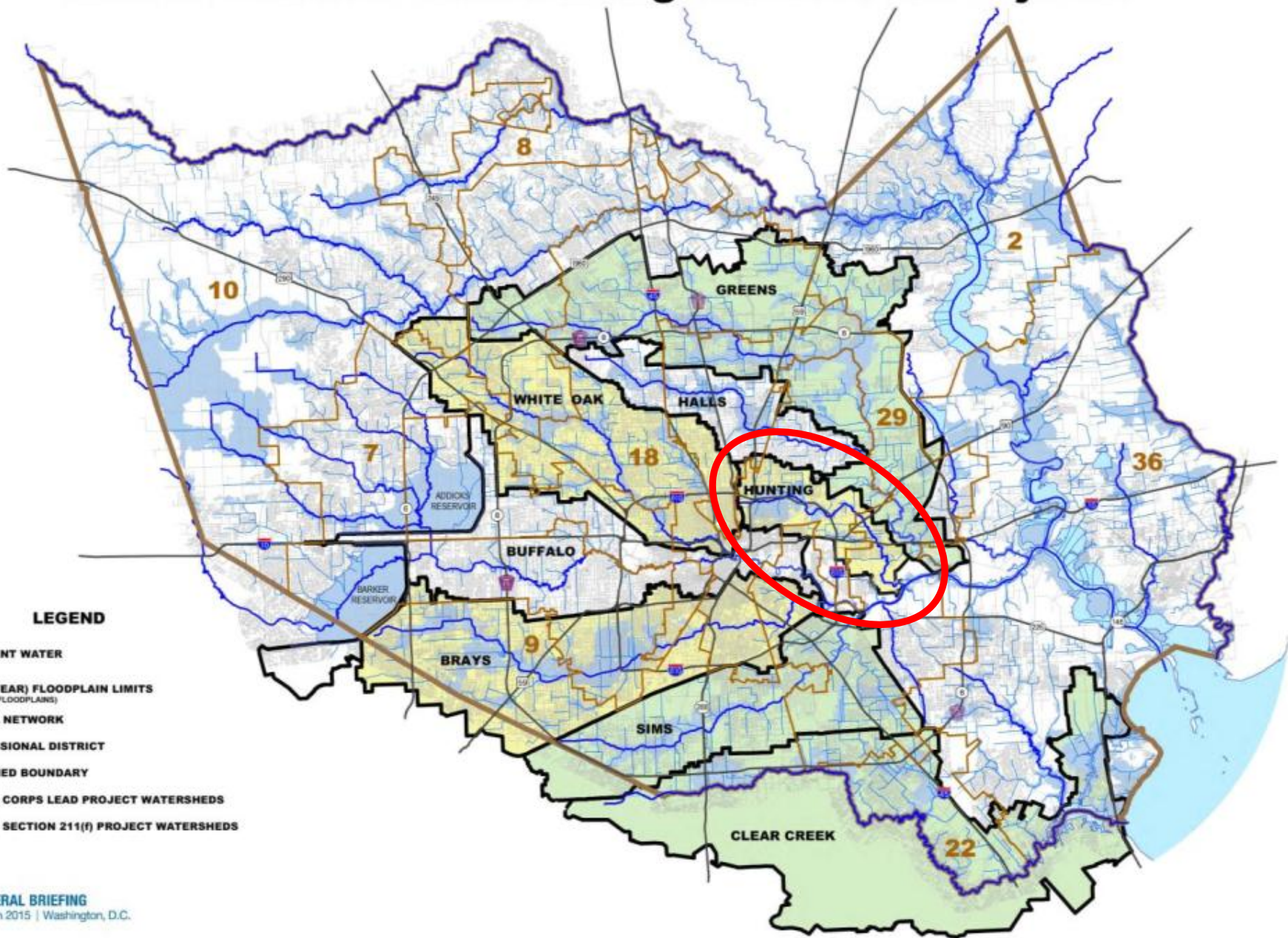
## **Local Lead Example - Hunting Bayou**

**SWG Stakeholder Partnering Forum**  
**Galveston, Texas**  
**March 3, 2016**

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*Steve Fitzgerald, P.E.*  
*Chief Engineer*

# Active Federal Flood Damage Reduction Projects



# Hunting Bayou

## Section 211(f) Federal Flood Damage Reduction Project



# Hunting Bayou Study

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- **Local lead – WRDA 1996, Section 211**
- **Began study in 1998; Completed in 2014  
(Corps lead Clear Creek study 1998-2010)**
- **16 years! Multiple reasons. HCFCD chose to  
begin implementation in 2006**
- **Structures in 1% floodplain - 5,100 to 650**
- **Cost \$165M. BCR 2.02(3.375%) & 1.01(7.0%)**
- **Economically disadvantaged & vulnerable  
population**



# What We Like

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- **Fundamental planning process is good**
- **Most analytical tools are technically sound and useful**
- **Documentation & scientific thoroughness**
- **Without project condition data and information useful for other purposes**
- **Building relationships with Corps**



# What Do We Want

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**Identify a recommended Corps plan that is -**

- **effective in flood risk reduction**
- **compatible with land and natural resources**
- **compatible with regional watershed plans**
- **acceptable to local communities**
- **fiscally responsible**
- **in less than four years**

***Corps plan most likely a part of regional plan***



# People

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- **Local sponsors don't understand Corps process, complexity, or time it takes**
- **Some Corps staff lack expertise, knowledge of process, resources, or motivation**
- **Sometimes, the District, Division, and HQ not on the same page**



# Categories

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## Four Primary Problem Areas

- **Process Itself**
- **Written Guidance**
- **People**
- **Funding**

*Leads to increase in time, cost, and frustration*





# Process Itself

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- **Learn, use, and trust planning fundamentals**
- **Simplify process and reduce number of steps**
- **Include local sponsor as much as possible in process including performing some of the work**
- **Set hard deadlines**



# Written Guidance

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- **Insist on updated guidance documents that are clear, concise, and complete**
- **Find and share examples and sample reports**
- **Insist that new guidance not delay studies underway or nearing completion**
- **Do not hesitate to amend authorities or refine policies, if necessary**



# People

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- **All team members be realistic and honest throughout study**
- **Include non-Federal sponsor in decision making at all levels**
- **Insist on a knowledgeable, experienced, and enthusiastic study leader**
- **Establish and commit to SMART Planning at all levels**



# Funding

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- **Provide sufficient federal funds when it's needed**
- **Provide additional funding to enable Corps Headquarters and SWD staff to actively support SWG and non-Federal sponsor during all phases of the study**
- **Complete study in less than four years**



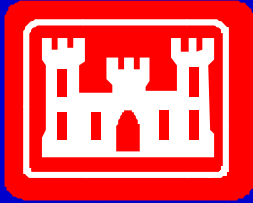
# SMART Planning

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- **Feb. 8, 2012 Memo – “Civil Works Feasibility Study Program Execution and Delivery” – Absolutely incredible!**
- **Directly addresses two problem areas – “Process Itself” and “People”**
- **Indirectly addresses “Funding”**
- **Does not address “Written Guidance”**

# It Takes A Lot Of Teamwork

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Non-  
Federal  
Sponsors

