BACKGROUND
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) was established as a separate branch of the Army in 1802. Through its civil works mission, the Corps maintains navigable channels, reduces flood and storm damage, and protects and restores aquatic ecosystems. Congress has authorized the Corps to expand opportunities for public-private partnerships. This allows the Corps to provide local communities and sponsors with opportunities to meet water resource needs where there is both a local and national interest. The Corps works with sponsors to investigate water resources and related land problems and opportunities, and if warranted, develop projects that would otherwise be beyond the capability of the sponsor itself. These water resources activities are conducted using Project Partnership Agreements (PPA). PPAs are legal agreements between the Corps and nonfederal sponsors including states, local governments, flood control districts, port authorities, and other entities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Corps contracted with the National Academy of Public Administration (the Academy) to conduct an evaluation of their PPA process. The Academy has appointed a five-member Panel of Academy Fellows that will oversee the completion of a three-part approach as follows:

1. Evaluate and describe the current approach used by the Corps to develop PPAs based on consultation with the Corps, Army officials, and stakeholders.
2. Review the PPA process, guidance, and templates.
3. Develop and present findings and recommendations on the practices for preparing, negotiating, and approving PPAs.

The evaluation will be conducted over the course of approximately six months, concluding in September 2018. The final report will provide the Corps with findings and actionable recommendations with the overall goal of promoting a PPA process that meets the expectation of officials and stakeholders for efficiency, transparency, timeliness, accountability, and quality of decision making. This evaluation will be led by the Panel of Academy Fellows with support from a highly qualified professional study team.
PANEL

Joseph Westphal (Chair)*, Ambassador®, Senior Global Fellow, The Lauder Institute, Wharton School - University of Pennsylvania. Former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia; Under Secretary of the U.S. Army and Chief Management Officer, U.S. Army, U.S. Department of Defense; Provost, Vice President for Research and Professor the New School University; Chancellor and Professor of Political Science, University of Maine System; Secretary of the Army (Acting), U.S Department of Defense; Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), U.S. Department of Defense; Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Peter Basso*, Senior Advisor, Parsons Brinkerhoff / Beca Joint Venture. Former Chief Operating Officer, AASHTO; Director, Office of Financial Operations, Federal Aviation Administration, United States Department of Transportation; Chief Operating Officer, The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; positions with the U.S. Department of Transportation: Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs; Chief Financial Officer; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget and Provisions. Former Director of Fiscal Services, Federal Highway Administration.

Gerald Galloway*, Glenn L. Martin Institute Professor of Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Affiliate Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, College Park; Visiting Scholar, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources; consultant. Retired Brigadier General, U.S. Army. Former positions include Dean of the Academic Board, United States Military Academy, Dean of the Faculty, Industrial College of the Armed Forces; Executive Director, Interagency Floodplain Management Review, Executive Office of the President.

Kingsley Haynes*, Professor Emeritus, School of Public Policy, George Mason University. Former Ruth D. and John T. Hazel MD Endowed Chair, Professor of Public Policy, School of Public Policy, George Mason University. Former positions with George Mason University: Dean, School of Public Policy, Director, Institute for Public Policy, and Dean, Graduate School. Former Chair, Department of Geography, and Chair, Provost's Public Policy Program, Boston University. Former positions with School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University: Professor; Director, Regional Economic Development Institute.

Mamie Parker*, Founder and President, Ma Parker and Associates. Former positions with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service including Assistant Director, Fisheries and Habitat Conservation; Northeast Regional Director; Chief of Staff; Assistant Regional Director Atlanta, Georgia; Regional Environmental and Ecosystem Coordinator Minneapolis; Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Columbia, Missouri; Fishery Biologist, Lake Mills and Madison, Wisconsin; Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Green Bay, Wisconsin; Fishery Biologist Trainee, New London, Minnesota; Fishery Biologist Trainee, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

*Academy Fellow

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