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# Water Resources Development: Recent Trends in the Decision-Making Process

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**PANEL**  
**Water Resources Development:**  
**Recent Trends in the Decision-Making Process**

**ABSTRACT:**

The Corps of Engineers is sponsoring the development of a book that (1) presents a thorough summary and critical appraisal of our Nation's past experiences in water resources planning and management; and (2) recommends specific water resources research topics and policy requirements for better addressing contemporary water resources planning and management challenges. The book fills an important niche in water resources planning and management literature in that the focus is on the intersection of science, policy and political considerations that form the reality of water resources planning and management decision-making. The underlying focus of the book, which has been prepared by a collection of water resources experts, is on lessons-learned from the level of implementation of science into water policy, concluding with recommendations toward the goal of integrated water resources management.

A short introduction on the background of the book will be given. The panel, comprised of the book's six principal authors, will then discuss their findings and recommendations. Warren (Bud) Viessman will give an historical perspective on water resources planning and management, which serves as the book's foundation. John Boland's chapter restates the basic principles of economics, which underlie the formulation, evaluation, and programming of water resource projects; and provides a critical appraisal of established and evolving non-market valuation techniques. David Moreau examines the nature of environmental concerns and their treatment in policy and planning for water and related land and ecological resources in the United States. Cliff Russell will discuss the differences that often frustrate collaboration between economists and ecologists, such as differences in the conceptual framework in which each discipline makes predictions and the normative framework in which it justifies or criticizes outcomes. Peter Rogers' chapter defines and reviews the underlying principles and models for effective water governance. Finally, Gerry Galloway's chapter synthesizes and summarizes the lessons learned and makes overall recommendations for the future.