

## **Fish and Wildlife Work Group Meeting Notes**

**1 August 2013; 9:30 a.m. at UMESC in La Crosse, WI**

### **Attachment List:**

- Agenda
- Attendance List
- HREP Prioritization Matrix Handout
- PowerPoint Overview of Using Sand for Habitat
- Email from USACE discussing select needs for river delta restoration

### **Meeting Discussion Summary:**

Meeting discussion topics are listed in the agenda. Additions are included at the end of these meeting notes. No items were identified for specific discussion at the August meeting of the RRF. As outlined below, USACE collected input from the FWWG on future HREP study prioritization. Remaining discussion was largely informational.

- *Use of Sand for Habitat:* A brief review was provided of the challenges of using dredged sand for habitat purposes. While this has been done in the recent past, many challenges exist that are unique to every situation and must be addressed prior to any action. Reference attached handout.
- *River Delta Restoration Discussion:* Discussion was held on some of the needs for tributary delta restoration with focus on the Upper Iowa river delta as an example. This included key issues that would need to be addressed with regard to existing flood projects.
- *HREP Prioritization:* Tom Novak led a discussion on the current HREP prioritization (see attached handout). With potential future funding levels it may be wise to identify another HREP to commence planning on to prepare in the event of robust construction funding in the future. Input was provided back to Novak on the currently list, including how projects may be shifted up or down. Novak will take this input and revise the matrix. No additional action by the FWWG or RRF is needed to support this prioritization.
- *Lead Poisoning in Bald Eagles:* Tim Yager and Sarah Warner from USFWS gave an overview presentation on lead poisoning in bald eagles. Presentation was for information only.
- *Historical Centrarchid Overwintering Habitat:* Jeff Janvrin gave a presentation on historical distribution of overwintering habitat, with comparison to existing habitat in select pools.

Additional agenda items.

- Theresa Newton gave a brief update on mussel sampling in Pool 3.
- A brief discussion was held on the status of the dam embankment PARs. It appears this programmatic effort was shelved in favor of site-specific evaluations on an as-needed basis.
- A brief discussion was held on the State-Line determination for MN and WI as this has been surfacing periodically for permitting and emergency response issues.

### **Action Items from the Meeting**

- FWWG Chair will update the RRF on general issues discussed. The FWWG did not identify anything specific to update the RRF.
- Members of the FWWG requested USACE to identify possible example sites where dredged sand might be used for embankment protection and/or habitat purposes. This would include a general description of constraints, including equipment constraints, that limit where such activities could be performed. USACE will try to assemble some type of description for discussion at a future FWWG meeting..

**Agenda**  
**Fish and Wildlife Work Group Meeting**

August 1, 2013 (9:30 – 2:00)  
UMESC – La Crosse, WI

9:30 – 9:35 Introductions/Agenda Overview & Revisions/Housekeeping

9:35 – 10:00 Brief Refresher - Use of Dredged Material for Habitat (Stefanik/Tapp/Urich)

10:00 – 10:30 Tributary Delta Restoration Discussion (Stefanik/Tapp/Novak/All)

10:30 – 11:30 HREP Prioritization Discussion (Novak/All)

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch

12:30 – 1:00 Lead Poisoning in Bald Eagles (Yager)

1:00 – 1:30 Historical Centrarchid Overwintering (Janvrin)

1:30 – 2:00 Other Items (All)

- State line determination for enforcement, permitting and emergency response
- Other

2:00ish Adjourn

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Dan Dieterman	MD DNR	
Sharonne Baylor	Upper Miss Refuge	Sharonne.Baylor@fws.gov
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Randy Urich	COE	randall.r.urich@usace.army.mil
Sarah Warner	USFWS	sarah-warner@fws.gov

# Dredged Sand for Habitat

## Overview of some of the challenges



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# St. Paul District has used dredged material for habitat....





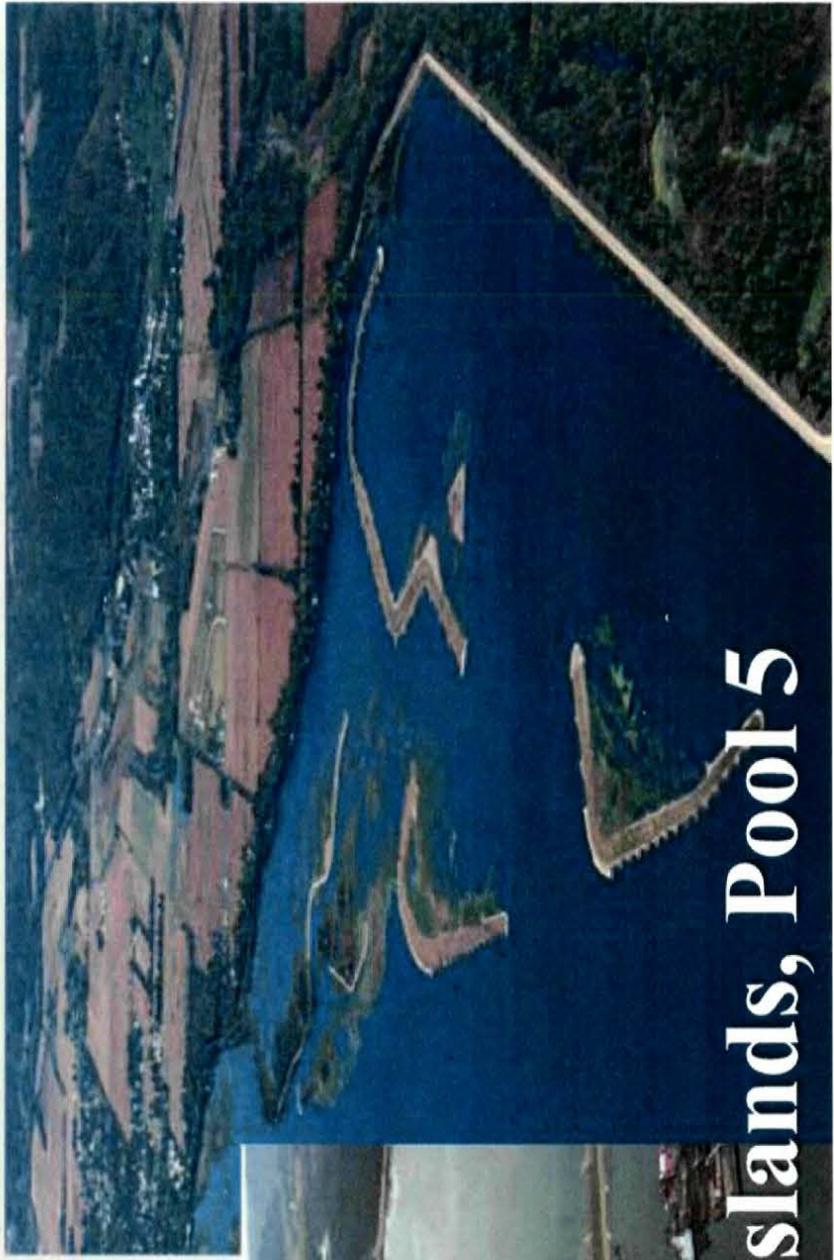
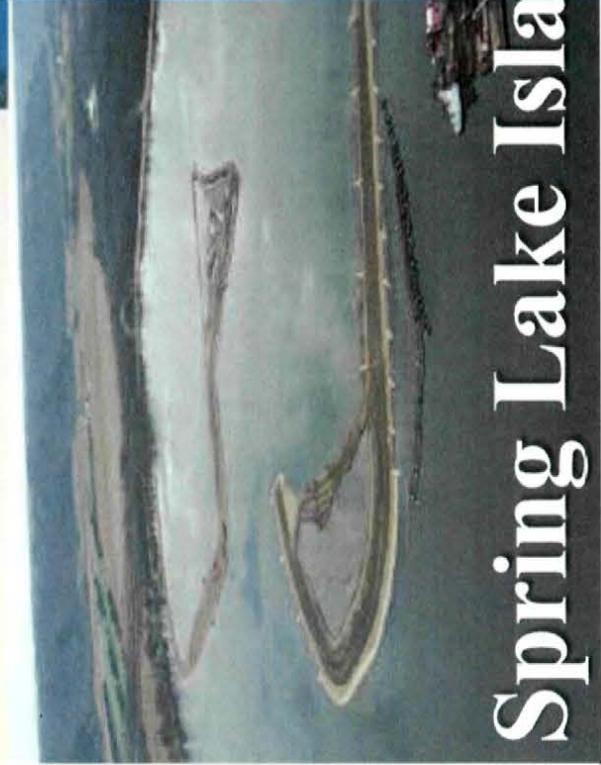
Hydraulic placement  
of island material



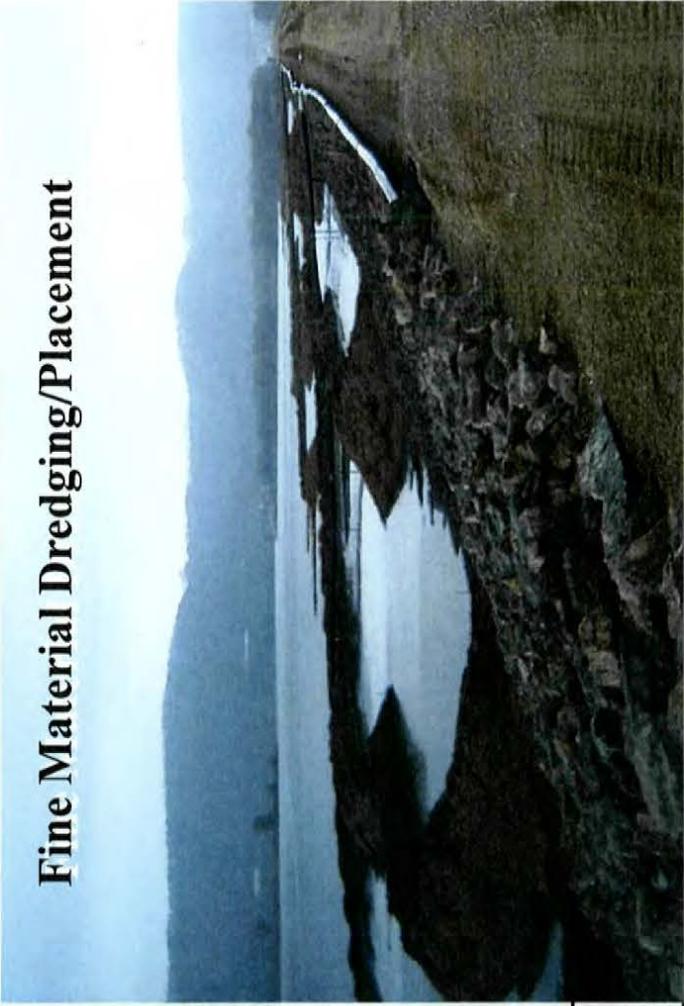
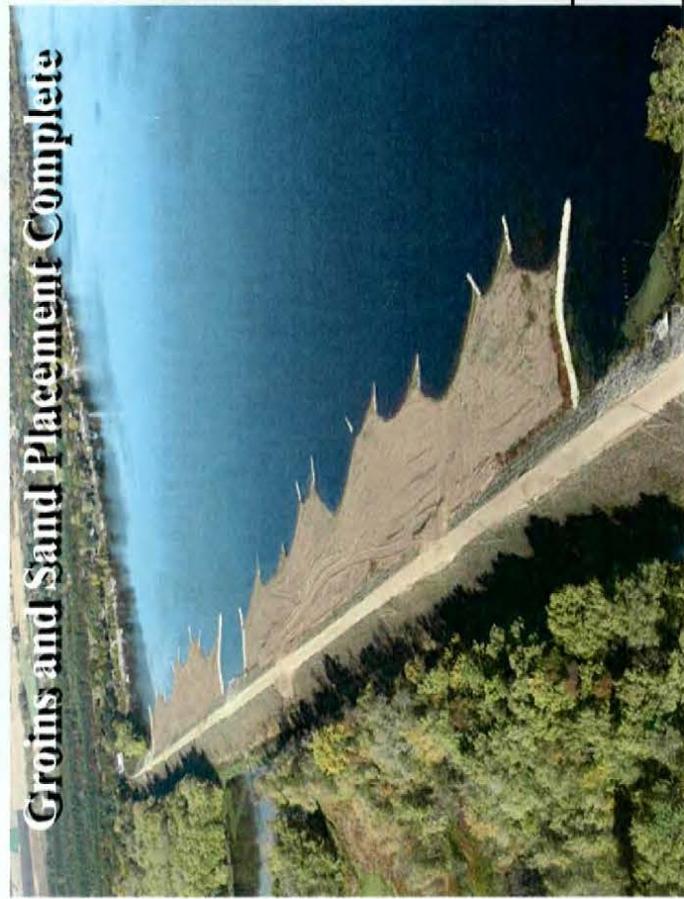
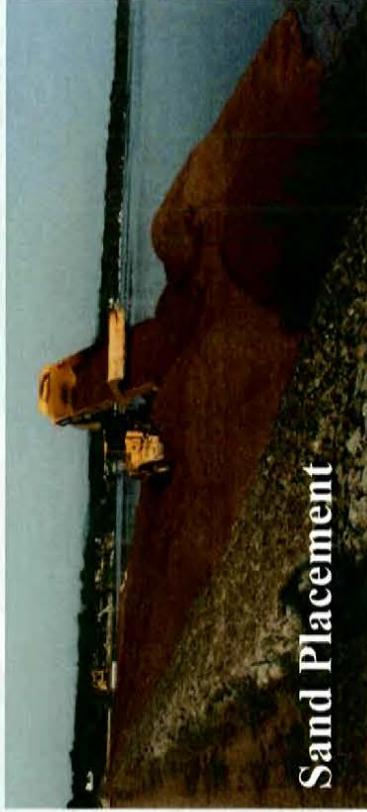
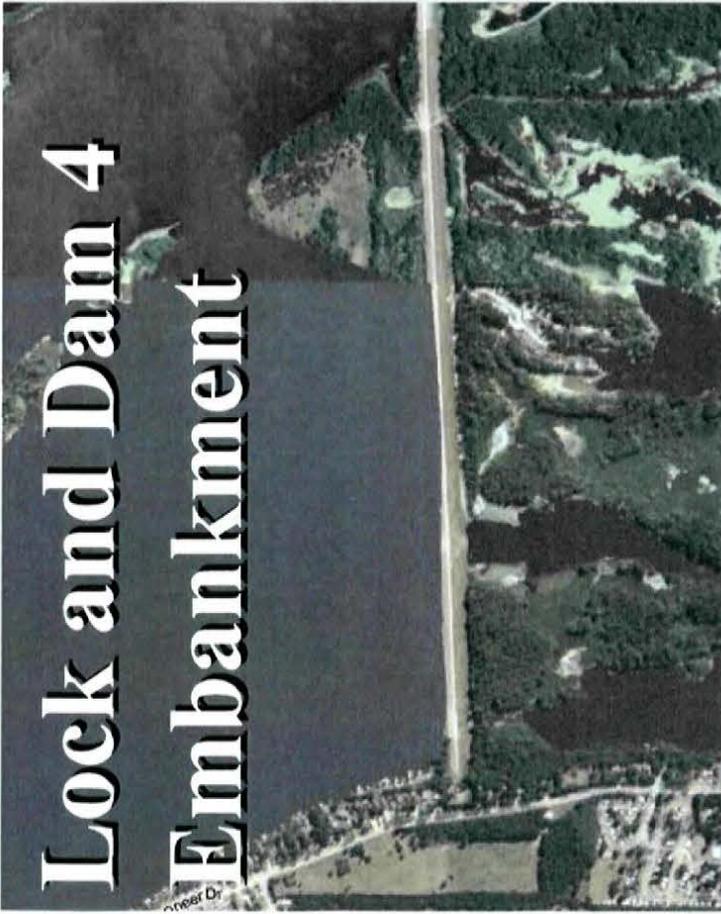
Shaping



Rock protection



# Spring Lake Islands, Pool 5



# Issues that must be addressed to use dredged material for habitat :

- **Cost**
  - **Who pays for action**
  - **Availability and authority**
- **Equipment access**
- **Impacts to flood heights**
- **Impacts to mussels (ESA)**
- **Cultural resources**
- **Fine material source**
- **Water quality**
- **Agency consensus on design**
  - **Multiple states; multiple federal agencies**
  - **Need all permits**
- **Timing/alignment of the above**



## **Once these issue are addressed:**

- **Prepare Plans and Specs**
- **Complete environmental documents**
- **Perform public review**
- **Contract advertisement and award (unless using own forces)**
- **Finally... construct!**

**Bottom line.....**

**We can use dredged material for habitat,  
but it takes time and planning to happen.**



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**From:** [Brownell, Kurt A MVP](#)  
**To:** [Tapp, Steven D MVP](#)  
**Subject:** Upper IA dike breach proposal  
**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2013 3:09:05 PM

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Steve,

I finally got a hold of Dana Werner. He told me that it is much simpler than we thought. Basically the proponent (F&WS and/or IADNR) needs to go to the project sponsor and ask them for a project modification. In this case the modification would be to breach the end of the project dike where it enters government land. The proponent would need to provide details of the location and length of the breach.

The proposal would need to be sent to the Upper IA Drainage District #1, Allamakee County, IA. The POC is Mr. Rick Weymiller, the District Chairman. He can be contacted by phone at 563-544-8047; or by mail, by sending it to his attention to the courthouse in New Albin at 1641 Pool Hill Drive, New Albin, IA 52160.

Assuming the Chairman approves the request to modify, he sends the request onto Dana Werner, who indicated that he would not have an objection if proposed as I relayed from the RRF meeting presentation. Dana then forwards the Corps' approval to modify back to Rick Weymiller and he has the final say as to whether the project can go forward.

Assuming you agree with this, you might wish to forward this to Rich King and Mike Griffin as I believe they were the project proponents.

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Approved emp fact sheets	Pool	State	Phase	feature	CMS	Evaluation Criteria						Notes	
						Unload Site	Draw Down	Rate of Feature Loss**	Cost (millions)	Acres Affected	Cost/Acre		
1	Harpers Slough	9	IA/WI	Draft DPR	islands	draft dpr	no	no	3	23	4,000	\$5,750	
2	North/Sturgeon lake	3	MN	PAR	islands	P3/U4	Corps Island	2016	3	5	2,300	\$2,174	Cost shared/integrate DD
3	Pool 10 Islands	10	IA	fact Sheet	islands	no	McMillan 2014	no	3	15	1,000	\$15,000	O&M cost share granular 200k yds
4	Weaver Bottoms	5	MN	fact sheet	islands	P5	Lost Island 2016	2005	1	10	3,500	\$2,857	O&M cost share granular 1.5m yds
5	Clear Lake	5	MN	fact sheet	dredge	P5	no	2005	1	1	18	\$54,945	Rank based on beneficial use of fines at other projects
6	Bass Lake Ponds	MN	MN	fact sheet	protect	no	no	no	2	2	700-2,200	\$909 - \$2,857	700 ac directly and 1,500 indirect at Long Meadow Lake
7	McGregor Lake	10	WI	fact Sheet	island/drdg	no	no	no	1	6.4	200	\$32,000	
8/9	Conway Lake	9	IA	PAR	dredg/protect	draft dpr	no	no	1	*3.5	357	\$9,804	
8/9	Lake Winneshiek	9	WI	fact sheet	island	draft dpr	no	no	1	3.3	1,200	\$2,750	
10	LD 3 Fish Passage	3	MN	Prelim DPR	fish pass	no	no	2016	1	15	4,000	\$3,750	EMP ARRA; NESP

\* Cost estimate from 1994

\*\* Rate of feature loss ranked 1-3; 1=low, 2=medium, 3=high

Note: Upper Iowa and Zumbro River have been endorsed but not sent to MVD for approval