

Fish and Wildlife Work Group Meeting Notes

5 Dec 2014; 9:30 a.m. at USFWS FWCO in Onalaska, WI

Attachment List:

- Agenda
- Attendance List
- EPP History PowerPoint
- Pool 3 Implementation Strategy Handout
- Pitch presentation for the International Society for River Sciences conference

Meeting Discussion Summary:

Meeting discussion topics are listed in the agenda and summarized below. The majority of the meeting focused on discussion of the Environmental Pool Plans. No additions were made to the agenda.

- *Environmental Pool Plans:* The majority of the meeting focused on the EPP, the fact they are now 10 years old, and that there may be a desire to update these documents. Discussion was held on:
 1. *History of EPP Preparation*
 2. *General agency views on the EPP, including usability and limitations*
 3. *Considerations for updating.*

History of the EPP

- Jeff Janvrin gave an overview presentation on the origins and history of the EPP (attached). This was supplemented by input from the group, including others that were central in the original drafting of the EPP. This included input from Randy Ulrich (USACE), Tim Schlagenhaft (Audubon, then MNDNR) and other input from USFWS, MNDNR and IADNR. (Overview presentation attached).

Agency perspectives on the EPP

- Agencies then provided their views on the EPP. In general, all of the natural resource agencies use the EPP a lot as reference. It was noted that it provides a great overview of generally desired habitat conditions and particularly valuable for new employees working on the river. Most agencies preferred the generalized nature of the EPP, and in fact some preferred that it not be revised to be overly specific. WIDNR did note a preference to take the next step on specifics and priorities. USACE also noted that the lack of specific detail, and the lack of agency agreement on actions greatly limits the usability of the EPP for USACE planning purposes.
- Tim Schlagenhaft noted that from an NGO perspective the EPP were valuable with justifying use of NGO funding to do projects.
- Mark Schultz (LOPRD) noted from a local community perspective the EPP were valuable to inform the community of the general goals for the river. He also noted that the EPP were valuable as they built upon public input. He also advised continued and improved collaboration with local government and citizens on river activities.

Considerations for Updating or Improving the EPP

- Discussion was then held on what might be done to update or improve upon the EPP. This was preliminary discussion. While many ideas were shared, it is clear that additional discussion is needed to collaboratively decide what updates are needed, and who would perform such updates.
- The following items were generally agreed upon for incorporation into some type of update to the EPP:
 - Completed HREP projects
 - Completed O&M projects
 - Completed Refuge projects
 - Any completed state projects
- The following are other items that individuals expressed an interest in incorporating, though much more discussion would be needed to determine how to do this within some reasonable budget:
 - Incorporate HGM + Lidar + Bathymetry + other data collected since initial publication
 - Better match resolutions between imagery and land-use conditions
 - Greater detail, specificity and prioritization of habitat actions.

- Develop and present process-oriented resource descriptions and plans rather than a desired for habitat types or project types.
 - Prioritization to allow users to focus on efforts that would have the most benefit, and identify locations and instances where natural processes can help add to project.
 - Compare status of system and the rates of habitat or process changes. While many processes are natural and continue on the river, the rates of those process have dramatically changed.
 - Prompt research, or present results of research on the long-term perspective of river dynamics, the rate of change, and what effect past actions and management strategies would have on the rate of change.
 - Prompt or incorporate modeling to predict change to system under different scenarios, such as sediment load changes.
 - It was noted that an update might best be captured through the addition of a new appendix to the original document rather than an overhaul of the doc itself.
 - Documentation of what hasn't been done and why
 - Identify, understand, and document differences in agency perspectives – ID areas of consensus and clearly ID reasons behind objections.
- During the end of this discussion it was noted that reaching consensus on detailed updates, particularly with specific project, habitat or process goals and objectives is likely impossible and not worth the effort given that habitat needs, as well as agency views and positions are constantly changing. The initial discussion on the history of the EPP noted that the original writing of the EPP essentially ended when discussions on potential consensus broke down and greater specificity or consensus could not be reached. It would appear very difficult to reach any greater consensus this time around as well.
 - An additional FWWG meeting(s) would likely be needed to further discuss how to consider items in this group of “other” items for inclusion into the EPP.

Additional Agenda Items

- Roger Haro gave a brief plug for the International Society for River Science conference coming up in 2015 in La Crosse, WI. His presentation is attached. If agencies have an interest in a UMR symposium for this conference, they should talk amongst themselves and inquire with Roger.
- Elliott Stefanik has been serving as FWWG chair since 2010 (I think). It's time to consider new leadership. If interested or if you have someone in mind, pass it along to the Chair and we'll arrange to switch leadership. Please!

Action Items from the Meeting

- Schedule an additional FWWG meeting to resume this discussion on EPP updates.
- USACE will begin considering if and how we may be able to contribute to updating the EPP, at least for projects that USACE has constructed since the first EPP edition.

Agenda

Fish and Wildlife Work Group Meeting

Dec 5, 2014 (9:30 – 1:00)

USFWS FWCO – La Crosse, WI

9:30 – 9:45 Introductions/Agenda Overview & Revisions/Housekeeping

9:45 – 12:00 Environmental Pool Plans Discussion

- History of original Pool Plans
- Use and current limitations
- How can Pool Plans be updated
 - What type of update can realistically be considered
 - Who could do this and when
 - What would make the PP more useable
 - Other???

12:00 – 12:30 ISRS conference

12:30 – 12:45 PERs

12:45 – 1:00 Other?

1:00 Adjourn

FWWG Meeting
Dec 5, 2014

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Email</u>
Stephen Winter	USFWS	stephan_winter@fws.gov
Elliott Stefaniuk	USACE	elliott.l.stefaniuk@usace.army.mil
Aaron McFarlane	USACE	aaron.m.mcfarlane@usace.army.mil
DAVID HEATH	WDMIC	david.heath@wi.gov
Brian Brecka	WDNR	brian.brecka.wi.gov
Tim Schlagenhaft	Audubon	tschlagenhaft@audubon.or
Mary Stefanski	FWS	Mary-Stefanski@fws.gov
Sharonne Baylor	USFWS	sharonne_baylor@fws.gov
Kendra Menec	USFWS	Kendra_Menec@fws.gov
GREG MARTIN	HSC	GREGMARTIN@HOT-MAIL.COM
Yao Yin	USGS UMESC	YYIN@USGS.GOV
Ron Benjamin	WDNR	Ron.Benjamin@wisconsin.gov
Jeff Janurin	WDNR	Jeff.Janurin@wisconsin.gov
Dan Hesel	WDNR	daniel.hesel@wi.gov
Sara Strassman	WDNR	Sara.Strassman@wi.gov
David Beer	USACE	david.f.potter@usace.army.mil
Paul Machajewski	USACE	paul.r.machajewski@usace.army.mil
Laurel Kullend	FWS	Laurel_Kullend@fws.gov
Wendy Woyczik	FWS	Wendy_Woyczik@fws.gov
Lisa Maas	USFWS	Lisa_maas@fws.gov
Scott Yess	FWS	SCOTT_YESS@fws.gov
Jim Nissen	FWS	JAMES_NISSEN@fws.gov
Dan Dieleman	MNDNR	
John Wetzel	La Crosse County Conservation Alliance	john769@centurytel.net
Brenda Kelly	WI DNR	brenda.kelly@wisconsin.gov
Terese Newton	USGS	tnewton@usgs.gov
Mike Griffin	IA DNR	Michael.Griffin@dnr.iowa.gov
Mare Schult	LOPRD	Schultzmaechatter.net

Implementation Strategy Pool 3 example

Ongoing, when opportunities arise

Acquire fee title or easements from willing sellers in defined project areas - delay other construction projects (planned activities) if needed

Planned Construction

① Evaluate potential for Pool-scale drawdowns

a) if feasible, implement and experiment with depth and frequency

b) if not feasible, isolate and drawdown North and Sturgeon Lakes and Lake Isabelle

a) Construct seed islands where sufficient flow and bedload and monitor island growth

②

b) Construct islands where insufficient flows and bedload - use dredge material from drawdowns or from placement sites nearest islands

③ Dredge backwaters for fish habitat and use to top islands - use variety depths, patterns, sizes

④ Construct fish passage structures at Lockal Dam #3 and Truedale Slough

⑤ Restore floodplain forest and prairie at newly acquired sites, in Gores State Wildlife Mgmt Area, and state forest lands in Vermillion

Schedule

Program Year

1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50

Free title or assessments

Drawdowns

- Pool-scale (system?)
- isolate North and/or Sturgeon Lakes
- Lake Isabelle

Islands

- seed islands (flow + bed)
- Constructed
 - North Lake
 - Sturgeon Lake
 - Lower Pool

Dredging

- North lake
- Sturgeon Lake

Fish passage

- Lot D #3
- Truedale Slough

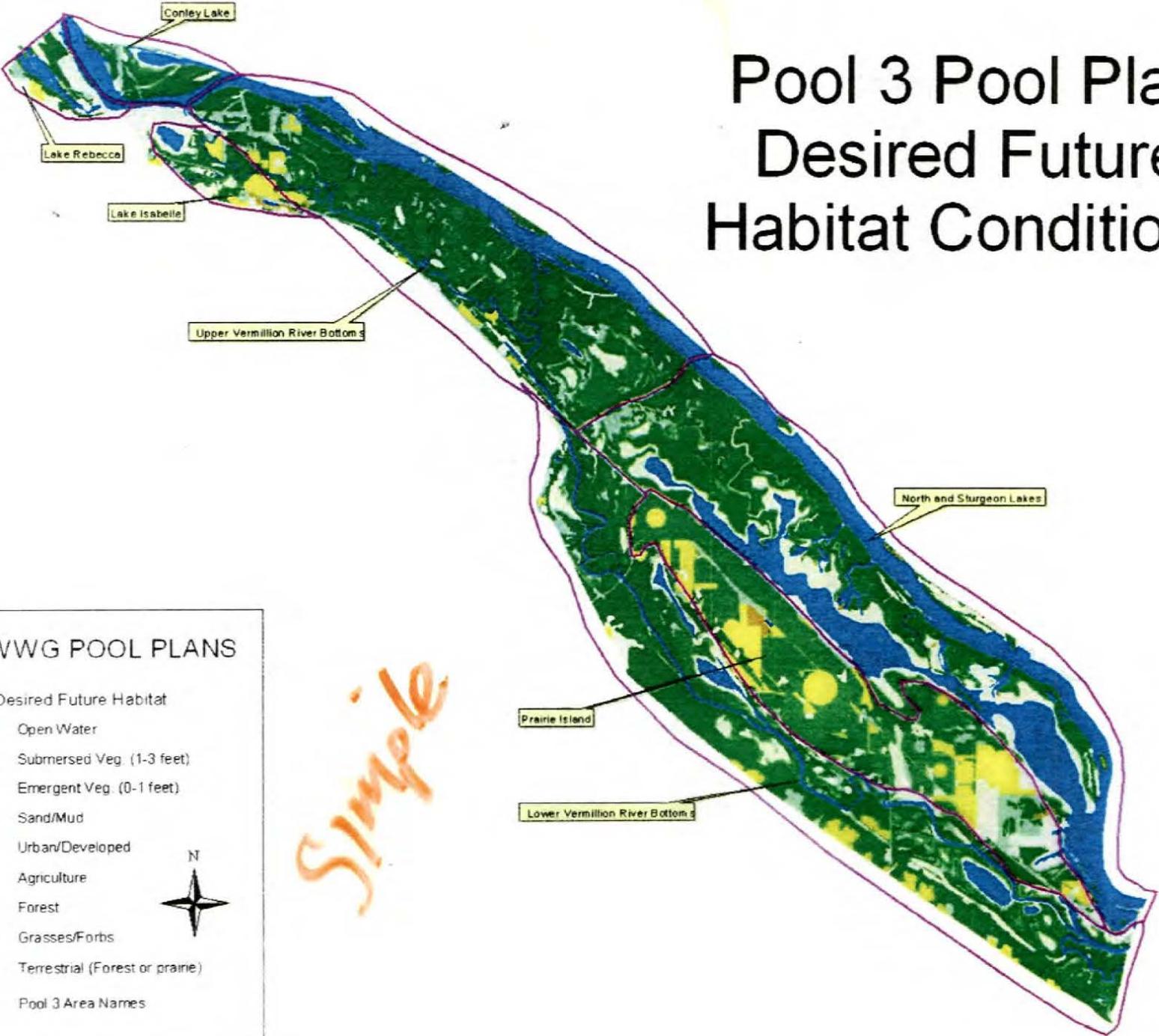
Restore prairie and forest

Adaptive mgmt

Adaptive mgmt

order based on disposal material availability

Pool 3 Pool Plan Desired Future Habitat Conditions



RRF FWWG POOL PLANS

Pool 3 Desired Future Habitat

- Open Water
- Submersed Veg. (1-3 feet)
- Emergent Veg. (0-1 feet)
- Sand/Mud
- Urban/Developed
- Agriculture
- Forest
- Grasses/Forbs
- Terrestrial (Forest or prairie)
- Pool 3 Area Names



Simple

International Society for River Science

**La Crosse
Wisconsin**



Roger J. Haro
ISRS Steering Committee

La Crosse, Wisconsin USA
August 23-28, 2015

CONFERENCE DATES

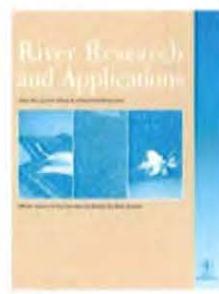
August 23 – 28, 2015
La Crosse Convention Center

Previous ISRS meetings:
2009: St. Petersburg, FL
2011: Berlin, Germany
2013: Beijing, China

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Grand Dad's Bluff Overlooking La Crosse, Wisconsin

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RIVER SCIENCE (ISRS)?



- **ISRS Mission Statement**
- ISRS exists to foster and develop scholarship in all disciplines contributing to knowledge and wise stewardship of rivers and streams as vital natural and managed ecosystems.
- www.riversociety.org

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ISRS 2015: CONNECTIVITY

The 2015 ISRS conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin will focus on the theme of *connectivity* to, within, and among riverine landscapes, exploring the geomorphic, chemical, and biological implications of connectivity in rivers, and how developing broader themes of human social and

CONFERENCE HOSTS

- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UW-L) River Studies Center (RSC)
- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Continuing Education and Extension (CEE)
- USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (UMESC)
- Winona State University






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PRE-MEETING WORKSHOPS: BUILDING TECHNICAL CAPACITY FOR RIVER SCIENTISTS AROUND THE WORLD

- The era of river anthropology: social and ecohydrological science connections and capacity for environmental flows (Organized and Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy)
- An introduction to data manipulation using R (Organized by Dr. Richard Erickson)
- River Resilience: new concepts for biodiversity (Organized by Dr. Kris Van-Looy)

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OPENING SPEAKER




- National Geographic Speaker Environmentalist Chad Pregracke
- 2013 CNN Hero of the Year

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FEATURED SPEAKERS

	Dr. Margaret Palmer National Socio-environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC)		Dr. Bernhard Peucker-Ehrenbrink Woods Hole Global Rivers Observatory
	Dr. C.J. Vörösmarty Global Water System Project		Mr. Jerry Enzler National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium

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FEATURED SPEAKERS

	Dr. William Dennison University of Maryland Center for Environment Science	
	A speaker to be announced	

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SPECIAL SESSIONS (SO FAR...)

- **Balancing multiple uses of river systems: Past, Present and Future** Navigation infrastructure and river ecosystem considerations
- **Big rivers, big data: what are we learning from large-scale, long-term data sets from large river ecosystems**
- **Connectivity and water level manipulation for large scale restoration - Comprehensive assessment of the responses of the Emiquon Preserve**

Other special session titles and the names of the organizers are listed on the handout

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CONNECTING

- The deadline for the submission of special session proposals has been extended. Please visit the following web page for details and instructions for submitting proposals:
<http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/isrs2015/callforpapers.htm>.
- The online abstract submission portal is open and can be accessed at <http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/isrs2015/abstract.htm>

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CONNECTING RIVER SCIENTISTS, MANAGERS, SCHOLARS & THE PUBLIC

- We are expecting between 350 and 500 attendees from around the world
- The symposium is being designed to maximize networking and collaboration among the attendees
- Daily luncheon speakers are scheduled to promote discussion around riverine themes
- Two poster sessions are planned and will be displayed along side of a wide variety of exhibits from government agencies and non-government organizations that focus on river science and management

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Registration

\$525 regular and \$330 student

Please note that the registration fee includes the following **complimentary amenities**:

- Program and abstracts
- Opening reception with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and beverages (cash bar)
- Daily continental breakfasts, morning and afternoon refreshments during breaks, and sit-down lunches with luncheon speakers
- Poster/Exhibit sessions held in reception settings with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and beverages (cash bar) on Monday and Wednesday afternoons
- Banquet on Tuesday evening

Hotel accommodations. Please visit the *Location & Lodging* link at the conference web site for information about hotels, many of which are in close proximity to the conference venue and range in cost from \$67 to \$149 per night.

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Clark, Steven J MVP

From: Stefanik, Elliott L MVP
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:30 AM
To: Stefanik, Elliott L MVP; 'Lisa_Reid@fws.gov'; 'Brian.Brecka@Wisconsin.gov'; 'david.heath@wisconsin.gov'; 'jamesr.fischer@wisconsin.gov'; Hendrickson, Jon S MVP; Kelner, Daniel E MVP; 'KHerdina@piic.org'; Machajewski, Paul R MVP; 'michelle.marron@wisconsin.gov'; 'patrick.short@wisconsin.gov'; 'rpederson@ducks.org'; Tapp, Steve D MVP; Theiling, Charles H MVR; Urich, Randall R MVP; Sobiech, Jonathan J MVP; 'brent_knights@usgs.gov'; 'dan.dieterman@state.mn.us'; 'david.heath@wisconsin.gov'; 'donjanp@comcast.net'; 'gbenjamin@tnc.org'; 'Heidi_Keuler@fws.gov'; 'jeff.janvrin@wisconsin.gov'; 'tschlagenhaft@audubon.org'; 'James_Nissen@fws.gov'; 'kevin.stauffer@dnr.state.mn.us'; 'kevin_kenow@usgs.gov'; 'kherdina@piic.org'; 'michael.griffin@dnr.iowa.gov'; 'mike.davis@dnr.state.mn.us'; 'Mark_Steingraeber@fws.gov'; 'Mary_Stefanski@fws.gov'; 'patrick.short@wisconsin.gov'; Machajewski, Paul R MVP; 'Phil_Delphey@fws.gov'; 'ragrawe@hbc.com'; Urich, Randall R MVP; 'rbiske@tnc.org'; 'Robert_Clevenstine@fws.gov'; 'Ron.Benjamin@wisconsin.gov'; 'scott.gritters@dnr.iowa.gov'; 'szigler@usgs.gov'; 'Scott_Yess@fws.gov'; 'Sharonne_Baylor@fws.gov'; Birkenstock, Terry MVP; 'tnewton@usgs.gov'; 'Vickie_Hirschboeck@fws.gov'; 'Timothy_Yager@fws.gov'; 'Brenda Kelly (Brenda.Kelly@Wisconsin.gov)'; 'Karen Osterkamp (karen.osterkamp@dnr.iowa.gov)'; 'stephen_winter@fws.gov'; 'lisa_maas@fws.gov'; 'richard_king@fws.gov'; Potter, David F MVP; Novak, Thomas (Tom) MVP; 'kendra_niemec@fws.gov'; Clark, Steven J MVP; 'Sara.Strassman@wisconsin.gov'; 'chandi.mccracken@state.mn.us'; 'Emily.Schnick@state.mn.us'; 'Kendra Niemec'; 'Wendy Woyczik'; 'Lisa Maas'; 'curt_mcmurl@fws.gov'; 'ndejager@usgs.gov'; 'jhouser@usgs.gov'; 'bickes@usgs.gov'; 'jrogala@usgs.gov'; 'jsauer@usgs.gov'; 'yyin@usgs.gov'; 'bljohnson@usgs.gov'; McFarlane, Aaron M MVP; laurel_kullerud@fws.gov
Subject: FWWG Meeting Notes and Next Meeting (UNCLASSIFIED)
Attachments: Meeting.Notes.FWWG.5.Dec.2014.pdf

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

All: I've finally got draft notes together for our FWWG back in December. Give these a look and let me know if you have any comments. Note I'm still working with Jeff Janvrin to get his PowerPoint on EPP history included as one of our attachments.

At the FWWG there was a desire to resume this discussion on the EPP update. So... here is a Doodle pool for potential dates of our next FWWG in late February or Early March. We will try to make further progress on what an EPP update might look like, including who would do this and when. We can also entertain other agenda topics. Assume this will be in LaX, probably from 9:30 to 1:00.

<http://doodle.com/iqpzqmsdav6ck2s6>

Elliott L. Stefanik
Chief, Environmental Planning Section
St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers
Office Phone: (651) 290-5260
Cell Phone: (651) 707-4078
Fax: (651) 290-5805
Elliott.L.Stefanik@usace.army.mil

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Caveats: NONE