

## MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #83, 2 & 3 December 2008

1. Introductions / Approve Minutes/ Meetings– A meeting of the River Resources Forum (RRF) was held on 2 & 3 December 2008 at the Ft. Snelling State Park, St Paul, MN. Attached is the attendance list [Attachment 83-2] from the meeting. Following introductions, the Minutes from RRF #82 were approved as prepared.

The next meetings are scheduled for:

28 April 2009 in Winona, MN

25 and 26 August site TBD

1 and 2 December at Ft. Snelling State Park

A letter of appreciation was given to Gretchen Benjamin for her contribution to the River Resource Forum. Jim Fischer will be interim Co-Chair until Gretchen's position with WI DNR is filled.

2. Agency Activities – (Only the agencies listed below had significant information to report.)

- A. COE (Tapp): The dredge Goetz has been working in Rock Island District on levee reconstruction and is on their way back to winter in Fountain City. The LUAP work has been on hold but will continue in Feb. 77 acres reforestation for mitigation along the Rush River in Pierce County. Buffalo Slough landing constructed with congressional funds. The COE has a large mission in New Orleans and is the number one priority for the district. (Birkenstock): MVD signed a MOU with Ducks Unlimited.
- B. FWS (Sullins): Lost more than 30% staff last year. Filling 1 biology position right now. Phil Delphy will become more involved with river work as a biologist. (Hultman): Tony Batya is retiring 30 Jan; Vicky Drieslen is retiring 30 Jan; Ann Blankenship is transferring to McGregor; Dick Steinback is retiring 30 Apr. Option signed last week for 660 acres at Root River. Implement Pool 4 rule change fall 09. New regulation for immediate retrieval of downed waterfowl. Merrick state park land closed area, owned by COE. Fall waterfowl count is similar to 2007 but down from 2006. Lot of swan watch use in Brownsville platform.
- C. USGS (Johnson): LTRMP \$18M for EMP; \$5M for LTRMP. Partnering with WI DNR on ideas for invasive species issues.
- D. USCG (Kepper): New Capt Steve Hudson. Kept another marine inspector billet. FWS found temp home for 25' boat, but looking for permanent use. ID Twix cards starting 13 Jan for all CG regulated facilities and 15 April for all mariners. Increase tow boat regulations in 2011. 40% increase in CG personnel.
- E. IA DNR (Konrad): Budget cuts. License increase request. Marion Connel retiring.
- F. MN DNR (Wooden): 3/8% Constitutional amendment. If passes, would help with funding and be used for habitat projects.
- G. MPCA (Mader): Deputy Commissioner Leo Raudys left for private sector in August. He was replaced by Assistant Commissioner Paul Eger. Rebecca Flood, formerly of Metropolitan Council replaced Paul Eger as Assistant Commissioner for water issues. Commissioner Moore left 1 Dec for the private sector. Deputy Commissioner Eger is now Acting Commissioner. Change in telephone numbers. Clean Water Legacy – not sure what

that means yet for the agency. The One Water proposal is aimed at assessing water quality in the 81 watersheds in 10 year cycles.

- H. MN DOT (Lambert): Hiring.
- I. WI DNR (Fischer): \$5.4M deficit until June 2011. Hiring freezes are on; however, Gretchen's position is a high priority to fill. John Sullivan working with field staff on TMDL's in Lake Pepin.
- J. UMWA (Genz): Having issues with UMWA & RIAC being on the same page regarding some projects in St. Paul District (i.e. LaCrosse RR Bridge future span location). UMWA will actively work with RIAC to reconcile differences with RIAC. Season is done. If MVD is looking at tonnage, it is a long term concern, and not sure what the long term solution is.
- K. LMRWD (Schwalbe): District is working with state Legislatures on a basin bill. Rep Lanning is trying to get it state wide. Issues with MN River affecting Lake Pepin TMDL. Huge increase in flows from 1974 – 2008 vs. 1935 – 2008.
- L. TNC (Benjamin): Upper Miss program working on platform projects in five states. Bringing in resources to clean up five small watersheds.

### 3. Channel Maintenance Program [Attachment 83–3]

A. Dredging (Cottrell): Reviewed 2008 dredging summary. Check surveys for MAC dredging area (Homan field). MN River 14.2 – is there a need for a study since material is building up, needs funds for dredging point or study, sediment trap may not work in that area, look at angle we are laying out dredge cut.

B. Channel Placement Site Schedule (Lund): Reviewed the 2008 projects and 2009 placement site activities. Need to find ways of taking TSS tests for unloading contracts with faster turnaround for results.

#### C. Channel Management (Machajewski):

1. Nelson Mines: The Upper and Lower Boulanger placement sites will not be affected, and we may also be able to use the proposed backwater mining site for the placement of our channel maintenance dredged material. Scot Johnson recommended that the channel maintenance dredged material be used to build islands as described in Pool 2 Pool plans instead. Draft EIS due out in fall 2009.

#### 2. Bridges:

- a. Lowry – Demolition scheduled for spring 2009; construction scheduled for 2010.
- b. Hastings – Draft Environmental documentation in spring 2009; staging at Koch placement site; potential beneficial use of 10,000 cy of dredged material; construction scheduled for fall 2010.
- c. I-90 – Public meetings held Nov; construction scheduled for 2012 – 2015.
- d. LaCrosse RR – Three alternatives reviewed, 25% funding secured.

D. LD 4 Embankment: Jim Fischer questioned the future of these projects on other dam embankments. COE needs to further review the long term benefits of project before determining whether or not to do another embankment project. Bruce Boldon stated the COE would prefer to use NESP money vs. O&M funds. L&D's would like to see how it protects the embankment during high waster once the vegetation has grown. Jim Fischer would like to see a report with costs, benefits, etc.

### 4. Navigation Work Group (Machajewski)

A. Mooring Buoy – Need to meet with fishing public, Friends of Pool 9, and the Genoa bait shop to discuss proposed new location of the buoy.

- B. NESP Barge Fleeting Study – Will complete table & mapping by March 2009.
- C. Docks – Permits have been reviewed for the Red Wing boat docks and may be out of compliance. Need to establish a reference point.

5. Navigation & Ecosystem Sustainability Program (DeZellar)

- A. Terry Smith promoted; Elizabeth Ivy is backfilling. New workload in New Orleans by 2011. \$3M under CRA until March 09.
- B. Institutional Arrangements – 1) Advisory Panel, 2) River Panel, and 3) . IL river team going to set up work group. Under executing primarily because MVS & MVR engineers pulled off for New Orleans work. Inland waterways trust fund – cost share 50/50, \$90M.
- C. Projects –
  - 1) Pool 2 Wing Dams – Project Implementation Report (PIR) completed, but no CG funds. Elliott Stefanik has done a great job on project.
  - 2) Root River – Working on floodplain restoration agreement with MN DNR.
  - 3) Forest Management – Continue with system forest plan. PDT finished second version; send out in March for review and finalize this FY. Reno Bottoms PIR - Southern University is finishing report this winter.

6. Water Level Management (Schlagenhaft) [Attachment 83-4]

- A. Drawdowns [Attachment 83-5]
  - (1) Pool 6 - Try again in 09. Mussel survey report completed.
  - (2) Pool 3 - MPCA, MN DNR, Corps, and Dakota Co. and others are working with group on Lake Pepin TMDL's and are interested in Pool 3 drawdown work
  - (3) Pool 8 – Considering time-frame for a repeat drawdown, working with Pool 8 Islands PDT regarding potential dredging locations for island material that would also provide advanced dredging for drawdown.

B. Brochure/Newsletter - Produce new brochure by Ruth Nissen, WI DNR, this spring/summer. Next newsletter distributed by April 09.

C. Endorsement Recommendation [Attachment 83-6] – The WLMTF recommended endorsement of the following: *“The River Resources Forum Recommends the St. Paul District include pool-wide water level reductions (drawdowns) and other water management options as ecosystem restoration components of their Water Management Program.”*

The COE supports the overall concept but needs to make revisions to the document before endorsing. Revisions include language on including funding availability, sediment transport, funding for advanced dredging, and costs for placement site management. Need MVD approval for changes in water control regulating, COE needs PAR before endorsing. Martin Konrad suggested COE bring steps needed to get this endorsed. Other agencies offered to help write the PAR.

Barry Johnson stated the USGS is interested in long term and short term ecological effects. The Science Panel is meeting early in Jan to discuss and provide recommendation to the WLMTF on their adaptive management guidelines for water level management. There will be four to six pools in the experimental design – how often, when to start, and depth. They will include a long term monitoring plan.

7. Floodplain Restoration (Schlagenhaft)

- Tim Schlagenhaft drafted a letter [Attachment 83-7] from the RRF to Col Sinkler based on recommendations from the April RRF meeting that requests the Corps consider the feasibility/benefits of a floodplain restoration task force for NESP. Steve Tapp and Jim Fischer will review and distribute to the RRF for review and approval.

8. Environmental Management Program (DeZellar)

A. FY09 Budget – \$20M under CRA, MVP - \$3.5M plus \$3.5M carry-over.

C. FY08 Construction Update

(1) Pool 8 Phase III Stage 2B – Expended \$3.0M, construction complete Jun 09.

(2) Pool 8 Phase III Stage 3 – Approve P&S in Feb. Contract award in Apr 09.

(3) Clear Lake – Construction complete 09.

(4) Capoli & Harper Slough – Terry Williams completing DPR places by Sep 09.

(5) Pool Slough – Project complete and turned over to IA DNR in Jul 09. IA DNR needs O&M manuals and pump manuals.

9. Fish & Wildlife Work Group (Anderson) [Attachment 83-8]

A. Lisa Reid is the new chair.

B. Small Scale Projects - Scot Johnson presented a powerpoint with information on the groups meeting.

C. Completion Reports – Provide powerpoints of completion reports at next meeting.

D. Rec White Paper [Attachment 83-9] – The SOW was edited from RRF #82 and reviewed by Jon Hendrickson. Jon will prioritize task steps along with costs. The work could be contracted out (grad students?). Need to identify sources of funding. RRF recommends FWWG finalize the letter and send out for funding.

E. Ecosystem Restoration Objectives – This report is part of report to Congress by 30 Jun 09. Add timeline to letter so agencies can dedicate personnel to work on and review report. RRF recommends endorsement of report prior to sending to Congress.

10. Recreation Work Group (Berg)

A. Beach Plans – Reviewing Draft Pool 9 plan and Dan Cottrell is drafting Pool 10 plan. Need to add an amendment to Pool 3 plan for Diamond Bluff.

B. UMRCC – Scot Johnson presented a powerpoint on the work UMRCC has done.

11. Misc

Water Control website up and running again. <https://www.mvp-wc.usace.army.mil>

Steve Tapp  
Co-Chairman, RRF

Att:

83-1 Agenda

83-2 Attendance Sheet

83-3 2008 Dredge Summary & 2009 Channel Management Schedule

RRF #83 Draft Minutes  
28 April 2009

- 83-4 WLMTF Summary
- 83-5 Adaptive Management Guidelines for Drawdowns
- 83-6 WLMTF Endorsement Recommendation
- 83-7 Floodplain Task Force letter
- 83-8 FWVG Summary
- 83-9 Revised Draft SOW for Bank Erosion