

## MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #76, 30 August 2006

1. Introductions / Approve Minutes – A meeting of the River Resources Forum (RRF) was held on 29 - 30 August 2006 at AmericInn in Wabasha, MN. Attached is the attendance list and handouts from the meeting. Following introductions, the Minutes from RRF #75 were approved with no changes.
2. Next Meeting  
Tuesday & Wednesday, December 5 & 6, Bloomington FWS MNR Refuge Office.
3. 345 kV Line and Miss river - Rasmussen and Thompson (Handout 76-1)
  - One line crossing will be needed on the Mississippi River.
  - There are four areas identified as options (Alma, Winona, Trempealeau, and LaCrosse).
  - Next step is to meet with those agency representatives that would be more involved with project.
4. Agency Activities – Note: Only the agencies listed below had significant information to report.
  - A. LMRWD – Schwalbe: Closed on property for the Cargill East River site on July 31. They are ready to move ahead with the placement site.
  - B. MNDOT – Lambert: Winona Commercial Harbor dredging is complete and stockpiled. Pelzer St. road expansion and railroad overpass is scheduled for completion in June 07.
  - C. FWS – Hultman: (Handout 76-2) The CCP Record of Decision was signed on 8/24. Alternative E will be implemented.
  - D. IADNR – Griffin: Pool Slough EMP is completed. The Conservation Recreation Division is reorganizing which includes job responsibilities. There are new water quality initiatives for the watersheds.
  - E. NPS – Krumholz for Johnson: Jo Ann Kyril retired and Steve Johnson is acting in her position.
  - F. COE – Krumholz: (Handout 76-3) Lt Gen Stroock is retiring in the near future. He will be visiting the St. Paul District office on 9/6. Col Pfenning is deployed to New Orleans and working in the Recovery Office. Judy DesHarnais is acting in his position. Dean Peterson retired and Dan Krumholz has replaced him as the Lock & Dam Operations Manager. Channels & Harbors Operations Manager is open and Paul Machajewski is acting. MV Mississippi visited the district in early August. Dan thanked Gretchen Benjamin for her complimentary comments about St. Paul District to the Mississippi River Commission. LD 9 dedication is on 8/30. The LD 3 EIS is out or review and a public meeting is scheduled for 9/6 in Red Wing. Discussed the 12 Actions for Change developed by the Corps, which were developed after lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina and other projects pointed to the need for organizational changes.

- G. WIDNR – Gretchen Benjamin. Lots of public relations activities – 150 year anniversary of LaCrosse, USGS, and 20 year anniversary of EMP. Meeting in early October with IA and MN to discuss 303 (d) listings for 2008.
  - H. MNDNR – Rebecca Wooden. Reorganizing so SE office reports to St. Paul instead of New Ulm which could result in more Mississippi River focus.
  - I. WIDOT – Larry Kieck. Received one harbor assistance application. The 50 wind generators to be delivered in Prairie Du Chien have been delayed and scheduled for delivery next spring. Once delivered, they will be unloaded at Dillman’s dock and trucked to Iowa.
5. Channel Maintenance Program – Machajewski, Lund, & Tapp (Handout 76–4).
- A. Dredging
    - The dredging schedule was reviewed. To date, approximately 830,000 cy have been dredged.
  - B. Placement Sites
    - The placement site schedule was reviewed.
    - The OSIT will be kept informed on the progress of the Cargill East River site and Hwy 494 site on the MN River.
  - C. Long Term Planning
    - Planning will begin this fall for a site excavation at Fisher Island (Pool 5) in 2008. The plan will likely include island construction in Weaver Bottoms.
    - Lower Pool 4 – starting to plan for island construction and reducing sediment load from the Chippewa River. Goal is to complete the plan in 2007.
    - Completing the MN River 2000 plan
    - Continuing to work on future placement sites: Mississippi Gardens (Pool 10), Pierce County Pit (Pool 3), and Aggregate Industries (Pool 2 – formerly Shiely Pit).
    - Scot Johnson mentioned potential islands in Pool 3 for dredge material from Corps Island
  - D. Channel Management Studies
    - Pool 8, Is. 116: COE will continue to evaluate if rock shall be extended. COE is responding to congressional letter stating environmental and navigation objectives for project have been met. Monitor surveys at Lawrence Lake every 5 years.
6. Lock & Dam 4 Embankment – Tapp for Helming
- Borings completed at proposed wetland scrape and mussel surveys completed
  - Considering EMP funds for dredging Clear Lake. Should know by February 2007.
  - Public meeting held with good turnout. Three main concerns were 1) locals wanted sand for berms to come from Peterson Lake; 2) locals wanted fine material to come from Clear Lake; and 3) concern for trucks hauling fine material on roads.
  - Responded to Congressional inquiry regarding sand from Peterson Lake and trucking fine material.
  - EA completed and signed on 24 August 2006.
  - Rock contract awarded. M&R will place either this fall or next spring.
  - Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2007.

7. Water Level Management – Schlagenhaft (MDNR)

A. Pool 5 Drawdown:

- Good Comments from public on Weaver Bottoms
- Need to review vegetative response to systematic vegetative response to see what is drawdown related
- Need more communication with lower river area and industry on drawdowns

B. Meeting

- Next meeting in late September
- Discuss minor drawdown of Pool 6 and update drawdown of Pool 9
- Work on publication with results (mussels, water quality, and vegetation). Recommend scientific articles, summaries, and one-page news releases to be published within 6-9 months.

8. Navigation & Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) – DeZellar (COE)

A. Pool 5 Drawdown

- Terminated after 27 days due to main channel conditions. Low flows were also an issue.
- \$50K spent monitoring mussels in 2006.
- Preparing Decision Document – want NESP funds for main channel advanced and supplemental dredging & recreation access dredging in 2008.

B. Pool 9 Drawdown

- Working on Decision Document to determine if drawdown needed for Pool 9
- Earliest time frame is 2009 with NESP funds

C. Forest Management Program

- Draft plan prepared and under review by Science Panel.
- Reno Bottoms – FY07 prepare Decision Document and FY08 construction

D. LD 8 Embankment Lowering

- Reviewing options that won't significantly impact Reno Bottoms

E. Public Involvement

- Funds cut back in March, but some restored since then for newsletter and website work.

F. WRDA

- Preparing to inform public if WRDA passes

G. Flood Plain Restoration Projects

- Working with states on Root River and Pierce County Islands

H. Mooring Cells

- LD 14 only site finally selected. Want 2 more ready for construction by 2008.

I. Pool 2 Wing Dams

- Plan and design notches in 2007, construct notches in 2008

J. Pool 5 Science Panel (Jon Hendrickson – COE)

- 25 actions linking to 33 objectives
- 3 main parameters (connectivity, water levels, and flood plain levels)
- Pool 5 PDT met with Science Panel
- Developed the Comprehensive Aquatic Model used in Pool 5

K. Budget

- FY07 – No construction money yet, but planning, engineering, and design funds.

- i. \$10M program (\$600K programmatic, \$2.0M economic analysis, \$3.7M each for navigation and ecosystem)
  - ii. WIDNR not happy that \$2.0M comes off the top for economic analysis and not from the navigation and ecosystem portions.
- FY08 – Hoping for construction funds for mooring cells, switch-boats, Pool 5 drawdown implementation, and forest restoration project in Reno Bottoms.

9. Environmental Management Program – Powell (COE)

- A. Projects in Construction Phase - Spring Lake (\$1.4M), Pool Slough (\$200K), Long Meadow Lake (\$300K), Pool 8 Ph III Stage 1 (\$865K)
- B. Projects in Planning Phase - DPR for Harpers Slough, Capoli Slough, Conway Lake, Lake Winneshiek
- C. FY07
  - Budget will be between \$16M - \$27M
  - Start Pool 8 Ph III Stg 2 and 2A; continue Long Meadow Lake; maybe award Harpers Slough
  - Start planning of McGregor Lake
- D. Miscellaneous
  - Submitting 5 fact sheets to SET – MN Valley, McGregor, Weaver Bottoms, Lower Pool 10 Islands and Backwater, and North Sturgeon Lakes
  - Completion reports have been delayed, but will continue to work on them

10. Fish & Wildlife Work Group – Yager (FWS) (Handout #76-5)

- A. General
    - Dennis Anderson is the new Chairperson replacing Tim Yager
    - Very few impacts on Asian Carp to commercial fishing
    - Shoreline erosion and Recreation Boating
- Mike Griffin motioned and Gretchen Benjamin seconded to endorse the writing of a “white paper” by FWVG on biological and cost effects of shoreline erosion due to recreation boating. The motion was endorsed by consensus.*

11. Recreation Work Group – Lund and Johnson for Berg

- A. Beach Plans
  - OSIT meetings scheduled for Pool 9 to continue to work on beach plan
  - OSIT meeting scheduled for Upper Pool 4 to look at eroding islands
  - Gretchen requested a schedule for the Pool 9 Beach plan will be presented to the forum at December’s meeting
- B. Recreation Boat Study
  - Working with St. Mary’s, Winona, on aerial fly over’s for 2007 on MN, lower St. Croix, and Mississippi Rivers.
  - Will look for April 2007 RRF endorsement
  - Address forum at Decembers meeting with funding request and a list of priorities.

12. Navigation Work Group – Machajewski and Lambert

- A. Mooring Cells – Encourage tows to use the one below LD8
- B. Hastings Dock – Still under evaluation

Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #76  
30 August 2006

C. John Goebel, USCG at MSO St. Paul, has been replaced by Carl Kepper

Gretchen Benjamin  
Co-Chairman, RRF

Att:

- #76-1 345kV line and Miss River
- #76-2 Summary of CCP
- #76-3 12 Actions for Change
- #76-4 Dredging Schedule/Channel Management Schedule
- #76-5 FWWG Activities

# RIVER RESOURCE FORUM #76

29 – 30 August 2006

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PHONE NO.</b>
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Gretchen Benjamin	WIDNR	608-785-9982
Jim Fischer	WIDNR	608-785-9004
Rebecca Wooden	MNDNR	651-259-5712
Larry Kieck	WIDOT - Harbors	608-267-9319
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