

MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #84, April 28th, 2009

1. Introductions / Approve Minutes/ Meetings– A meeting of the River Resources Forum (RRF) was held on 28 April 2009 at the Winona Historical Society, Winona, MN. Voting members: Bernie Hayer replaced Martin Konrad as Iowa voting representative. Attached is the attendance list [Attachment 84-1] from the meeting. Following introductions, the Minutes from RRF #83 were approved as prepared.

The next meetings are scheduled for:

25 and 26 August site field trip of Pool 6 Drawdown or Pool 8 EMP
1 and 2 December at Ft. Snelling State Park

2. Agency Activities – (Only the agencies listed below had significant information to report.)
- A. WI DNR (Fischer): Currently in a hiring freeze, two years before Gretchen's position will be filled. Dan Bauman is West Central Region Leader. Jim Fischer first POC and filling in for some roles; may use other members of DNR to fill in for OSIT. Closing service centers by 3/10 based on current budget; sampling VHS and no detects; John Sullivan and LTRMP field station staff are setting targets for abundance and main channel boarders.
 - B. FWS (Hultman): Pool 4 hunting changes: Big Lake closed to hunting (2,210 acres); Nelson-Trevino (3,773 acres) and Buffalo Slough (1,739 acres) opened to hunting. Pool 5A changes, Pool 7 no hunting Brice Prairie; Root River acquired 664 acres; stimulus money; Ramsar; Mississippi Valley Conservancy. (Sullins): Wege not retired, thanks for support.
 - C. MN DNR (Wooden): Currently in a hiring freeze but trying to spend 3/8 % clean water habitat, arts and recreation. Merging waters with ecological resources departments. Red River Flood – keeping busy and staffing recovery office.
 - E. EPA (Franz): Workshop on indicators in Dubuque; stimulus money for water quality.
 - F. MNDOT (Lambert): \$1.4 Billion for highways, \$2-3 M for port development
 - G. FRA (Comstock): Chad new NWG Rep, Paul Comstock still POC.
 - H. TNC (Benjamin): grants came through; keep EMP going if NESP isn't funded
 - I. UMWA (Genz): EPA rules on overboard discharge – cleanliness of barges grey water an issue.
 - J. LMRWD (Schwalbe): full board now, working on 10 year plan, thank Lisa and Greg for attending workshops, Rep Lanny on basin mgmt from State Senator Dahl from Burnsville, board wants to go to legislature for funding for MN River Dredging.
 - K. MPCA (Mader): Problems with budget saving from no retirees when eligible, proposal to combine all or part of MN state agencies but not until 2011 if it does happen, commissioner is still acting, no stimulus money directly but working on other projects. Gov. proposing 24 day furlough for next biennium. Gov. proposing combining all state agencies DNR, PCA, and Ag.
 - L. IA DNR (Bernie): Legislature adjourned on Sunday – 15% cut in general state fund, legislation passed sustainable funding for natural resources (Dept of Ag and DNR).
 - M. Izaak Walton League (Walker): Funded position to have more involvement w/ River

N. COE (Tapp): Taggatz Christening on May 15th at St. Paul small boat harbor details to follow, Red River Flooding, PM's hired to help on projects, stimulus – no final word, potential for many projects.

(Otto): Final draft LUAP available (40 copies, 20 text) EA coming out in 2 weeks for 30 day review – then final printing. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) reported in Victory, WI agencies working on project for next ~ 30 days.

(Gulan): no O&M project this summer, slots at 6 & 7 with stimulus and dewater at LD 5.

3. NESP (DeZellar)

A. RTC (Report to Congress) document endorsement (McGuinness) – provided general overview of plan. Schlagenhaft asked if there were going to be project lists in the report as shown on pg 30 – response was that there would not be project lists, rather a description of the process for developing lists – Wilcox – Sullins needs more time before endorsing, recommends by end of next week with email endorsement. (wk of 8 May).

WIDNR – not ready to endorse today; COE – ready to endorse today; (Johnson) need appendix information before endorsing; send comments / questions to DeZellar. (Sullins) review, comments submitted by 8 May, write final for endorsement (Hultman) endorse. (Fisher) thanks to Dan (Wilcox) for pulling together all info to create document. (Griffin) allow 30 day review period for endorsement, (Sullins) suggesting we endorse. (Hultman) Endorse statement of support: *“The Forum supports the direction of the working draft (NESP Report to Congress) including writing style and tone, layout, and framework, with understanding that approval or endorsement will be through normal agency, NGO and other river organization protocols.”*

Comments due May 8th, Dan will edit doc based on comments; distribute to NECC. (Hoyer) nothing clear about invasives. (DeZellar) Thanks Dan for your work on the draft.

B. Objectives (Wilcox) ppt on NESP objectives (Hendrickson) ppt on conceptual model. – DeZellar looking at endorsement of objectives report in near future; Griffin stated it is an excellent job but asked when models quit? Hendrickson stated models keep getting updated; Fisher says kudos to Wilcox and Hendrickson for work on the project.

C. Other NESP (DeZellar)

\$8.6 Mil PED Funds: Forest Mgmt, Reno Bottoms, Root River, Pierce County Islands, P3 Drawdown (new project)

-P2 Wing Dams – out for public review, first shovel ready project – kudos to Elliott.

-Rebecca Solieu to work on projects again

- present something to UMRBA

4. COE Channel Maintenance Program [Attachment 83-3]

A. Tapp – proposing Dan Krumholz coming back to work on Lower Pool 4 CMP. Paul Machajewski PM on Boulanger Slough.

B. Lund – Dredging

C. Lund – Placement Site Activities

D. Machajewski – Channel Management Activities

Will notify WI DNR of moving mooring buoy date.

5. Nav Work Group (Machajewski)

A. Barge Fleeting

B. Red Wing Docks – Meeting week of 5/18 – Coast Guard, Regulatory, Industry and Dock Owners.

C. Nelson Gravel Mine expansion Pool 2 – working on EIS, complete Sept 09

D. Bridges –

- Lowry Ave – demo 5/4, Bolander & Sons, salvage some
- Hastings – Environmental Documents working on by June 09
- I90 – Environment Documents complete mid 09, 2012-15 Construction
- La Crosse RR Bridge – 300’ move, environmental docs, stimulus could accelerate construction time, MN DNR has permitting questions.

6. Ice Surveys Question (Johnson)

Ice Surveys line in Lake Pepin, where is the sailing line? Tapp explained reasoning for moving the line, Wilcox stated sediments do get re-suspended in Lake Pepin from tows.

*Tapp recommended FWWG should look at change for biological impacts, NWG address tow safety and concerns. Request they both report at the next RRF.

7. EMP (DeZellar) [Attachment 84-4]

- Don Powell returning as RAO
- Clearlake Dredging started last week
- DeZellar stated stimulus package just given to district
- EMP / NESP transition plan
- EMP report to Congress – team meeting, Powell attended
- (Schwalbe) stated Rice Lake sediment flowing in to channel which flows in to LMRWD, future discussion on issue w/ all agencies.
- (Hendrickson) the Rice Lake culvert contributes an extremely small amount of sediment to the Minnesota River relative to the total sediment load in the river
- Dave Sadoris – new assistant PM on LD3 and Dave Potter – new PM on EMP / NESP
- (Powell) – EMP report to Congress, due 2010, receive endorsement in May 2010; follow 2004 report format; Marv Hubbell give summary and solicit EMP issues at next EMPCC in May.

8. WLMTF (Schlagenhaft)

- A. P6 Drawdown Endorsement – EA out for review; public meeting in Trempealeau and Winona, veg monitoring, mussel movement, monitoring.
- Recreational access dredging continues to be a road block for drawdowns – less than 1% of EMP Stimulus would have funded all the dredging necessary to implement the Pool 6 drawdown
 - Main Channel Dredging – M&R Gravel Point, Newt to do Winona RR bridge in June.
 - 4th attempt – same problems, marina owner stated they could go bankrupt; need funding for small scale dredging, would like to see fund from EMP or another source – small cost relative to how much is spent on restoration work – issue that has been brought up previously but has yet to be resolved.
 - MVD has given approval to deviate from water control levels
 - Otto suggested we send letter to Office of Counsel on authority to dredge for drawdown (Tapp) – Steve motioned, Fisher seconded (Benjamin)
- B. P8 – Opportunity to obtain material for Pool 8 islands project from locations we would need to dredge for a Pool 8 Drawdown – mutual benefit
- C. Science Panel – will help layout hypothesis and experimental design for DD
- D. Ruth Nissen – New brochure , newsletter in June; Mary Stefanski will be new chair, Fisher thanked Tim for his years of service.
- E Revisit Pool 9 IA SHPO with our OC

9. Floodplain Restoration Task Force (Schlagenhaft)

- A. Letter to Col. Sinkler on 30 March 09

B. Recent Conference call of NEC

- Task Force will be formed for flood plain restoration – led by Todd Stroehl with TNC

10. FWWG (Reid)

29 Jan09 Mtg

- Small Scale dredging subgroup – led by Scot Johnson; 600 projects in database
- Rec access dredging at public ramps – M DNR has come up with funding
- List of projects if funding comes up
- MN 7 closing structure – increase discharge through structure, concerns w/ channel problems; monitor location again.
- Dan Wilcox – will do monitoring reports.
- Goose Lake dredging, for topsoil for Burmeister, FWWG provided letter to TNC, but entire project failed; Steve thanked FWWG from the COE on efforts.

11. RWG (Johnson)

- Pool 9 final beach plan out for review
- Pool 10 draft beach plan out for review
- Complete environmental work this summer on Pools 9 & 10.
- List of next plans will report at Aug mtg
- Potential joint water safety message at kiosks
- Boat Surveys – hosted on St. Mary’s website, losing ability to host, need to find another host by end of summer 2009.
- UMRCC Rec Tech trail maps – new water trails map
- May 29th next meeting
- Pool 3 – 66 foot extension not permitted by WI DNR – Jim Fisher will follow up.

12. MN River MPCA (Schawalbe)

- Judy writing new MPCA permit for COE
- Concern is chain of custody of dredged material
- LMRWD managers concerned with “contaminated material”
- How does LMRWD fit into permit and private dredging needs to place dredged material some where?
 - (Mader)- have not found any material in MN River that is contaminated; doesn’t suspect there will be contaminants in material; need to work together.
 - Unless new contaminants are catastrophic, a solution can be worked out.
- (Wilcox) – COE has been testing material, has not found contaminants. May want to show to insurance companies to compare to MPCA requirements.
- MPCA will provide letter to LMRWD on material chemicals.

Bank Stabilization – Reads Landing, Crats Island and Teepeeota will all be constructed with stimulus money.

Don Hultman – Last RRF, retiring 6/3

RRF #84 Draft Minutes
XX August 2009

Steve Tapp
Co-Chairman, RRF

Attachments:

84-1 Attendance Sheet

84-2 Agenda

84-3 COE Channel Management Activities

84-4 EMP