

CEMVP-CO-CH

05 – 06 December 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #59, 05 – 06 December 2000.

1. Introductions / Approve Minutes – A meeting of the River Resources Forum (RRF) was held on 05 – 06 December 2000 at the National Park Service Headquarters office located in the Kellogg Square Building in St. Paul, Minnesota. Attached is an attendance list. *Following introductions, the Minutes from RRF #58 were approved with the following changes:*

Page 3, CMS, Item I: Deleted (unnecessary).

2. Agency Activities – Note: Only the agencies listed below had significant information to report.

USCG – Jason Neubauer – The USCG is working on new regulations for fire fighting on towboats. Jason will be contacting the agencies and local tow companies for input. Buoy setting schedule for Spring 2001.

FWS – Jim Fisher/Gary Wege – If/when we get a new President of the USA, we will get a new Director. Relocated 200 Higgins Eye Mussels into Pools 2 & 3 (100 down stream of Hidden Falls, 100 down stream of Hastings). Lots of agency coordination and effort.

COE – Dean Peterson – New Chief of COE in HQ, LTG Flowers. Brig. Gen. Arnold in MVD.

WDNR – New Fish Manager in Prairie Du Chein, Dave Heath. John Wetzel is retiring. WDNR will be featured on the Sunday Morning TV show “Into the Outdoors.”

MWBAC – Jim Harrison – Keith Uhlig has left MWBAC to return to journalism. Have 25 applicants to replace Jim; hope to have filled by mid-Jan 2001.

3. WLMTF – Benjamin (WDNR) and Palesh (COE).

A. Pool 8 Drawdown: Permits in place for recreational dredging. Advertised for 8 recreational dredging locations; lowest bid is 2-times the government estimate; will re-advertise prior to Christmas. 31 May 01 date set for all drawdown dredging to be complete. Reviewing monitoring plan.

B. Lizzy Paul mini drawdown presentation (Joe Wlosinski USGS). Planning is critical to success of drawdown. Result: improved diversity of emergent species and percent of rooted floating vegetation.

C. Peck Lake mini drawdown (Blackhawk Park): Three attempts at a drawdown; two successful seasons. The third year produced very robust plants. Last year was the first season water levels were back to normal during the growing season and initially the growth was great. At some point later in the summer however, all the plants were gone. No good explanation. Rick Frietsche suggested canada geese (happened at the Trempealeau Refuge); maybe the same thing happened at Peck Lake. Peck Lake will be monitored the summer of 2001 to see what happens.

D. Pool 5 Drawdown: Tim Schlagenhaft (MDNR) to lead effort; lots of public involvement. Pool 5 is by far the most expensive to maintain during a drawdown (i.e. channel maintenance). MVD supports Pool 8 as a pilot program; not sure if St. Paul will be able to maintain a Pool 5 drawdown or even get funding to do so.

4. FWWG – Frietsche (FWS).

All pools of Reach Plan will be in ArcView by 31 Jan 01. Draft plan will be distributed to public.

5. Weaver Bottoms Task Force – Eric Nelson (FWS) (RRF 59-1).

MN 4 & 5 modifications completed; citizens task force involvement. Held field trip to celebrate completion.

Plan to fully close east cove and partially close west cove of Mallard Island in 2001. Future monitoring will be discussed at next TF meeting.

6. EMP - Powell (COE) (RRF 59-2).

A. Reviewed handout on EMP projects.

B. Will be holding Public Workshops on a few of the completed projects.

Seeking public response to projects. Hired a consultant to complete an evaluation report on each project. Is. 42 is complete; work continues on several more.

C. Will be seeking RRF endorsement of Ambrough Slough, Spring Lake Is., and Harpers Slough at next RRF.

7. Containment Areas “Bathtubs” – Krumholz (COE) (RRF 59-3a, 3b)

Reviewed handout on interagency meeting held on 20 November. Will look into the possibility of a land swap between the COE and FWS for areas in question. Even if there is a land swap, Jim Fisher is still concerned about public safety in these areas. The COE has agreed to investigate their liability associated with public use of these areas. This issue will be discussed at future Law Enforcement meetings (i.e. MWBAC, UMRCC, UMWA...etc). The COE will test fecal levels in containment areas next summer. MWBAC will work via the RWG to review Recreation Boating Study aerial photos for usage in the containment areas in Pools 2, 3, 4, and 5.

8. NWG – Neubauer (USCG).

A. Navigation Aids in Lake Pepin: *Note: Senior Chief Melville will attend future RRF meetings.* Will add buoys at Point-No-Point and a few at the head of the lake, however it is not feasible to buoy entire lake; will address specific areas as needed.

B. Trackbed Erosion: Signs: USCG cannot pay for signs. COE will recommend verbiage and design of signs. COE will draft a letter to the Railroad for RRF signature recommending the Railroad to complete an engineered solution and to construct & install signs in the critical areas.

C. Mooring Buoys: COE program coordinated via OSIT. COE plans to install a few mooring devices in 2001. Areas have been identified above and below each lock and dam except 7 & 8. Environmental review is ongoing. RIAC has been involved with site selection. COE will provide environmental review information, along with a recommended piling design and action plan before the April 2001 RRF. Once in place, usage will be monitored.

D. Navigation Charts: Review Draft in January 2001.

9. RWG – Otto (COE).

A. Pool 2 Beach Plan: Not ready for endorsement yet. Will evaluate and possibly recommend recreational opportunities at Pine Bend, Upper and Lower Boulanger Bend placement sites in plan. Will look at keeping the sites open longer during dredging operations.

B. Pools 7 & 8 Beach Plan: three meetings held in fall, small turnout; query user groups for input, attend their meetings.

C. Boating Study: Going away from 70mm film; looking into digital; may use both as supplies last (70mm).

10. CMP – Krumholz, Tapp, & Machajewski (COE) (RRF 59-4&5).

Reviewed handouts and gave presentation on FY2000 & 2001 activities.

11. CMS – Palesh (COE) (RRF 59-6).

Reviewed handout.

12. MN River – Bigalke (LMRWD) & Tapp (COE).

A. Watershed District's position is that there is no legal language in the agreement stating that the local sponsor needs to maintain the site. Local sponsor is responsible for maintaining site per COE HQ. COE will send a letter with DMMP stating that the local sponsor is responsible for maintaining. MDNR will send a letter to LMRWD supporting the COE position.

B. Cargill is looking into selling 95 acres to Waste Mgmt. Portions of the site will be made available for COE & private placement of dredged material.

C. Wetland mitigation is being addressed along with floodway impacts.

D. Comments due by 01 Jan 01 on DMMP. Will rewrite and do a small redistribution. Defer DMMP endorsement until Feb 01 (fax/email endorsement).

13. Hydropower – Mader (MPCA).

Looking for documented cooperative agreement with Ford.

14. Fleeting at Red Rock & Winona - Lambert (MDOT).

A. Red Rock (near Pigs Eye Lake), St. Paul, MN: St. Paul Port Authority would like to reestablish this silted-in fleeting area. Looking into dredging the area behind natural island and place material on island (Barr Engineering, Bob Post). Would like to create a low maintenance fleeting area. MDNR has real estate issues here. Sediment may be contaminated; WDNR wants to see contaminant data.

B. Winona, MN: Winona Port Authority would like to have more development in the off-channel terminal area. Would like to widen entrance to area to allow full tow to pass while another is being made-up. Possibly dredge below silt-line; more beneficial use.

15. Other Business

A. Transient dock upstream of L/D 6 (Village of Trempealeau): COE & WDNR permits required. Not a good location for this type of facility (i.e. near the upstream approach to the lock entrance).

B. French Lake Culvert: Maintenance problem; works well when flowing. COE & WDNR issue (Jeff Gulan & John Sullivan).

C. L/D 4 Dewatering & Maintenance: Lots of Zebra Mussels; taken to Fisher Island (Pool 5) for disposal.

16. 2001 Meetings

24, 25 April	Iowa, Prairie du Chien, or Winona
21, 22 August	La Crosse (possibly on M/V Mississippi during drawdown)
04, 05 December	St. Paul

Dean Peterson
Co-Chairman, RRF