

CEMVP-CO-CH

23 August 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #60, 24 April 2001.

1. Introductions / Approve Minutes – A meeting of the River Resources Forum (RRF) was held on 24 April 2001 at the Winona State University Campus, Krysko Commons. Attached is the attendance list and handouts from the meeting. *Following introductions, the Minutes from RRF #59 were approved with no changes.*
2. Agency Activities – Note: Only the agencies listed below had significant information to report.
 - A. COE - Ken Buck - Dan Krumholz has replaced Dean Peterson as the Co-Chair of the RRF due to COE realignment. This year will be the latest river opening on record due to the hard winter (late ice out) and high water. White Paper (60-1) from Lt. General Flowers, COE. - Dan Krumholz – Kudos to Lee Nelson & URS for donation of tow boat to individual for river clean up. COE flood fighting pictures and handout (60-4).
 - B. URS - Lee Nelson – Flood of 2001 is tough on everyone (80+ layoffs at URS alone). River closed to Musketee, IA. River opening based on many factors (i.e. safety, erosion...etc). Lengthy discussion on opening (i.e. agency authorities, multiple crests, barge restrictions, surveys, dredging...etc). Going to be a bad summer for dredging.
 - C. FWS – Gary Wege – Biological opinion continues (60-2 A&B). – Jim Fisher – Many areas of concern due to flood (i.e. Weaver, Polander, Trempealeau...etc). – Rick Frietsche - Burlington Northern wants to put a culvert through Dike A.
 - D. MPCA – Judy Mader – Another reorganization/course correction/program reductions/eliminations. Norm Senjem discussed handout (60-3) about water quality.
 - E. MWBAC – Robin Grawe – Jim Harrison hired as a consultant for St. Croix.
 - F. MnDOT – Dick Lambert – Seems to be more frequent flooding, need to emphasize wetlands (push the PSAs).
 - G. USCG – Jason Neubauer – USCG has a new disaster response in La Crosse.
 - H. MRWSD – Kevin Bigalke – Working on access through the Kraemer site.
 - I. WDNR – Terry Moe – New Secretary, Darrell Bazzell . New statewide “Land Legacy” program; protect critical areas in the UMR corridor.
3. L/D 3 Embankments & Safety – Wilcox (COE).
Dan gave a presentation updating the status of the project.
4. Channel Maintenance Program – Krumholz, Tapp, Machajewski (COE) (60-5,6).
 - A. CMMP: Update to be distributed May-June 2001.
 - B. MNRDMMP: Rewrite complete, WQ cert. received, waiting on FONSI and 404 signatures, RRF fax/email endorsement after final plan, LMRWD pursuing Below Cargill & Kraemer sites.
 - C. Whitewater Park: Dan is concerned that the importance of the Pool 1 placement site is being over-looked during the park planning process.

D. Koch Placement Site: Petroleum storage in 1960's; site now owned by City of Hastings; Hastings is reconfiguring riverfront (i.e. green space); COE placement site moved slightly down river; COE is seeking long-term RE agreement with city. Changes to the site boundaries will be coordinated with the OSIT and incorporated into future CMMP updates.

E. Pool 4 DMMP/CMS: Public meetings scheduled for 6 June at Wabasha HS.

F. Pool 5, Weaver: COE looking to modify Mallard Is. this summer.

G. Pool 7 DMMP: COE meeting held with FWS & Mathy; land near Minnesota City may go to the FWS; all material to go to the Hot Fish Shop; COE draft plan in works; propose plan to RRF for endorsement.

H. Pool 8, Brownsville Placement Site: COE entering partnering agreement with MDOT for material; local landowner and contract concerns over availability of material.

I. Pool 9, Mississippi Gardens: Site in CMMP is now FWS mitigation site; new site adjacent to original site being considered; OSIT met this spring; owner's willing to sell; COE seeking long-term RE agreement. Changes to the site boundaries will be coordinated with the OSIT and incorporated into future CMMP updates.

J. P3/U4 CMS: *Minnesota motioned endorsement of plan, Wisconsin second. The plan was endorsed by consensus.*

5. Containment Areas (Bathtubs) – Krumholz (COE) (60-7).

COE Office of Counsel says there is no significant risk (risk assumed by users) at the "Bathtub" containment sites; MN & WI statutes state that liability is removed if site is used for recreation; COE looking into land swap with FWS; current FWS site will be closed after excavations; other COE sites will be closed if needed for operations.

6. Navigation Work Group – Neubauer, Melville (USCG) (60-8).

A. Pepin Buoys: Too much cost to do entire lake; will add about 8 buoys at point-no-point and a few at the head of the lake (add a lighted one too) thus marking from head to point-no-point.

B. Railroad Embankments: Draft letter to Railroads about proper stabilization; RRF signature (Co-Chairs); mail this summer.

7. Fish & Wildlife Work Group – Frietsche (FWS), Schlagenhaft (MDNR).

Pool Planning: Pools 3 – 10 complete; agency 30-day review; presentation by Schlagenhaft; 7 public meetings planned in October & September from Twin Cities to Lansing, IA; 2 staff per agency at meetings, web site; citizens panels deferred until after public meetings.

8. WLMTE – Benjamin (WDNR) and Palesh (COE) (60-9).

A. Pool 8 Drawdown: Depending on dredging, drawdown should proceed; begin 11 or 18 June; Public meetings scheduled for Brownsville, Stoddard, and Onalaska; Toll-free number; monitoring; mussel move on 16 & 23 June; Recreational dredging awarded to L&S Marine, should be done by 31 May (depending on water levels), public concerned with high costs of recreational dredging.

9. Environmental Management Program – Powell (COE) (60-10, 11).
A. Polander Island: Project dedication scheduled for Aug 2001.
B. Trempealeau: 7 Wonders of Engineering 2001 award.
C. Habitat Project Selections: MVP, MVR, & MVS working together.
D. New Project Fact Sheets to be submitted to FWWG (2 per agency), RRF will sequence.
E. EMP “Lessons Learned” Workshop to be held in St. Louis, Mo 17 – 18 Oct 01; theme: Communicating Biological Needs into Engineering Design.”
10. Recreation Work Group – Otto (COE).
A. Boating Study: Funding in order; problem with film from Kodak; looking into other means for future studies (i.e. digital, satellite); study a go for this summer; historical data tough to work with, looking into GIS work with data with St. Mary’s, MDNR has funding for this year, WDNR is investigating.
B. Beach Plans: Pool 2 draft review this summer, August endorsement by RRF; Pools 7&8 public meetings pretty well attended, putting plan together for review.
C. Flood Erosion: Discussion if RWG could identify areas of concern (i.e. erosion) and distribute info to public; RWG tasked with long-term strategy to identify and report areas of concern during floods.
11. Weaver Bottoms Task Force – Tapp (COE).
Meeting held on 23 Jan recommended a modification to Mallard Is, design and construction to be coordinated with WBTF & OSIT; Beetle to be introduced to control purple loosestrife this summer.
12. Pigs Eye Landfill & Pig Eye Fleeting Area – Mader (MPCA), Nelson (URS), Lambert (MDOT) (60-12 A&B).
NOTE: The Pigs Eye Landfill and Pigs Eye Fleeting Area are two completely different projects in two different areas (over a mile apart); they are not related.
A. Pig Eye Landfill: Frank Waller is the POC with MPCA for the landfill project; not enough funds to clean up entire site; removed 200+ barrels already; listed as a superfund site.
B. Pig Eye Fleeting Area: Off-channel fleeting area at URM 834 that the St. Paul Port Authority would like to re-open for fleeting; hasn’t been used for years; getting estimates on the amount of material to be removed.
13. Hydropower – Mader (MPCA).
Ford draft application being reviewed, comments due 27 May; Ford is late in FERC licensing process.
14. Next Meetings
21, 22 August Brownsville, MN (during drawdown)
04, 05 December St. Paul

Daniel J Krumholz
Co-Chairman, RRF