

CEMVP-CO-CH

31 August 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #61, 21 - 22 August 2001.

1. Introductions / Approve Minutes – A meeting of the River Resources Forum (RRF) was held on 21 & 22 August 2001 at the Brownsville, MN Community Center. Attached is the attendance list and handouts from the meeting. *Following introductions, the Minutes from RRF #60 were approved with minor changes.*

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

A. MnDOT – Dick Lambert – Working on Hwy 16 project (road to Hokah, Mn). Looking for more projects like this where we can use lots of dredged material.

B. MnDNR – Scot Johnson & Amy Denz – Tim Schlagenhaft is now a regional planner in Rochester, Mn. He will stay involved with various river projects.

C. USCG – Jason Neubauer – Busy, post-flood summer (i.e. buoy setting, shoaling).

D. MPCA – Judy Mader – “Things” are still not settled down within the MPCA regarding reorganization; still doing 401 work.

E. FWS – Gary Wege – Jim Fisher retired and Russ Peterson will be retiring soon. New director will be Steve Williams (sp?). With Rich Frietsche’s departure from Trempealeau, Bob Drieslein will manage both Trempealeau and Winona. “Thanks to all you humans from all us mussels in the UMR for all your recent help.” There is no apparent reproduction of Zebra Mussels in the Twin Cities area (nothing above Lake Pepin). Approximately 270 Higgins Eye mussels were relocated to Pool 2 (close to Lock and Dam 1).

F. WiDNR – Gretchen Benjamin – Lots of visitation in Pool 8 this summer due to the drawdown; people out looking at and learning about the river. Still waiting on the State budget.

G. COE - Dan Krumholz

a. Handout (RRF 61-2) letter to Gov. McCallum from RRF for support of MWBAC; we really appreciate what you do for the river.

b. Handout (RRF 61-3) new COE leaders bios.

c. The Navigation Study is underway again; there will be an O&M Modification team (new sub-team of study).

d. The Navigation Charts will be going to the printers in September. Distribution is expected for the next navigation season.

- e. L/D 3 Safety & Embankments: Dan reported that Dan Wilcox is working on a risk benefit cost analysis of the alternatives. Lock and Dam Embankments: Dan reminded all members of the RRF that we should be adhering to our RRF Partnership Agreement (handout 61-4) when dealing with controversial issues. Dan briefed Colonel Ball (new District Engineer) regarding the RRF.
- H. MWBAC - Robin Grawe - As per their commissioners, the MWBAC is closing operations. The Gov. of WI can veto the legislation eliminating funding, but can't readily get funding. The RRF GREATLY appreciates (pun intended) all of the hard work and dedication of the MWBAC for their many years of service.
3. Channel Maintenance Program –Tapp, Palesh, Machajewski (COE) (61-5,6).
- A. Flood of 2001 had some pretty significant impacts; dredging, bumps, channel restrictions, 7 dredges working at one time.
- B. Mn River: Kramer site was full and dredging in area was needed. LMRWD paid to have material removed prior to dredging.
- C. Several OSIT meetings were held in pools 7 and 8; residential development in Dresbach requested 8,000 cy. City of LaCrescent asking for 30,000 cy, material would potentially come from La Crosse Railroad Bridge and Dresbach dredge cuts.
- D. Channel Management & Studies. Gary and Paul reviewed their respective handouts.
4. Navigation Work Group – Neubauer (USCG) (61-7).
- A. Lake Pepin Buoys: The additional buoys to be added to Lake Pepin (point-no-point) will be placed either later this fall or next year.
- B. L/D 3: The USCG is looking into non-structural solutions to the outdraft.
- C. Railroad Embankments: A response letter was received from the CEO of BNSF stating that they will work with us on the bank stabilization issue. Due to this springs' flood, BNSF has dumped about 500,000 tons of rock on their embankments between Prescott, WI and Savana, IL.
- D. The NWG was tasked by the RRF to collect flood related information as it pertains to the railroad critical locations. We would like to have documentation as to how much rock was placed and where as a result of the 2001 flood.
5. Water Level Management Task Force – Benjamin (WDNR) Powell (COE) (62-8).
- A. Tour of Pool 8 via COE inspection barge for RRF. Discussed vegetation response and channel maintenance resulting from the drawdown.
- B. Drawdown follow-up report at December (2001) RRF.

6. Lower Minnesota River Watershed District – Bigalke, Tapp.
 - A. LMRWD paid to have 25,000 cy of material removed from Kramer Site due to capacity needed for required dredging.
 - B. Negotiations with Kraemer for site and/or road access not going well. Working on Below Cargill Site. 404/EA pending. Should be ready spring 2002. Site will be used for COE and private dredging (about 16 acres available for placement, 8 acres each). Access to site is being worked on. Access road will divide the site; COE has east side, private has west side.

7. Fish & Wildlife Work Group – Urich (COE) (62-9 & 10).
 - A. Pool Plans. Established a writing team to do Draft Pool Plans. Public meetings scheduled for Pools 4 – 11 in September.
 - B. HREP nominations. 3 projects selected and nominated to COE as noted below. The RRF will endorse by fax prior to October.
 1. Zumbro River Pool 4/5.
 - There are Real Estate issues with the Zumbro project.
 - Can EMP \$ be used?
 2. Sturgeon (McGregor) Lake Pool 10.
 - Fish habitat project.
 - Seeking individual email endorsement in September/October.
 3. Lock & Dam Embankment Modifications.
 - A policy question on O&M vs. EMP \$ used on embankments.
 - Can EMP \$ be used on planning, design, & implementation?
 - C. Lots of effort by MWBAC on public meetings. Thanks Robin!
 - MWBAC shutting down as of Monday, 27 Aug.
 - Pool Planning work turned over to Randy.
 - Rec boating study will continue.
 - Drawdown access dredging \$ is ok (will not be lost due to shut down).
 - D. Next FWWG meeting will be held on 29 October 2001 in Onalaska, WI.

8. Lock & Dam Embankments – Helming, Beatty (COE) (62-11).
 - A. Flood of 2001 caused major dike damage. Emergency (\$1 million) from COE HQ for repairs (used at LD 5).
 - B. Major Maintenance/Major Rehabilitation Embankment Study. Study to focus on stability, rock requirements, erosion protection, over-topping protection, environmental enhancements.
 - all LD embankments are vulnerable
 - work to be determined
 - complete Plans and Specs by the end of 02 and award contract in FY03.
 - complete Plans and Specs for 8 other sites in 03/04; defer work.
 - 1987 EA completed but called for reviewing embankments.
 - Geo-tech review of embankments scheduled for 27 August.
 - requesting ideas on plans and habitat goals

- RRF formed the Lock & Dam Embankments Task Force
 - chaired by the COE
 - asking for agency reps
 - task force will make Project Management Plans
 - start with one site and fine-tune process

- 9. Environmental Management Program – Powell (COE) (62-12).
 - A. Flood damage on projects was minimal. Repairs will be coordinated with agencies. EMP and FWS flood \$ will be used for repairs (about \$500,000).
 - B. EMP. Rock Island public involvement plan. Draft to EMPCC. St. Paul plan will ask for more public input. Ecological Resources Team to provide guidance to EMPCC; agencies against team; team tabled for now. Report on 6 habitat projects due out by end of 2001.
 - C. Lessons-learned workshop to be held in St. Louis in March 2002.

- 10. Weaver Bottoms Task Force – Tapp (COE).
Modifications to Mallard Island are in the works. Construction planned for 2002.

- 11. Recreation Work Group – Otto (COE).
 - A. Beach Plans
 - Pool 2
 - final draft distributed for review, comms due end of September
 - December 2001 RRF endorsement
 - Pool 7/8
 - draft out this fall or at Dec RRF
 - Next Pools?
 - Lower 4/5, 5a/6
 - B. Rec Boating Study
 - Contract going thru St. Mary's.
 - Not as smooth as other years
 - Film, extra cost, camera problems,
 - make up flights as \$ allows
 - If MWBAC shuts down, not sure how we'll work out non-government cost-share of programs.

- 12. Other Business
 - A. RRF will recognize departing Work Group Leaders
 - letter and plaque will be sent to Rick Frietsche.

- 13. Next Meeting
December 4 – 5, 2001 Bloomington, Mn River FWS

Daniel J Krumholz
Co-Chairman, RRF