

CEMVP-CO-CH

27 Aug 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #63, 23 April 2002.

1. Introductions / Approve Minutes – A meeting of the River Resources Forum (RRF) was held on 23 April 2002 at Winona State University in Winona, MN. Attached is the attendance list and handouts from the meeting.

Following introductions, the Minutes from RRF #62 were approved as is.

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

A. MnDOT – Dick Lambert – Due to budget constraints, no travel allowed outside of state.

B. MRCC – Robin Grawe – Held two State-of-the-River Meetings (Winona & Red Wing). Need to focus on boater responsibility/education (shoreline erosion).

C. FWS – Gary Wege – New Director, Steve Williams.

D. USCG – Jason Neubauer – Marine Safety Detachment personnel will now be carrying weapons.

E. NPS – Kate Hanson – Received funding for Miss River National Center.

F. WDNR – Terry Moe – Thanks to COE for help with Pool 8 boating accident.

Very grateful! Out of state travel restrictions due to budget.

G. COE – Dan Krumholz – Regretfully announced the passing of Bill Goetz; Bill was heavily involved with the GREAT study. M/V Miss will be in St. Paul District 8 – 12 Aug. Public meeting scheduled for Aug. 12 in Marquette, IA. The Corps is now formally working under seven Environmental Operating Principles (63-1).

3. Restructured Navigation Study – O&M Component – DeZellar (COE) (63-2). Presentation.

13 May DRAFT Nav Study interim report will be on Nav Study website.

Comments due by 07 June.

Steve Johnson (MDNR) – O&M Component has two limitations:

1. Funding.
2. Cost sharing partners.

Corps needs additional authorities.

4. Embankments – DeZellar (COE) (63-3). Presentation.

Emergency repairs at LDs 5A, 6, & 8. Restore to original footprint. Work that can't wait for LDs 2 – 10 study.

Embankments Maintenance Study Team for LDs 2 – 10. Study via the OSIT process. Prepare Quality Control Plan (QCP) (internal COE) and Problem Appraisal Report (PAR).

FWS looks forward to team, however finds it difficult because FWS wants COE to do environmental work now before other work is done (i.e. LD 6).

5. LD 3 Safety & Embankments – Wilcox (COE) (63-3).

Presentation.

Next steps: Risk vs. benefit cost assessment
Design of selected plans
EIS
Construct in FY03 - 04

If project is funded via COE Construction General Funds, ½ will come from Inland Water Ways Trust Fund.

6. Surface Water Use Mgmt Plan – Raasch (COE).

Three metro reach studies recommended. MNRRA plan: Barge fleeting areas, dredged material sites, econ. impact of surface water use.

7. UMR Comprehensive Plan – Flood Control – Raasch (COE) (63-4).

Presentation.

Authorized in WRDA 99. Strategy & implementation plan for systemic flood damage reduction & other opportunities.

8. Whitewater Park – Raasch (COE).

Presentation.

Partnership with MnDNR (local sponsor); will become a state park. Authorized in WRDA 2000. Cost estimate \$15 million (65% Fed, 35% non-fed). 50,000 annual visitors projected. Course will be 2,000' long and drop 25'.

RRF concerns: Losing Pool 1 Dredged material placement site (cost COE \$1 million to develop existing site). 54" City water main. Unique design requirements.

RRF members will review alternatives.

9. FWS Comprehensive Conservation Plan – Kauffeld (FWS).

Presentation.

FWS mission is to provide habitat for fish & wildlife. Working on DRAFT Upper Miss vision. Public scoping is 2nd step in 8-step process; lasts about 6-8 months; listen to what public and agencies have to say. Best case, CCP process should be complete in Jan 2005.

10. Navigation Work Group – Neubauer (USCG).

Critical Location signs were dropped from consideration because Rail Roads did not want to be responsible to maintain them (besides, the areas are Id'ed on the Nav. Charts).

Mooring: depending on cost, may go with combination of floating buoy and clusters.

Bank stabilization: BNSF is working with TKDA to engineer proper bank stabilization.

Security Zones: There will be tighter security zones around populated and sensitive (i.e. nuclear power plants) areas.

Grand Excursion 2004: Based on 1854 trip up the Miss. Over 2000 boats expected. Agency coordination needed.

Flood Restrictions: River is closed to recreational traffic during floods. USCG can't issue no wake zones; local responsibility (county, city, state) and enforcement.

Lake Pepin Ice: This spring the 1st tow through the lake got stuck, left barges in ice and broke rest of way with MV only. Common practice is to push barges with dry goods so if there is a barge punctured or one sinks, the dry goods will mostly stay in the barge and not mix with the lake water like a liquid cargo would.

The NWG will investigate restrictions regarding going through the ice too early.

11. Channel Maintenance – Krumholz, Tapp, Machajewski (COE) (63-4&5).

Handouts reviewed.

LMRWD: Below Cargill site, 16 acres, 8 for COE use, 8 private. Ready for use. Looking into MnDOT property owned under the I494 bridge for potential material placement site.

Pool 5: Above West Newton placement site excavation. Public meeting in July 2002, advertise Oct. 2002, excavate material in spring/fall 2003 to 159-acre Rose Peterson site and landscape fall 2003/spring 2004. Raise site by 10' like Wabasha Prairie. 40 acres will remain as active beneficial use site.

Pool 7: Use Hot Fish Shop site more (looking into a 99-year lease agreement). Eliminate Dakota Boat Ramp site. Develop proposal May 2002, hold OSIT June 2002. If favorable, complete NEPA docs and get RRF endorsement Dec 02/Apr 03.

Pool 9: Miss Gardens future OSIT to tweak site layout. Current CMMP site is now a FWS mitigation site. Summer 2002 NEPA doc, Dec RRF endorsement.

Misc: Need to do follow-up monitoring /evaluations of Channel Mgmt Studies. Requested input from RRF voting members about which pool is next to be studied (due 28 June). CMMP update coming in May.

12. Water Level Mgmt Task Force – Benjamin (WiDNR) (63-7&8).

Handouts, brochure, and video (re)viewed.

Task Force to meet to discuss future of Task Force and system wide projects.

13. Environmental Management Program – Powell (COE) (63-9).

Handout reviewed.

Significant budget cut from previous years (\$19 – 24 million down to \$12.2 million). No need to select projects for '03; not enough funding. Starting work on report to Congress (issues paper). Final report to Congress in Dec 2003.

14. Fish & Wildlife Work Group – Urich (COE) (63-10&11).

Reviewed work group minutes.

Environmental Pool Plans (name change; added Env). HNA & Pool Plans provide interface between plans. Final DRAFT due by next RRF (64). Final plan by Sept. 15.

Request to RRF to seek publication funding – go ahead by consensus.

- Request from MVR to change name of RRF. NOT! We (the RRF) were here 1st.
Public Information Work Group: Role of the MRCC, public input and education.
15. Weaver Bottoms Task Force – Wege (FWS) (63-11&12).
Should we create a Pool 5 Task Force? Bring ideas to Aug RRF (64).
 16. Mussel Conservation Activities – Wege (FWS).
Presentation/Video.
Goal is to have freshwater mussels back to 1991 numbers (pre Zebra Mussels).
 17. Rec Work Group – Otto (COE).
Next beach plan will be Lower Pools 4 & 5. Pools 5A & 6 will be combined into one plan too. Not sure about next Rec Boating Study (2003?).
 18. Other Business
None to report.
 19. Next Meeting
Tuesday & Wednesday 27 – 28 August in La Crosse/Brownsville.
Tour Pool 8 during drawdown.

Daniel J Krumholz
Co-Chairman, RRF