

CEMVP-CO-CH

03 Dec 2002

## MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #64, 27 &amp; 28 August 2002.

1. Introductions / Approve Minutes – A meeting of the River Resources Forum (RRF) was held on 27 & 28 August 2002 at the Brownsville, Mn Community Center. Attached is the attendance list and handouts from the meeting.

*Following introductions, the Minutes from RRF #63 were approved as is.*

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

- A. MnDOT – Dick Lambert – With the upcoming election MnDOT may have a new commissioner. Due to budget constraints, travel is still restricted.
- B. WDNR-Terry Moe- State of Wisconsin is experiencing a \$3-Billion budget debt. Gov. McCallum toured EMP Ph. II on 8/19. COE Waxman (OMB) river tour (St. Louis to St. Paul); COE CG budget levels are returning to previous levels; EMP is not part of this.
- C. USCG-Jason Neubauer-Working on arming USCG vessels; 3-4 month out.
- D. NPS-JoAnn Kyril-Visitor/Interpretive Center to open May 2003.
- E. MnDNR-Amy Denz-Steve Johnson had hip replacement surgery on 7/2; he's recovering well. Amy Denz is expecting her 1<sup>st</sup> on 2/3/03. Working with congressional staff (letters) on EMP funding issues.
- F. IaDNR-Mike Griffin-Kevin's been promoted to Division of Rec. & Nat Resources; all permits under him; may experience some delays.
- G. MPCA-New Gov. may replace commission/re-org.
- H. FWS-Dan Stinnett-River trip planned for Rep. from Washington (Clint Riley) to see EMP, Nav Study, & Mussel work activities; good HQ exposure. Don Hultman selected as new UMR Refuge Manager; starts on 10/6. (64-1) Handout on 2002 Mussel Activities.
- I. COE-Dan Krumholz-New Division Chief in Vicksburg, Ms (MVD) General Riley. LD 7 Dedication 9/20; new central control station (lock house) and visitor center. WEDA conference in St. Paul 1-2 Oct.

Chronic Wasting Disease Discussion:

- IaDNR: very concerned with issue.
- WiDNR: Stay away from spine & brain; will be taking samples/testing during hunting season; up to 40% hunter loss due to disease; need hunters to hunt to help control disease.

3. Channel Maintenance Activities - Palesh, Tapp, Krumholz, Machajewski (COE) Reviewed handouts (64-2,3,4).

a. Mooring Facilities: Going with the buoy design. OSIT to be held this fall to identify location in field. EA will be prepared this winter.

- b. McMillan Island Mechanical Dredging: Need to hold an OSIT on 8/30 to discuss placement of Mech. Dredging material from McMillan Cuts. Placement on McMillan Island is not an option during Bay West's operations.
    - c. Fecal coliform: most sites fairly low levels. IaDNR recommends continued monitoring.
4. Navigation Work Group – Neubauer (USCG) (64-5).
  - a. A security zone has been established around the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant in Red Wing, Mn. RM 798.0 – 798.3, 300' from RDB.
  - b. There have been 8 towboat groundings at McMillan; tows needed assistance to get free. Agencies are concerned with tow operations to free themselves without assistance (wheel-wash). Dan suggested that the agencies attend the next Inland Water Ways Conference and make a presentation regarding these concerns.
5. Water Level Mgmt Task Force – Palesh (COE) (64-6,7,8).

Reviewed handouts.

  - a. Drawdown looking good, holding pool 8 down well. Complaint from Stoddard (Waters Edge Motel) about access; owner chose not to do 1135 dredging.
  - b. If recommended by the Task Force, an endorsement for drawdowns in pools 6 and/or 9 will be sought at RRF 65 or afterwards via email.
  - c. Pool 8 Island Ph. III HREP Endorsement deferred until RRF 65 in Dec 02.
6. Pool 8 Small Boat Tour: Effects of Drawdown.

20 agency reps; great vegetative response.
7. Rec Work Group – Otto (COE).
  - a. Have not held any meetings, should hold one this fall.
  - b. Per WLMTF, RWG will rank the pools for potential drawdowns from a rec. perspective.
  - c. Beach Plans: Possibly have private firm do design work instead of using COE in-house resources. Look into stabilizing sand placed on beaches (i.e. vanes, groins).
  - d. Aerial Boating Study: Currently funded by MnDNR, WiDNR, & COE; Mn may not have funds available in the future; MnDOT & WiDOT may be able to assist via road surveys. Looking into digital vs. 70mm print film; tough to get 70mm film. Looking into decreasing frequency (from every 2 yrs to every 5 yrs).
  - e. Whitewater Park: EA is being prepared. Concerns with Pool 1 dredged material placement site. Will write a letter from the RRF to MnDNR and COE DE outlining concerns. Have COE & MnDNR project planners at Dec. RRF.
8. Environmental Mgmt Program – Powell (COE) (64-9).
  - a. Funding: \$12.2 mil for '03 (vs. 21.0 in '02). Not sure on distribution yet. No new projects.
  - b. Project selection: Process changing to pool plans (vs. HNA & HREP). Process still up-in-the-air.
  - c. Tremp. Refuge: Dedication 10/18, part of Refuge week. Pool A drawdown thru winter.

- d. Polander: Dedication to be held in fall '02.
  - e. M/V Miss.: Two pool 8 tours, 100+ attendance. Two open houses were held in La Crosse & Red Wing, over 500 people attended. Public Hearing in Marquette, Ia - 80 people attended. Water Control public meeting held in Prairie du Chein, Wi; 15 people in attendance provided good input.
9. Fish & Wildlife Work Group – Urich (COE) (64-10).
- a. Keith Beseke retired; good luck Keith.
  - b. Pool Plans: Drafts for Pools 1, 2, & 3, finalizing narratives. Possibly meet with navigation industry to explain that the LD's will exist for life of project however, some groups are looking at possibility of LD's being removed. Public meeting scheduled for 9/18.
  - c. HREP Prioritization: Next big step, how to do?
  - d. 6/7 Nav Study Meeting: Env. Goals & objectives; use pool plans as basis in Nav. Study.
  - e. Pool Plans for Pools 4 – 10 including the Reach document Endorsement
    - WiDNR would like Pool Plans to be used as a guide in Nav Study, not a hard and fast plan. Per page 13, the pool plans are being constantly reviewed and updated.
    - Need to determine how pool plans will be cited in Nav Study; suggest that this is a RRF report with credit to FWWG for their efforts.
    - Add NPS logo to report, recognize USCG in narrative, cost share printing costs.
- Pool Plans for Pools 4 – 10 including the Reach Document Endorsed by Consensus.*
10. Nav. Study, Feasibility Study - DeZellar (COE) (64-11 1<sup>st</sup> 1/2).  
Reviewed Handout.  
Adaptive management used throughout project management plan.  
Terry Moe (WiDNR) raised a concern over the cost/benefit to do the right thing.
11. Embankments Maintenance Study – DeZellar (COE) (64-11 2<sup>nd</sup> 1/2).  
Reviewed handout.
- a. Use Nav. Study efforts towards this planning (i.e. costs, benefits).
  - b. COE is concerned with agency position at kickoff meeting.
    - i.e. no fish passage, no permits; don't want to hear about lack of funding
  - c. General comments:
    - Re-emphasized RRF Partnership (Krumholz).
    - Questioning why Env. Projects don't get COE funding (Moe).
    - Krumholz & Peterson will review O&M funding at next RRF if necessary to explain COE funding process.
      - Not much discretionary funding. Received supplemental funding for fish passage at LD 3. Will need more supplemental funding to do more fish passage. O&M is used to fix embankments and can be used to

correct deficiencies, however this is a national issue not just MVP (Peterson).

- Funding is a constraint (Krumholz).
- Fish passage has slipped for 70 years; the time is right to incorporate now that COE is upgrading/fixing the embankments (Benjamin).
- This might be a good time to request for this type of work; not just O&M (Otto).
- Will need a special study to get CG funds. Currently have problems and systemic fixes identified but not site-specific fixes. (Peterson).
- Embankments study will identify fixes (DPR). Do we need a DPR for each LD?
  - ID needs and costs per site (Lambert).
- Study team needs to discuss these issues; team has only met once; Water Level Management Task Force started out the same way (Otto).

12. Next Meeting

Tuesday & Wednesday 03 – 04 December 2002

Bloomington FWS.

- 03 Dec 11:00 – 4:00
- 04 Dec 8:00 – 12:00

Daniel J Krumholz  
Co-Chairman, RRF