

CEMVP-CO-CH

31 August 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #69, 20 April 2004.

1. Introductions / Approve Minutes – A meeting of the River Resources Forum (RRF) was held on 20 April 2004 at Winona State University, Kryzsko Commons. Attached is the attendance list and handouts from the meeting.

*The Minutes from RRF #687 were approved, as modified via email, by consensus.*

2. Agency Activities – The agencies below had significant info to report.

WDNR – Gretchen Benjamin reported that Wisconsin Governor Doyle would be in La Crosse today discussing the Nav. Study, EMP, and the La Crosse Bluff land's project among other things. Terry Moe's position will possibly be filled by the Aug 04 RRF meeting.

MDOT – Dick Lambert reported that they are working on a joint letter with WDOT regarding the Environmental Funding in the Nav. Study. Both DOT's support the study, however they are concerned about the environmental funding level.

FWS – Don Hultman reported that work on the CCP continues (69-1). Draft plan is due out summer 2004.

MRCC – Robin Grawe reported that they distributed Pool Plans to the respective Congressmen. They will be attending the Federal Aids briefings in Dubuque, IA.

IDNR – Mike Griffin reported that Diane Ford-Shivvers would be attending the Aug RRF. Nav. Study position will be coming from IaDNR.

NPS – Steve Johnson (the Steve Johnson) has re-filled Kate Hanson's position. Attending today in place of JoAnn.

MnDNR – Bruce Gerbig is temporarily filling Steve Johnson's position. Anticipate filling position permanently soon.

COE – Dan Krumholz said that Randy Urich has been selected as Civil Servant of the Year. Ken Buck will be retiring in July and Ben Wopat will be temporarily filling his position. Position will not be filled permanently until FY05. Col. Ball will be transferring to Alaska in June; Col. O'Hara will be the acting District Commander until July when Col. Mike Pfenning takes over the District. The Pool 8 Islands project has received the Chief's Environmental Award of Excellence; competed against similar projects throughout the US.

3. Mitigation Policy – All.

- The LD 9 entrance road issue has been resolved; the COE purchased credits from WDNR. Miss. River Mitigation Banking idea has been dropped; not being pursued.

4. Asian Carp - Update – All

A preliminary report was released in Feb/Mar; MnDNR not happy with quality of report. Cindy Kolar USGS, gave presentations at the State-of-the-River Meetings. Congressional aids are concerned with Asian Carp. The FWFG is to stay abreast of this issue and report to RRF as necessary.

5. Grand Excursion (GE04) Planning - All.
  - A. COE: Attending community-planning meetings; unsure of rec. boat #'s, however are planning to increase security, patrols, & education, especially near cities; preparing public service announcements; GE and safety issues; power squadron support
  - B. NPS: Interpretive rangers on big boats from LD 2 to St. Paul; lots going on at same time (i.e. Lewis & Clark, Taste of Mn, Bush & Kerry Expected); the required USCG permits for this event have not been issued yet.
  - C. MnDNR: Planning efforts are underway; enforcement is gearing up; planning on interp. programs on boats.
  - D. FWS: 80 year celebration handout (69-2); refuge interp. on big boats.
6. Channel Maintenance Program – Krumholz, Tapp & Machajewski (COE) (69-3&4).
  - A. Dredge William A Thompson (WAT) Replacement
    - a. State-of-the-Art, 20" pipeline dredge, constructed by Rowen Electric
    - b. Can pump 7,500' without booster (same as WAT with 2 boosters)
    - c. May eliminate some disposal sites
    - d. Delivery in 2005, possibly operational in 2005 as well.
    - e. New towboat and quarters barge too.
    - f. Naming currently in HQ, no announcement yet.
    - g. Cost savings; smaller crew, less equipment
    - h. Work for other Districts
    - i. De-commission WAT via GSA disposal guidance; city of Winona pushing to acquire for a museum.
    - j. WAT built in 1937, almost 70 years old.
  - B. Fecal Coliform: No follow-up yet, data for 2004. Possibly report at Aug/Dec RRF.
  - C. Upper Harbor Placement Sites (69-3): Redevelopment study; city has not determined if closing; reviewing alternatives.
  - D. Dredging: Surveying in pools 3, 6, & 8; WAT and contract delayed until June per budget
  - E. Above West Newton Excavation
    - a. Resumed dredging 4/1, 180,000cy dredged this year; about 20,000 cy per day
    - b. No effluent discharge to date
    - c. Some dredging problems around wing dams
    - d. Topsoil placement 18"
    - e. Well monitoring – no impacts
    - f. Turtle impacts minimized
    - g. Boat ramp development OSIT to be held.

- F. Channel Mgmt. & Placement Site Activities
  - a. Work scheduled for this summer includes:
    - i. Pool 3 wing dam notching,
    - ii. Notch remaining 2 wing dams in Pool 5 and fortify head of accreted island.
    - iii. Weaver Bottoms modifications: Mallard Is. & MN-14.
    - iv. Placement site re-shaping at Fisher, Brownsville, Lansing.
    - v. Scheduled work for others includes Peterson Lake bank stabilization & Polander Lake dredging (FWS)
  - b. LP4 DMMP – possibly have alt placement sites identified by Aug RRF.
  - c. UP9 CMS PAR work to begin in May.
  
- 7. Environmental Management Program – Powell (COE) (69-5, 6, 7)
  - A. Projects in 2004
    - a. Ambrough Slough – Contract awarded
    - b. Pool Slough – 8A set-aside, plans & specs to contracting after HQ approval (partnering agreement); May/June award, 2005 completion.
    - c. Spring Lake – Construct Aug 04, complete Dec 05.
  
  - B. Potential Projects: Long Meadow Lake, Pool 8, Ph. III, St. 1, & Pool 8, Ph III. St. 2
  
  - C. Planning & Design: Harper’s Slough, Capoli Slough, & Conway Lake
  
  - D. Completion Reports: Completed 6; Initiate 8 more this fy
  
  - E. FY 2005 Budget
    - a. President’s Budget \$28M; MVP \$5.7M
    - b. No new projects until late FY05.
  
- 8. Navigation Work Group – No Report
  - A. Past issues
    - a. Mooring buoys
    - b. Critical zones; proper stabilization and signing
  - B. Need to determine agency lead for group
  
- 9. Restructured Nav. Study, Feasibility Study – DeZellar (COE).
  - A. Navigation Efficiency
    - a. Alts. Formulation briefing in MVS, Feb 04. Good meeting
    - b. Nav. efficiency alt
      - a. 3 economic models
      - b. 15 different conditions
      - c. No best alternative; no clear option
      - d. Blend of alts. 4 & 6

- B. Ecosystem
    - a. 5 alts
    - b. Recommendation “D-Prime”
      - i. \$5.3B restoration
    - c. The resource agencies support alt. E
    - d. 15-year implementation plan
    - e. Draft Feasibility Study/EIS by May 2004
    - f. Public hearings/NEPA June
  - C. Institutional Framework
    - a. River Management Council could affect RRF.
      - Need to determine RRF role with the Nav Study
    - b. Draft EIS comments. Agency support of RRF & continued efforts
  - D. WRDA 2004
    - a. Rumors on features support; Nav not ecosystem
    - b. Could get split up under political pressure.
10. UMR Comprehensive Plan – DeZellar (COE)  
Flood Damage Reduction
- 3 year study
  - Structural vs. non-structural
  - Level and drainage district backing in MVS & MVR
    - o MVP tagging along
  - 500 year protection plan
    - o Route flood through system
    - o 0.8’ rise @ Cairo, IL; 0.2’ rise now
    - o farms to store flood waters
  - MVP modeling
    - o 100 & 500 year outline
    - o Levee alignment maps (MVP only)
  - General Investigations study
  - MRC has not stated a position
11. Water Level Mgmt Task Force – Benjamin (WDNR).  
A) Pool 8 – Kevin Kenow (USGS)
- a. Vegetative Response
    - o 1200 acres effected
    - o 51% reduction in open water (Raft Channel area)
    - o Good growth of rice cutgrass, arrowhead, water star, smart weed...etc
    - o Persistence being evaluated
    - o Overgrazing and predation being evaluated too

## b. Dredging

- 10 – 11% increase over 75,000 cy yearly avg.
  - Due to the Root River flows being below avg. during the post drawdown period, the dredging volume numbers may be skewed to the low side
- Small increase in dredging, cost increase too (11%).
- Continued evaluation

## B) Pool 5 Drawdown

- Working on DPR
- 4' DD would require an EIS
- Funding
  - 1135: No new starts in FY04, not sure about FY05
  - O&M for Advanced Maint only; still need source for Supplemental
  - COE budget is moving target
  - Not confident for 2005, maybe 2006
  - Lots of resources needed to perform dredging
  - COE good feel by Aug RRF of dredging numbers

## C) Pool 6 Minor Drawdown

- May 11 public meeting scheduled in Winona
- Outstanding issues
  - Channel Dredging – Winona area, COE will assume some risk
  - Rec Access Dredging – MnDNR & FWS funding

12. Embankments – DeZellar (COE)

## A) PAR Endorsement

*The Embankments Rehabilitation, Maintenance & Environmental Restoration Study – Problem Appraisal Report was endorsed by consensus.*

- WDNR prefers 1B vs. 1A.

## B) PAR Purpose Review

- Alternatives, impacts
- Reconnaissance level cost estimating
- Qualitative benefits
- Funding issues
- General comments made about study
  - Team to discuss options – DeZellar (COE)
  - FY04 LD8 repairs are urgent work – DeZellar
    - Stay within footprint
  - Prioritize environmental features; list easy measures – Bailen (COE)
  - Design embankment, then implement – Johnson (MnDNR)
  - Rank what O&M can cover – Krumholz (COE)
  - Do small-scale items without DPR – DeZellar
  - Need to be opportunistic – Peterson (COE)

- COE committed to environmental features – Bailen
- 1 DPR to cover all sites will get outdated; DPR development for each site is not reasonable - Peterson
- DeZellar to use FY05 funds to complete features cost analysis of PAR.
- FY06 funds to go for plans & specs development of embankments rehabilitation. A small percentage of O&M could be used to implement PAR environmental features.

13. Recreation Work Group – Berg (COE) (69-8).

A) Sea Wing Park: Addendum to existing Pool 3 Recreational Beach Management Plan to add Sea Wing Park.

*Addendum to add Sea Wing Park to plan was endorsed by consensus.*

B) Beach Planning Prioritization: Once FWS CCP process is complete, the RWG will complete the plans for pools 7 & 8. However, will pursue small-scale work as opportunities arise per existing plan. Need to have a prioritized list of the remaining Beach Plans developed by the next RRF.

14. Fish & Wildlife Work Group – Yager (FWS) (69-9).

A) Pool Plans

- a. Printed 1000 copies, 50 in 3-ring binder format
- c. Implementation Strategies – General comments
  - i. Need to define project process for prioritization & sequence – Yager
  - ii. Need a neutral facilitator – Benjamin (WiDNR)
  - iii. Should be positioned to take advantage of opportunities – Yager, Hultman (FWS)
  - iv. We should set hypothetical time & budget limits for planning – Griffin (IDNR)
  - v. Define project(s) to realize vision – Krumholz (COE).
  - vi. Attempt to merge both proposals – Yager
  - vii. Shoot for vision with funds available – Hultman
  - viii. Pool 9 straw-dog, \$10M in 10 years
    - 1. IDNR lead – Griffin
    - 2. Resource needs to define project

B) Turtles Study Report: Draft report was sent out as final; needs revision/re-writing.

- FWS \$3,000.00
- MnDNR has funds requested.

C) EMP fact sheets will be needed by the Aug 2005 RRF, at the earliest.

15. Next Meetings

August 31 & Sep 1 – Wabasha, MN  
December 7 & 8 – Bloomington, MN

Daniel J Krumholz  
Co-Chairman, RRF