

MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #78, 24 April 2007

1. Introductions / Approve Minutes – A meeting of the River Resources Forum (RRF) was held on 24 April 2007 at Winona State University in Winona, MN. Attached is the attendance list and handouts from the meeting. Following introductions, the Minutes from RRF #77 were approved as prepared.

2. 2007 Meetings

August 28 and 29 – Wabasha area (tour LD4 Embankment project and/or Finger Lakes HREP)

December 5 and 6 - MN Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington, MN

3. Presentation of Awards

The Water Level Management Program received an award from MN Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) 2007 Seven Wonders of Engineering. Those recognized for the award were Gretchen Benjamin, WI DNR, Mike Griffin, IA DNR, Tim Schlagenhaft (award received by Scot Johnson), MN DNR, Mary Stefanski, USFWS, and COE.

Don Hultman, FWS, was acknowledged for being honored as the 2007 Refuge Manager of the Year.

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

A. COE (Tapp): Steve Tapp has been named the new Operations Manager for Channels and Harbors. He has also replaced Dan Krumholz as the Co-Chair for the River Resource Forum. Paul Machajewski has taken a new position working for the Operations Manager, Bruce Boldon. He will be working in the Winona office on safety and security issues, navigation related issues, and some support to C&H. He will still be involved with navigation charts, WLMTF, Navigation Work Group, and channel management studies. The Channel Maintenance Coordinator position backfilling Steve Tapp is in the process of being advertised. Bill Meier has been assigned a temporary promotion as a Channel Maintenance Coordinator until mid August. Change of command for the new DE, Col. Jon Christensen, will be on June 8. He is currently working at the Gulf Region Division HQ in Iraq. There will be a meet and greet luncheon on 4 June that the forum representatives are invited to. The new towboat, General Warren, arrived on 3 April and the christening ceremony will be 14 May. The partnering agency members are invited to the christening and tour the new vessel. Locks and dams started water quality testing again. LD 2 dewatering is complete and went well overall; however, there was one near fatal accident on 12 March. The MN DNR toured the dewatered lock chamber. New bulkhead slots are now installed at LD 4 and 9. The first tow, Cooperative Venture, passed thru Lake Pepin on 29 March and arrived in St. Paul on 30 March.

- (Otto): The LUAP maps have been sent to the agencies for review and comment. They have been reproduced in digital format. The maps include the Mississippi River only, not the Minnesota River.
- B. USFWS (Wege) [Handout 78-1]: Mussel surveys were conducted at Genoa on 23 April. If there is NESP funding, large-scale mussel surveys can be conducted. (Hultman) [Handout 78-2]: The handout was reviewed which summarizes the CCP update for 2007. The refuge bald eagle count for 2007 was 3165. The bird loss from tremetodes in Pools 7 and 8 is decreasing. The reed canary control process is just starting the 2 year effort. There is \$950K available for land acquisition in which they are pursuing land in Brice Prairie and along the Root River. The electric motor plan in the CCP has been delayed until 2008 due to rule making. Additional funds were received for the observation platform near Brownsville, so that project will be completed this summer. Jessica Larson is the new biologist in the LaCrosse District. FWS submitted a proposal to the Dept of Interior Secretary to attend the Spring Lake Islands EMP dedication. Ron Shara is doing a heron story on the refuge at Mertes Slough. There are many upcoming festivals this summer.
- C. USCG (Kepper): They will be receiving a new 25 foot boat that will replace their 23 foot boat. If anyone is interested in the old boat, let the CG know. Fifty percent crew change out this summer. The LaCrosse office will be vacant due to the loss of a billet. However, they are pushing to fill the position because of the high need for the CG in that area. 1 May there is a security maritime meeting in St. Paul.
- D. NPS (Labovitz): Paul started the new position in January 2007 and has 18 years experience with NPS as a forester and wildlife biologist. (Johnson): Transferred \$55K to FWS for mussel work. Water Resource Issues scoping document completed which provides information on the water quality of the parks. This is a follow-up to a workshop 1-1/2 years ago.
- E. MVR (Brenner): Attending the meeting to see how the RRF conducts meetings versus the meetings held in Rock Island district.
- F. IA DNR (Griffin): IA has a new governor who mentioned the Mississippi River 7 times during his State of the State Address. There is an increase in resource endorsement funding. Continue to review permits and appreciate the help from the COE, WI DNR, and FWS. The RR submitted a permit request to install a new track near the river in Lansing. IA DNR has not issued a permit, however, the RR is continuing to hold public meetings and state their plans. Pattison Bros are mining silicone, but the IA DNR has issued a cease and desist order.
- G. MN DOT (Lambert): New Lafayette Bridge in St. Paul in 2-3 years. Lunda is removing all their materials from the 494/Wakota bridge staging area.
- H. MN DNR (Wooden): Michele Hanson is in the position previously held by Amy Denz and most recently Randall Doneen. She is working with COE on LUAP. New commissioner is Mark Holsten, so new Deputy Commissioner, Laurie Martinson, is the new UMRBA representative. Trying to sole source a contract for the boating study. WRDA (Sec 5016) includes a fish barrier at LD 11 for \$4M and 6 months to complete the work. East Grand Forks noting their 10 year anniversary of the 1997 flood.
- I. WI DOT (Kieck). Discussed the latest issue with the Cassville ferry. \$12.7M has been included for the Harbor Assistance Program (HAP) in the Governors' proposed

budget. City of LaCrosse, LaCrosse County, and Brennan Marine requested application. There will be a public hearing this year to expand the eligibility for the HAP.

- J. LMRWD (Schwalbe): Wants to know when the COE will prepare the Cargill East River site. The discussion was delayed until later in the meeting.
- K. WI DNR (Benjamin): The DNR is working on the boundary rules to align with FWS. Ron Kind held a press conference in LaCrosse. He discussed EMP and mentioned the house passed WRDA on 4/20. Pursing a rule change on length of sturgeon harvested from the river due to the increase cost of the roe. They are working with MN and IA DNRs.
- L. MPCA (Mader): Commissioner, Brad Moore, has gone through his confirmation hearings at the state legislature.

5. Channel Maintenance Program (Machajewski & Lund) [Handout 78–3].

- Reviewed the 2007 dredging schedule. Greg Genz mentioned southbound market is slow, therefore there are less large tows right now.
- There is \$9K for the MN River and this will be spent on condition surveys at historic problem areas. Genz is trying to get Congressional pressure for additional funding on the MN River.
- Reviewed the 2007 Channel Maintenance Schedule. There is no funding in 2007 for removal of the RR timbers at Wabasha gravel pit so that project will be delayed to 2008. Discussed the issue that there is only 1 crane in the St. Paul District that is operational and how this is affecting the schedule for M&R. USFWS stated the snail habitat project was completed in 2007.

6. LD 3 Navigation Safety (Ulrick)

- Extending the Upper Guidewall and designing the lower embankment will be approximately a 2 year design process. The upper spot dike repair is funded with \$500K with the first design review in August 2007. The team looked at real estate for mitigation on 9 April. Construction funding won't be available until FY 09. The WI DNR wants a fish passage added to the design for the lower embankment and they are working with Congressional Representatives on funding and authorization (see attachment).
- MN DNR stated they have not received responses to comments they submitted on the EIS.
- Rebecca Wooden asked about a safety plan in the meantime to assist/prevent tow accidents prior to construction. There is a helper boat available from the Red Wing Harbor to assist tows.
- The funding is a cost share 50/50 and funds will come from O&M and Inland Waterways Trust fund.
- There is a partnering agency meeting scheduled for 7 May at the Lake City MN DNR to discuss the project.

7. Navigation Work Group (Machajewski)

- The group will meet before the next forum meeting. There were no incidents in Lake Pepin this year with breaking ice.

8. MN River DMMP (Lund)

- Reviewed the process and status of the MN River DMMP. Requesting endorsement from the Forum and comments from the public notice by 2 May. Plan to have the FONSI signed by mid May.
- LMRWD plans to build the access road, construct the wetland mitigation area, and construct some minor berms at the Cargill East River site in early May. Since they have acquired the permits, they are ready to start construction on the site.
- LMRWD will provide an operation and management plan for the Cargill East River site.
- LMRWD continues to pursue the Powerline Site.
- When the Below I-35W Bridge DMMP is complete, it will be added to the Above I-35W Bridge plan.
- (Tapp) Shakopee wants to develop their riverfront and bring paddlewheels up the MN River which means traveling up the 4' channel. The COE will check into authorization for the 4' channel.

9. Navigation & Ecosystem Sustainability Program (DeZellar) [Handout 78-4]

A. WRDA

- The act includes authorization for five new 1200-foot locks on the Upper Mississippi River and two new 1200-foot locks on the Illinois Waterway. The act also includes authorization for large and small scale ecosystem restoration projects. House passed WRDA on 4/20 and Senate has similar language so the hope is WRDA passes in mid June.

B. FY 07 Work Plan

- Working with a work plan of \$14M, no construction, just PED funding.
- Received \$100K increase for systematic public involvement that will be used for the newsletter and website. The new NESP website is led by Kevin Bluhm and implemented by MVR. Jeff is requesting feedback on the layout and design and comments can be directed to Jeff DeZellar or Kevin Bluhm, with a copy to Chuck Spitzack, MVR. The plan is to include a calendar on the site with upcoming events.
- Economic Re-Evaluation Report was due to ASA(CS) by Sept 07. However, the deadline has been extended to 31 Dec 2007 for the final report. The draft report is due 30 September 2007, and there will be partner collaboration and public meetings between September and December 2007.

C. Water Level Management

- Pool 9 drawdown is not receiving agency support due to good condition of the ecosystem in the pool. Possibility of shelving project because the ecosystem goals and objectives may have been met.
- Pool 3 drawdown is being considered. There are many challenges involved and will need agency support. An issue paper to identify costs will be drafted with NESP funds.
- Pool 5 drawdown was successful in 2005, there was a partial in 2006 and NESP funds are used for monitoring. Working on the project implementation report.

D. Handout

- Reviewed letters to COE from partnering agencies regarding NESP.

10. Environmental Management Program (Anderson) [Handout 78-5]
 - 2007 total budget of \$23.8M, \$6M for MVP
 - Reviewed the handout listing projects and status.
 - There is an ongoing issue with placement sites involving the MPCA. Due to the 2001 downgrading of the 401 program to issuance of waivers, there is a need to address non-navigation dredging for fines for environmental projects. Difficulties that arose with the LD4 Embankment and Pool 8 Island projects may have positive outcome in that the issue of 401 waivers may be addressed at the MPCA.
 - The 2008 budget is estimated at \$28.5M total with \$4.6M for MVP.

11. Water Level Management (DeZellar)
 - Results of Pool 8 drawdown are exceeding the 5 year expectations.
 - We need to be careful not to attribute too many positives of the vegetation in Pools 5 & 8 to the drawdowns. This may be cyclical response as well. Need to be careful not to over-sell drawdowns.
 - Mussels – In 2006, a mussel survey was conducted in Pool 5 to determine estimated pool-wide population. Survey was statistically validated. Sampling in Pool 5 showed a healthy mussel population. There will be a similar mussel study in Pool 6. Dick Otto is concerned about how money is spent for mussel surveys for the entire pool when the drawdown affects a portion of the pool. Gretchen Benjamin feels the entire pool survey is necessary until more data has been collected to understand the mussel populations in general and to aid in the planning for the drawdowns. At that point, the surveys may be cut back.
 - Drafting the Adaptive Management plan for drawdowns.
 - Pool 6 is scheduled for a minor drawdown in 2008 with 1.0' at the dam and 0.5' at the control point. O&M funds will come from Natural Resources office. Vegetation study will need agency in-kind participation. Need to rewrite the FONSI and hold 2 series of public meetings (fall 2007 and spring 2008).
 - Jeff DeZellar has proposed a WLM workshop in association with the NECC/ECC meeting in Nov 07 to share ideas.
 - Funding for drawdowns will be discussed at the August RRF.

12. Recreation Work Group (Berg) [Handout 78-6]
 - Reviewed handout discussing recreation boat study and beach plans.
 - There will be a fly over conducted by St. Mary's. The fly over will begin on Memorial weekend and will occur during holidays and week days.
 - Pool 9 beach plan is in draft form and is scheduled for presentation to the forum during the August RRF meeting. Pool 10 is the next scheduled beach plan.
 - Barry Drazkowski, St. Mary's, demonstrated the recreation website.

13. Fish & Wildlife Work Group (Anderson)
 - The last meeting was a joint meeting with the RWG. The next meeting is scheduled for June.
 - Draft Whitepaper on the Environmental Impacts of Recreation Boating. The FWWG is not ready to endorse paper.

- Mike Griffin thought it is a good document and would sign off on it, but could not commit to the last paragraph requesting a dedicated FTE to the effort.
- The short term goals could be accomplished without large amount of resources.
- Gretchen Benjamin requested a 2 page summary of the white paper with recommendations.
- Agencies were requested to review the draft paper and provide comments, commitments, and resources to Lisa Lund prior to June 20. The comments will be consolidated and distributed to the forum prior to the August meeting.

14. Other

- Greg Genz requested to give a presentation at the August RRF to discuss Pine Bend and LD2 navigation hazards. This will be added to the agenda.

Steve Tapp
Co-Chairman, RRF

Att:

Agenda
Attendance Sheet
#78-1 UMRCC Conservation Plan for Freshwater Mussels
#78-2 CCP Update, April 2007
#78-3 2007 Dredge Schedule and Channel Maintenance Schedule
#78-4 Agency Letters re: NESP
#78-5 EMP Summary
#78-6 RWG Activities
WI DNR Congressional Letter Re: LD3 Fish Passage

RIVER RESOURCE FORUM #78

24 April 2007

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Recent Conservation Activities

UMRCC Conservation Plan for Freshwater Mussels of the UMRS - 2003

Proposal to Include Conservation of Native Mussels as a Program Element of NESP - 2007 (when authorized & funded)

- If NESP doesn't pass, we need to include native mussels and zeebs as program elements of LTRMP

Assessing Project Impacts to Native Mussels

- Project Assessment (large and small-scale) and decision making criteria
 - ! APE Proposal, 2006
 - ! Pool 9 Pre-drawdown mussel survey, 2005 (Shallow water)
 - ! Pool 5 Post-drawdown mussel survey, 2005; Population Estimate, 2006
 - ! Pool 6, Population Estimate, 2007
 - ! Pool 8 Dive Regression Tree Model (Mussel Habitat Model), 2005
 - ! Higgins eye sampling protocols, 2007

Mussel Coordination Team Activities

- Establish 5 new and viable populations of Higgins eye. Since 2000 we have:
 - ! Cleaned 472 adults and 2,100 state-listed species and relocated to Pools 2 and 3; females gravid
 - ! Cleaned and stockpiled 1,363 adults at five locations
 - ! Used 343 donor females to inoculate 39,387 host fish (potential production = 6 million juveniles)
 - ! Placed 2,802 glochidia-infested host fish in open cages, lower WI River
 - ! Released 21,429 glochidia-infested host fish (Iowa tribes and WI River)
 - Monitoring found subadults in Wapsipinicon and Wisconsin Rivers
 - Placed 15,753 glochidia-infested host fish into 481 closed cages
 - Stocked 10,345 subadults
 - Currently holding 35,823 subadults for stocking
 - Monitoring found good/poor survival (fish predation?), sexual maturity in 4 years
- Monitor native and zebra mussels
- Develop mussel database; updated mussel website
- Implement zebra mussel management feasibility study
- Host fish identification and cage propagation for other species
- Winged mapleleaf propagation/relocation plan - 2007
 - ! Saline River, Arkansas = the best population left?
 - ! Identified host fish (channel and blue catfish)
 - ! Closed cage propagation
 - 11 juveniles from one cage, 2005
 - 24 subadults from 3 cages, 2006

Updated January 2007 = <http://midwest.fws.gov/mussel>

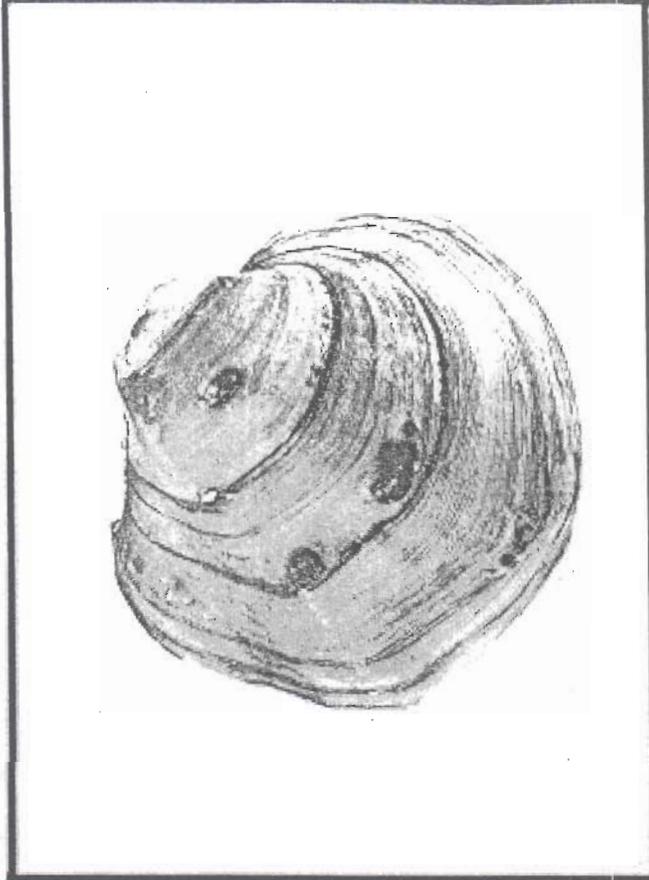


**U.S. Fish &
Wildlife Service**



Freshwater Mussels of the Upper Mississippi River System

- Species, Photos and Identification
- Threatened and Endangered Mussels
- Life History  Ecology
- Mussel Harvest on the River
- Current Threats
- Mussel Conservation Activities
- Ongoing Studies and Projects
- Multimedia  Teacher Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Glossary  References
- Links to Other Mussel Sites



Click on the mussel above to go to the [Field Guide to Freshwater Mussels](#) and find out more information about this species. A different species will appear everytime this page is loaded

**Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) Update
April, 2007
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

The CCP for the refuge was approved and published in October, 2006. Here is a summary of some of the public use changes coming down the road this year.

What will happen in 2007?

- Changes to waterfowl hunting closed areas and some hunting-related regulations are scheduled to take place for the Fall 2007 hunting season.
- New maps and a hunting brochure will be provided prior to the hunting season. The areas will be posted with new signs prior to the hunting season.
- A new furbearer management plan is being drafted for public review and comment. No changes will take place in trapping this year.
- New, relaxed dog policy will also take effect Fall 2007.
- The plan for Gibbs Lake Area, Pool 7 is still under development, will be released for public review and comment in May. About 40 people attended the second public workshop on February 15. Results can be found on the Refuge website at:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/gibbslake.html>
- A change to open water hunting rules in a portion of Pool 11, Grant County is planned for Fall 2007.
- **DELAY:** The establishment of new electric motor areas and seasonal slow, no wake areas will **not** take effect in 2007 as planned. It is expected that these changes will take place sometime in 2008 (see below)

Will the public have a chance for further public review and comment?

- The Refuge's proposed new hunting-related regulations will be published in the *Federal Register* this summer (hopefully June) for 30 days of public comment. Announcements will be sent to local media and a copy of the announcement and other information will be available at offices and posted on the refuge website.
- The Wisconsin DNR is proposing to adopt the closed area changes and open-water hunting change in Pool 11 in their state regulations. The state hosted three open houses on these proposals in late Feb. and early March. (over)

The statewide spring hearings were held April 16. It appears attendees overwhelming voted to **not** adopt the changes.

- The draft furbearer management plan and Gibbs Lake hunting plan will be made available for public review and comment.
- Rules that will establish new electric motor areas and seasonal slow, no wake areas, and fine-tune some general recreation regulations (e.g. glass containers) are currently being drafted. They will be published in the *Federal Register* for a 60-day public comment period and be made available locally at refuge offices and the refuge website. Announcements of the draft rules will be made through the media. Due to the time needed for the rulemaking process, these proposed changes will not take effect until sometime in 2008.

Need more information?

- The CCP for the refuge is available at refuge offices or the web at:
www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/uppermiss

ST. PAUL DISTRICT (MVP) - CORPS OF ENGINEERS										
2007 Dredging Schedule by Equipment										
								1400hrs 20 April 2007		
Pool	Dredge Cut Name	River Mile	Dredging Dates	Depth & Est. Quantity		Equip.	Placement Site	Dredging Notice #	Job Order #	Cat.
Scheduled Dredging Jobs										
5A	Betsy Slough	731.0-731.4	05/14-05/16	13	16,421	GTZ	5A-731.9-LWP			I
5A	Wilds Bend	730.3-730.6	05/16-05/18	12	10,892	GTZ	5A-730.5-LWT			I
							DUBQ			
7	* Lower Dresbach Island	703.2-703.6	04/10-04/25	12	6,107	GM	7-706.5-RMT	DN-07-01	07-01	I
							CH			
							CM1			
							CM2			
* Currently operating at this job. ** Dredging has been completed.										
Total quantities scheduled by equipment:										
Government Hydraulic - GOETZ (GTZ) =				27,313						
Government Hydraulic - DUBUQUE (DUBQ) =				0		Scheduled		33,420		
Government Mechanical - HAUSER/WADE (GM) =				6,107		Unscheduled		0		
Contract Hydraulic - (CH) =				0		TOTAL		33,420		
Contract Mechanical - (CM1) =				0						
Contract Mechanical - (CM2) =				0						
Total Scheduled Dredging Quantities =				33,420						
E = Emergency I = Imminent Closure R = Routine Dredging										
Potential Jobs That Have Not Been Scheduled										
Total quantity for jobs that have not been scheduled = 0										

Pool(s)	Status	Job Name/Desc.	Work Type (see Key)	River Mile(s)	Work Dates	Approximate Construction Time	Equip	Cubic Yards Dredged	Rock (Tons)	Comments/Job Notes
Scheduled Channel Management Activities										
7	*	Dredging Lower Dresbach Island	DR	703.4	10 -26 Apr	3 weeks	MR	6,100		Material placed at Dakota Island and used as a closure.
Potential Channel Management Activities										
2		Sand Berm along Is. 112 (LP2 CMS)	DR/RE	827.5R	2007		MR			Material from Grey Cloud Slough cuts.
2		Secondary Channel (LP2 CMS)	EX	826.7R	2008		MR	5,000		Pending Design, MnDNR permits. Work funded via NESP.
2		Notch 31 Wing Dams (LP2 CMS)	EX	NA	2008		MR	11,000		Pending Design, MnDNR permits. Work funded via NESP.
8		Crosby Slough Protection (P8 CMS)	CL/BS	690.3L	2007	1 week	MR		1,000	Stabilize entrance to slough.
8		Pool 8 Is. 116 - Dredging Behind Closure Structure	DR	690.2R	2007	1 day	MR	200		Dredge sand plug from behind structure. Need to coord. w/OSIT.
8		Raise & Extend 3 Wing Dams (P8 CMS)	WD	690.2L	2007	1 week	MR		1,500	
Scheduled Placement Site Activities										
2		Pine Bend	RE	823.8L	2007		MR			Expand to CMMP limits.
4		Reads Landing	RE	762.7L	2007		MR			Reshape site and prepare for operations.
4		Alma Marina P.S.	LS, SM	754.0L	2007		MR/CH			Install boulders along fence during LD 4 embankment job. Update kiosk info
5		West Newton Chute	RE, SM	749.8	2007	1 week	MR/CT			Build beneficial use pile. Build & install kiosk.
5A		Fountain City	SM	731.9	2007		CH			Update Kiosk info
8		Brownsville	LS, IN	688.7R	2007		MR/CT			Landscaping. Build & install Kiosk.
9		Lansing Hwy Bridge	RE, LS, SM	663.5	2007		MR/CH			Reshape site for better access to beneficial use material. Update Kiosk info. Landscaping.
10		Buck Creek	LS, IN	617.4	2007		MR/CT			Build & install Kiosk.
Potential Placement Site Activities										
MN		Cargill East River	RE	14.1	2008	4 weeks	MR			Build berms and prepare the site for dredged material placement
4		Wabasha Gravel Pit	RE	761.0R	2007		CT			HTRW review and railroad tie removal.
4		Reads Landing	BS	762.7L	2009		MR		2200	Public review of EA complete; sign FONSI after OSIT. WDNR permits
4		Crats Island	BS	759.3L	2007		MR		3000	Public review of EA complete; sign FONSI after OSIT. WDNR permits
4		Teepeeota Island	BS	757.5L	2008		CT		3500	Public review of EA complete; sign FONSI after OSIT. WDNR permits
Other Scheduled M&R Work										
4		LD 4 Embankment Rock Work	BS	752.8	7 May	6 weeks	MR			Add rock to embankment.
6		FWS - Brice Prairie Snail Structure	RE	NA	2007		MR			Add snail habitat around island.
Key										
* Currently operating at this job.		BS Bank Stabilization		CH Contract Hydraulic						
** Work has been completed.		CL Closure		CM Contract Mechanical						
WS Work Suspended		DR Dredging		CT Contract or Purchase Order						
CMS Channel Management Study		DS Drop Structure		DUBQ COE Dredge Dubuque						
WC Work Canceled		EX Excavation		MR COE Maintenance & Repair Unit						
		FB Fabrication		WAT COE Dredge William A Thompson						
		IN Installation		IaDNR Iowa Department of Natural Resources						
		IS Island		MnDNR Minnesota Department of Natural Resources						
		LS Landscaping		WIDNR Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources						
		RE Reshaping		NRM COE Natural Resource Management Project Office						
		WD Wing Dam		// Italicized numbers are estimates.						
		SM Structure Modification								



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February 26, 2007

Brigadier General Robert Crear
Commander
USACE, Mississippi Valley Division
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Re: Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program Funding

Dear General Crear:

I am contacting you to let you know that Audubon's work to protect and restore habitat for birds, fish, wildlife, and people on and along the Mississippi River – Headwaters to Gulf – is continuing to gain momentum. We are building a strong team of Audubon staff, volunteers, and members into an integrated program for conservation along this nationally significant resource. In the weeks ahead, we will be providing you with additional information and detail.

As you know, much of the significant, on-the-ground progress in restoring the ecosystems of the river and gulf will occur only if there is strong leadership and fiscal resources available at several levels; federal, state, local, and private. One of the key potential sources of support, pending Congressional action and approval of the Administration, will be funds made available through the Corps' Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program. This program, as approved by the Corps, presented a formula for a balanced approach to river management that assured that the needs of both the ecosystem and the navigation system are equitably met.

Last week, at the quarterly meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, we listened intently as your staff presented a potential scenario for funding for this program in 2008. Your staff presented what it has termed as a "plus up" scenario, in which the Corps would be able to increase its first year budget for this program from the now envisioned \$8 million to a possible \$18 million. At first blush that sounds commendable, but as your staff went through the numbers, it became apparent that the share proposed for ecosystem restoration would be about \$5 million, the share for navigation planning, engineering and design (PED) would be more than \$9 million, and the balance of about \$4 million would be for other purposes.

13

While this may seem relatively insignificant within a Mississippi Valley Division budget that is expected to exceed \$800 million in fiscal year 2007, we are concerned that this pending inequity so early in the process fails to present a good faith effort to initiate a balanced approach to river management. We are greatly concerned that this would send the wrong signal to your many partners in the environmental community – potentially spurring distrust.

The river community needs a strong signal from the Corps that it intends to recommend, implement, and maintain a balanced management strategy for the river that provides for the needs of navigation and the ecosystem. Therefore, we would like to request that you review the recommendations of your staff forwarded thus far, and seek to bring balance to whatever budget scenario you end up with, regardless of amount.

We would be happy to work to support such a strategy within the Corps and we would be happy to express Audubon's support for a balanced and well-funded program before Congress and the Administration.

General Crear, please feel free to contact me or Dan McGuiness on my staff if you have questions or if you would like further clarity regarding our concerns. We have enjoyed open and candid communications with your office relative to our common interests and look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff toward the successful restoration of the Mississippi River – Headwater to Gulf. Your consideration of our request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/

Roger Still
Vice President
Mississippi River Programs



IN REPLY REFER
TO FWS/RIFO

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Rock Island Field Office
4469 48th Avenue Court
Rock Island, Illinois 61201
Phone: (309) 793-5800 Fax: (309) 793-5804



March 7, 2007

Colonel Robert A. Sinkler
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District
Clock Tower Building, P.O. box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Colonel Sinkler:

This letter transmits the comments of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on the Corps of Engineers' Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) fiscal year 2007 budget, and the report of fiscal year 2007 work performed by the Service in accordance with the transfer funding agreements (TFA) negotiated with the Rock Island Field Office (RIFO).

Relative to NESP-related work by the Service, to date in fiscal year 2007, RIFO biologists Jon Duyvejonck and Robert Clevenstine served as team leaders coordinating Region 3 assistance to the Corps' NESP activities. In addition, biologists and managers from our Marion and Twin Cities Field Offices, the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Mark Twain National Refuge Complex, and the LaCrosse and Carterville Fishery Resource Offices also provided technical support. Service staff provided technical assistance to the following activities: NESP Science Panel, fish passage projects at Lock and Dams 22 and Melvin Price, navigation improvements at La Grange Lock and Dam, Locks and Dams 22 and 25, the UMR Forest Management Plan, the Pool 18 reach plan, shoreline protection, and attendance at program planning activities such as the Navigation Environmental Coordinating Committee (NECC) meetings. Several NESP activities described in the TFA scope of work were inactive (e.g. institutional arrangements, the barge fleeting plan, floodplain restoration, and island building) and did not receive Service attention. We want to express our appreciation that the Service continues to enjoy a close productive relationship with Corps staff involved with NESP.

Relative to the NESP 2007 budget, I want to express the Service's concern with a recent development. At the February 21, 2007, Navigation Effects Coordinating Committee/Economics Coordinative Committee (NECC/ECC) meeting, the NESP Program Manager provided an overview of program status including the response to Mississippi Valley Division's request for additional capability, should additional NESP funding become available for program execution this fiscal year. The response, expressed as the "FY 2007 Plus Up Exercise", resulted in a potential expenditure of \$9.275 million for navigation efficiency, but only \$5.450 million for ecosystem restoration. When questioned about this

disparity, your staff indicated that it was a short-turnaround exercise and the ecosystem restoration project delivery team (PDT) leaders had not expressed as high a capability as the navigation efficiency PDT leaders in that timeframe.

We are familiar with similar budget exercises which occur from time to time on short notice within our own agency. However, we are concerned with the approach taken in this case. NESP has been described as a multi-agency and multi-organization partnership. This partnership is driven in part by the interagency coordination requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). As far as we could tell, partner agencies and organizations were not canvassed as to their views on priorities for additional ecosystem restoration funding. It appears that even with tight internal deadlines, partners could have offered quick-turnaround input via email. As a result, we are perplexed and disappointed.

There remain many unmet data needs to support ecosystem restoration planning. We would expect restoration project managers to take every opportunity to obtain such data and were surprised by the lower capability figure presented at the meeting. Bathymetry, modern topography, land cover, mussel bed delineation, aquatic, and terrestrial community inventories are examples of information necessary to adequately document pre-project conditions, model the project site or reach, forecast changes, evaluate restoration alternatives, and ultimately evaluate project performance under the adaptive management paradigm proposed by your agency and NESP partners.

Bathymetric data and/or terrestrial contour acquisition for NESP projects M, R1, R2, R3, S, U1, and U2 would likely result in an increased capability for ecosystem restoration during the early years of the NESP once it is authorized. Mussel population metrics for reach planning would also consume substantial funding, and should be considered a priority data requirement for the development of any restoration alternative involving physical modification of aquatic habitats.

As a NESP partner, we request that you amend the "Plus Up Exercise" with input from NESP partner agencies and organizations. We believe this will allow Division staff to be presented with a more accurate assessment of ecosystem restoration expenditure need and capability. Another option to consider is a simple equal split of any additional funding between navigation and ecosystem restoration elements of NESP. If your staff requires additional information regarding data needs, please contact Mr. Bob Clevenstine at (309) 793-5800 extension 205 or Jon Duyvejonck at extension 207. If you have any questions regarding this letter or wish to discuss our request, please do not hesitate to call me at extension 201.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Nelson
Field Supervisor

cc: COE (Loss, Spitzack, Barr)
State NECC members
UMRBA



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY Access via relay - 711

March 19, 2007

Colonel Robert A. Sinkler
US ACE – Rock Island District
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Re: Corps of Engineers' Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program – PED FY 2007

Dear Colonel Sinkler:

For over 15 years the Wisconsin DNR has been involved with the Upper Mississippi River Navigation Reconnaissance and Feasibility Study and now with the end product of the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP). The road has been bumpy but in recent years a common understanding and direction has been achieved through NESP. The basis to this collaboration has been the desire to obtain a balance of the two congressionally mandated purposes of the river which are a nationally significant commercial navigation system and a nationally significant ecosystem.

It was brought to our attention at the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association on February 20, 2007 and the Navigation Ecosystem Coordinating Committee (NECC) meeting on February 21, 2007 that the Corps team that works on NESP was to do a "plus up" budget for Planning, Engineering and Design (PED) for FY 2007. The budget was \$18 million and through their efforts they came up with a potential budget of \$9.275 million for navigation efficiency, \$5.450 million for ecosystem restoration and other assorted budget items. While we certainly understand this is an exercise and may not result in an \$18 million budget we were dismayed at the disparity between the two elements of the program. It is difficult to pull together numbers in a rushed fashion as was required by this activity but we believe that a simple phone call or email to the state and federal partners on the NESP effort would have resulted in a budget of parity between the two elements.

Currently, the ecosystem restoration portion of the program lacks valuable information about bathymetry, topography (LIDAR) and the native mussel populations on the river. When authorization and appropriations are provided for NESP we would like to see the program move forward in a smooth, productive fashion and having this information will be pivotal in this regard. You wouldn't build a lock without all the engineering data necessary and it doesn't make sense to construction habitat restoration without the appropriate physical and biological data. If this work went forward you can be assured that the data collected and the dollars spent would be highly valuable for all future management activities associated with river habitat restoration. Therefore if the "plus up" funding becomes reality we expect that the funds will be balanced between the two elements. The need is there and it is highly likely that there are contractors to do the work.

Wisconsin DNR staff has promoted this program by saying NESP will give us the ability to maintain, protect and restore the ecosystem while providing for efficient navigation on the Upper Mississippi River. Our Governor and our department have told Congress the value of this program and we would like to continue communicating this message to Congress. But if we continue to see disparity in the program it will become hard to promote the program as a valuable asset for the Upper Mississippi River and the valuable ecosystem Wisconsin DNR is responsible for protecting.

Sincerely,



Todd Ambs
Water Division Administrator

Cc State NECC members
Ron Adams, WISDOT, Madison, WI
Rick Nelson, USFWS, Rock Island Field Office
Ken Barr, USACE, Rock Island District
Chuck Spitzack, USACE, Rock Island District



NESP INFO

FACTS & INFO

NEWS & EVENTS

OTHER ITEMS

CONTACTS

General Information

Projects

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Welcome To The Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) website!



Upper Mississippi River System

Questions?

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NESP Calendar

[View the NESP Calendar of Events.](#)

Reports

[Reports](#), [Guidance Documents](#), [Meeting Minutes](#), and other available.

UMRS Portal

[View Sample UMRS Portal](#)

▶▶ NESP Info

The Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) is a long-term program of navigation improvements and ecological restoration for the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) over a 50-year period that will be implemented in increments through integrated, adaptive management.



The primary opportunities are to reduce or eliminate commercial traffic delays and improve the national and regional economic conditions while restoring, protecting, and enhancing the environment. The primary goal of the program is implementation of an integrated, dual-purpose plan to ensure the economic and environmental sustainability of the UMRS.

NESP does not directly affect authorization and funding of other programs addressing the needs of the UMRS, but management of NESP will be integrated with the management of other programs to enhance efficiency and effectiveness across programs.

Apr 06 2007
NESP FY 2007 Work Plan
Administration has officially submitted Corps "FY07 Work Plan"



US Army Corps of Engineers

▶▶ NESP Reports



On September 24, 2004 the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, completed their final plan for future ecosystem restoration and navigation efficiency improvements to the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers.

You can view the [Final Document](#), or go to any of the following areas for additional items: [Guidance Documents](#), [Information Papers](#), [Meeting Minutes](#), [Newsletters](#), or [Reports](#)

▶▶ Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS)



The Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) is a vital part of our national economy and a valuable ecological resource. The system includes: the Upper Mississippi River from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Cairo, Illinois; the Illinois Waterway from Chicago to Grafton, Illinois; and navigable portions of the Minnesota, St. Croix, Black and Kaskaskia Rivers. The UMRS ecosystem refers to the entire floodplain area and associated physical, chemical, and biological components, and the UMR-IWW navigation system refers to 1,200 miles of 9-foot navigation channel, 37 lock and dam sites, and thousands of channel training structures. The 1,200 miles of 9-foot channel created by the 37 locks and dams allow waterway traffic to move from one pool to another providing an integral regional, national, and international transportation network. [View The Sample UMRS Portal](#)

[View The Sample UMRS Portal](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (St. Paul District) - 4/20/07

PROJECT Contact	FY07 - \$6,081,000*		FY08 - \$4,646,000**	
	\$1,000	TASKS	\$1,000	TASKS
Polander Lake - \$3.1M Powell	4	Complete O&M manual	0	
Trempealeau NWR - \$5.8M Powell	4	Complete O&M manual	0	
Long Lake Restoration- \$0.5M Powell	3	Complete O&M manual	0	
Ambrough Slough - \$2.7M				
Stage 1 - \$140K Powell	0	None	0	
Stage 2 - \$1.5M Powell	3	Complete O&M manual	0	
Stage 3 - \$220K Powell	3	Complete O&M manual	0	
Spring Lake Islands - \$4.4M Novak/Powell	86	Complete O&M manual Complete tree/shrub plant contract	20	Closeout planting contract Project dedication
Pool Slough - \$0.8M Williams/Powell	47	Pump delivery and set-up Closeout Project dedication?	10	Closeout
Harpers Slough - \$9.0M Anderson/Novak/Powell	110	Complete draft DPR	2,136	Complete final DPR Prepare P&S for Stage 1 Initiate Stage 1 construction
Capoli Slough - \$4.1M Clark/Powell	100	Complete draft DPR	90	Complete final DPR Begin P&S
Long Meadow Lake - \$0.8M Novak/Powell	155	Complete construction & closeout Complete tree/shrub plant contract	15	Complete contract closeout Project dedication?
Pool 8 Islands Phase III - \$15.1M				
Stage 1 - \$865K (E-1,2,3 & East) Powell/Novak	13	Closeout Prepare O&M manual?		
Stage 2 - \$6.9M 2A = \$280K (N-1,3,4,5,6) 2B = \$4.2M (W-1,2,3,4) 2B Opt = \$2.8M (N-2,7,8) Devendorf/Novak/Powell	4,893 (+1,600 from CH)	Initiate/complete Stg 2A construction Award Stg 2B construction contract Initiate Stg 2B construction Award Stg 2B options	1,355	S&A Stage 2B construction Award remaining Stg 2B options?
Stage 3 - \$5.5M (C-2,3,4,5,6,7,8) Novak	10	Initiate P&S for Stg 3 contract	150	Prepare P&S for Stg 3 contract
Lake Winneshiek - \$4.6M Novak/Powell	60	Initiate general design	100	Continue work on draft DPR
Conway Lake - \$2.5M Clark/Powell	50	Continue work on draft DPR	70	Complete draft DPR
McGregor Lake - \$6.4M Powell	20	Initiate general design	120	Continue work on draft DPR
Finger/Clear Lake - \$0.1M Stefanik/Powell	140	Complete letter report Initiate & complete construction	15	Complete construction

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (St. Paul District) - 4/20/07

PROJECT Contact	FY07 - \$6,081,000*		FY08 - \$4,646,000**	
	\$1,000	TASKS	\$1,000	TASKS
Completion reports Wilcox/Stefanik/Powell	27	Complete 8 reports	25	Begin 3 completion reports
Performance monitoring Wilcox/Powell	30	Develop program Monitoring	150	Develop program Monitoring
Biological monitoring	0	None	20	Prepare scope of work
Baseline monitoring Powell	20	Develop program Monitoring	25	Develop program Monitoring
LTRM	0		5	
EMP Powell	198	Program management	200	Program management
FWS Assistance Powell	105	Funds to FWS for HREP assistance	140	Funds to FWS for HREP assistance
TOTALS	6,081		4,646	

*Includes an additional \$2M compared to original work plan plus \$98K carryover from FY06

**Assumed allocation based on President's Budget of \$23.5M

Contacts

Anderson, Dennis 651-290-5272
 Clark, Steve 651-290-5278
 Devendorf, Randy 651-290-5267
 Novak, Tom 651-290-5524
 Powell, Don 651-290-5402
 Stefanik, Elliott 651-290-5260
 Wilcox, Dan 651-290-5276
 Williams, Terry 651-290-5517

Recreation Work Group Activities

River Resources Forum Meeting
24 Apr 2007
Winona State University

- 1) 2007 Recreational Boating Study
 - Plan on Conducting Study
 - Study Reaches
 - MN River – 35 miles
 - St. Croix River – 52 miles
 - Miss. River to Head of Lake Pepin – 95 miles
 - Miss. River – Base of Pepin to Guttenberg – 150 miles
 - Total - 332 miles
 - Approx. study costs – 72k
 - Funding participants – MnDNR (39k) WDNR (16.5) CoE (16.5)
 - Contractor – St. Mary's University

- 2) Recreational Beach Planning
 - Rough Draft of Pool 9 in Progress
 - Need to Conduct One More Pool 9 On-Site – Mid May
 - Complete Draft of Pool 9 – Early Summer/End of June
 - Begin Pool 10 – Complete Draft Prior to Aug. RRF

- 3) Upper Miss. River Recreation Web Page – St. Mary's Univ.
 - Includes Variety of Information from Rec. Boating Studies Conducted Bi-annually Since 1989
 - <http://maps.geospatialservices.org/missboatserver/index.html>

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2007

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Assistant Secretary Woodley:

We write in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District Final Integrated General Reevaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement for Lock and Dam 3 located in Pierce County, Wisconsin. In addition, we support the construction of a fish passage in conjunction with work on the Lower Embankment as was agreed upon by the stakeholder groups and as designed by Corps of Engineers' staff.

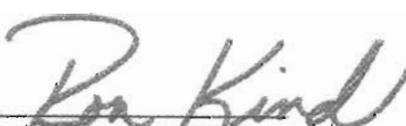
Due to the unique location of the dam at a bend in the river, navigation safety and embankment renovation have been an issue for a number of years. We understand you have been able to determine a concept that all river agencies agree with for design and construction of Navigation Safety element and Upper Embankment spot dikes. However, there are still some discussions about Lower Embankment construction and the need to construct fish passage at the same time as the Lower Embankment work is done. As your agency has documented, many of the fish species of the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) migrate during some portion of their life history, but they have been limited by the lock and dam system established in the 1930s. Incorporating a fish passage into the lock and dam system is a proven way to address this issue.

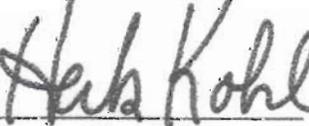
We understand there you have concerns regarding the Corps' authority to complete this project with fish passage and your ability to fund it through existing construction budgets connected to the Navigation Safety or Embankment work. We believe this is a valuable project that will solve a long-standing infrastructure problem while also addressing a pressing environmental need. Once the true cost of the fish passage structure is assessed we may also be able to work to solve this issue as well. Therefore, we would like to see the Corps move forward with a cost assessment for fish passage construction, and we look forward to helping you resolve questions of budget and authorization in order to bring this project to conclusion.

The UMRS has been recognized by Congress as a nationally significant ecosystem and navigation system. Over the years, federal and state agencies have a symbiotic relationship on the river. It is our hope we can settle the fish passage issue in a favorable manner for the Corps, the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the river fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us or our staffs for additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,


Congressman Ron Kind


Senator Herb Kohl


Senator Russell Feingold

Cc: Brig. General Robert Crear, USACE, Mississippi Valley Division
Col. Michael Pfenning, USACE, St. Paul District

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works
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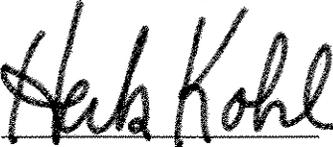
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Sincerely,



Congressman Ron Kind



Senator Herb Kohl



Senator Russell Feingold

Cc: Brig. General Robert Crear, USACE, Mississippi Valley Division
Col. Michael Pfenning, USACE, St. Paul District