Memorandum For The Record

15 April 2003

Subject: Downstream Citizens Group Meeting – Headwaters ROPE Study

1. On Monday, 14 April 2003, the subject meeting of the Downstream Citizens Group met at the Corps Gull Lake Recreation Area Administration Building near Brainerd, Minnesota. There were 11 participants at this meeting. In addition to Corps representatives, stakeholders represented included an Aitkin businessman, two rural riverine resident, a Aitkin farmer, two representatives from the Audubon Society, and a key representative from The Nature Conservancy (See the attached Sign-In Roster for listing and details regarding participants).

2. The objective of this meeting was to discuss the planning models to be used for the ROPE Study and to begin to get user information from the downstream citizens volunteers group regarding the uses of the river reaches. The agenda used for the meeting is shown below:

AGENDA

1. Status of ROPE Study
    a. Overall Study
    b. Structures Inventories
2. Overview on Planning Models to be used to formulate operating plans
    a. Optimization Model (see handouts on optimization)
    b. Simulation Model
3. Specific Modeling Nodes Identified
4. Discussion about nodes (see nodes file attached for details)
    a. Additional nodes needed
    b. Inputs and reference elevations/flow
    c. Qualitative inputs about uses/problems at selected nodes
5. Planned Future Citizen Group Activities

3. There were a number of noteworthy discussions and points which were raised and discussed at this meeting:

- The Corps and Forest Service have now entered into a partnership for completion of the ROPE Study. This means that both Federal agencies will be funding the study and will be using the ROPE Study and associated EIS as their decision document for operation of their Headwater Reservoir/s.
- After considerable exploration of possible planning models for use in the ROPE Study, two models have now been selected for application on the ROPE Study. These are the HEC-PRM optimization models (supported by the Corps Hydraulic Engineering Center in Davis, CA) and the STELLA