

Memorandum For The Record

11 November 2002

Subject: Downstream Citizens Group Meeting – Headwaters ROPE

1. On Monday, 4 November the subject meeting of the Downstream Citizens Group met at the Corps administration building at Gull Lake. There were 5 participants at this meeting and stakeholders that were represented were not diverse – Note the citizen participant were all from Aitkin (see the attached Sign-In Sheet for listing and details regarding the participants).
2. Because there was not diverse stakeholder / interest representation at the meeting, the meeting agenda and handouts were only referenced (see the attached for additional information).
3. Corps representatives provided a brief overview of the ROPE Study, its scope, and the role of the Downstream Citizens Group and answered a number of general questions about the ROPE study. Considerable discussion and exchange of information regarding the Corps Section 205 flood control study that is proposed this year.
4. The primary objective of this meeting was to form/solidify and mobilize this task force.
5. A number of additional noteworthy points were discussed during this meeting and are summarized as follows:
 - It was determined that we would need regroup and reach out to river environmental advocate volunteers and to other stakeholders groups in order to have an effective and balance downstream citizens group. There would be a need to coordinate with the media to see if we could recruit volunteers to the group...
 - It was determined that the next meeting should occur in about 1 month and that at that meeting we would seek to solidify and mobilize this important Citizens Group. Upcoming meetings will likely focus on evaluating and inputting into a decision matrix.
 - Frayda Nitschke volunteered to serve as the recorder for the group. A co-chair volunteer to assist with the administration of the group is still being sought.
6. This was a constructive initial meeting and all participants at this meeting contributed to the discussions and expressed a willingness to continue their involvements. But, the prime objectives for the meeting were not realized, as there is still a critical need to find additional diverse volunteers for this group. Hopefully, the next Downstream Citizens Group will fully solidify and mobilize this Citizens Group.

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Ed McNally, COE
Task Forces Coordinator/Champion

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Sign-In Sheet
Agenda and Handouts

Distribution: All Meeting Participants