

Memorandum For The Record

November 20, 2003

SUBJECT: Seventh Meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Headwaters ROPE Study Environmental Task Force.

1. Participants: Chris Kavanaugh, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR); Ray Norrgard, MNDNR; Donald Pierce, MNDNR; Steve Marod, MNDNR; Chantel Cook, U.S. Forest Service; Steve Clark, Corps of Engineers (COE).
2. On November 19, 2003, the individuals listed above met at the COE Gull Lake Recreation Area Administration Building near Brainerd for the seventh meeting as the Environmental Task Force (ETF) of the Upper Mississippi River Headwaters ROPE Study. A written agenda was not prepared for the meeting.
3. The meeting began with some discussion of the environmental modeling progress. The modeling matrix is nearly complete and should require only one more revision. The contract with the Cadmus Group for a literature search and significant resource modeling recommendations is ready but awaiting funding.
4. The first part of the meeting was spent refining the modeling matrix. It was decided that reptiles and amphibians would be removed from the matrix because there is no clear relationship between reservoir operation and any limiting factors for this group of animals. Other revisions were suggested, and Steve Clark will refine the matrix with this information and distribute it to the group as the final version.
5. The group agreed that the ETF-recommended reservoir operational target would be the modeled natural hydrology. It will be necessary to define this more clearly, but it is likely that the average natural semimonthly value will be targeted with other recommendations to achieve a more natural variability in flows – both short- and long-term.
6. The remainder of the meeting was spent identifying which resources are significant at each node in the system. Some nodes require the input of resource managers not present at this meeting. This input will be gathered and used to complete the table outlining this information.
7. The date for the next ETF meeting is dependent on the progress of the Cadmus Group contract, which is currently awaiting funding.

Steve Clark, COE
Environmental Task Force Coordinator