

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #111, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Visitor Center, Brice Prairie, WI

*Introductions (All)*

- Additional time was provided for endorsement of previous meeting minutes due to late distribution.
- Zach will incorporate changes from Jim Fischer and Megan Moore and redistribute meeting minutes to RRF 110 for endorsement at the August meeting.
- Next meetings:
  - RRF #112 on Aug 20-21 to avoid UMRR multi-site inspection.
    - Discussed holding the meeting in the Hastings, MN area due to all of the Pool 2 activity.
  - RRF #113 on Dec 4-5 likely at the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in Bloomington, MN.

*Agency Activities- COE (Tapp)*

- Disposition study – COE has received a portion of the funding and Nan Bischoff will reconvene COE team in the next couple weeks and begin meeting. Public meeting dates and locations will be publicized as well.
- LD 8 gate operation deviation.
  - Deviation to increase flows during low flow conditions to deter Asian Carp movement between pools.
  - Anticipate MVD approval in the near future.
  - Underwater speaker sound system has already been installed.
    - May be causing frequency interference with lock communication system.
- Section 1122 of the WIIN Act, requires COE to select ten pilot projects nationwide for this beneficial use of dredged material program.
  - 22 project proposals were provided throughout the Mississippi Valley Division, 6 of those were in the St. Paul District.
  - HQ has proposals as of 23 April and will put a team together to recommend 10 projects to ASA for his selection.
    - HQ team will provide the recommendations to ASA by the end of June.
    - Selection of a pilot project doesn't guarantee funding, will have to go back to Congress for appropriation.
- Budget – FY18, supposed to be getting work plan on 30 April; FY20, rankings from MVD have been sent to HQ.

*Agency Activities- WDNR (Fischer)*

- Staffing updates:
  - Former Secretary Kathy Stepp went to work for EPA Region 7, is now working in Region 5 out of Chicago.
  - New Secretary Dan Meyer was appointed in December after Kathy left.
  - Deputy Secretary has now been selected as Chief of Staff for EPA Region 5.
  - Ed Eberly is the new Deputy Secretary for WDNR.
  - Pat Stevens is Assistant Deputy Secretary WDNR.
  - Vacancy at Division Administrator level of Secretary's Office.
- Working on internal and external communications review.
  - Help clarify who to contact for official comments, votes, etc.
  - Jim Fischer provided an updated contact list to RRF.
- Working with MVR to approve a new placement site in Pool 11 and establish a new MOU.
  - No comments following January public review for establishment of Hurricane Island site so WQ Cert was provided.
  - New MOU signed March 29<sup>th</sup> is good for five years.
- Worked on Sec 1122 proposal for the HOL Pepin project.
- Working with 5 states on UMRBA – “Planning Assistance to States” request to the Corps.
- Office of Great Waters Management Team is holding meetings in La Crosse August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2018 Great Lakes Meeting is May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Local river team will be hosting 75<sup>th</sup> annual conservation committee meeting 19-21 March 2019.
- Wildlife management program started Biologist recruitment effort to fill six positions throughout the state.
- CWD detected on a wild deer near Eau Claire County which reinitiates the baiting/feeding ban in Eau Claire and other adjacent counties, CWD was detected in Northern Vernon County so the same restrictions apply there.

*Agency Activities- MDNR (Moore / Dieterman)*

- MOU with MVP has been renewed and is now a five year agreement (was one year previously).
- Environmental review staff discussing Pool 2 CMS EAW – initially a record of decision and no EIS needed .
  - Grey Cloud Island landowner filed suit against MDNR regarding the determination that no EIS would be needed for the Lower Pool 2 Channel Improvement. Steve Tapp mentioned that there's a chance that the lawsuit could

be remanded back to the MDNR. Tom Novak is meeting with Corps and MDNR attorneys to see what that would mean for the channel modification.

- Concern is more tied to the dredging (contaminates), but the rock placement requires dredging due to flood stage impacts, so both may be further delayed.
- LS Marine completed the Brewer Lake inlet channel modification on 23 April.
  - Hoping to see improvements with regard to sediment entering Buff Slough.
- WI and MN DNR will be holding a series of public meetings throughout the month of May to discuss a potential change to all fishing regulations in all Miss. River border waters. May be changing bag and size limits on the Mississippi. (No planned impacts to the St. Croix).
  - No meeting scheduled yet with the Iowa border waters. Iowa is currently pushing for a license increase do not want to change regulations at this time.

*Agency Activities- Friends of Pool 2 (Senglaub)*

- Annual meeting will be held 4 May from 5-9pm at the St. Paul Yacht Club, free event.
  - Family friendly event, encourages participation from RRF members.

*Agency Activities- FWS (Tim Yager)*

- Personnel updates – filled maintenance positions in Winona (Bob Costa) and La Crosse (Jake Schubinski).
  - Responsible for boat landings, act as a face of the refuge to the public.
- Jamie Bertron started in Visitor Services at the LaCrosse District.
- Russ Englekey retired at the end of March (deputy at Savannah).
  - Planning to hire a developmental position in Savannah.
- Damen Witt retired as LEO in Savannah district.
- Regional Director Tom Nelius will retire end of June.
- Deputy Chief of Refuges retiring end of June.
- Tim Bodien transferred out from MN Valley, Serena Selbow from Alaska will be reporting at MN Valley beginning in June.
- Recently signed agreement with City of Winona to manage about 1,000 acres of floodplain that is owned by the City of Winona but is in Wisconsin as part of national wildlife refuge system.
- Contracted with archivist and discovered that they have property which needs to be curated – if there are any older pieces of property in other Federal buildings, those things could be considered historic property and may require curation.
- Last several years have had some ad-hoc efforts to pursue forest restoration – Tim asked about potential for establishing a forest restoration work group that would better serve long-term efforts to focus on forest restoration.

- Jim suggested revisiting this after Andy's presentation this afternoon.

*Agency Activities- IDNR (Hansen)*

- Mike Griffin officially retired the end of March, Kirk Hansen is backfilling behind Mike Griffin and is looking forward to working with the group.

*Agency Activities- American Rivers (Dorothy)*

- Released 10 most endangered rivers report April 10th – two rivers listed from UMR basin 1) UMR gorge, and 2) Kinnickinnic River, last tributary on the St. Croix. Both listed for dam removal opportunities.
  - American Rivers saw this as an opportunity to bring attention to these two rivers in hope to advance the ecosystem restoration efforts.
- Working with COE on disposition study – hearing that the next WRDA bill will force the COE to further accelerate the disposition study, WRDA expected to come out May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Working on the watershed study – State of IL is looking to establish a task force to engage in the watershed study.

*Agency Activities- MnDOT (Phenow)*

- No new updates

*Recreation Work Group (Yager / Pednault)*

- Last met on 22 February – good participation, had representatives from MN, FOP2, WI, COE, FWS.
- Jess Altoff replaced Craig Blommer at the MDNR.
- John Senglaub provided update on behalf of Friends of Pool 2 (FOP2).
- Ruth Nissen retired the end of March – was recognized as a runner up at the UMRCC for the Conservation Award which is the highest recognition the UMRCC provides.
- Kevin Berg provided update on lease changes throughout the COE.
- New chair – Kendra Pednault (FWS).
- Spoke about establishing a charter – referenced the FWWG charter.
- All buoys above River Mile 844 have been removed by the USCG – recreation may continue with uncertainty as to where there is/isn't water.
- Discussed different things that may be covered under a programmatic EA.
  - Some actions may involve further environmental compliance and may require coverage under a programmatic EA – shoreline disturbances.
- Pool 7/8 beach plan is ready for endorsement.
- John Senglaub requested support for use of Upper Landing for water taxis and excursion boats, landing hasn't been used for that purpose.
  - Located upstream of Lamberts Landing.

- Parks and Recreation spent a lot of money restoring the location years ago and it has not been used for recreation since.
- Access dredging would be required to accommodate recreation at the landing.
- Being used as a temporary barge fleeting area.
- Since Sack House has opened along the river, there's been a lot of discussion as to allowing recreational boats to moor near the Sack House.
- John S stated that the City of St. Paul won't support recreational boats mooring there as they don't feel it's safe with the barges located there – is it possible to work through RWG to revisit the temporary barge fleeting there and see if those barges can be relocated so that the City will support?
- The RRF doesn't have enough information to weigh in on this and would support the RWG looking into the issue further.
- Discussed developing a good way to track recreation usage on the river.
  - Discussed trying to do another round of recreation boating study.
  - RRF asked if it was possible to obtain previous usage data that was being housed at St. Mary's.
  - Megan Moore mentioned it would be good to reach out to Jess Althoff – she's the MDNR contact on the RWG – she could contact the watercraft supervisor to have the inspectors survey while they're out inspecting.
    - RWG could discuss need and how it would be done. They could put together a protocol and disseminate to inspectors for WDNR and MDNR.

#### *Navigation Work Group Activities (Cottrell)*

- Last met at the end of November.
- Expecting to meet once per year to keep momentum going within the group.
- Megan asked whether it would be possible for NWG to discuss whether mooring had changed at the foot of Lake Pepin.
  - Dan Cottrell stated that was discussed in November and there aren't any known groundings in that location and no change in mooring, but they are losing passing areas, so towboats may be holding in areas that they haven't before.
- USCG Cutter Wyaconda has been into the district twice to date, once to LD 4 and once to the top of the district in Pool 1.
- Bill Huber asked if they changed to a smaller buoy. Dan C said that has been discussed and some of the smaller buoys have been implemented in certain straight reaches throughout MVP.
  - Dan C hasn't heard any other updates regarding use of smaller buoys, but will follow up with USCG and report back to the RRF.

#### *Channel Maintenance Program Activities (Cottrell, Kimmel, Machajewski and Tapp)*

- Steve – HEC-RAS, Buoy removal, Winter WLM, Grounding reporting

- USAF to HOL Pepin HEC-RAS report has been completed, internal discussions within COE to determine what will be done moving forward from an operational perspective (whether to dredge in Pool 1).
- Buoy removal – buoys and daymarks from confluence of MN River (RM 844) up have been removed as of a week and a half ago.
  - Received some concerns from local users regarding not having the channel marked and lack of notification. This was a USCG decision and they provided public notification prior to removing buoys.
  - No final determination from the COE standpoint, however, there is a USCG memo which states that the buoys will be removed.
    - If COE determines they will continue channel maintenance efforts in Pool 1, the USCG will likely add the buoys again.
  - COE hope to have a decision on Pool 1 maintenance by Aug RRF.
    - Dan C clarified that this is an interim decision and may change once the disposition study is finalized.
- Winter WLM – considering whether or not to have lock staffed in the evening throughout the winter; will still try to hold the top of the band, but won't have an immediate response to adjust pool, this would occur in January of 2019 at the earliest.
  - This would be for all locks except LSAF.
  - Regulators said it would be unlikely they would get out of the band especially in the winter when fluctuations are less drastic.
  - Jim asked whether or not this will require environmental compliance – Steve C stated that they will look into it, but likely won't require an EA.
- Grounding reporting – defined complaints, non-critical groundings, and critical groundings (see handout); discussed sharing information with partners regarding groundings – challenge that we may have is that a critical grounding is something that is critical to the COE (in the channel), which may not be critical from the partners' perspective.
  - Partners likely have greater concern regarding non-critical channel groundings which won't be critical from the COE perspective.
    - COE notified of critical groundings 24/7 so can provide that information upon notification, but COE is not notified of non-critical groundings 24/7 so information pertaining to that category of grounding will not be as readily available.
  - Looking for uniformity in the dissemination process – send the same information to all partners under the same set of circumstances.
  - MDNR (Megan) proposed receiving all information and then allowing the agency to differentiate between what is of concern to them or not.

- Jim asked if we have historic grounding data – Dan C confirmed back to 1990 we’ve tracked groundings though have improved in the last eight years.
  - COE – Steve – discussed the proposal of providing critical grounding information (groundings which we feel will last a long time and be worthy of sharing to partners, which triggers coordination with upper management) and non-critical groundings outside the channel to the partners.
    - Requested that the states provide one POC where this information can go and the agency can distribute – email sent to Steve T and Dan C.
    - MDNR and WDNR requested to be provided all critical and non-critical groundings, whatever information can be shared with the partners.
- Dan – Channel Management Studies and Dredge Schedule.
  - Upper Approach to LD7 outdraft – has shifted to a locks and dams project now.
    - Looking to find a solution to mitigate the towboats getting pulled away from the lock wall.
    - Eric Hanson working on EA for a proposal to construct a weir off the auxiliary lock bullnose which will tie into the existing sand spit which is migrating downstream to help alleviate the problem.
    - Jim asked if COE would seek RRF endorsement of this project.
      - Steve commented that generally projects like this haven’t come to RRF for endorsement.
      - Will have Eric Hanson reach out to States and FWS and they will get a chance to review the EA.
      - Consensus was no need to pursue RRF endorsement.
  - LP10 CMS – study has been kicked off, but it’s been slow moving.
    - Emphasizing the importance of focusing on Upper Approach to LD10 – likely to be dredged as soon as the EA is completed.
    - Mussel sampling likely for Upper Approach to LD 10 the week of 7 May.
  - Dredging schedule (see handout).
    - Coulters Island has a lot of material, was dredged twice last year and is already holding ~36K cy.
    - Pool 8 isn’t holding a lot of material as of now and Lower Pool 4 isn’t as bad as it has been in recent years.
    - Haven’t targeted a start date for the mechanical contractor yet.
    - Tentatively looking to start the Goetz in mid-May.
    - Both the dredge Goetz and Government Mechanical are ready to mobilize for dredging if there is a need.

- MDNR would like to schedule a tour of the Goetz as they have people filling new roles in upper management.
- Zach – RE status, placement site status, Pool 2 DMMP.
  - RE status: Corps’ process for utilizing land for dredged material placement has changed substantially in the recent past.
    - Red Wing Commercial Harbor last season as an example, had to pull teeth in order to establish a Right of Entry for construction in order to complete last minute dredging operations.
    - Standard estate – acquiring use of land via fee acquisition.
    - Non-standard estate (NSE) – any use of land for dredged material placement which isn’t fee acquisition.
      - NSE process requires the district to put together a 15-20 page justification document including the draft easement agreement and any other supporting documentation followed by MVD/HQ review and approval.
      - Current NSE’s in the pipeline: Southport and Red Wing Commercial Harbor.
  - Placement site shaping.
    - Completed site work at Mosquito Island on 27 March – final grading done by M&R while island was concurrently seeded by RNR.
    - Currently spreading ~15K cy of fine material on Lower Grey Cloud Island which will also be seeded by RNR.
      - Work was deferred last week due to weather.
    - Working with M&R and PSB to begin additional shaping at Fountain City 1 site.
    - Plan to assess condition of sites in Lower Pool 4 and Pool 5 on 25 April, Placement Site and Channel Management Activities schedule will be posted to the channel maintenance webpage once finalized.
  - Placement site status – sites of concern.
    - Southport (RE) – NSE is currently at MVD for a second review, we’re hoping the document goes forward to HQ for additional review once a draft RE agreement is worked out with the SPPA.
      - SPPA reviewed draft RE easement and COE is now assessing their comments and will schedule a follow-up meeting.
    - Hastings / Koch (lack of options) – will continue to explore opportunities for placement in Upper Pool 3, Hastings site is emergency option.
    - Corps Island (capacity) though planning for excavation is moving forward.
    - Red Wing Commercial Harbor (RE) – NSE is currently being drafted, has yet to go to MVD for review, is of big concern, hopefully will go faster because of lessons learned at Southport.

- Reads Landing (capacity).
  - Alma Marina (capacity) – shaping will be needed prior to placement.
  - Fountain City 1 (capacity) – received a lot more beneficial use than usual due to Homer being closed for use and Trempealeau being empty, but still a potential balance of material issue longer term.
  - Homer (capacity).
  - Mississippi Gardens (operations) – EA underway, COE to discuss whether to pursue implementation of hydraulic site modification, likely some road work needed prior to mechanical placement.
- Pool 2 DMMP.
  - Fine material spreading is happening now at Grey Cloud Island.
  - 40 year plan is in the works.
  - Several meetings have occurred with landowner (PAS) & mining tenant (Aggregate Industries).
  - The plan covers all of Pool 2.
    - Draft report is complete.
    - April- In Progress Review (IPR) w/ Division.
    - May- meet w/ landowners, talk about 400k cy, report endorsement, draft DMMP out. Additional sediment testing.
    - June – Complete EAW.
    - September Finalized report & FONSI.
- Paul – long-term planning – DMMP’s and Site Unloading.
  - MOU with MDNR signed, five year agreement this time – special thanks to Bill Huber.
  - Lost Island Unloading – 414K cy removed last year (1.3m to be removed), 2018 planning to go 24 hrs / 5 days per week in hopes to get the project finished this year and not have to return next year.
    - 0930 hrs this morning discovered that Newt doesn’t need to wait for the eagles to fledge the nest to begin excavation.
    - Newt has established an eagle monitoring plan and hired Driftless Area Bird Conservation to complete the monitoring, if agitated work will stop for 2 hours.
    - Hope to resume operations at Lost Island next week Monday, 30 April.
    - An OSIT meeting will be scheduled once they are running a full capacity.
  - Corps Island Unloading – hope to advertise and award a contract this FY (August) for unloading Corps Island. Contract method will be Contractor Selected Placement Site (CSPS), where the contractor will determine method and location for placement.
    - Paul has spoken to several local pit owners who are all interested in the material.

- Diamond Bluff is more receptive this time around.
- WDNR – sympathetic with regard to the need to execute funding, most concerned with the uncertainty of placement which is outside the MOU process – adds work to the WDNR for the review/permitting, WDNR will have to engage their solid waste department.
- WI would have to regulate the material placement and future potential uses and it is anticipated that the landowners will want to reuse this material for various purposes.
- Discussed potential of pursuing an O&M island in Sturgeon Lake (island D) to help reduce placement at Corps Island (may not alleviate some concerns with this unloading, but would reduce future placement at Corps Island).
  - Steve C stated that the general estimate for constructing islands is \$30/cy, so taking material from Corps Island would exceed that Federal Standard, but utilizing channel material may be within the Federal Standard.
- Next excavation likely to be Reads Landing.
- Pursuing another trucking contract to remove material from the Wabasha Gravel Pit and take material to the DQ pit (300K cy is the target).
- LP4 DMMP.
  - Pursuing potential use of Section 217 authority, which provides the COE the ability to provide a tipping fee to a non-federal entity for managing material placed by the COE.
  - Working to develop an MOU with the Port Authority of Wabasha (currently at MVD/HQ review), hope to have MOU signed next month.
  - Section 217 authority provides Port Authority of Wabasha rights to be compensated for managing property owned by both the COE and the City of Wabasha.
  - Draft DMMP to stakeholders this summer followed by public review of the draft – finalized plan potentially by fall of this year and RRF endorsement in the winter.
  - FRAC testing – additional testing completed in February, favorable results though decent amount of iron in the material which reduces strength of the material; potential market for iron material as well.
- P5 DMMP.
  - Willing seller of 300 acres near Kellogg, MN – MDNR, TNC, and COE met with landowner to discuss potential use of property.
    - Landowner wanted to have one agency lead charge, which has been identified as the COE.
- P6 DMMP.

- Hope to have updated draft to stakeholders later this spring.
- Acquisition process for the Hemker portion of the Homer site is almost completed – hope to have site formally acquired sometime in June.
- Looking at Grover property as well.
- P9 DMMP.
  - Has been deferred until next fiscal year
- Beneficial Use Opportunity – A contractor contacted Paul about a need for 250K cy of material needed for a solar field, they are looking at either Wabasha Gravel Pit or West Newton Chute as the borrow source.

*Pool 2 CMS – Boulanger Bend to LD 2 (Novak)*

- Intend to begin constructing upper rock structure and then excavate the 400K cy.
- Mussel Task Order start the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.
- Met Council is going to protect their outfall that will be under the downstream structure.
- 2018 efforts:
  - Jan– awarded task order to relocate mussels.
  - 1 May – 15 July – complete mussel relocation (upstream rock structure).
  - 16 July – 30 November – construct upstream rock structure (Newt).
  - September – advertise/award Phase II (400K cy of material from the channel).
- Proposed work in 2019:
  - 1 May – 15 July – complete mussel relocation (downstream rock structure).
  - 16 July – 30 November – construct downstream rock structure, initiate/complete channel improvement dredging.

*LD2 Embankment (Novak)*

- Purpose is to protect upstream side of Lock and Dam 2 embankment from future erosion.
- Looking at various concepts – offshore island with a berm received favorable comments at the project partner meeting.
- Preliminary design shows need for 180K cy sand and 40K cy fines.
- Need to complete EA and expect report completion in 2018.
- Team is currently putting together a project report – have already done mussel surveys, sediment sampling, and hydraulic modeling.

*Upper Mississippi River Restoration (Novak)*

- FY18 and FY19 President’s Budget: \$33 million (highest authorized appropriation).
- Harpers Slough – final year in construction.
  - Tree planting completed 20 April.
  - Project dedication likely to be held in August.
- Conway Lake – hoping to award fully funded contract in June 2018.

- Measures are focused on floodplain forest and overwintering.
  - Currently in Contracting Office.
- McGregor Lake – team is currently wrapping up feasibility.
  - Measures are focused on floodplain forest and overwintering.
  - Complete draft in May, finalize in August.
- Bass Lake Marsh Wetlands – currently in feasibility phase.
  - Initiated planning in December 2017.
  - Measures are focused on lake levels, emergent marsh, ephemeral wetland habitat protection/enhancement.
  - Completed site visits in March.
- Lower Pool 10 – currently in feasibility phase.
  - Initiated planning in April 2018.
  - Measures are focused on floodplain forest, overwintering.
  - Coordinate with Lower Pool 10 CMS and RSM
- Completing site inspections of multiple previously constructed project sites in August.
  - Hope to have an attendance list narrowed down by 4 May.

*Section 204 Projects –Head of Lake Pepin - Pigs Eye Lake (Novak)*

- Held public meeting at St. James Hotel on 4 April.
  - Meeting was very well attended.
  - Recreation was a point of emphasis, several individuals referenced that they use Katherine’s Pass on a seasonal basis.
  - Overall very positive outcome from the public meeting.
- WDNR put a package in for the Section 1122 pilot project process.
- Looking at various alternatives to accommodate various levels of funding available and to accommodate balance of material.
- Hydraulics staff has begun modeling the different structures and alternatives.
- Team will continue proceeding under the Section 204 authority.
- Pigs Eye Lake – no new updates – project is shovel ready, awaiting funding.

*Developing a Tool to Prioritize Floodplain Forest Management on the UMR (Meier)*

- Biggest driving document for forest management is the Upper Miss River Systemic Forest Stewardship Plan.
  - Addresses various concerns at the system level and at the project site level.
  - System defined as UMRS, project site generally between 2-100 acres.
- There’s an opportunity to improve prioritization at the pool or reach level and make informed decisions on where to do forest work.
- Trying to synthesize existing data into mapping tools so it’s possible to look at a pool and identify specific areas that could be targeted for forest restoration.
- Working on creating habitat targets for desired conditions and identifying threats to forest

health.

- Potential for a floodplain forest working group to help establish criteria for the above.
- Tim Yager proposed that adding a forest management working group as a component of the River Resources Forum would help increase the legitimate need to bring foresters together and improve forest conditions throughout the UMR.
  - Randy commented that enhancing the organizational structure will also be an added benefit.
  - Scope of this work group may be beyond the pool-wide scope of other groups such as the Water Level Management Task Force.
  - Steve Clark mentioned concern about the scope of the work group becoming too grand that the tasks are too large.
  - A questions was raised whether agencies have resources to devote to this effort.
  - Agencies need to discuss internally and come up with ideas on how this would work. They can reference the “Resolution for Establishment of River Resource Forum Technical Work Groups” document posted on the CMMP website (Appendix A, Exhibit C). This issue will be added to the August agenda for further discussion.

*UMRS Watershed Study (Ney) \*\*\*need help reviewing, couldn't hear\*\*\**

- Josh Ney is the new Policy and Programs Director at UMRBA and has been with the organization over five months now.
- UMRBA board meeting April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> was a follow up to the 2017 Flood Risk and Sediment Management Summit.
  - Clarify UMRBA board's expectations for the Planning Assistance to States (PAS).
- Potential for a larger section 729 study.
- Communication and engagement with stakeholders early on is important, States wish to continue to collaborate with one another.
- Key management problems: channel maintenance and sediment management, flood risk management, drought.
- UMRBA's board will be taking steps in a collaborative and transparent forum and are willing to work with the COE and other partners.
- PAS cost-share is 50/50 between State agencies and Federal agencies.
- Characterization was made that sediment management was more of a concern for MVP and less as you move downstream and flood risk management was more of a concern for MVS and less as you move upstream. A comment was made that this was an over simplification and agencies should avoid that generalization.
- Olivia asked if NGOs were asked to join in on the PAS, but Ney said it was just states for now.

*Beneficial Use Restoration Projects (Kimmel) \*\*\*need help adding content\*\*\**

- Mosquito Island.
  - Presentation as attachment.

- Site visit was held on 22 March and grading completed on 27 March. Willow planting on 5 April and tree planting scheduled on 5 May.
- Corps will schedule an OSIT meeting to inspect work. Long-term protection of historic part of island to be discussed by OSIT.

*Engineering with Nature (EWN) / Regional Sediment Management (RSM) (Hendrickson / Kimmel)*

- McMillan Island floodplain forest restoration – Zach continuing to work with ERDC to obtain study funding through another channel in ERDC, possibly Engineering with Nature.
- Chippewa River.
  - 2014 encountered a 20 plus day shutdown of the navigation channel – part of the AAR was to obtain better information regarding sediment loads coming out of the Chippewa River.
  - Studying the reach from Durand, WI to the mouth of the Chippewa River.
  - Previous study was completed in the late 70's / early 80's stating that the annual bed material load from the Chippewa River is ~630,000 cy.
  - 2018 – USGS started collecting data on the Chippewa River – combined effort with WI, MN, AZ, and CA Water Science Centers.
    - Dune tracking methodology where the USGS takes rapid multi-beam bathymetry data to track the movement of dunes.
    - USACE ERDC will be studying bed load utilizing dune tracking beginning 25 April.
  - Using multiple techniques to collect sediment loads, the techniques can be compared for consistency.
  - Acoustic Doppler gauges can be calibrated to sediment load and remain deployed so that we can obtain real-time sediment load data on the Chippewa River.
  - Already collecting similar data on the MN River at Ft. Snelling.

*Fish and Wildlife Work Group Activities (Dieterman)*

- Last meeting was in late February.
- Work Group discussed use of HNA2 (Habitat Needs Assessment #2) tool for projects prioritization at last meeting.
- Kevin looking to schedule the next meeting mid-summer and will be reaching out to the FWWG to obtain suggestions for topics.

*Water Level Management Task Force (Stefanski)*

- Tim Schlagenhaft shared the final draft version of the Audubon video that will be used to excite the public about drawdowns.

- There will also be a power point presentation developed to accompany the video.
- Aaron McFarlane has been working on conceptual model.
  - WLMTF will be seeking input from non-WLMTF members regarding the conceptual model, to get a different perspective.
- Pool 8 White Paper – UMRRC has yet to respond to the letter provided from the WLMTF, through the RRF.
  - WLMTF expects to receive an answer after the May meeting to the two questions proposed: 1) Can UMRRC funding be used to fund a drawdown, and 2) Is there a mechanism to allow this funding to be used or granted every year over a 50-year project.
  - Working to develop a fact sheet for Pool 8 in hopes that a drawdown in Pool 8 can compete for funding with other UMRRC projects.
- Pool 5 Drawdown – the team compiled several of the Pool 5 reports and documents from the 2005/06 drawdown.
  - Funding will continue to be the biggest stumbling block.
  - Group proposed that the fact sheet that was last submitted for UMRRC funding be revamped and prepared for a new submittal with greater emphasis on funding availability, past and expected biological responses, and cost savings expected for main channel dredging.
- Looking to establish a central repository to hold existing reports / data.
- Next meeting will consist of a tour of Pool 5 on Tuesday, 12 June.
- Chuck Theiling is working on a WLM Technical Report. Mary will reach out to him and discuss.

*Other Topics (All)*

- Due-outs were removed from the minutes to the RRF #110 meeting.
  - Steve Tapp and Jim Fischer will review due-outs and distribute to the RRF.
  - Due-outs will be tracked separately from the minutes moving forward.
- 12 June combined OSIT to look at the Lost Island excavation, Water Level Management, and placement site inspections.

Steve Tapp  
Co-Chairman, RRF