

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion Points; River Resources Forum Meeting #116, 21 April 2020, WebEx Meeting.

Introductions, Minutes, Next Meeting (All)

- Steve introduced everyone who was logged into the webinar. This is the first time holding the RRF meeting as a web meeting.
- Minutes to RRF #115 were endorsed as written (Motion by Jim Fisher and second by Megan Moore)
- Future meetings:
 - 25-26 August at Savage City Hall, Savage, MN
 - 1-2 December at MN Valley NWFR, Bloomington, MN
 - Note: These could also be held via web meeting due to COVID 19

Due-Outs (All)

- Due-outs from previous meetings were reviewed. See update at the end of the minutes

Agency Activities- COE (Tapp)

- COVID-19 impacting travel, L&D's work and access, recreational areas, etc.
 - Dredging and survey work continues
 - Emergency operations ongoing for the Alternative Care Facilities mission
 - General Semonite has addressed the nation regarding ACF, has provided excellent leadership throughout this process
- Kevin Baumgard has retired and Tamara Cameron was recently hired as the Chief of Operations Division for St. Paul District
 - Kristin Moe and Bret Coleman will both backfill the Deputy Chief of Operations Division position on a temporary basis prior to permanently filling the position
- Forest Management Draft Programmatic EA out on 8 April 2020 and comments are due by 8 MAY 2020. The plan includes management practices on Corps owned land within the St. Paul District.
- A Beneficial Use Public Notice was sent from Corps Public Affairs on 6 April. Please spread the word that material is available.
- HQUSACE approved the Non-Standard Estate for use of the Southport placement site. This was a big step forward for the St. Paul District and will also help other districts.
- Strategic Governance Meeting was held recently and there were two main focal points for Navigation: River to Re-Use for dredged material; Open-Pass, looking at continuing longer durations of high flows and looking to pass traffic during those times.
- Randy Urich recently hired for the Recreation and Natural Resources Branch Chief position

- Environmental Section Manager position vacated by Randy should be posted within the next week, Andy Meier has been filling the position temporarily.

Agency Activities- WDNR (Fischer)

- ~90% of WDNR employees are teleworking; #1 job for WDNR is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and all other tasks take a backseat to that
 - 55 state natural areas have been closed and camping has been closed in state parks
- Statewide hiring freeze related to pandemic, don't have the ability to bring employees into an office at this point
 - Hired a Water Management Engineer – Megan Duffy before COVID19
 - Two permanent positions vacant on the Mississippi River: Mississippi River Planner, LTRM Vegetation Specialist
 - Sara Strassman backfilling the Mississippi River Planner position half time, she's being supported by other WDNR employees for OSIT needs
- Continue to work with COE and States on Flood, Sediment, and Drought PAS for UMRBA

Agency Activities- FWS (Yager)

- Charlie Wooley accepted the Regional Director position, his previous position backfilled by Chuck Traxler as Deputy Regional Director
- Regional Fisheries position has been filled by Aaron Walt
- Well-staffed now at the regional leadership positions
- Most employees are teleworking due to COVID-19, staff following state guidelines
 - Some employees are filling mission essential functions, LEO's for example
 - Receiving hazard pay for the risk of contracting COVID-19
- Seeing high recreational use throughout the refuge, folks wanting to get outside
- HQ Office and Winona District Office has moved to 102 Walnut Street in Winona, MN
 - Employees haven't settled into new offices as of yet

Agency Activities- MnDOT (Phenow)

- Most employees are working from home
- Barge Terminal 1 receiving project funds and should be established soon

Agency Activities- WisDOT (Halsted)

- Teleworking remotely
- Processing Harbor Assistance Program grants at the moment
 - None of the agreements were issued along the river
- Encouraged states to keep an eye on funding available at the Federal level

Agency Activities- MDNR (Moore)

- Most staff teleworking due to COVID-19 issues, other than a few exempt employees
- Hold on any new hires

- Stay at Home Order expires 4 May
- Staff have been working on “Keys to the River 2020” PAS project with UMRBA
- Busy with FWWG fact sheet review
- Worked on Water Level Management Regional Coordinating Committee, updates of the NESP 53 report, redefining success and compiling ecological standards
- Past month been reviewing several of the COE DMMP’s

Agency Activities- IDNR (Hansen)

- 90% of employees are teleworking
- Under a hiring freeze, all seasonal employees with a start date before 1 June have been terminated
- State Parks remain open
- Will be involved with the strategic planning and HREP selection process review

Agency Activities – UMRBA (Wallace)

- Trying to develop Keys to the River PAS report in a way that is concise and compelling and allows us to compete for stimulus funding
 - Hope to have the report out for interagency review later this month or early May
- Interstate WQ monitoring work ongoing
- Looking to revisit the 1989 River Basin Charter
- NESP funding at \$4.5M with \$3M going to navigation and \$1.5M to ecosystem restoration
 - Pool 2 wing dam alterations is one project that may move to construction
 - COE to have \$10M in construction ready projects for FY20
 - Tim Yager questioned whether or not the Pool 2 wing dam alteration project would need to be endorsed prior to moving forward
 - Paul believes the modifications were part of the early Pool 2 CMS which was endorsed by the RRF

Agency Activities- LPLA (Main)

- No new updates.

Agency Activities – American Rivers (Dorothy)

- Listed the Upper Mississippi River as the #1 Most Endangered River

Beneficial Use Work Group Activities (Kimmel)

- Held an internal conference call on 9 Sep 2019 to discuss participation in the Beneficial Use Work Group
- Zach has been fulfilling a detail in Project Management and hasn’t had much time to devote to this effort

- Ask that each agency please email Zach Kimmel with at least one POC who you'd like added to the distribution list and you anticipate being involved in this work group
 - FWS identified Curt McMurl
- Like to have an interagency distribution list (at least, starting point with major contributors) defined by August RRF
- Once a workgroup is defined, will move forward with a kickoff meeting and charter development
- Sara Strassman asked about river to reuse and whether or not something has been written and could be shared or whether it was conceptual?
 - Tamara Cameron mentioned that it is purely conceptual at this time, but we're working on pulling something together that's more robust

Navigation Work Group Activities (Cottrell)

- One dock proposal which is going through Regulatory right now in Pool 7 near Shore Acres, La Crosse Railroad Bridge.
 - NWG is reviewing through IENC
- Small Sewer outfall in Pool 2, line with rock
- Status of Viking Dock in Red Wing – Phenow noted the project should be about done now

USACE Budget Process (Tapp)

- Civil Works budget process explained by Steve Tapp.
- Three-year ongoing process of budget execution, defense, and development
- The new O&M 2020 process is just dealing with O&M
- The idea is to transition to a process of buying down risk and spending where we have the greatest need

Pool 2 Projects (Cottrell, Kimmel)

- C&H Overview, Steve Tapp
- Pool 2 Channel Modification Phase I
 - Discovered sewer outfall in January, found out that the sewer outfall is protected considerably by rock and may cause damage to towboats if there's a collision
 - Sewer outfall is now marked on S-57 background files, will also show up as an e-ATON and it is physically marked with an actual red buoy
 - Thus far towboats haven't had any issues staying off the sewer outfall
- Pool 2 Channel Modification Phase II deferred until completion of DMMP due to limited capacity. Channel width improvements will continue as time and funding allow through routine dredging.
- Pool 2 O&M Island

- Tim Yager asked if there was an opportunity to fulfill this project utilizing NESP funding that may be available. Zach Kimmel will discuss with the NESP Project Manager.
- Target is to have this ready for contract award in July
- This project has been on the books for over a decade per Jon Hendrickson
 - Started out similar to the LD4 eco-berm which evolved into this island project
 - This is a good test of protecting LD embankments, more-so than the LD4 eco-berm even
 - Jon Hendrickson believes this is a great piece of infrastructure that provides embankment protection, habitat benefits, and navigation benefits

Channel Maintenance Program Activities (Tapp, Cottrell, Kimmel, Hendrickson, Machajewski)

- Dredging Overview, Dan Cottrell
 - Overall, channel conditions were better to start the season than initially anticipated
 - Cuts were laid out to what we'd ideally dredge to as far as depth and width
 - Volumes don't represent what we would actually be able to dredge due to time and placement constraints
 - Pool 3, Coulters Island was in poor shape, which is why we had to begin dredging there early in the season
 - Pool 5, Fisher Island and Lower Zumbro have significant material within the cut and are in poor conditions
 - Pool 5, Above Mt Vernon was in poor condition as well, we already dredged the location
 - Pool 6 channel conditions are poor in general, plan on dredging there in the near future
 - Pool 8, Sand Slough, likely to dredge the location this season for the first time
 - Pool 9, Indian Camp and Lansing Upper Light are both in poor condition
 - Pool 10, McMillan Island, there's a lot of material within the cut
 - Government Mechanical equipment currently unloading material from McMillan Island, but likely to transition to channel dredging as soon as flows allow
 - Sara Strassman asked whether the Goetz may be sent downriver and if the dredge would target Pool 9 work first
 - Steve Tapp said Grand Encampment is a higher priority and water surface will be higher in Pool 9. We will keep our eye on Pool 9, but will send the dredge south if there is a higher priority need.
 - Pool 10 Channel Management Study: Through the hydraulic modeling process the team found that there is not a way to reduce dredging throughout the reach via the use of channel control structures

- Objective of the study was to have a 50% reduction of dredging in the reach
 - Found that there was a reduction in certain parts of the reach and an increase in certain parts of the reach, but overall there was a net increase in dredging projected
 - Study will be documented, finalized, and the project will be closed out
- Placement Site Overview, Nick Lorenz
 - Site reshaping has been ongoing to eliminate vertical faces and deter Bank Swallow nesting
 - Fountain City 1 and Brownsville Containment are being prepared for hydraulic placement
 - Beneficial use at Homer will occur as a DOT contractor will be removing material once the project begins, won't have a defined schedule until May
 - Lower Pool 4 and Pool 5 sites are ready for mechanical or hydraulic placement
 - Real Estate agreement has been completed for the Red Wing Commercial Harbor site.
- Long-Term Planning Overview, Paul Machajewski
 -
 - Corps Island Unloading
 - Completed unloading 495K CY to the Prairie Island Indian Community placement site on 6 December 2019
 - Held OSIT meeting last fall with no concerns noted from agencies
 - Pine Bend Unloading
 - Completed partial unloading of 50K CY to the Southport placement site last fall
 - Lower Boulanger Unloading
 - Planning to partially unload 50K CY to the Southport placement site in 2020
 - McMillan Island Unloading
 - Unloading ~70K CY with Government Mechanical equipment this spring with placement at McGregor Lake HREP
 - Unloading 125K CY by contract this summer with placement at Buck Creek
 - Lower Pool 4 DMMP
 - Continue working with the City of Wabasha to develop a Sec 217 agreement
 - Still awaiting updated proposal from the City of Wabasha
 - Jim Fischer asked if the Wabasha Port Authority would be left to define which sites are used or if those decisions would still be in the Corps' hands

- Paul Machajewski mentioned that it hasn't been determined yet, but he envisions ongoing meetings and coordination between the two and both parties having a say in the decision process
 - Anticipate generating ~270K cy of material annually in Lower Pool 4
 - Megan Moore asked if there were concerns regarding use of the Carrell property, wetland impacts, permitting, etc.
 - Paul Machajewski mentioned that if we use the Carrell site this year, the COE will complete the environmental review and obtain any necessary permits
 - Paul expressed that we've assessed the western part of the property, will assess the eastern part of the property later this season
 - Steve Clark mentioned preliminary assessment showed that there weren't many concerns regarding wetland impacts however HTRW will still need to be assessed
 - Jim Fischer asked about potential use of the Dairyland Power site for Lower Pool 4 or Pool 5
 - Paul Machajewski mentioned that the last he spoke with them, they were not a willing seller and were still utilizing their property for power generation purposes
 - Pool 6 DMMP
 - Scoping meeting held in February of 2019
 - Developed a tiered plan for utilizing sites in Pool 6 for dredged material placement
 - Draft plan released this winter, held a public meeting in Winona, MN
 - Public expressed concern over use of Homer and Winona Harbor site / Latsch Island expansion
 - Will work on reformulating the plan and hope to have another draft out this summer
 - City of Winona potentially interested in a Section 217 agreement
 - ~40K cy of capacity available between Homer and Winona Harbor
 - Sara Strassman expressed that WDNR submitted comments for the Pool 6 DMMP and asked if with tiered approach if there was room for incorporating single-use placement into this plan and if these cases would show up in the DMMP
 - Paul Machajewski commented that one-time options are identified as potential future opportunities, but they are not part of the Tentatively Selected Plan and won't necessarily be shovel-ready
 - Sara also asked if there was a cubic yardage that was required for a one-time placement project to be fruitful.

- Paul mentioned that for Mosquito Island there was an entire separate team outside the Pool 6 DMMP PDT that looked into these options and he sees these smaller planning efforts moving forward in a similar manner
- Pool 5 DMMP
 - FONSI signed in late February
 - In the process of acquiring ~1,000 acres of property to manage material generated from channel maintenance activities
 - Closing on property likely in mid-May
 - Implementation planning will follow, likely in the summer of 2020
 - Farming will likely continue in the area until that portion of the site will be needed for material management
 - Completed purchase of 50 acres on north side of County Road 84.
 - One endorsement issue states have been discussing relates to Pool 5 specific opportunities; both MDNR and WDNR see great opportunities as part of the Pool 5 DMMP implementation and the agencies would like to see that the integration occurs
 - Two other issues relate to DMMP's in general
 - One-time placement opportunities, understand the scope limitations but these opportunities are critical and wondering how we break the barrier from the planning perspective
 - RRF endorsement process, stressed importance of maintaining strong partnerships and dialogue throughout the approval process
 - Zach Kimmel questioned whether or not the partners would like to be involved in alternative development regardless of DMMP location, etc.
 - Jim Fischer expressed that the preference would be to engage all partners and foster engagement as workload allows
 - Megan Moore questioned how final are the plans? Megan also noted that in Pool 5, the MDNR provided comments, but there wasn't any back-and-forth collaboration
 - Steve Tapp mentioned that this is a new process for everyone, we certainly don't want to seek RRF endorsement after the FONSI is already signed
 - Finishing reports allows us to proceed with our RE actions
 - Megan Moore asked, assuming that there will be implementation plans for other DMMP's, what that looks like moving forward?
 - Megan also commented that it will be good to have a well-defined way forward for how we move to implementation and how partners are engaged, that may alleviate some of the anxiousness in approving DMMP's that don't specifically define site use at times

- Kirk Hansen noted when doing benefit cost ratios, small projects fall out but they often don't take into account social services
 - Steve Clark expressed that the integrated EA's as part of DMMP's show that these subject properties are suitable locations; also shared that there isn't enough time to cover all potential beneficial use opportunities and cover those actions within the EA
 - Steve Tapp expressed the importance of back-and-forth coordination with partners throughout alternative development and providing the partners the opportunity to review
 - Sara Strassman expressed that depending on workload, it's difficult to complete a thorough review in a short time, so encourage the COE to be mindful of that
 - Tim Yager expressed that it seems since GREAT I the Corps and partners have been emphasizing getting material out of the floodplain and to an upland location and now there's a push toward more one-time placement opportunities
 - Jim Fischer agrees that there is a bit of philosophical shift, but we need to find the right balance
 - Tim Yager expressed that whether the COE placed 10 CY of sand or 100K CY of sand, the same planning is required and the time may not be able to be justified; his determination through the initiation of the programmatic EA for beach nourishment was that the benefit didn't justify the substantial effort
 - Several minutes were spent reviewing the slides provided by WDNR and Corps regarding the DMMP review and endorsement process.
 - Steve Tapp agreed that the Corps would get feedback from those involved in the process and hold a follow up meeting for further review. Once refined a little more, it would be brought back to the agencies for discussion and eventually endorsement.
 - Megan Moore asked if the Corps would be completing another wetland delineation and Steve Clark confirmed that a full delineation would be completed on all property purchased
 - Jim Fischer thanked the COE for putting the Pool 5 DMMP together, upland placement with long-term capacity is great
 - **Endorsement, Pool 5 DMMP: Tim Yager motions to endorse, Jim Fischer seconds endorsement, all were in favor of Pool 5 DMMP and it was endorsed by consensus.**
- Pool 2 DMMP
 - There was a very brief discussion regarding the Pool 2 DMMP endorsement request.

- The Tentatively Selected Plan is use of Southport and the Lower Grey Cloud Island (LGCI) Pit, while all CMMP sites will be contingent options
 - Stress that the LGCI site management plan is purely conceptual
 - The reason priority fill areas were identified was primarily to sequester an area that we could place material into hydraulically; the property lines don't necessarily follow the priority fill locations
 - **Steve Tapp made a motion to endorse the Pool 2 DMMP with contingency (added by Megan Moore) that placement of any fill within the floodway will be accompanied by a no-rise certification. The motion was seconded by Jim Fischer and endorsed by consensus.**
- Pool 10 In-Water Placement (Steve covered fairly quickly, please supplement with presentation)
 - ~64K CY dredged initially from the McMillan Island dredge cut, ~47K CY of material settled within the placement matrices
 - ~13K CY of material remains within the placement matrices
 - Two main due-outs from the OSIT meeting on 24 Jun 2019: likelihood of impacts to flood stages and likelihood of sediment deposition in side channels
 - Follow up surveys conducted after placement on: 28 Jun 2019, 1 Jul 2019, 22 Jul 2019, 29 Aug 2019, 26 Nov 2019, and 25 Mar 2020
 - Survey data showed substantial material movement throughout main channel bed in Lower Pool 10
 - No way to know for certain regarding flood stage impacts without modeling
 - If there were flood stage impacts, they were marginal and temporary as the same amount of material placed was previously removed
 - System is very dynamic and appears to be going back to conditions prior to thalweg placement and flows are coming into the main channel from the vast majority of side channels; backwater deposition is highly unlikely and survey data backs that assessment
 - Will continue to monitor the area and coordinate with agencies
 - Pool 10 DMMP PDT will look into feasibility of thalweg placement as an option within this reach
 - Kirk Hansen asked whether surveys will continue throughout the reach, expressed it looks like the plug of material placed is transitioning downstream
 - Steve Tapp confirmed that we will continue to monitor
 - Steve Clark mentioned that we have a draft EA that is going through internal review right now and will be distributed to agencies in the near future
 - Jim Fischer asked if the EA is for routine use of thalweg placement
 - Steve Clark expressed that it is for the one-time placement that occurred in 2019; EA is assessing two alternatives: 1) remove material placed in-water, 2) leaving material in place

- Jim Fischer thanked the Corps for the follow up and the EA. He noted it will be a challenge to permit this activity in Wisconsin due to differences in environmental requirements.

Upper Mississippi River Restoration (Deen, Kimmel)

- Angela Deen took over as the new UMRR Program Manager for St. Paul District in January. Kelly Phillips and Zach Kimmel will be helping
- Lower Pool 10 HREP
 - Preliminary volumes ~200K CY of borrow material needed
- Bass Ponds HREP
 - Advertised contract in March and bids will be opened on 14 May
- Look into completing a pre-project site visit in August 2020 and a post-project site visit as part of an August RRF meeting following construction of Reno Bottoms
 - Improve floodplain forest and back water channel conditions
 - Formulate alternatives this summer and complete plan in 2021
- McGregor Lake HREP
 - Several schedule caveats: flow and water surface impacts, mechanical issues, channel maintenance needs, COVID-19 could impact schedule
 - All material placed in McGregor Lake thus far has come from the McMillan Island placement site
 - 9.31' is the hinge point for access through the bottom of McGregor Lake; 14.75' as of this morning, forecast is to drop to 12.5' over the next week
 - Installed turbidity monitoring and providing updates
 - Great success story
- Conway Lake
 - Construction anticipated to begin in May 2020 and last until the fall of 2022
 - Ran into some issues with granular borrow, this was due to the fact the plan drawings only included a portion of the Lansing Island site for borrow and a partial site excavation of ~95K cy was completed in 2018
- Pool 8 Islands, C-8 Sill Repair
 - Looked into potential of completing work this spring with government mechanical equipment due to high water, was determined the work is not mission essential
 - Limiting crew time together as much as possible due to COVID-19
 - Will continue to assess moving forward throughout the season, if water cooperates may be possible to complete at a later date
 - Construction constraints – high water required to access the sill, but at that water surface placement will be very challenging
 - Propose to potentially offload and stockpile rock, then return at a later date and dress it up

- FWS contacted the Corps regarding Cold Springs status. Angela said FWS is going to survey (Wendy) and get back to the Corps.

Section 204 Projects & 1122 Pilot Projects Update (Novak, Deen)

- Pigs Eye Lake
 - Working through Plans & Specs now, CT award deferred to FY21
 - Currently finalizing cost estimates and working through constructability (need for access dredging)
 - Staging details also being worked through
 - Civil working on design for removal from Pine Bend, likely material shortage so Lower Boulanger will also be identified as a borrow source for granular
- Head of Lake Pepin
 - Approved Sec 1122 PPA by HQUSACE, hope to sign with WDNR this summer
 - Rylee Main asked if there are going to be an issues with the State signing the PPA
 - Jim Fischer responded that WDNR legal team will have to look at the PPA language
 - Project is still pending Sec 1122 appropriations which aren't guaranteed by Congress
 - Construction anticipated to take 3-5 years to complete
 - Project will use ~400K CY from Reads Landing
 - Jim Fischer commented that the full project dollar amount has not been received, he asked if it was possible to construct the project in phases so WDNR could obtain additional funding in later years
 - Angela Deen responded that the WDNR isn't required to have all of the funding up-front

Regional Sediment Management, Chippewa River Project (Hendrickson)

- COE PDT is Jon Hendrickson, Alex Nelson, and Zach Kimmel
- Project began in 2014 after navigation channel closure, COE partnered with USGS to begin collecting more data on the Chippewa River
- Goal is to develop models to understand: 1) floodplain connectivity and sediment storage, 2) geomorphic lag time, 3) sediment delivery to the Mississippi River
- We're in the final year of a four-year effort
- 2020 efforts: USGS data collection and analysis, USGS summarizes results in Journal Article, USACE develops 1-D/2-D HEC-RAS model of lower Chippewa River (RSM funds)

Fish and Wildlife Work Group Activities (Winter)

- Pool 8 Poolwide Forest Restoration HREP

- Fact sheet wasn't completed on the same timeline as the other fact sheets, but was recently finalized
- 10 April 2020 – fact sheet was submitted to RRF with an issue brief requesting endorsement
- FWWG also submitted the UMRR 2019 HREP Selection Process: Insights and Improvements Document for RRF endorsement on 10 April 2020
- If RRF endorses the fact sheet, they're both endorsing the updated Pool 8 Poolwide Forest Restoration HREP fact sheet and the prioritization list which would include the Pool 8 project as fifth in the list
- Steve Tapp will send the endorsement request to RRF members as soon as possible.

Water Level Management Task Force (Stefanski)

- Last met 28 February 2020
- Brenda Kelly from WDNR is still working on the charter for the task force
- Aaron McFarlane has been working on defining a drawdown for the public view, water level management determined by the group to be most appropriate
- Photo points may occur as part of the next task force meeting, to be held later this summer
- Large part of the previous meeting spent on establishing triggers, team was unable to reach consensus on defining triggers
 - Several options emerged including what year to use as a vegetation baseline. 1975 was suggested as the “gold standard” for vegetation.
 - Unable to reach consensus, but the portion of the team that met in person suggested adaptive management approach described extensively in the October 2010 “An Adaptive Management Approach for Summer Water Level Reductions on the Upper Mississippi River System” by Johnson et al should serve as the guiding document for moving forward with WLM
 - Discussions will continue with the larger UMRBA WLM Regional Coordinating Committee on 12 May 2020
 - Fischer said 10 years ago WDNR was all over the board on drawdowns and went through years of dialog to determine WLM usefulness as a tool. They agreed as an agency with the strategy of using WML as a management tool. WLM within the band is good for all times and places, but when full scale, a threshold or goal is needed to determine where and when appropriate. Disappointed to hear the task force has gone down that path and encourage them to use 1975 as the trigger point.
 - Moore thanked WDNR for coming to consensus on using a science based trigger, but didn't think enough data is available. Need to answer some questions with further drawdowns to identify triggers.
 - Stefanski will pull questions out of table 1 of the adaptive management report and bring up regionally as next assignment and how it relates to the fact sheet.

Recreation Work Group (Strassman)

- RWG last met on 27 January 2020
- RWG Charter underway, incorporating comments from RWG members, near final
 - Need to collect signatures remotely to endorse charter
- New regulations for fishing are in place
- Wonders if there's a role for the beneficial use work group to tackle the beach nourishment action. Kimmel will take on beach nourishment and Strassman will help him with the WG Charter.
- Sara recommended that a small team convene to discuss compliance gaps for beach nourishment actions after the Master Plan effort has been completed
- Offices were searched for boating study information and CDs of flights were found, but not the ArcGIS files. We were supposed to be provided with files but there are questions about compatibility now. This still needs more discussion and will remain on the due-out list.

UMRBA Flood Risk, Sediment Management, and Drought PAS (Stephenson)

- Flood Risk, Sediment Management, and Drought PAS
 - Improved the draft report and incorporating comments
 - Working with team leads and agencies on a robust review following the first cut
 - Discussing which factors contribute to conveyance of flood and sediment
 - How do we reduce economic and environmental vulnerabilities tied to flood risk, sediment management, and drought
- Water Level Management PAS
 - Continue to update NESP report
 - Working on dredging required and acres exposed
 - Pools 2 and 3 were added to NESP report evaluation, now includes 2, 3, 5, 5A, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10
- Olivia Dorothy commented that the environmental groups had issues with the structure and functionality of the survey
 - Prefer more open responses rather than required to provide a yes/no response even if on a sliding scale
 - Working on developing more detailed comments to submit
 - Need more consideration of urban needs and not so much focus on rural needs
 - Requested a more free-ranging response on future surveys

USAF Disposition Study (Bischoff)

- Presentation deferred

Emergency Dredging Discussion (All)

- Recent concerns were raised by States regarding the emergency dredging language proposed by the Corps. The main concern was related to how decisions are made and where material is placed.
- The emergency designation does allow the Corps to determine where material goes, but only after making every attempt to contact the appropriate federal and state regulatory agencies and OSIT representatives to get recommendations and seek advice.
- The Corps has the authority to maintain the channel and that includes making decisions on when and where to dredge and to what depths and widths. No other agency has the accountability when things go wrong and the channel is shut down.
- After some discussion the RRF agreed on the following language, combined from FWS and WDNR input, but endorsement will be requested at the next meeting after the term “pilot channel” is defined.
 - Emergency dredging is defined as dredging, required to free a grounded vessel, remove shoals in the channel as a result of a vessel freeing itself, or to remove unanticipated shoals in the channel arising from extreme weather-related events and that prevent safe vessel passage. The emergency will continue only until a pilot channel is established to an adequate channel depth and width, as determined by the Corps, is restored to allow vessel passage.

Other Topics/Issues, Due-Outs, Future Agenda Topics (All)

- Other topics:
 - USAF Disposition Study
 - Kevin Wilson mentioned that there have been a series of public meetings, the report will likely be compiled sometime in the spring of 2020
 - Nobody has expressed interest in taking over the lock, so the Corps will likely continue to maintain
 - LSAF and LD1 disposition studies will begin in August 2020 and will be more complicated than the USAF disposition study
- Future Agenda Topics
 - USAF Disposition Study (Nan Bischoff)
 - Emergency Dredging Language Endorsement, with Pilot Channel Definition (August RRF)
 - USCG Auxiliary Authorities and Programs (TBD)
 - Most Endangered River Report (Olivia Dorothy)
 - Engineering With Nature, August RRF (Burton Suedel)
 - Minnesota River Basin Interagency Study (Nate Campbell)
- Due-Outs: From RRF 116
 - COE to set up a meeting with voting members to discuss DMMP review and coordination process; will later be vetted through the RRF for formal endorsement (Tapp)

- RRF to distribute Pool 8 Poolwide Forest Restoration Fact Sheet for endorsement, along with the HREP prioritization list which would include this project as fifth in the queue (Tapp / Fischer)
- COE to put together general definition for pilot channel to clarify for RRF prior to the August meeting (Tapp / Cottrell)
- Due-Outs: Carried forward from previous RRF meetings
 - Partners to provide Zach Kimmel with at least one POC to be added to the Beneficial Use Work Group; Zach to schedule kickoff meeting once work group representation is identified
 - ~~Corps to provide survey data to the RRF pertaining to the Pool 10 thalweg placement from 2019 and present a recap at the April RRF (Kimmel); Completed: Survey information was provided and Steve Tapp presented at RRF 116.~~
 - ~~Corps of Engineers to present on budgetary process at the April RRF; Completed: Steve Tapp gave a presentation at RRF 116, which covered the budgetary process.~~
 - Kevin Stauffer to provide RRF chairs project fact sheets and ranking for RRF endorsement with a target date of mid to late January
 - ~~COL Jansen and Chris Erickson agreed to look into Sec 729 studies completed throughout the enterprise so that we can apply lessons learned to the development of the Keys to the River Report and potentially a future Sec 729 study in the St. Paul District (Flood Risk, Sediment Management, and Drought PAS); Completed: Aaron Snyder and others working on literature search. MN River and Red River completed by MVP. Good to have in-house experience. It would be good to have an overview of existing studies and there will be more follow up outside the RRF.~~
 - ~~Steve Tapp will email the RRF proposed language for emergency dredging for RRF endorsement consideration; Completed after discussion at RRF 116.~~
 - COE to forward 2014 Dredging Season AAR to the RRF upon completion (Tapp)
 - ~~MnDOT to reengage in discussions pertaining to modifying fill specifications for construction projects (Phenow); Drop as due out and follow up with beneficial work group.~~
 - COE to provide one page write-up for RRF endorsement of Prairie Sand & Gravel (Kimmel)
 - Corps will work with Law Enforcement from partner states to define a better way to create safety zones around dredges, specifically the dredge Goetz. (Cottrell)
 - WDNR to schedule OSIT meeting in Pool 5 to inspect erosion areas (Strassman)
 - RWG will develop a recommendation to the RRF regarding the need for a programmatic NEPA document to cover beach nourishment and other actions at sites identified in beach management plans
 - RWG to determine if it's worth recovering the St. Mary's user data, also need to determine the data needed to make recreation decisions on the river

- Zach Kimmel to schedule interagency workshop winter 2020 to discuss potential shoreline nourishment locations and other potential ideas for dredged material placement
- Steve Tapp and Jim Fischer to draft a letter to the USCG on behalf of the River Resources Forum stressing the importance of buoy marking throughout the UMR

Steve Tapp
Co-Chairman, RRF