

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #117 on 25 August 2020 (WebEx on-line meeting)

Introductions, Minutes, Next Meeting (Tapp/Fischer)

- Introductions were made and logistics for the virtual meeting were provided
- RRF #116 Minutes submitted for approval
 - Jim Fischer wanted to note on page 13 under Water Level Management that he was not advocating for 1975 as a trigger point, just that some sort of measurable criteria be used. “Encourage them to use a trigger point” was what was intended.
 - ***No other changes noted, and the minutes were endorsed as edited.***
- Next meeting will be 1 and/or 2 December 2020 and we will plan on holding a virtual meeting again due to COVID 19 issues. The group agreed to holding a one-day meeting but asked for longer breaks and an agenda change to discuss easy topics first, then group the heavy dialog together. The Corps will adjust the agenda and fit into one day if possible.

Agency Updates – COE (Tapp)

- COVID has changed things, but things are going well all things considered
 - Office personnel working from home
 - River crews don’t have that option – have been doing great job
- Personnel changes
 - Zach Kimmel went to Project Management on 120-day detail, decided to stay
 - Nick Lorenz and Dan DeVaney completed 120-day details to backfill
 - Hope to permanently hire Channel Maintenance Coordinator position in next month or two
 - Jon Schultz – new Chief of Environmental Section in La Crescent filling behind Randy Urich
- Internally – Regulatory Branch left Operations Division and became its own Division
- Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Project continues and is in the news often
- MG Holland replaced MG Toy as our Mississippi Valley Division Commander
- LTG Scott Spellmon will replace LTG Todd Semonite as the next Chief of Engineers
- The St. Paul District Office will be moving to the First National Bank building in downtown St. Paul in 1.5 years.

Agency Update – WDNR (Jim Fischer)

- COVID – People are working remotely
 - Some employees working in the field, but working alone
 - *No electrofishing this year*
- Sara Strassman busy, only funded half-time but filling in behind Kurt Rasmussen
 - Working on review of MOU between WDNR and USACE, expected by end of the year
 - Paul Machajewski to coordinate review and update with both Jim and Sara
 - Working with other departments on submitting comments on USACE Master Plan

- Section 1122 request has gone in and made it past the first round
- Waterways Program
 - Reviewing permitting and water quality certifications
 - Permit reviews underway for a possible cruise ship landing in La Crosse and proposed river walk
- Other staffing notes
 - No temporary positions being filled and current hiring freeze due to COVID and freeze on funding, many departments are short staffed.
 - Planner position vacancy (vice Kurt Rasmussen) likely to last a year
 - Currently seeking Federal Funding to help fund, WI facing budget shortfall for FY21
 - Working on UMRBA PAS for the Keys to the River 2020 report and participating in NESP calls recently.

Agency Update – MNDNR (Megan Moore)

- COVID-19 issues, staff at maximum telework with some fieldwork exceptions
- Dan Dieterman retired as Habitat Specialist on 4 August 2020
 - Neil Rude assuming most roles
- Staff has been very busy, water level management meetings taking up a lot of time
- Lots of time spent discussing Carrel's Pit in Pool 4
 - MDNR official position is that both the Corps and the City will need to acquire permits
- NESP meetings every other week have also been time consuming
- Actively working on identifying staff for the Recreation Work Group
- Kevin Stauffer and Neil Rude working on a Lessard-Sams funded project in Reno Bottoms area
- Potential placement sites with floodplain forest restoration
- Taylor Huinker has completed a lateral move to a different region, but is still covering Lake City due to the hiring freeze

Agency Update - MNDOT (Patrick Phenow)

- New project executed in St. Paul and a truck/barge facility expected in the future
- Red Wing finished their passenger dock
- Did not receive a bonding bill from the legislature, first time in Patrick's tenure MnDOT is building projects and still awaiting money.

Agency Update - IDNR (Kirk Hansen)

- Echoing COVID remarks, most teleworking, no staffing changes
- Research crews tracking perch in Pool 9, tracking mudpuppies in Guttenberg
- Concerned about being overwhelmed and a bottleneck for reviews if NESP gets rolling in addition to HREP needs and water level management.

Agency Update – WisDOT (Mike Halstad)

- Harbors Assistance Program has \$7M to disperse
 - First applications started coming in on 1 August 2020. \$21.5M requested from 10 applicants
 - Received application from Prairie du Chein

- Should be awarding by December 2020

Agency Update – FWS (Tim Yager)

- Echoing COVID remarks, mandatory telework except for essential field work, visitor centers remain closed
- Staffing changes
 - Curt McMurl – was Deputy District Manager in Winona, became Refuge Manager on Illinois River NWR
 - Still have one unfilled position in Trempealeau
- Flowering Rush has been popping up all over the place, mapping spread and planning abatement
- Busy signing areas of Refuge that will be closed to hunting
- Lots of visits in the field to HREP projects
- Big increase in recreational use this year, 25-30% up, creating challenges for law enforcement
 - Floating concert held in McGregor Lake
 - Poker run with cigar boats in Cassville with not everyone staying in the channel
- Planning for netting carp in Pool 8 next year

Agency Update – NPS (Nancy Duncan)

- COVID – most everyone teleworking with just a few exceptions
 - Still doing field work and some interpretation.
- Forest Management Assessment for the corridor is pretty much complete
 - Report will be made available online
- Ongoing fieldwork related to endangered Cricket Frog
- Continued sonar mapping parts of St. Croix River
 - Looking at mussel habitat, winding up in next year
- Received \$165K grant for floodplain climate change habitat study
- About to complete Bird Strike study for the Hastings Bridge and Washington Ave Bridge
 - How bridge designs impact migratory birds along the river

Agency Update – Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (Linda Loomis)

- Terminal operators on the MN River looking to dredge barge slips again
- Working on placement site plan and want to start construction in September 2020
- Evaluating the MDNR/USACE floodplain model from 2004-2005
 - Taking a closer look because of development in the area, evaluate and see if it's necessary to update
 - Talk of improving the levee in Henderson, looking at possible impacts

Agency Update – American Rivers (Olivia Dorothy)

- Focus on Illinois feasibility study on a floodplain by design grant program
 - Model based on Washington state, public/private grants funding floodplain restoration
 - Eliminates need for acre for acre ratios when restoring farmed land for instance

Agency Update – Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance (Rylee Hince)

- All events cancelled this year

- Having preliminary discussions with Inter-Fluve, Inc. to develop a Lake Pepin Master Plan

Agency Update – Friends of Pool 2 (Greg Genz)

- First time in many years that a northbound tow with 15 barges came through Boulanger in Lower Pool 2. Corps is doing a good job in that area.

Water Level Management Task Force – (Mary Stefanski)

- No meeting since last RRF meeting
- Several WLMTF members have been attending the UMRBA WLM meetings
- Finished photo points for Pools 5, 6 & 8, will get them updated with previous versions.
 - Put out in booklet form or digitally
- No new developments on Task Force charter

Navigation Work Group (Dan Cottrell)

- Boulanger Bend Towhead Light Removal (RM 820.5)
 - Industry worked with the USCG to get it taken out
 - USCG funded USACE Maintenance & Repair crew to excavate
 - Now looking at dredging right descending bank
- Private dock permitted below La Crosse RR bridge
 - Not yet constructed, reduced in length and has docking limitations

Recreation Work Group Activities (Sara Strassman)

- Boating study
 - Andy Robertson at St. Mary's providing files on an external hard drive
- NEPA
 - Aaron McFarland is on a detail, Zach has moved on, no progress being made
 - No progress = missed opportunities
 - OSIT meetings needed in Pools 9 & 10 to define more sites for placement
 - Put out some feelers for visits in September
- Mississippi River Parkway Commission
 - All American road designation submission, no funding tied to it, just designation
 - Closely following a Scenic Byways Funds bill
 - House with \$325M (over 5 years) allocation
 - Reinvestment for pull-offs along river road
 - Wisconsin Group looking into information campaign about pollinators
- Last RWG Meeting Notes
 - High levels of increased use discussed
 - Working on collecting data on demographics of user groups
 - Provide useful information on who and why
 - Welcomed USCG Auxiliary to the group– Marion Byerson
 - ATON placement & boating patrols are primary objectives for him
 - MDNR conducting survey looking at boating trends
 - Hoping to add questions on mud motors/bow fishing for expanded insight on trends
 - Looking to see if there is a correlation between license sales and resource pressure
 - Masterplan went out
 - Signed the Charter
 - Appreciate the cooperation
 - Sent out with RRF meeting materials

- Discussion
 - Due out for Sara Strassman to contact USCG Aux and ask if they could make a presentation at the December RRF.
 - Broad analysis of use along the river
 - Need for historical reference, statistically valid
 - UMRCC Fish Section is discussing looking at doing a large-scale creel study
 - Due out for RWG to discuss merits of completing a broad analysis regarding recreational usage on the river now, to include potential for doing another aerial study.
 - RR Crossing improvements
 - Restoration of public access is difficult
 - Legislative action would be needed but difficult, would have to be well defined
 - Friends of Pool 2 producing a series of safety videos
 - State of MN potential legislation on wake damage
 - Need to make sure river shoreline damage is included and not just lakes
 - MDNR and WDNR promoting Own Your Wake Campaign

Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) Approval Process (Steve Tapp)

- Completed After Action Review with Project Development Team, review team, Rock Island District DMMP staff on 4-6 August 2020
- Spent a lot of time looking at RRF engagement and how to improve coordination
- We need more local and agency engagement from the start
- 1.5 - 2-year process, so lots of opportunity for RRF input
 - Need to determine when to get people engaged and how often
- Discussion
 - Nice to have agencies in the loop
 - Due Out still needed from the last meeting for Steve Tapp to contact voting members about the process.
 - Sara would like to add the process to the WDNR MOU.
 - She stated that RRF endorsement should come after the MOU.

Beneficial Use Work Group Activities (Zach Kimmel)

- Took a position with Project Management within the Corps, continuing to chair the BUWG
- Attendees
 - USACE: Zach Kimmel, Aaron McFarlane, Jon Hendrickson, Angela Deen
 - FWS: Meta Griffin
 - WDNR: Sara Strassman, Jim Fischer
 - IDNR: Kirk Hanson
 - MnDOT: Patrick Phenow
 - MDNR: Neil Rude
 - WisDOT: Bob Pearson & Mike Halstad
- Paul Machajewski will fill role for CH until Zach's position filled
- Looking for more broad engagement
 - Private sector?
 - Universities or Extension Services?
 - Economic development public/private partnerships?
 - Can the PAO disseminate some dialogue about what the group is doing?
- ID gaps, barriers to use of material
- Time to have the kickoff meeting - before December meeting
- Due Out for Corps to schedule a BUWG kickoff meeting before the December RRF meeting

Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program (UMMR) (Angela Deen, Zach Kimmel)

- Strong support from congress
 - \$12M for St Paul District from \$33M total program
- 3 projects in construction, most we've ever had
 - Bass Ponds, Conway Lake, McGregor Lake
 - Going to be interesting/difficult to staff all upcoming work
- Projects
 - Reno Bottoms (Planning Phase)
 - UMRR's first floodplain forest focus
 - Discussing locations for features and hope to have tentatively selected plan in early spring 2021
 - Using USGS modeling to forecast future conditions and help create design for TSP
 - Lower Pool 10 HREP (Planning Phase)
 - Nate Campbell is the PM
 - Nearing completion of planning process
 - Should have quantities and cost estimates by RRF #118
 - Hopefully have Tentative Selected Plan meeting by October 2020
 - Lower end of Pool 10 is a mussel hot spot
 - Lots of consideration needed
 - Flow modifications to avoid impacts
 - McGregor Lake (Construction Phase)
 - Plans and specs finished
 - \$17.5M (Base + 3 Options) - Newt is apparent low bidder.
 - Hope to award Base and Option 1 in September, then Options 2 & 3 in FY21
 - McGregor Lake (Phase 1)
 - O&M portion - 72,561 CY
 - Work completed 26 March – 1 July
 - Mussel relocation completed 1-4 June
 - Had to delay construction for a bit because of fluctuating water surface
 - Overcame equipment failures/breakdowns
 - Saved UMRR ~\$750K and provided critical site capacity for O&M
 - Bass Ponds (Construction Phase)
 - S.M. Hentges & Sons Inc. contractor
 - 15 September preconstruction meeting
 - Groundbreaking? FB Live?
 - Will be nice to control water levels for simulating conditions
 - Pushing to get a sign in place so people know what's going on
 - Conway Lake (Construction Phase)
 - Lansing Island site being used as granular borrow site
 - Largely complete by end of this season
 - 15 July site visit completed
 - Obstacles
 - shortage of borrow material
 - Excess fines - infill and assumptions made
 - Current Activities
 - 55% complete, ~5% behind schedule from having to over place material
 - Removing a lot more sand from Lansing Island than projected
 - Site should be fully unloaded by end of construction

- All granular work should be completed soon
- Pool 8 Islands HREP, C-8 Sill Repair
 - Anticipate completing with M&R in Spring 2021
 - Rock ready at Brownsville Containment
 - Acquiring permits and repairing in FY21
 - Offload and place rock in high water, then go back and move rock at low water
- Harpers Slough Flood Damage Repair
 - Completed in 2017
 - 2 consecutive years of high flows and now in bad shape
 - Working on repair plan
 - Backwater habitats will need to be re-excavated
 - Need to extend rock berms, prevent additional damage
 - Cost estimate higher than thought
 - \$5-\$6M
 - Will use letter report with Plans & Specs rather than Feasibility Study
 - Hoping to advertise in November with contract award in January 2021
- BIG THANK YOU TO THE PARTNERS
 - Very busy summer on the river

Section 204 / 1122 (Angela Deen / Zach Kimmel)

- Pigs Eye Islands - 204
 - Nate Campbell PM CAP Program Manager
 - Had to scale back due to cost
 - Costly to get granular to site
 - Advertise September/October 2020 and award first quarter of FY21
 - Trying to begin construction in spring 2021
 - Ecosystem restoration beneficial use project totaling ~385K CY
 - Mechanical transport to site with hydraulic placement
- Upper Pool 4 Pierce County Islands, Sec 1122
 - Plan finalized
 - 400K CY from Reads Landing
 - \$24M total cost, \$5M O&M
 - Started as CAP204 and now Section 1122 pilot project
 - Funding covers construction costs and transportation to project areas above the CAP 204 limits
 - Transportation cost doesn't have to be shared with project sponsor
 - Challenges
 - Trying to get cut/fill balance to reduce excess fines
 - Flood stage impacts
 - Need to sign PPA and just got feedback from WDNR legal
 - Hoping to start design late fall 2020
 - Conducted Public Outreach meeting via YouTube because of COVID measures
 - Catherine's Cut sedimentation discussion
 - Questions about effect of rock deflector.
 - Coarse material will extend peninsula but should take decades for changes to happen

WRDA 2020 Update (Lauren Salvato)

- Discussed differences between House and Senate versions of bill
 - Senate (S3591) Passed Committee 11 May 2020

- House (HR7575) Passed 29 July 2020
 - Whole Senate has yet to act
 - Inland Waterway Trust Fund contributions
 - Sunset is 2027 in House version
 - Beneficial Use
 - House Section 125, Senate Section 1080
 - Expand calculation of Federal Standard to include the economic and environmental benefits and impacts of using the dredged material for beneficial uses
 - Value of Donated Goods
 - House Section 133, Senate Section 1042
 - Project Authorizations
 - Brandon Road Feasibility Study
 - Meramec River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project
 - Lower Missouri River Flood Risk and Resilience Study
 - Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan
 - Senate EPW Committee
 - Project Partnership Agreements
 - Cost share went from 50/50 to 35/65
 - High Water – Low Water Emergencies
 - House of Representatives
 - Upper Mississippi River Restoration
 - \$40 million for habitat restoration
 - \$15 million for long term resource monitoring
 - UMRS Flood, Drought, Sediment Planning

UMRBA PAS 2020 Update (Lauren Salvato)

- Draft “Keys to the River 2020” report completed
 - Creating relationships, focus on social element, shared need
 - Section 729 Planning Process and Authority in House WRDA
 - Sent off to team leads for comments before next quarterly meeting
- Water Level Management PAS
 - Agreement signed in 2017
 - Can’t do any right now because of federal case ruling
 - Three Authorities
 - UMRR, NESP, Pool Individual Water Control Manual
 - Updating NESP Environmental report 53 from 2004
 - Determined suitability across 3 Corps districts
 - Each district developed criteria for analyzing that criteria
 - Including hydrologic success rate, dredging required, acres exposed
 - Added ecosystem benefits
 - Added Ecological goals section
 - Hope to submit report in time for NESP FY21 projects

Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) (Zach Kimmel & Elliot Stefanik)

- NESP Historical Perspective
 - NESP authorized in WRDA 2007 with broad authorization
 - Projects got going in 2007, funding dried up in 2010

- Just got going again
- Andrew Goodall is the Regional Program Manager
- \$4.5M in FY20 Work plan
 - \$3M for Navigation
 - \$1.5M for Ecosystem
 - Goal is to have \$10M in construction readiness
- Pool 2 Wing Dam Modification project
 - Report completed in 2009
 - Need to revisit environmental compliance
 - Goal to complete plans and specs and construct in FY21, pending CG funding
 - Channel conditions have changed substantially since 2007
 - Project scope reduced from 30 to 23 wing dams
 - Changed due to channel maintenance concerns
 - Wing dam notching will increase sediment dumping
- Partnering discussion
 - Acknowledge that interagency cooperation is key
 - There's potential for NESP to take off, but COVID and hiring freezes will impact
 - If funding comes through, we need to figure out how to do it
 - There was some discussion regarding potential NESP funding for State staff supporting activities, but it was unclear

Channel Maintenance Program Activities (Cottrell, DeVaney, Machajewski, Hendrickson, Kimmel, Peterson)

- Dredging Overview (Dan Cottrell)
 - Started the dredging season very early in March
 - Brought on a third contract mechanical dredge plant (CM3) as a one-year IDIQ contract
 - Pool 3, Coulters Island, dredged very early so may have to revisit later in the season
 - Pool 4, Beef Slough, left a bit more narrow than usual so may have to revisit
 - Pool 4, Grand Encampment, doesn't look great right now so may have to revisit
 - Utilized the IDIQ unload contractor for some channel dredging
 - Boulanger Towhead Light removed, not normal channel maintenance
 - Discussion about likelihood of going back to Pool 9 for additional dredging
 - Dan said Pool 9 is passable but could likely use some cleanup, more likely that the dredge plant address McMillan Island dredge cut after Pool 8 work is completed
 - Flows are stabilizing things now and are down to where we haven't seen them in a few years
 - M&R crew is in MVR dredging through September
 - Dredge Goetz should be back in late October unless there's more work in MVR and MVS
- Placement Site Overview (Dan DeVaney)
 - Work ongoing at the Homer site to reducing the stockpile height
 - Ran into Bank Swallow issues at Brownsville Containment, two portions of the site were closed at times
 - Recently re-opened the placement site in time for significant beneficial use removal for road construction
 - Corps didn't uphold standard for managing placement sites at Fisher Island and Grand Encampment, this will be resolved moving forward

- Bank Stabilization at Fountain City 1 may not happen in FY20 due to M&R workload and priorities but will likely be completed in Spring 2021.
- Prairie Sand & Gravel – should have a document/write-up out for endorsement by the December RRF
- Long-Term Planning Overview (Paul Machajewski)
 - Placement Site Unloads:
 - Pool 2: Lower Boulanger
 - 50K CY of granular material being removed via IDIQ unload contract (Newt) and placed at Southport
 - Work began 12 August and working 4, 12-hour days
 - The high cost of this project was discussed and although the cost was high, it was necessary to restore capacity in Lower Pool 2. No other permanent placement sites were available.
 - Pool 10: McMillan Island
 - Began on 12 August and have moved ~10K CY of the 125K CY project to date
 - Contractor (Newt) obtained additional permits and real estate to perform the project through coordination with IDNR, ISHPO, and COE (Cultural & Regulatory)
 - Discharging return water into Buck Creek will begin this week
 - Completion expected by Thanksgiving
 - Held public meetings on Essman Island on 18 July and 15 August, public expressed concern for discharging return water into Buck Creek and the influence the additional water has on moving sediment out of Buck Creek and into the Mississippi River
 - Future Unloads
 - To Be Determined but likely need to unload Reads and Grand Encampment soon.
 - DMMP's:
 - Lower Pool 4 DMMP
 - Megan Moore asked how the DMMP is coming along and what the plan is for material management in the interim
 - Currently working with the City of Wabasha and the Wabasha Port Authority on a Sec 217 agreement, which is a public-private partnership
 - Wabasha Port Authority provided an updated proposal to the Corps the end of July to manage material from the temporary sites and from the Wabasha Gravel Pit
 - Expect to have a draft of the report ready for internal review sometime this fall, likely release to agencies and public in the winter 2020/spring 2021
 - Section 217 agreement – Wabasha Port Authority may have the option to contract the removal of material from temporary island sites
 - Material should be available for other projects such as HREPs or CAP Sec 204
 - Megan Moore asked if the agencies could see the proposal and the final MOU with the City/Port
 - Due Out for the Corps to investigate this and provide the information to partners if we can do so legally
 - Megan Moore asked if the environmental compliance would be covered by the City/Port

- The Corps will cover the environmental compliance of taking material to a “facility” designated by the City/Port (i.e. Corps transfer sites, Port facility). The City/Port will cover environmental compliance for the material going to the “final resting place(s)” which are To Be Determined. The City/Port will cover environmental compliance for the establishment of a Port facility.
- Pool 5 DMMP
 - Closed on the willing seller properties in Pool 5 and have acquired ~962 acres. Thanks to the MDNR and TNC for informing the COE of the potential available property for dredged material management
 - Beginning implementation planning for use of the acreage and will coordinate with agencies to get feedback later this summer
 - Detailed topographic surveys and wetland mapping after crop harvest this fall
 - Will begin with mechanical placement (covered by EA for acquisition), hydraulic placement desired eventually but will need updated EA
 - Wide diversity of uses (wetland preservation & restoration, experimental farming production plots)
- Pool 6 DMMP
 - Public meeting in February led to local, City, and County concerns and a reformulation of the DMMP, including potential Sec 217 agreement with the City of Winona or Winona Port Authority
 - Meeting regarding 217 with the City of Winona likely to take place early September
 - Purchased 0.5 acres of wetland credits, held OSIT conference call on 10 August to discuss process and began filling a portion of the wetland at Homer that is Corps-owned
 - Will continue to utilize Homer and Winona Harbor sites in the interim while reformulating the plan, RE agreements with city through 31 December 2021
 - Looking into the option of a trucking contractor removing 50K CY from Homer and taking it to Yeadke Pit (owned by Mathy Construction) sometime this winter
- Future DMMP’s
 - Next DMMP’s on the horizon: Pool 9, Pool 10, Pool 3, Upper Pool 4
 - Pool 9 and Pool 10 DMMP kickoff in October 2020
- DMMP AAR
 - Early and extensive public scoping is important
 - Improve internal and external review processes, more efficient
 - External relationships and communication plans both very important, share what we can as often as possible
 - Steve Tapp mentioned that he was hoping to get more survey feedback from agency partners as part of the AAR. Only three responses from agencies despite hearing that agencies wanted a chance to provide feedback.
 - Key findings: have a good PM plan, know who we need to engage with, how soon, and how often, and find ways to eliminate time spent on reviews
- Pool 2 Projects
 - Channel Modification (Dan Cottrell)

- Structures appear to be working as designed, commercial traffic is transiting the reach better this year than in recent years
- Should have surveys this week to see if there's any erosion or settlement of structures
- Will evaluate the percentage of channel that we have widened to the original project plans and see how much further we must go to reach the "channel widening"
- Sewer outfall doesn't appear to be causing any problems, has been marked with an electronic and physical buoy
- Pool 2 DMMP (Zach Kimmel)
 - Feasibility report was approved by the Division's Commanding General in July, District Commander COL Jansen then signed the FONSI, and the report was endorsed by the River Resources Forum
 - TSP is use of Southport and Lower Grey Cloud Island Pit, while all CMMP sites will be contingent options
 - Goal is to reduce double handling to the greatest extent practicable
 - District is in the real estate acquisition process for the Lower Grey Cloud Island property
 - Team and senior leaders are exploring options/strategy
 - Don't have a final path forward regarding acquisition, though plan to by the end of the calendar year
- Pool 2 O&M Island (Zach Kimmel)
 - Get project ready to advertise and decide whether to move forward based on funding available and other priority work.
 - Ongoing coordination with MDNR throughout the EAW process
 - On 3rd EAW submittal; awaiting comments, permits
 - The project should be ready for contract award in FY21
- Moorings at FCSB (Bryan Peterson)
 - Timber piles are in disrepair and collapsing
 - Trying to improve site safety with new mooring and sheet-piling along shore
 - Engaging the WDNR
 - Hope to award contract in FY21 and begin construction in FY22
- IDIQ Q/A & Discussion regarding rock placement possibilities – Specifically can the IDIQ dredging contract do rock work? This is not possible under the existing contract, but the District is looking at contracting methods and this might be a good opportunity to investigate it further.

Fish and Wildlife Work Group Activities (Steve Clark)

- FWWG met last week on 19 August
- Presentations on Asian Carp and Flowering Rush
 - Carp seizing the opportunity to move upstream with high flows & gates being open
 - No evidence of breeding population moving upstream
- There is currently an acoustic Carp barrier proposed for LD 5
- Last thing completed related to RRF was Pool 8 Forest factsheet before the last RRF meeting

Regional Sediment Management, Chippewa River Project (Alex Nelson)

- USGS/ERDC data collection efforts will be combined in this effort and published in a journal later

- Goal to develop a 2D sediment HEC-RAS model for the Chippewa River that builds off the 1D sediment modeling performed in FY19
- Not a lot of work completed this FY
- Objective of FY20 funds is to convert previous 1D model to 2D model
- PDT: Jon Hendrickson and Zach Kimmel from USACE, MVP; Stanford Gibson and Alex Sanchez are collaborators (HEC)
- Alex Nelson has worked primarily with Stanford and Alex Sanchez, however, they've been very busy with other RAS work
 - RAS 2D sediment model testing is ongoing, but a lot of it has been deferred to early FY21 due to COVID-19 impacts and schedules of Stanford Gibson and Alex Sanchez
- The tools developed as part of this RSM effort can be used in other places in the future
- Today 10K cfs produces less sediment than 10K cfs produced 20, 30, 40 years ago based on the data collected
- Steve Tapp asked how this study can help other management agencies beyond the Corps
- Jon – this started as an effort to help inform channel maintenance decisions
 - For other agencies, sediment is often a very significant concern, and this will help share information regarding the magnitude of sediment coming into the Mississippi River
 - Could also help us look at sediment budgets and various sediment sources
 - From a WQ perspective, could also provide input regarding suspended sediment concentration
- Zach asked if any RRF members had any good ideas for future RSM applications
- Megan Moore mentioned that USGS need maintenance assistance to help with additional SONAR data collection which would help inform sediment budget for Lower Pool 4
 - Zach mentioned RSM funds are study funds so may have to find a creative way to collaborate with USGS, maybe the COE can fund data collection and USGS can pay for the maintenance work
- Linda Loomis – LMRWD stated that the USGS sampling station at Ft. Snelling washed away and is not scheduled to be replaced.
- This information could help as we work through the Keys to the River 2020 report.

USAF Disposition Study (Bryan Peterson)

- Purpose is to determine whether there is a continued Federal interest in owning and operating Upper St. Anthony Falls (USAF)
- Evaluated the following courses of action: no action (Corps continues to own and maintain), full disposal, full disposal with incentive for new owner, partial disposal, partial disposal with a project partnership agreement
- City of Minneapolis sent the Corps a letter of interest regarding a partnership agreement
- Schedule
 - 2 September 2020: TSP milestone meeting with vertical team
 - Mid October 2020 – DQC review of draft report
 - Mid November 2020 – start of concurrent public, ATR, and MVD review
 - January 2021 – virtual public meetings
 - April 2021 – submit final report for approval

- Olivia Dorothy asked when the Corps would start Lower St. Anthony Falls (LSAF) and LD1 and if the Corps anticipates budget issues for other studies (LSAF, LD1)
- Bryan mentioned that work on LSAF and LD1 Disposition Studies cannot begin until USAF is completed and the Corps hasn't put in a funding request for the other disposition studies yet

Emergency Dredging Discussion (All)

- Steve Tapp – previously we discussed the emergency dredging definition and folks supported the language but wanted further clarity on pilot channel definition
- Pilot channel definition
 - Jim Fischer – believes last time part of the concern was that the OSIT wasn't engaged in the coordination process with regard to defining a dredging emergency, the pilot channel definition provided reveals that there will be coordination with the navigation industry but not the OSIT – is there a reason the OSIT isn't engaged as part of the process?
 - Steve Tapp – whatever we end up dredging has a direct impact on the Navigation Industry and will define whether they can move vessels through the location
 - Jim still struggles to see where the challenge is in having the consultation include both the Navigation Industry and the OSIT, the Corps will still have the ultimate authority to do what they need to do but it would make the states feel a bit more comfortable
 - Dan Cottrell – when working through emergency dredging operations to open a pilot channel, it's difficult enough already. To add more people in consulting about channel width and depth will surely make things more difficult
 - Olivia Dorothy seconds Jim's suggestion to include consultation with the OSIT, would also like to see the emergency dredging definition and pilot channel definition focus a bit more on public safety
 - Megan Moore – believe Olivia is hitting on a good point regarding safety being a key component, also believes that OSIT coordination included in the pilot channel language is appropriate and helpful
 - Steve Tapp – struggling to understand how coordination with the OSIT will help in determining a pilot channel, believes it's very important to coordinate with the OSIT regarding placement of material under certain events
 - Sara Strassman - there is a separation between emergency dredging and placement. But in the last two placements because of emergency placements, Corps got it wrong, because of limited OSIT oversight, that's why OSIT wants to provide input
 - Paul - can we add a sentence 'material placement will be compliant with CMMP guidelines'? We still have rules to follow.
 - Zach Kimmel – Can see that Corps doesn't want to relinquish control. But, can see the fear of the Corps holding things in a perpetual emergency. Dialogue is the point of RRF.
 - Jim Fischer - don't want to make it more complicated than it needs to be. However, we've got full placement sites, when the emergency hits, where's the material going to go?
 - Steve Tapp - Million Dollar Question. What do we do with all this stuff?
 - Need to have some more discussion, so this topic will continue at the next meeting.

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

- Potential Next Agenda Items

- Should the agenda be switched up?
 - Put easier stuff first with the meatier stuff later in the day in smaller sessions?
- Sara Strassman – USCG Aux will need 10-15 minutes to present
- Burton Sudell’s Engineering with Nature
- UMRBA Keys to the River Report
- MN River Basin Study Sec 729
- Due-Outs: From RRF 117
 - RWG to contact USCG Aux and ask if they could make a presentation at the December RRF (Strassman)
 - RWG to discuss merits of completing a broad analysis regarding recreational usage on the river now, to include potential for doing another aerial study (Strassman)
 - BUWG to schedule a kickoff meeting before the December RRF meeting (Kimmel)
 - Corps to investigate the potential dissemination of the draft Section 217 Proposal received from the Wabasha Port Authority
- Due-Outs: Carried forward from previous RRF meetings
 - 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); Completed on 22 April 2020 and it was endorsed on 29 April 2020.~~
 - ~~COE to put together general definition for pilot channel to clarify for RRF prior to the August meeting (Tapp/ Cottrell); Completed and sent to RRF on 24 April 2020.~~
 - 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
 - ~~Kevin Stauffer to provide RRF chairs project fact sheets and ranking for RRF endorsement with a target date of mid to late January; Completed on 22 January 2020~~
 - COE to forward 2014 Dredging Season AAR to the RRF upon completion (Tapp)
 - COE to provide one-page write-up for RRF endorsement of Prairie Sand & Gravel (TBD)
 - 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); Completed 17 July 2020~~
 - 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 (Strassman)
 - ~~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 (Strassman); Completed and in process of getting data from St. Mary’s~~
 - ~~Zach Kimmel to schedule interagency workshop winter 2020 to discuss potential shoreline nourishment locations and other potential ideas for dredged material placement; Decided to remove this as it will be addressed as part of the BUWG.~~
 - 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