

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: DRAFT Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #118 on 1 December 2020 (WebEx on-line meeting)

Introductions, Minutes, Next Meetings, Due Outs (Tapp/Fischer)

- Introductions were made and logistics for the virtual meeting were provided
- RRF #117 Minutes submitted for approval
 - Jon Hendrickson's name was misspelled and corrected
 - *No other changes noted, and the minutes were endorsed as edited.*
- Next meetings
 - 20 April 2021 (virtual again)
 - 17-18 August 2021 (in person if possible, with potential visit to Bass Ponds, or McGregor Lake)
 - 6-7 December 2021 (location TBD, but discussed La Crosse or Prairie du Chien)
- Due Outs carried forward from previous meetings
 - RWG to contact USCG Aux and ask if they could make a presentation at the December RRF (Strassman)
 - Agreed to move the USCG presentation to the April 2021 RRF
 - 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)
 - Still pending
 - BUWG to schedule a kickoff meeting before the December RRF meeting (Kimmel)
 - Still pending
 - ~~Corps to investigate the potential dissemination of the draft Section 217 Proposal received from the Wabasha Port Authority (Machajewski)~~
 - The Wabasha Port Authority proposal is public record and on the city web site (wabasha.org). Proposed Agreement for Lower Pool 4 Dredged Material Management Plan dated 25 AUG 2020.
 - ~~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)~~
 - Meeting held on 24 November 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
 - POCs have been provided, but kickoff meeting still pending
 - COE to forward 2014 Dredging Season AAR to the RRF upon completion (Tapp)
 - Still pending
 - COE to provide one-page write-up for RRF endorsement of Prairie Sand & Gravel (TBD)
 - Still pending
 - 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)
 - Still pending
 - 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)
 - Still pending

- ~~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~~
 - Letter written and will be sent after this meeting to ensure Angel Kwok was situationally aware prior to sending
 - Jim Fischer reiterated that it's a partnership letter hoping to open dialogue about buoy tending

Agency Activities – (All)

- Activities were provided beforehand and will be attached as a part of the minutes

Engineering With Nature – (Burton Suedel)

- Engineering With Nature: the intentional alignment of natural and engineering processes to efficiently and sustainably deliver economic, environmental and social benefits through collaboration.
- Key Elements
 - Science and engineering that produces operational efficiencies
 - Using natural process to maximum benefit
 - Broaden and extend the benefits provided by projects
 - Science-based collaborative processes to organize and focus interests, stakeholders, and partners
- EWN Across USACE Missions
 - Navigation
 - Strategic placement of dredged material supporting habitat development
 - Habitat integrated into structures
 - Enhanced Natural Recovery
 - Flood Risk Management
 - Natural and Nature-Based Features to support FRM
 - Levee setbacks
 - Ecosystem Restoration
 - Ecosystem services supporting engineering function
 - “Natural” development of designed features
 - Water Operations
 - Shoreline stabilization using native plants
 - Environmental flows and connectivity
- Several example projects were explained including the Pool 8 Enhancement project
- See presentation for more information on guidance and publications available
- Discussion
 - Megan Moore asked material ended up in areas that weren't planned and about looking at doing past projects any differently after several years of high water
 - Burton replied that high water has damaged some areas, but there aren't enough projects in place to see how they handle high water. So far, the evidence they do have supports they're OK
 - Discussion of thin layer placements in HREPs to raise elevations of flood plain forests
 - Kirk said they are doing some of that on the McGregor HREP by broadcasting with hydraulic equipment and moving the end pipe around
 - Burton replied that they do have a thin layer placement website
 - Discussion on development of economic metrics and development of assessment tools
 - Burton noted economic valuation provides an advantage on future projects and he hasn't been involved, but they do have research projects

- Discussion on availability of funds for projects
 - Funding comes from planning and study, not construction
 - \$5-6M/year, Statements of Need for FY22 due soon
- **Due Out for Sara Strassman to help write a Statement of Need for bankline evaluation**

Section 204 / 1122 (Zach Kimmel)

- Pigs Eye Islands – 204 (Nate Campbell is the PM)
 - Purpose is to utilize dredged material for beneficial use
 - Contract advertisement 20 NOV – 20 DEC 2020
 - Construction to begin spring 2021
 - Will restore placement site capacity at Pine Bend and Lower Boulanger by using granular material and Upper Boulanger by using fine material
- Upper Pool 4 Head of Lake Pepin, Sec. 1122
 - Nick Vottero PM from Angela Deen
 - Started as CAP204 and now Section 1122 pilot project
 - Purpose is like the 204 in Pool 2
 - Feasibility completed in August
 - \$200k in Sec. 1122 funding to work on PPA and Value Engineering scan
 - PPA is a big focus now. The template was updated in late OCT and sent to WDNR. Once back from WDNR, it will go to MVD for approval. Jim F noted it is currently in WDNR legal and Secretaries office for review.
 - Construction most likely in 2022
 - Rylee H noted the Lessard-Sams funding will expire in JUN 2022

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

- Projects from youngest to oldest
 - Reno Bottoms & Lower Pool 10 are in planning phase
 - Lower Pool 10
 - Hopefully use Channels & Harbors material to construct
 - TSP Jan 2021
 - Reno Bottoms
 - TSP June 2021
 - Should have quantities and cost estimates by RRF #119
 - Harpers Slough Flood Damage Repair
 - Repair plan in BCOES Review
 - Plan to advertise CT in January
 - Base bid with Option, Award in April 2021
 - McGregor Lake (Construction Phase)
 - 70key came from McMillan dredge cut
 - Shout out to partners for Phase 1 work
 - Phase 2 contract awarded 28 September 2020
 - Contractor received notice to proceed on 6 October 2020
 - Construction began 30 October 2020
 - Bass Ponds (Construction Phase)
 - \$4.1M contract awarded
 - Groundbreaking held 6 November 2020 on Facebook Live
 - Building five stoplog structures
 - Conway Lake
 - Construction started in May 2020 and now 90% Complete

- Obstacles
 - shortage of granular borrow material at Lansing Island
 - Excess fines - infill and assumptions made
- Good partnerships made obstacles easier to overcome
 - Overall went well
 - Just a little to wrap up in 2021 and will be complete
- C8 Sill Repair
 - Still planning on doing that with Corps M&R
 - Currently working on permits
- Next Generation Fact Sheets
 - 5 have been approved
 - Next fact sheet will be on Lower Pool 4 Big Lake

Water Level Management Task Force (Mary Stefanski, Lauren Salvato)

- No meeting since last RRF
- Have been working with UMRBA
- Task Force has a Facebook page and Aaron McFarlane is the POC for that page
 - Don't post anything unless there's a drawdown
- Did complete photo points in 2020
 - In Pools 5, 6 & 8
 - Just a few that were interesting because of low water levels
 - Above Weaver Landing
 - Expected robust vegetation, but was missing
 - Weaver Landing
 - Some rice, but similar to 2016
 - Pool 6
 - Focus on lower end of the pool where you expect more impact
 - Sand bar with veg in 2020, going to keep an eye on it
 - Pool 8
 - Lower end of pool, both sides of river, taken from shore
 - Shady maple 06 first photo of location
 - 2020 now has a lot of vegetation
 - Mary has all photos of all points for all years, if people want to see them
- Water Level Management Planning Assistance to States update
 - Met in October
 - Three things looking to finalize by the end of FY21 (end of PAS agreement)
 - WLM communication and outreach strategy
 - NESP env report 53 update
 - Mostly complete except dredging required
 - Problems with calc methods
 - Ecological goals and objectives
 - As a partnership looking at deciding how to do WLM
 - Conducted as a webinar
 - Ecosystem benefits
 - Looking for funding
 - Got some from MO for dabbling duck head model

Beneficial Use Work Group Activities (Zach Kimmel)

- The prior due out to have a POC identified from partners has been completed, but a kick-off meeting has not been held
- MVR now has a BUWG as well, hoping to overlap with them and have a combined kick-off meeting
- Targeting January 2021 for meeting
 - Meeting had been scheduled week prior, but Zach was out sick
- Steve Tapp agreed it's a good idea to conduct joint meeting with MVR BUWG
 - Suggested ERDC get involved as well
- Finalizing agenda
- MVR finalizing distribution list
 - Looking at broad group of participants
 - Being cautious of private industry, Contractor conflict of interest could get tricky
- Discussed asking Burton Suedel if he's interested in presenting EWN to FWWG and BUWG. This could be done as a joint BUWG/FWWG meeting. Steve Tapp check during the meeting and Burton will present at the next FWWG meeting.

Recreation Work Group Activities (Sara Strassman)

- Group has not met since last RRF
- Master plan comments collected in Sept
 - Land use classification changes
 - End of the year get more feedback
- St. Mary's Boating Studies
 - Getting data from St. Mary's University and waiting on thumb drive
 - Meeting in FEB and will have good information to discuss the due out from previous RRF meeting
- Beach planning is still in same place from last RRF
 - Pool 9 beach OSITs needed next
 - May be crossover with BUWG and will coordinate as needed
 - Change OSIT process (working on draft)
- COVID and recreation
 - Most agencies seeing uptick
 - Working on data summary
 - Increase in licenses in 5- & 20-year trends
 - First time buyers were up significantly
 - Younger demographics, more time
 - More opportunity to take kids fishing
- Working to put together a short summary of impacts to recreation
- Survey question on why 'fishing habits' changed
 - More time because of COVID
- National Fishing Stats
 - Demographic breakdown - interested to see 2020 rates relate to older data
- Steve Tapp to Sara Strassman "I know you're interested in giving up the chair"
 - Kevin Berg will be retiring, his office is supposed to be next chair
 - Are you willing to stay on as Chair until April meeting?
 - MDNR want to jump into rotation before USACE?
- Sara Strassman - It was discussed at last meeting, Kevin knew USACE was next
 - MDNR not able to jump in
 - Sara agreed to stay in until USACE can get someone in

- Due to have a meeting soon.
 - Go through recreation user survey
 - Get Corps hired position spun up
- Jon Schultz - Happy to help until Kevin's job is filled
- A big thank you to Sara for all the hard work during challenging times!

Navigation Work Group (Dan Cottrell)

- No meetings since last RRF
- Pool 2 Sewer Outfall, RM 819.5
 - Monitored for the season
 - No impacts to navigation reported
 - AIS AToN and physical buoy marking it and plan to keep them in place going forward
- New Dock proposed downstream from La Crosse RR bridge
 - Review finished
 - IENC put it on the chart virtually, so tows can review location and give feedback
- Sara Strassman asked if NWG was looking at La Crosse extension for cruise ships
 - Dan Cottrell has not seen finalized permit yet
 - Sara Strassman - still going through review
 - Dan Cottrell - as long as it doesn't reach out into the channel, no navigational concerns
- Steve Tapp: La Crosse RR bridge, funding to change to left descending bank?
 - Haven't heard about that for years
 - **Due Out to gather any new information and report back (Cottrell)**
- Sara Strassman - MOUs and MOAs between USACE and USCG found while looking for other docs
 - Would be nice to understand the roles of agencies; nature of activities and how they coordinate.
 - Jim Fischer supports that too, increase dialogue.
 - **Due Out for April to provide a summary of USACE and USCG roles (Cottrell)**

Fish and Wildlife Work Group Activities (Stephen Winter)

- No meeting since 19 AUG 2020
- Completed the Pool 8 Forestry Fact Sheet since last meeting
- Next meeting 17 FEB 2021
 - 2 agenda items, seeking more, send an email
 - HREP performance evaluations
 - Climate change water quality
- Steve Tapp asked if the FWWG would be following up with Burton re: EWN
 - Would be happy to add Burton to agenda
 - Jim Fischer - restoration actions and beneficial use are a good fit
- Flowering Rush Discussion, Jim Fischer asked about status
 - Stephen Winter - didn't make it over all hurdles
 - Merrick State Park was interested, but didn't follow through
 - USGS biological threats data, aerial imagery
 - Defined a digital signature of flowering rush
 - Reexamine previous imagery using new digital signature
 - Jim Fischer asked Stephen what we might be looking at next year (for spread)?
 - Stephen – big unknown
 - Kirk Hanson – we're seeing it down to Pool 13
 - Noticed a few years ago, newly emergent

- This year went from nothing to everywhere, concerning how quick
- Jim Fischer - responds to drawdowns, return to normal influencing
- Stephen Winter - high water years it may be submersed, but in low water becomes emergent
 - Based on water levels, see what happens next year
- Paul Machajewski asked if the source is known?
- Stephen Winter - don't know.
 - Crowd source mapping shows UMR/Twin Cities area
 - Spread downstream from there? All conjecture, but?
 - Hard to say, but the flower is attractive, so easy to see people gardening with it

Channel Maintenance Program Activities (Tapp, Cottrell, DeVaney, Machajewski)

- Steve Tapp Intro & Summary
 - Busy and challenging season with lots of survey crew effort. Kudos to the survey crew for all the hard work. Used 2020 to catch up on dredging in some areas.
 - Zach moved on to PM and we're working on filling his position
 - O&M Budget
 - 2020 was down compared to last few years, but still considered good
 - FY21 looking good, but keep in mind these are just numbers from the President's Budget and we're still operating under a CRA through 11 DEC
 - Channel Maintenance Expenditures
 - Doing a little more on management side
 - FY20 expenditures were up significantly due to several big projects (Lots of dredging, Lower Pool 2 modification work, Mechanical Unload IDIQ Contract, McMillan Unloading, Land acquisition - \$7.8M)
- 2020 Dredging Summary (Dan Cottrell)
 - Season as a whole
 - Yet to be finalized, HREP contractor in Pool 10 still working
 - Planning on dredging through end of this week
 - 19 NOV 2020 was last day for Mechanical Dredging Contractor
 - Difference in cubic yards between Govt plants and contract plants was close this year
 - Total dredge quantity
 - Variation in what we dredge
 - Upward trend in flows & dredging
 - Significant, but not largest. 2011 was larger
 - 2020 Channel Activities
 - High water continued into 2020 but dropped off
 - Started dredging early and had 5 plants operating by 11 MAY
 - Consistent progress through season
 - Started with small jobs, then expanded as conditions allowed
 - Mechanical Unload IDIQ contractor did a significant amount of channel dredging in Pool 3
 - P2 channel modifications update
 - Made good headway with dredging Boulanger Bend, Boulanger Bend Lower Light, and Freeborn Light
 - Share updates at April meeting re: channel width comparisons, in-situ vs. project spec
 - Show Me State made it down bound through Pool 2 with a 15 barge tow on 23 NOV
 - Possibly the first time in a decade
 - Boulanger Towhead light removal
 - USCG hired USACE M&R to remove it
 - It was the #1 priority in Pool 2

- Big task; extremely old, hard concrete
 - More effort than predicted
 - Looking at possibly widening the dredging downstream
- Pool 7 - Upper Approach outdraft reduction weir extension was completed
 - Constructed to 7' below LCP
- Pool 8 - Sand Slough
 - Dredged in May after sampling last year
 - Hope it holds wider now
- P10 Channel Management Study
 - Determined it was not viable. No dredging reductions realized with mods or structures
- 2020 Problems
 - Comparisons to last year, numbers higher
 - 2020: 56 reports, 27 critical
 - 2019: 38 reports, 21 critical
 - Last USCG run was in September
 - AIS AtoNs worked well
- 2021 Planned Activities
 - Refine AIS AtoNs
 - Need them on weekends
 - Towing is 24/7, need better response
 - Continued Pool 2 channel modifications
 - Expand width as capacity becomes available
 - Pool 3 channel management study kick-off
- Steve T comment on appreciation for coordination between Corps, USCG, and industry regarding AIS AtoNs
 - Eric Kvistad said he appreciates the use of AIS AtoNs as a tool as well. It's hard to mobilize the Wyaconda quickly when an issue comes up
- Kirk Hansen – how big is the hole, percentage-wise, to get back to authorized width?
 - Dan Cottrell - Just a guess, but maybe 25-30% of historically dredged areas are still holding material from 2019, depending on spring high water
- Placement Site Overview (Dan DeVaney)
 - Pool 4 OSIT, Grand Encampment
 - Talked about footprint issues at last RRF, Dredge Goetz was out of district
 - Followed up with Goetz inspection crew upon return
 - Will continue moving forward in the spring
 - Pool 6 Homer
 - Our attempts to be good neighbors, lower pile height per resident request
 - Winona county meeting this week on Interim Use Permit for trucking contract
 - Pool 8 Brownsville Containment
 - Lots of beneficial use this year, lead to more placement than typical
 - Pool 9 Lansing Island
 - Excavated material for HREP by means of hydraulic dredge
 - Containment berm breached for project; berm reinstalled without discharge pipes
 - Pool 9 Lansing Highway Bridge Site
 - Site closed to beneficial use 16 OCT – 13 NOV for preparation/shaping for Dredge Goetz
 - Multiple users working together for common goals, much appreciation
- Long-Term Planning (Paul Machajewski)
 - MOU with Wisconsin DNR
 - Coordinating with Jim Fisher and Sara Strassman
 - Site Unloads

- P2 Lower Boulanger to Southport (Partial unload)
 - IDIQ unload Contract, 48.8kcy
 - Contract was just under \$10/yard, just about a month; 12 AUG – 15 SEP
 - Pool 10 McMillan Island to Buck Creek
 - Completed Under Full Unload Contract 12 AUG – 26 OCT ~155kcy
 - Waiting on final survey and payment
 - \$15.57/cy
 - Strassman asked what the contractor had for a plan for effluent return from Buck Creek if the Heitman property couldn't be used.
 - Paul noted the contractor did not share any backup plans with the Corps and this was likely a one-time discharge action permitted to Newt
 - Mechanical IDIQ unload contract
 - Renewing for 2021-2023
 - Hope to have contract on the street and awarded in spring
 - Reads Landing needs unloading lower Pool 4
 - Could be used for HREP Head of Lake Pepin in FY22, material earmarked for that
 - Comfortable we've got capacity for another season
 - Pipeline from Reads Landing channel cut and Chippewa Delta will go directly to Wabasha Gravel Pit
 - Goal is fewer major unloads, IDIQ costs are cheaper: ~\$10/cy
 - Questions
 - Sara Strassman asked where will the material go to clean up Grand Encampment?
 - Most likely stay on site, just pull material back from perimeter to interior of site
 - Jim Fischer asked if Reads Landing, Grand Encampment, Alma, any capacity concerns going into this summer?
 - No capacity concerns, but to fully rehab Grand, it would have to be unloaded
 - Jim Fischer - permanent pipeline question, when is that going to happen?
 - Paul Machajewski – it will be used by Goetz, outside of the DMMP, for direct placement to Wabasha Gravel Pit
 - Best case scenario is installation in 2021 and using it 2022
 - Steve Tapp – Reads is getting full, plenty of room for this season, if we can get pipeline in then we can take the pressure off island placement
 - Reads material will be getting used for Head of Lake Pepin, Pigs Eye material coming from Pool 2 islands
 - Using unload funding to move material for Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project needs
 - IDIQ - potentially Above West Newton to Rolling Prairie
 - Site Stabilization
 - Above Fisher Island
 - USACE formed PDT to administer work to address issues brought up during OSIT
 - Draft design to be shared with OSIT mid-winter
 - Hydrographic surveying done, topographic survey coming soon
 - Construct with M&R season 2021
 - Fountain City 1
 - Stabilization work will be done next year, permits in place
 - Pool 2 DMMP
 - Steve Tapp – stated the Corps is working on land acquisition
 - USACE now looking into their counteroffer
 - Will have our counter-counteroffer to them by end of December 2020

- Zach Kimmel – Renewed the Southport Lease for 20 years; January 1, 2041 new expiration
 - Steve Tapp - nice to have that one completed
- Pool 4 DMMP
 - Section 217 agreement
 - USACE has vetted the proposal from the Wabasha Port Authority and found it reasonable
 - Sending a letter this week to sit down and start negotiations a Section 217 agreement
 - USACE dredges and places on islands, Port Authority managing it from there and also find somewhere to take material from Wabasha gravel pit
 - Also exploring options outside of 217 agreement
 - Buying additional property in lower Pool 4
 - MG Holland went to Wabasha specifically to reaffirm our commitment to 217
 - Sara Strassman asked if USACE is pursuing land acquisition in either case?
 - Paul Machajewski – That looks very likely if we have willing sellers. Under 217, Wabasha deals with it, but if no 217, then we'll keep looking to acquire land
 - Patrick Phenow asked if with a 217 is there an established tipping fee?
 - Paul Machajewski – The current proposal from Wabasha Port Authority is ~\$20 from island to port then final resting place and ~\$10 out of the pit to final resting place
 - Patrick Phenow - payment is only for work done? Not paid up front?
 - Paul Machajewski - we can't commit in advance, so it'll have to be for material removed
 - Patrick Phenow - do they own all the property that is considered to be the port?
 - Paul Machajewski – Wabasha Port Authority is working with a local contractor who is a property owner to secure that
 - Patrick Phenow - can you speculate if that acquisition will happen once the DMMP is approved?
 - Paul Machajewski - we the Corps reach an agreement under Section 217, the specific details are all up to them.
 - Steve Clark - DMMP will need to be finished before 217 can go
 - Steve Tapp - the 217 process is going to take quite a while
 - Paul Machajewski – ‘glass half-full’: complete DMMP summer 2021, then complete 217 by summer 2022
 - Jim Fischer – if there is a 217 in place, what kind of failsafe will be in place if they can't take the material that is promised? Other options if they can't take it all?
 - Paul Machajewski - Bonding with the Wabasha Port Authority and USACE
 - Why we're looking at property
 - Sara Strassman - Wabasha to Wisconsin by rail being evaluated in Pool 4 DMMP?
 - Steve Clark - If it's mentioned its very brief at best.
 - Steve Tapp - not really heard about it
 - Steve Clark - not any option we've discussed in any detail in the current issue
 - Sara Strassman - had been talking to Chuck, was wondering where that was
 - **Due Out to reach out to Chuck Theiling and see what he's been considering for moving material from Wabasha into Wisconsin by rail (Machajewski)**
 - Steve Clark - one thing to clarify, can't say we're hauling to the port.
 - We don't need a port to make a 217 to work, just an access channel to Carrel's pit
 - Keeping our needs separate from what Wabasha wants for a Port
 - Megan Moore - not a priority for us right now, if imminent let us know so legal can look at it
 - Steve Clark - access channel will show up in DMMP, does not mean we'll be doing it
 - Several measures, tiered approach, this is all a part of discussion
- Pool 5 DMMP
 - Planning use of Rolling Prairie
 - Began topographic, cultural, and wetland surveys this fall

- Interagency meeting on 29 OCT, informational
 - Provide input for uses/opportunities
 - Next interagency meeting scheduled for 2 DEC
 - Hope to hold monthly meetings
 - Hoping to develop 10 acres for maybe 200kcy this season
 - Pool 5 material, if touched mechanically, should all move through West Newton Chute landing to Rolling Prairie property
 - Trying to find ways to coexist, but facing more closures
 - Megan Moore - was under the impression West Newton Chute placement site had 25 years capacity? Is that correct?
 - Paul Machajewski - When purchased and developed, it was stated the footprint would be raised, that's been completed.
 - Steve Tapp – After last contract, they leveled it off. We weren't sure where that was going to go after initial placement.
 - Further discussion about utilizing West Newton Chute capacity while working out planning for Rolling Prairie
- Pool 6 DMMP
 - Finally met with City of Winona on 28 OCT to discuss long term planning and potential for a Section 217 agreement
 - If everyone has a stake, then it's win-win
 - They have places for it to go, long term planning
 - Homer site
 - Reconfigured, purchase wetland credits to utilize entire footprint
 - Homer public input, they want it gone
 - Advertising a trucking contract to remove material
 - Move material January - February because of road restrictions, permit dependent
 - Permitting likely go into April or May
 - Reformulating plan for Pool 6
 - Get a draft out this winter or spring
 - 217 is an option
 - Also formulating other plans outside of 217
 - Keep utilizing Latch Island and Homer site, but looking for additional capacity
 - Steve Tapp – Good beneficial use happening out of Homer, railroad issues hampering removal
 - Hopefully crossing improvements will ease safety concerns moving forward
 - Zach Kimmel – Any discussions in PDTs about leaning on a 217 in two Pools/DMMPs without knowing how well it will work?
 - Paul Machajewski – Some concern, but each 217 is its own. We don't have time to wait to accomplish one before the other
 - Steve Tapp - we'll learn a lot in negotiations, maybe learn in Wabasha we don't want to go that route with Winona
 - Sara Strassman question – Contract amount out of Homer?
 - Paul Machajewski - up to 50cky
- Pool 9 & 10 DMMP
 - PDTs formed
 - Looking backwards to what got us here
 - Learned from Pools 2, 4, 5, 6 AAR we want to hold public meetings as early as possible
 - Look at HREP projects under Pools 9 & 10 DMMPs as well
 - Steve Tapp – Sara Strassman Question about federal standard in Pool 2
 - We need to assess conditions that exist at the time dredging is required

- Right now, it's based on use of islands and unloads to Grey Cloud or Southport
- If we acquire Lower Grey Cloud Island (LGCI) as planned for in DMMP, then federal standard will be based on mostly direct placement of material on LGCI
- It's a moving target based on conditions
- Sara Strassman - we're always trying to understand federal standard for use in developing actionable alternatives
- Zach Kimmel - what's actionable at the present moment and being consistent
 - Hard to look at future DMMP with uncertain costs

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

- (see page 97 of RRF_118_All_distro.pdf, discussion is about slide)
 - RRF voting members met last week and had a very good discussion
 - The slide with the proposed process was discussed in more detail
 - From first bullet to third represents a lot of work and by the time you get to the DQC review most of the report is done
 - We know we need to engage folks early and often and the process needs to show that it includes multiple stakeholder and public outreach efforts
 - Need to hold brainstorming sessions to list potential solutions and alternatives
 - Need to document meetings and let agencies know what's being considered
 - Want to show we've got good engagement through the whole process
 - Need to work out issues and take it as far as we can before public review of the draft
 - Discussed the potential for states issuing preliminary letters of support
 - Need to have more than just "here are the final alternatives and the TSP"
 - If we have constant engagement, agencies shouldn't be surprised
 - We need agencies to support documents and help with finding solutions. It doesn't help to point out what can't be done without offering an alternative solution
 - It's also important to have agencies at public meetings expressing support and standing with the Corps on the plan we develop
 - **Due Out for Steve Tapp to revise the steps after following up internally, then send to the RRF members for endorsement at the April 2021 meeting if completed in time**
- Any voting member comments?
 - Megan Moore - coordinate early and often, better buy-in
 - Jim Fischer - agree with everything said, summed it up quite well
 - Early, often, and iterative will be key
 - Paul Machajewski - clarification; no surprises, but, when we've got willing sellers we need to keep their desires private to respect their wishes
 - Some details we can't share during plan formulation, but we'll tell you as soon as we can. Delicate process with private landowners.
 - Jim Fischer – Steve Tapp brought that up, sensitivities about when to bring agencies in
 - Goal is something between knowing everything and the Corps unveiling the full plan
 - Megan Moore - where does it go once endorsed?
 - Steve Tapp – RRF minutes will document the steps until CMMP is updates and it's a part of that document

Emergency Dredging Discussion (All)

- (see page 98 of RRF_118_All_distro.pdf, discussion is about slide)
 - Steve Tapp - definition is the same as last time
 - RRF voting members met last week to discuss this topic

- There were concerns about when the emergency would end, but Tim Yager pointed out that the language indicates the emergency will continue only until a pilot channel is completed to allow vessel passage. Once a vessel passes, the emergency would be over.
 - The emergency section in the CMMP goes on to explain the coordination that takes place when the condition exists. This section could use updating to ensure good coordination
 - At the end of the day, the voting members agreed to use the language presented at the last RRF meeting, which is displayed in the slide presented, with Megan Moore adding a caveat that language will be added to the CMMP coordination section noting that an emergency should not be used as a substitute for adequate planning and funding
- Discussion
 - Jim Fischer - another good conversation last week
 - Still some trepidation, but feeling better
 - Don't want to be in a situation where endless emergency exists with no control over placement
 - Sara Strassman - with respect to placement sites, expectation of removal in 2 years
 - Steve Tapp - CMMP goes through placement site picking order
 - Jim Fischer - the language is in there, but Corps' 3rd level is Corps discretion
 - Sara Strassman - in pool 10 USACE didn't meet expectation of removal
 - Steve Tapp - Channel condition report is already created weekly and can help keep agencies aware
 - Jim Fischer - we don't want to add workload, we want to add value and would like a regular opportunity for a check-in during the season
 - **Due Out for the Corps to consider more dialog with the OSIT during the season regarding channel conditions (Tapp)**
 - Megan Moore - when is the CMMP update?
 - Steve Tapp - we have funding in FY21 to get started and Bob Edstrom is PM
 - Look at what sections need updating
 - Sara Strassman - have a laundry list of language to update
 - Steve Tapp - if anyone else has flagged updates, send them his way
- ***Tim Yager made a motion to endorse the emergency dredging definition and the pilot channel definition as noted below with the condition that the next CMMP update include language that "an emergency should not be used as a substitute for adequate planning and funding." Jim Fischer second and the language was endorsed by consensus***
 - ***Emergency Dredging Definition***
 - ***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.***
 - ***Pilot Channel Definition***
 - ***A pilot channel is defined as a temporary channel of lessor width and/or depth than the authorized, or typically maintained channel. Pilot channels dredged under emergency conditions will be limited to the minimum width and depth needed to efficiently and effectively keep navigation safely moving as determined by the Corps through consultation with the navigation industry and the USCG.***

UMRBA PAS 2020 Update (Lauren Salvato)

- Keys to the River
 - Maintain transparency

- Connected with people not usually on their radar
- Chapter 2 - Actions
 - Used 2D modelling to create risk assessment tool
 - Define how drought impacts different users
 - Created UMRBA Interstate Charter and updating it
 - Water Quality Improvement Act
- Chapter 3 – 729 Proposal
 - Review coming soon
 - Distribute broadly, asking for consent via written and verbal comment
- UMRBA next steps
 - Building work plan to advance action-related items with immediate next steps
 - Advocate for authorization and appropriations
 - Develop branding
 - Convene discussions around climate science
 - Develop assumptions about tributary influences
- Steve Tapp - report done by end of December?
- Lauren Salvato - end of December unrealistic
 - Hung up in reviews
 - Don't want to cut comments short, working with 5 states
- Megan Moore- Lauren did a good job
 - Just some minor things to work out
- Jim Fischer - important all effected interests are brought into the tent
 - Make sure all voices have been heard

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

- Elliot Stefanik - funding in out years is highly uncertain
 - Focusing on execution of the funding we have now
 - MVR trying to shuffle funding, doesn't really affect MVD
 - Pool 2 Wing Dam Notching
 - Moving forward with design to modify 23 wing dams (17 single, 6 double)
 - Bulk of work is in design right now
 - Objective to have plans and specifications completed by March 2021 with construction by Corps M&R later in 2021
 - Jim Fischer - what kind of yardage of rock will you be getting out? Where's it going?
 - Zach Kimmel – not sure about volumes but placement will be adjacent to wing dams as outlined in the 2009 report
 - Jim Fischer - wondering if looking at other opportunities for the rock
 - Zach Kimmel - yes but no, already had green light for compliance on original
 - Olivia Dorothy - what's the Corps response to external review?
 - Zach Kimmel - not sure, will get back to Olivia

Upper St. Anthony Falls (USAF) Disposition Study (Nan Bischoff)

- In disposition process since 2015
 - Is there any interested in opening and operating USAF
 - If not, is there a viable disposal alternative
- 2 public meetings in AUG 2019
- Developing report DEC 2019 through last month
- Dam removal was looked at, but Minneapolis water supply made that impossible, so removed

- 1A removes some uncertainty of disposal
- Slide 6 is options 2 and 2A
- Draft report will be released on 14 DEC for 60 day review
- Steve Tapp - once the report is out, you can start on the next disposition study?
 - Nan Bischoff - yes
- Paul Machajewski - was there any difference in what you heard from the public between the two scopes?
- Nan Bischoff – A lot of carryover comments upstream of Lock 1
 - For the most part similar
- Steve Tapp- should we put it on the April meeting agenda?
- Nan Bischoff - there will be a public release
- Steve Tapp - we'll plan on it for now, if nothing new, we'll omit

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

- Other Topics / Issues
 - State Emergency Contacts
 - Megan Moore asked if we should revisit state emergency contacts on an annual basis and if we had a good list
 - Dan Cottrell - we do have a list, should be specific so people don't get confused
 - **Due Out for Corps to update emergency (weekend) dredging POC list (Cottrell)**
 - Jim Fischer - ours is updated, we may want to add more folks
 - Megan Moore - more of a private list for nights and weekend
 - Next meeting topics
 - Usual agenda items plus USCG Aux (Strassman will check availability)
- Due-Outs: From RRF 118
 - WDNR will help write a Statement of Need for bankline evaluation (Strassman)
 - NWG will gather any new information on the status of the La Crosse RR Bridge and report back (Cottrell)
 - NWG will review MOU and MOAs between USACE and USCG and provide a summary of agency roles and responsibilities at the April meeting (Cottrell)
 - Reach out to Chuck Theiling and see what he's been considering for moving material from Wabasha into Wisconsin by rail (Machajewski)
 - Corps will revise the DMMP endorsement process steps after following up internally, then send to the RRF members for endorsement at the April 2021 meeting if completed in time (Tapp)
 - Corps to consider more dialogue with OSIT regarding channel conditions (Tapp)
 - Corps to update emergency (weekend) dredging POC list (Cottrell)

Steve Tapp
Co-Chairman, RRF