

Memorandum For The Record

October 30, 2003

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

1. Participants: Chris Kavanaugh, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR); Ray Norrgard, MNDNR; John Ringle, Leech Lake Reservation; Dennis Holme, Corps of Engineers (COE); Steve Clark, COE.
2. On October 29, 2003, the individuals listed above met at the COE Gull Lake Recreation Area Administration Building near Brainerd for the sixth meeting as the Environmental Task Force (ETF) of the Upper Mississippi River Headwaters ROPE Study. Prior to the meeting, Steve Clark sent out an agenda (see attachment). The meeting agenda was generally followed.
3. The meeting began with some discussion of the latest developments in the ROPE study. Key points of interest mentioned were: 1) the optimization model will now be run on a semimonthly time-step, thereby allowing effects that occur on a time scale of less than a month to be more accurately captured; 2) the optimization model will now be able to evaluate periodic events such as simulated droughts and floods that may occur only once every 10 years, for example; 3) the schedule for completing the environmental modeling has been extended to sometime in late winter or early spring (possibly March), rather than December.
4. Much of the meeting was spent refining the modeling matrix. Musky, shorebirds, and possibly reptiles and amphibians were identified as additional significant resources to be added to the matrix. Hybrid cattail and purple loosestrife will be added as undesirable species. Some information was gathered for these species to enter into the matrix, but more will likely be needed. Steve Clark will refine the matrix with this information and distribute it to the group for what will likely be the final review.
5. The next action item for the ETF will be the ranking of significant resources at each modeling node in the system. Steve Clark will draft a table to facilitate this and will distribute it to the group. Each member will be asked to individually fill out the table. At the next meeting, the ETF will begin finalizing the rankings as a group.
6. The completed modeling matrix will be used to identify and develop the needed ecological/environmental models. Much of this work will be completed by contract, but ETF members will be asked to provide as much related information as possible.
7. The next ETF meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 19, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. at the same location. The anticipated topic for discussion will be the ranking of significant resources.

Steve Clark, COE
Environmental Task Force Coordinator

Attached
Agenda

Subject: Mississippi River Headwaters ROPE Study – Environmental Task Force (ETF)
Meeting to be held at Gull Lake Recreation Area Administration Building on
October 29, 2003

AGENDA

Purpose of Meeting -

The primary purpose of this meeting is to obtain your specific inputs for incorporation into an Environmental Modeling Matrix (draft version attached). A secondary purpose of the meeting is to keep you updated about the progress being made towards completion of the ROPE study.

Start at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome/Introductions and Overview of Agenda

Work to complete the Environmental Modeling Matrix

Discuss Logistics for Next Continuation Meeting, as needed

Thank You, Summary of Meeting Findings

12:30 p.m. Adjourn Meeting