



Upper
Mississippi River
Basin Association

ILLINOIS, IOWA, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, WISCONSIN

TO: EMP Coordinating Committee

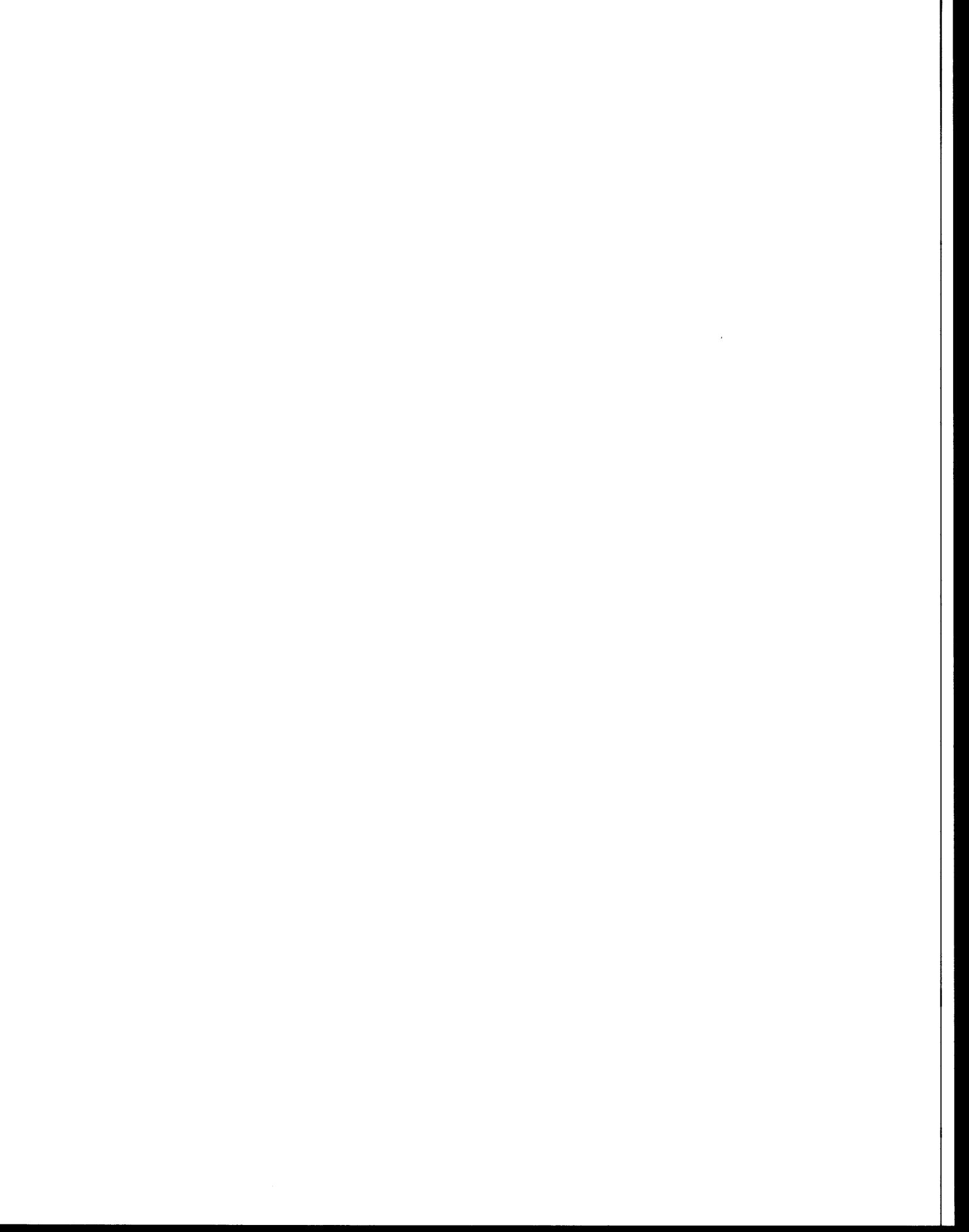
FROM: Barb Naramore ^{BN}

DATE: May 25, 2001

RE: **MAY 16 MEETING SUMMARY**

Enclosed is a summary of the major "Highlights and Action Items" from the May 16 meeting of the EMP Coordinating Committee. You will receive more detailed minutes prior to the August EMP-CC meeting.

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EMP Coordinating Committee Spring Quarterly Meeting

May 16, 2001

Highlights and Action Items

Flooding Effects

- Due to continued high water, the impacts of this spring's flooding on HREPs have not yet been fully assessed. However, the following projects are known to have sustained at least some damage: Long Lake, Finger Lakes, Pool 8 Islands Phase II, and Trempealeau Refuge in MVP; Princeton Refuge, Spring Lake, and Lake Odessa in MVR; and Swan Lake and Cottonwood in MVS. All projects will be surveyed for damages as the flood waters recede.
- MVR anticipates construction delays this year for the Gardner Division and Pleasant Creek projects due to high water.
- Terry Moe requested that the Corps' post-flood assessment consider how HREPs with levees fared relative to projects that employ other techniques. He also asked the Corps to make recommendations as appropriate for modified operating practices that might reduce future flood damages to HREP levees.

Independent Technical Review Committee

- MVD presented a draft proposal regarding the Independent Technical Advisory Committee. The draft identifies the following committee purposes: identify ways to enhance the LTRMP's contributions to ecosystem understanding and HREP design, review the process for selecting and formulating HREPs, recommend innovative techniques for HREPs, recommend generic types of HREPs to address systemic and reach-specific needs, and recommend post-construction monitoring procedures for HREPs. The Technical Committee would not be asked to review the HREP planning process until the program partners have implemented the revised process.
- The Technical Committee will report to the MVD Commander and will serve in an advisory, not a decision-making, capacity.
- Under the draft proposal, the Technical Committee would be comprised of individuals with no direct links to the EMP and would include people with expertise in fluvial geomorphology, hydraulic engineering, large river aquatic ecology, limnology, and geospatial analysis.
- MVD invited input regarding its draft proposal and potential candidates to serve on the Technical Committee. **Input on the draft proposal should be submitted to Greg Ruff (greg.ruff@mvd02.usace.army.mil) by June 6. MVD will then solicit input from other parties and develop a final proposal for discussion at the August 8 EMP-CC meeting. MVD will submit its proposal to Corps HQ in September, with the goal of implementing the Technical Committee in the first quarter of FY 02.**
- Several EMP-CC members urged that the Technical Committee include one or more individuals with direct experience on the UMR and knowledge of the EMP.

HREP Planning

- At the end of May, MVR will provide EMP-CC members with a revised draft describing the new HREP planning process. EMP-CC members will be asked to comment on the revised draft in June and the EMP-CC will discuss the planning process further at its August 8 meeting. The Corps expects to prepare a final report in October and implement the new process beginning in FY 02.
- To avoid a disruption in project planning, each interagency district team has also been asked to develop a short list of quality HREP proposals. Feasibility planning will be initiated on selected projects from these lists in FY 02. This approach is intended to ensure that program execution does not suffer during the transition to the new planning process.

Long Term Resource Monitoring Program

- The Corps is currently evaluating all recommendations in the NAS report on the navigation study, including a recommendation for increased navigation effects research under the LTRMP. Terry Moe urged that any potential changes to LTRMP priorities be fully coordinated with program partners and be consistent with the LTRMP Operating Plan. Several EMP-CC members, including Steve Cobb, acknowledged the value of research while emphasizing that monitoring is the core element of the LTRMP.

Program Management

- At the close of the second quarter of FY 01, \$928,000 in savings and slippage had been restored to the EMP. MVR and MVP have additional capabilities this year and will be seeking restoration of more savings and slippage.
- Terry Moe noted that the EMP-CC members were originally told they would have an opportunity to comment on the COE/FWS scope of work prior to it being finalized. Moe expressed concern with the actual process, whereby the other partners only saw the SOW after it was finalized. **Charlie Wooley and Teresa Kincaid expressed regret over the rushed process and committed their agencies to making future SOW development more transparent to the other partners.** Wooley assured Moe that the substance of the current SOW is consistent with what was discussed at previous EMP-CC meetings.
- Gary Christoff observed that the Corps transfers planning funds to the states for some of their work in support of the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program. **Gary Loss said MVR would explore what is being done on the Missouri River.** Terry Moe explained that Wisconsin opposes transfer of EMP funds to any partner agency, be it the Service or a state, to support their HREP planning activities.
- Charlie Wooley clarified the Service's recent letter regarding disposal of dredged material from the proposed Pool 12 overwintering project. According to Wooley, the Service's April letter simply asks the Corps to assess upland disposal alternatives to sidestepping. He said the letter does not insist upon upland disposal for this project, or for HREPs more generally. Wooley said the Service will continue to consider disposal of dredged material from HREPs on a case-by-case basis.

- **MVR will modify the individual district spreadsheets and the historical summary page to indicate the state(s) in which each project is located.**
- **MVR will report at the EMP-CC's August 8 meeting on the process for reopening projects that were not properly completed or that are not functioning as designed.**
- **President Bush has requested \$21.0 million for the EMP in FY 02. The Corps' expressed capability figure for FY 02 is \$33.0 million. Attached is a sheet showing how funding at these two levels would likely be allocated within EMP.**
- **MVS will prepare a PCA template, using the Cuivre Island agreement as a model. The template will reflect the WRDA 99 cost sharing formula and other PCA provisions that have changed since execution of the Cuivre Island agreement.**
- **MVR continues to work on the EMP Guidance Compendium as part of the program web site. The EMP authorizing language is currently posted on the site.**

Public Involvement

- **Comments on the draft EMP public involvement strategy should be provided to Teresa Kincaid by June 6. MVR will revise the draft plan in June and July and coordinate further with the EMP-CC at its August 8 meeting. MVR will then forward the plan to MVD in September or October, and MVD will submit the plan to HQ in November 2001.**

Other Business

- **Future EMP-CC meetings will include a habitat project showcase focusing on the unique features, special challenges, and outcomes of an individual HREP.**
- **The upcoming EMP workshop will likely be held on either October 17-18 or October 24-25 in St. Louis. It will focus on "lessons learned," with an emphasis on linking the HREP and LTRMP components.**
- **The EMP-CC's future schedule includes meetings on August 8 in La Crosse, November 15 in St. Louis, and February 28 in the Twin Cities.**



EMP FUNDING

Components	FY-00		FY-01		Potential FY02 Budgets	
	BUDGET (\$000's)		BUDGET (\$000's)		PRESIDENT'S BUDGET (\$000's)	CAPABILITY (\$000's)
TOTAL \$ BUDGETED	18,000		21,000		21,000	33,000
S & S Assessment	10%		16%		12%	12%
S & S Amount	1,800		3,360		2,520	3,960
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS						
Regional Management	110		110		110	110
Independent Technical Advisory Com.					?	?
Public Involvement					?	?
SUB (TOT-ADMIN)	16,090		17,530		18,370	28,930
LTRMP 31.4%	5,052		5,504		5,768	9,084
USFWS Coordination					300	300
HREP	11,038		12,026		12,302	19,546
ST. PAUL DISTRICT (35%)	3,863		4,209		4,306	6,841
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (40%)	4,415		4,810		4,921	7,818
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (25%)	2,759		3,006		3,075	4,886

