

**A-Team Meeting Minutes 4/23/2019**

**Radisson La Crosse, WI**

Attendance:

A-Team Reps:

Nick Schlessler – MN

Shawn Giblin – WI

Scott Gritters – IA (phone)

Matt O’Hara – IL (phone)

Matt Vitello – MO

Stephen Winter – USFWS

USGS:

Jeff Houser

Jennie Sauer

Kristen Bouska

Jennifer Dieck

Kathi Jo Jankowski

Nate De Jager

USACE:

Karen Hagerty

Marshall Plumley (phone)

Ben McGuire (phone)

Kjetil Henderson

David Potter

IA:

Dave Bierman (phone)

Ryan Hupfeld (phone)

IL:

John Chick

MO:

Dave Herzog

WI:

Madeline Magee (phone)

USFWS:

Neal Jackson (phone)

Request to attach A-Team rankings to minutes – Karen

Move to approve (Nick) second (Steve Winter)

Unanimous approval

Next meeting will be a webinar

Date will be in Late July-August

Nick will set up an online poll to determine dates

Marshal Plumley

- Lots of activity
- Series of webinars that will be posted to website with audio
- HREP workshop in Dubuque May 8-9
- FY19 Plan of Work
  - Fully funded
- Looking forward
  - President's Budget recommended full funding for FY20
  - Only 2 Corps environmental programs (Everglades and Upper Miss) to receive construction money
  - All FY19 SOW in place and funded
  - Additional monitoring on IL waterway during Nav closure
    - 6 locks closed early July-Oct 2020
    - Significant reduction in Nav traffic
- IWW 2020 consolidated closure monitoring
  - Leverages existing staff and resources for field work
  - Assess response to reduced navigation from: WQ, veg, fish
    - 4 proposals
- Updates on HREPs
- Next generation of projects
  - June-Dec 2019 River teams
  - Collaborative project development with partners and sponsors
  - HNA II indicators used in development of projects
- HREP Workshops
  - Provided same information as earlier slides
- Questions
  - Jennifer Deke – Should landcover for IL River be moved up for processing to facilitate lock closure studies?
    - Ask Deanne Drake
  - Steve Winter – Is there a time frame for veg survey associated with lock closures?
    - Ask Deanne Drake
  - Shawn Giblin – Which model is updated with \$100k in budget for model certification

- AHAG and community models currently being updated
- Interested in what gaps and needs for modeling are identified during HREP workshop

LTRM Update – Jeff Houser

- Kristen Bouska –Paper “Applying concepts of general resilience to large river ecosystems” is out
- Molly Sobotka and John West, 2018, Study of Off- Channel Waterbodies in the Middle Mississippi River available
- All 2018 LTRM data is available now
  - WQ data – New field has been added for calibrated chlorophyll
- MRRC
  - LTRM staff and studies have multiple presentations
- USGS director at UMESC April 18<sup>th</sup>

Kristen Bouska – Resilience framework review

- Purpose
  - Outline the research that advances the understanding of resilience
  - Builds upon, but not within the breadth of ongoing resilience efforts
- Objectives
  - Investigate hypothesized drivers and feedbacks
    - Quantitative evaluation of general resilience indicators
      - What are the primary drivers of water clarity in lentic areas?
      - What is the influence of water clarity and level on aquatic vegetation distribution?
      - Are there feedbacks in the fish community that maintain a clear state?
      - How does the aquatic vegetation community impact resilience to common stressors or disturbances?

Questions

Karen – Concerned that there is not enough focus on fixing turbid states

Karen – Does size of the vegetation overcome herbivory to establish a clear state?

Steve Winter – Pool 13 HREP would be a good opportunity to use LTRM data to learn more about resilience of systems.

Jeff Houser – P13 may be on cusp of switch between states

John Chick – Vegetated state is specifically SAV

No success for SAV in lower pools after many tries

- Diverse native community vs Common Carp (Asian carp, Grass Carp)
  - Is there evidence of regime shift based on changes of biomass of functional groups?

- Is there evidence that dominance of Silver and Bighead carp is associated with increased biomass of benthic invertebrates?
      - Does the dominance of Asian carp affect recruitment of native fishes through competition for zooplankton?
      - Do retrospective body mass patterns in the fish community predict the invasiveness of silver and bighead carp?
      - How does habitat connectivity and heterogeneity influence the resilience of a diverse fish community to fluctuating environmental conditions?
    - Diverse dynamic floodplain vegetation vs Invasive wet meadow monoculture
      - How does age structure and composition vary across UMRS?
      - How do autogenic and allogenic processes influence successional dynamics particularly understory regeneration?
        - How might altered hydro regimes, insects, climate?
      - Where have transitions already occurred?
- Questions/Comments
- DeJager – Native wet meadow only lasted 1 year after suppression of reed canary grass
- Steve Winter – focus efforts on preserving remnant native wet meadow vs restoring areas already overtaken by reed canary grass
- Other regime shifts
    - Application of other alternative regimes
  - Objective 2
    - Quantitative evaluation of general resilience indicators.
    - Has functional diversity and redundancy of fish communities changed over time or in response to disturbance?
      - Do resilience metrics predict abrupt community shifts?
    - What are the ecohydrological processes and feedbacks that drive form and function of the UMRS floodplain river ecosystem?
    - How does water surface elevations influence depth distribution and habitat availability?
    - What does the diversity and redundancy of aquatic veg community suggest about general resilience?
      - Jen commented that we can map down to species level.
    - What is the general resilience of the UMRS as a socio-ecological system?
      - How does it vary by reach?
      - Difficult because stakeholders and values vary longitudinally by reach.
      - MRCTI interested in disaster resilience. May have a revolving fund. – Matt Vitello

Questions

Request for written feedback by 5/31/2019 to Kristen.

If more than 2 people from an agency please compile before submitting

Framework discussion

Frameworks go through:

- Presentation
- Comment
- Next A-Team meeting we will be addressing comments on Resilience Framework

Frameworks:

Native Mussels, Landscape Pattern, Aquatic Vegetation, Overwintering, General Fish, Resilience

Potter – Historically, what has been the process for submitting a framework and does this still apply today?

Jeff Houser – Suggest during science meeting planning

-LTRM suggested 4 areas: Mussels, Veg, Forest, and Connectivity

John Chick – No history of things like framework development

Jeff Hauser – (Will develop a short paragraph history of frameworks)

Jeff Houser - Next A-Team meeting, discuss preference for meetings/workshops over planning documents going forward.

Ickes – Overwintering framework was the result of a request from the A-Team.

Discussion of review and ranking procedures

- How to improve?
    - Main Concerns
      - A-Team recommendation top ranked proposal fell out
      - PIs still present when discussing rank
    - A-Team, USGS and Corps are the 3 ranking entities
    - The proposal (LiDAR) ultimately based on an average of the 3.
    - Houser – LiDAR is a large and complex dataset that needs a plan
    - Schlessler – The states understand that the dataset is complex, but were interested in the plan to update/manage the data and thought that it was some of the most practically applicable data that could be produced.
    - Shawn Giblin – Webinar 2 weeks prior to rating meeting for PI presentations
    - DeJager – one process to compare apples and oranges
      - Staffing, data collection, science
      - Questions focused on how to do something better are different than basic science proposal
    - Karen – important to talk over how it went
    - Neal Jackson – how do we deal with this if it happens again
    - Scott Gritters – A-Team supposed to offer advice, Corps and USGS need to take advice first before ranking
    - Houser – Agree that an earlier presentation is appropriate
    - Matt O’Hara – Didn’t like the pre ranking before hearing from PIs
- Nick will work to set up plan for next time**

Status and Trends – Stories we tell

Rob Burdis presentation

- Pepin ice out earlier trend
- Change in flow for April is consistent if you remove 1965
- Paddlefish seem to be keying on zooplankton in Pepin in June

Shawn Giblin

- Light penetration at LD 8 & 9

- Environmental movement stalled and needs a push from us
- Big impounded areas important in keeping system in non-turbid state
- LD9-LD11 is zone of opportunity for work
- Increase in predators important
- Doubling of annual discharge at Winona
  - Habitat loss and destruction, filling, island dissection, etc.
- DeJager – What kind of projects?
  - Shawn – bedload deflector at upstream end in a complex of backwaters
- Jeff - Concept of HREPs need to check multiple boxes
- Steve Winter – Service needs to take ownership of the projects so we need to protect wild celery production

Herzog

- What is the value of SAV?
- Need to keep what backwater we have in the lower portions of the river
- Try to link restoration in the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers
- How can the lower river get more habitat without more rock?

Jeff Houser

- Asian Carp info can be synthesized into a story for status and trends
  - Use a section of IL river as an example
- Kjeitel – LD19 a biologically significant barrier?
- Report could get very big very fast
  - Want to keep stories concise to prevent bloat in the report
- Karen – 30 years of data record allows for the next level of analysis and should be highlighted
- Rogala and DeJager work could be uses to project to the future, but that is limited

Shawn

- Nutrient story is important
- Kathy Jo – nutrients could be combined with the tributary story

Jeff Houser

- Rogala and DeJager work could be uses to project to the future, but that is limited
- Jeff will bring strawman for comment at next A-Team meeting

#### Discussion about A-Team role in HREP Process

Karen

- Planning and sequencing
- HREPs traditionally come out of the river teams. We are working toward a more collaborative process
- Traditionally solicit for new HREPs every 10 years
- Karen – Currently codified in the Advisory Groups Charter
- Shawn – I would like to see the A-Team take a more active role in shaping the next round of HREPs. We've done the most extensive reviews of pertinent areas that should be considered: Connectivity, water velocity, water depth, water clarity. The more I see, the more I believe the A-Team should take a more prominent role in the next round of project planning.

Jeff Houser

- A-Team could rank OR ask if there is anything we could do to get better information
- Should the A-Team be involved in design rather than selection?
- Is there a need/desire to have joint meetings (A-Team and River Teams) for certain topics

- Schlessner – States are represented on both teams sometimes by the same people

Action Items

1. Comments on resilience framework to Kristen by the end of May
2. Next meeting held before August 21<sup>st</sup>
3. New process for proposal review

Motion to Adjourn from Shawn Giblin second from Matt O'Hara unanimous passage

**Edits requested by Steve Winter at the July 31<sup>st</sup> A-Team meeting completed 8/5/2019.**

**Motion to accept minutes as amended at the meeting made by Steve Winter with a second by Shawn Giblin. Unanimous approval by representatives.**