

RIVER RESOURCES COORDINATING TEAM (RRCT)  
MEETING MINUTES  
08 January 2002  
Isle of Capri Convention Center in Bettendorf, IA

1. ATTENDANCE

Representatives attending the meeting were from the Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CEMVR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (ILDNR), Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WIDNR), and Missouri Department of Conservation (MODOC), U.S. Department of Transportation (MARAD) and Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri River Association (UMIMRA). A complete list of attendees is provided as Enclosure 1.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE

Kenn Shoemaker, Assistant Chief of Operations Division (OD), welcomed the attendees and requested self-introductions by each attendee.

The agenda for this meeting was corrected and approved, (see enclosure 2). A copy of the revised October 2001 meeting minutes was provided to the RRCT members and approved as corrected.

3. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET

Kenn then presented status on the O&M budget. The District recently received authorizations for funding O&M. Rock Island lost approximately \$20M in spending power over the last 10-12 years. Funds were approved for the Lock 12 rehab to be completed and a small amount to begin rock protection below the dam at Lock 11 (about \$500k).

The District is dealing with flood repairs from the last flood, using normal O&M funds. The District had no funding for emergency dredging, but was able to borrow from other Districts.

4. SECTION 404 STUDIES

Mark Cornish reported, the 404 Impact Analysis Team has not met since the last RRCT meeting in October. He reported status of the 5 ongoing studies:

- Fisheries study: USFWS states that the draft report for field work conducted in 2001, will not be finished until March 2002, due to the large number of larval and post larval fish in their analysis. In 2002, the FWS will resample the Illinois River near Havana (Senate Island) and the Mississippi River near Quincy, IL (Hogback Island).
- Invertebrate's study: The contractor completed fieldwork in December 2001 and will complete the analysis and report by late this Spring. Chuck Theiling, COE, is overseeing this contract.
- Mussel study: The final report is expected in the next two weeks. Work this last year was done in Pools 12, 13, and 14, concentrating on the thalweg areas. No new fieldwork will be completed this year.
- Vegetation study: The contractor would finish analysis of the last three year's data this summer. Steve Johnson, COE, is coordinating this contract.

- Sediment transport study: The District should have a micro-modeling report for 2001, work completed, sometime after January 2002. In 2002, work will begin on a study for Kemps/Craigel and Anderson Lake (calibrate and alternative analysis). ERDC (WES) seems to be on schedule with the computer model or Pool 18. This model is currently up and running. Two samplings at Benton Island were completed so far, and no surprises occurred. Another sampling should be taken prior to freeze.

Reports to be submitted for review through the interagency 404 committee.

## 5. COMMITTEE TO ASSESS REGULATORY STRUCTURES (CARS)

Mike provided a handout on the CARS Committee – 5 year Plan that Includes the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and provided information on CARS work which pertains to keeping stabilization problems from worsening.

- Pool 13 – The head of Cook’s Island completed with 1000 tons of 600 lb. rock. Reconnected wing dams 11, & 12 to shore. Need to monitor for flow change and correct any detrimental changes.
- Pool 22 – Repair wing dam 7 – 800 lb. shot rock to be placed along 1000’ of bankline on the channel side of existing wing dam for the purpose of stabilizing dredged material, at & below the water line. This area will be surveyed to assure effectiveness.
- Successes: 68% reduction of dredging at Findley’s Landing (Pool 11) and 62% at Hershey Chute (Pool 16). The District will be writing a report and using this data for long term planning for CARS on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

A CARS meeting is being planned for sometime in February or March this year.

## 6. DREDGING UPDATE

Mike Cox reported that we had 2 emergencies in Pool 22 in the navigation channel. The material dredged from one event was placed temporarily within the navigation channel and eventually was placed behind a levee. He also reported that the volume of material was low this past year, in both rivers. There has also been a significant change in placement on banklines. It was 44% bankline placement on the Mississippi River and now it is only 15%. There are similar differences on the Illinois River. Open water placement (thalwegs) constitutes about 15%-18% of material placement on the UMR. There has been significant reduction in volumes due to:

- Low funds
- Limited placement sites
- CARS work

Gary Christoff, MODOC, recommended a Comprehensive Study of historical dredging, impacts, placement, etc., be prepared for Lock 22 Lower.

## 7. REGIONAL DREDGING TEAM (RDT)

Rock Island District is hosting a meeting to be held on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002, following this RRCT. The RRCT participants were cordially invited to attend and participate in the discussions following the presentations. An agenda for the RDT meeting is attached.

## 8. RESOURCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT (RNA) & ILLINOIS RIVER ECOSYSTEM

Dorie Bollman, PM-A, reported that the status of the Illinois River Ecosystem Restoration study has not changed since the last report to the RRCT. This study is on schedule to be completed in December 2003.

## 9. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTINUING AUTHORITIES

Dorie also reported on the Environmental Continuing Authorities Program, which includes Sections 1135, 206 and 204.

- Under Section 204:
  - Blackhawk Bottoms – Kemps-Craig Cut:  
The Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP) has been drafted, but still need cost estimated to complete the document. When the document is completed the District will review and provide the PRP to the sponsor, IDNR, for concurrence.
  - Henderson #3 – Oquawka Cut: Need to complete the base plan and cost estimate for the Oquawka DMMP, then initiate and complete the PRP.
- Under Section 1135:
  - Milan (need to do):
    - Finish tree planting
    - Install weed barrier mats (in the Spring)Construction is 90% completed.
  - Oquawka:
    - Construction contract awarded 26 Sep 01
    - Ditch cleanout work complete in early Dec 01
    - Boring the pipe under the levee took place first week of Jan 02
    - Valve on pipe installed.
    - Placing rock protection around pipe 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Jan 02.
    - Riverside work pretty much completed.

Still to do on landward side:

- Digging and final shaping of ditches
- Installation of stop log structure.
- Creation of the inlet trench

Construction 50% complete, expect completion in Fall 2002.

Successes: Boring the pipe was the biggest accomplishment and an important part of the job. Site conditions were uncertain due to limited testing of the site during the PDA phase. However, the boring took place through sand and was executed without difficulty.

- Lock and Dam 18 – Fish Passage
  - PRP drafted but need cost estimates to complete document
  - District review and provision of the PRP to the sponsor (Two Rivers Levee and Drainage District) for their concurrence.

- Emiquon
  - Funding for FY02 received just before Christmas 2001.
  - In late January 2002 District will begin the PRP phase.
- Under Section 206:
  - Duck Creek:
    - Project PRP submitted to MVD in June.
    - Received approval 31 Dec 01.
    - Received funding to initiate PDA phase just before Christmas.
  - Yellow Springs:
    - Still working will all the partners groups to bring the project to an agreed upon focus.

The budget included the following: (In millions)

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Section 206 –	2.3	1.0
Section 1135 -	.3	.2
Section 204 -	<u>.1</u>	<u>*</u> (*20K)
	2.7	1.2

Projects:	Phase:						
	Total	PRP	PDA	ERR	P&S	CONSTRUCT.	COMPLETED
Section 1135:	5	3	--	--	--	2	3
Section 206 (2 terminated, PRP, & 2 likely to be)	14	4	1 (2*)	7	--	--	0
Section 204	2	2	--	--	--	--	0

#### 10. LONG TERM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (LTRMP)

Scott Whitney, PM-M, reported on the successes and challenges of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of FY02, Long Term Resource Management Program (LTRMP)

##### Successes:

- Customer Satisfaction Survey submitted to 32 Corps employees (Dec. 31, 2001) in the three UMRS Corps Districts. Responses due by 11 Jan 2002. One-third of surveys have already been completed and returned. A similar survey is currently being developed with LTRMP partners for distribution to non-Corps employees.
- The final funds transfer was made to USGS on 3 January 2002. Federal (USGS) MIPR=\$2,796,300 and non-Federal (States) MIPR=\$2,185,000.
- Approximately \$200K of this year's LTRMP budget is focused on integrated statistical evaluation of monitoring data.

- The past years efforts to identify meaningful efficiencies in the Fisheries Monitoring component have resulted in recommendations and decisions for meaningful time and cost efficiencies for the FY02 field season. A similar evaluation is being applied to the Water Quality and Macroinvertebrate components in FY02.
- A prioritized list of potential over target projects has been developed along with a short one-half page rationale and justification for each. The funding needs for these projects was submitted to MVD, along with other EMP funding needs, in an attempt to reclaim Savings and Slippage dollars.
- Bathymetry Acquisition by contractor was completed in Pool 18 in November. All remaining contractor data submitted on 18 December 2001. Bathymetry for Lake Odessa HREP expedited was received 3 January 2002.

Challenge:

- FY02 budget resulted in serious cutbacks and elimination of nearly all applied research projects, including bathymetry, aerial photo interpretation, LIDAR, main channel fisheries, HREP support, etc. Unless savings and slippage dollars are secured, no new information will be collected on these efforts in FY02.

The financial status: The FY02 budget for LTRMP was \$5,150,000. The FY01 LTRMP Expenditures, are \$1,014,076.59, as of 31 Dec 01.

## 11. NAVIGATION STUDY

Denny Lundberg, PM, gave an overview of the status of the Navigation Study, which was restarted in the Fall of 2001, (see enclosure3). The interim report is due in July 02 for Headquarter's review, and the final to be July 02 thru 04. Ken Barr, Environmental Management, explained that the 'draft' interim report would be forwarded to various agencies for their review, in May 2002. A discussion on the involvement of different agencies and special interest groups proceeded.

## 12. FWIC UPDATE AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UMR REFUGES

Bob Clevenstine, FWS, representing the Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee (FWIC), stated that the next FWIC meeting would be held on January 24<sup>th</sup>, to work on the Pool 13 drawdown. He mentioned that many of the Pool Plan features fall under Floodplain Regulations. The bathymetrics have been completed for Pool 11 thru 22 and he expects a draft report to be completed in mid-February this year with the final report expected in late March or early April. He sees the complete Pool Planning effort as being in 3 phases: a Master Plan, FWIC goals, and Pool Planning. His question to the RRCT was what part would the RRCT play in making all these components come together. The FWIC would like to see this effort go forward.

- Gary Christoff, MODOC, questioned who and what is involved in the Pool Planning effort and to what extent. (i.e., How do pool plans fit in with the habitat needs assessment? What authority are they under? Where will they fit in the river's ecosystem management?)
- Mike Griffin, IA DNR, stated that he understood the purpose is to mesh several programs into the Pool Plans.

- It was discussed and determined that the RRCT is responsible and was commissioned, to see to the Administrative needs for successfully accomplishing the goals of the various components for pool planning effort.

Jeff Janvrin, WI DNR, then gave a presentation on the St. Paul District's Reach Plan and focused on each pool. This plan was completed in November 2000. Individual pool plan development went on from January 2001 through July 2001. They held 5 public meetings in September 2001 and the District's plans were very well received by the public.

### 13. FLOW FREQUENCY STUDY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Jerry Skalak gave a brief presentation on the status of the Flow Frequency Study. All hydro modeling to be completed by August 2002 and will have public meetings for their feedback in September-October timeframe. The Hydraulics Appendices are completed. The General Investigation (GI) cuts for savings and slippage, could impact the Flow Frequency Study. He stressed the importance of this being a valuable tool.

Comprehensive Planning, utilized in association with the Navigation Study, is an important and essential element, in the perspective of Floodplain Management.

### 14. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (EMP)

Roger Perk, COE, PM – M, went over a list of work ongoing within the Rock Island District.

There is an EMPCC meeting planned for late February, and there will be an EMP Workshop, where engineers and biologists will get together, February 20 – 21, 2002, in St. Louis, to address the technical issues of a project.

The District is working on evaluations for the five-project proposal to FWIC:

- Beaver Island – Pool 14
- Huron Island – Pool 18
- Fox Island – Gregory Ditch, Pool 20
- Henderson 3 Levee District – Pool 18
- Upper Peoria Pool (which involves more than one area for consideration) – Crow Creek/Weis Lake/Duck Lake/Bilsbach Lake

Roger would rather not bunch up projects. He stated it makes it much more difficult for evaluation.

### 15. DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (DMMP) UPDATE

Frank Monfeli, PM, briefed the RRCT on the District's newly formed DMMP Team, which represents one member from each area of expertise and involvement in the DMMP studies. The offices represented are:

- Operations
- Real Estate
- Programs Project Management
- Environmental
- Engineering

These individuals are meant to assure better communications between the individual project study team members and to provide guidance to keep the study process running more efficiently. Frank also mentioned that the District received under \$1.5M for the DMMP program and expects the same or less next year.

Fred Hanshaw, PM-M, mentioned that the District's prioritization of plans have aided in the individual teams focusing better on their project and allows improved planning for an individual's workload schedule. We have scaled down from 29 to 3 projects per river. The plan is to have 3 reports completed with 2 acquisitions for each river. He then went over the schedules on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, DMMP studies.

Mark Cornish, PM-A, updated on the Programmatic NEPA document and how it could be used in Pool Planning. He explained the process as being synergistic, and used the example of the Land Cover/Land Use information developed by the EMP being useful in quantifying long-term impacts of dredged material placement. Fred, along with Mark, provided a brief slide presentation on DMMP and Pool Planning, (see enclosure 4). The slides represent the methodology in developing a pool and the input/output concept. Who is to be involved for developing the Comprehensive Study? The goals of Pool Plans are to work smart now by knowing what was done in the past and predicting what to expect in the future. Channel maintenance people have been working on comprehensive planning for several years through refining data sets and completing long term dredged material placement plans. One very important lesson learned was that quality GIS information is essential and that changing technology keeps pool planning an ever evolving target.

#### 16. POOL PLANNING DISCUSSION BY ALL:

There were several concerns raised for discussion:

- How is the District using DMMP to develop pool plans?
- It seems that there are too many people bogging down the processes. How can one be environmentally sustainable, using the river the way we do?
- FWIC, EMP, Navigation Study and DMMPS all developing pool plans and using the guidance from DMMPs.
- Need to use the most effort on 'hot spots' for pool plans.
- How much authority does the RRCT have? Each member represents their agency and is commissioned to this by higher authority. Take risks.
- The RRCT evolved from the ORRMT, (see enclosure 5), which was established out of the GREAT II study, but what kind of management/framework is expected for Channel Maintenance, EMP, Nav. Study and Pool Planning?
- It is going to cost more to maintain the channel because of what HQ is requiring of us. Suggest HQ provide equal amount of money to invest in the Environment.
- Suggestion: MVD should step back and let a Commission do all the coordination.
- Need to discuss the authority of RRCT and make recommendation for authority for the next meeting.
- Get other agencies involved, i.e. NRCS.
- Invite NRCS to next RRCT meeting.

Questions or comments on the meeting minutes may be directed to Mr. Frank Monfeli (CEMVR-PM), telephone 309/794-5640, or Email at [frank.c.monfeli@usace.army.mil](mailto:frank.c.monfeli@usace.army.mil).

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Kenn Shoemaker, P.E., COE  
RRCT Co-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
GARY CHRISTOFF, MODC  
RRCT Co-Chairman

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**8 January 2002**

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Isle of Capri Hotel – Isle Center  
**Bettendorf, Iowa**  
 (Revised)

**RIVER RESOURCES COORDINATING TEAM (RRCT)  
 AGENDA**

**January 8, 2002**

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Approximate time</u>
Approve Agenda & October Meeting Minutes	Kenn Shoemaker Gary Christoff	11:00 – 11:15
<del>Operations &amp; Maintenance Budget</del>	<del>Kenn Shoemaker</del>	<del>11:15 – 11:30</del>
404 Impact Analysis	Mark Cornish / Mike Cox	11:30 – 11:35
CARS Update	Mike Cox	11:35 – 11:40
Dredging Update	Mike Cox	11:40 – 11:45
Environmental Continuing Authorities -Section 204 Program -Section 206 & 1135 Update	Dorie Bollman	11:45 – 11:50
RNA & IL River Ecosystem	Dorie Bollman	
LTRMP Update	Scott Whitney	11:50 – 12:00
<b>LUNCH</b>		<b>12:30 – 1:30</b>
<b>Pool Planning Discussions:</b>		
Navigation Study	Denny Lundberg	1:30 – 1:45
FWIC Update & Comprehensive Plan UMR Refuges	USFWS - Bob Clevenstine Jeff Janvrin – WI DNR	1:45 – 2:00
Environmental Management Program	Roger Perk	2:00 – 2:15
Comprehensive Plan and Flow Frequency Update	Jerry Skalak	2:15 – 2:30
<b>Break</b>		<b>2:30 – 2:45</b>

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**RIVER RESOURCES COORDINATING TEAM (RRCT)**  
**AGENDA**  
**(Continued)**

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Approximate time</u>
DMMP Update & Channel Maintenance & Pool Planning	Frank Monfeli Fred Hanshaw Mark Cornish	2:45 – 3:00
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>3:00 – 5:00</b>
Administrative Issues – Set Next Meeting Dates	Kenn Shoemaker & Gary Christoff	5:00
May 21, 2002 (week of) October 2002		

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the River Resources Coordinating Team (RRCT) are to:

- (1) Provide a mechanism for all Federal and State agencies with management or regulatory responsibilities along the Mississippi River and tributaries in the Rock Island District area to facilitate the coordination of their programs and activities.
- (2) Allow other interested parties to express their concerns and views to the agencies.