

RIVER RESOURCES COORDINATING TEAM (RRCT)  
MEETING MINUTES

21 May 2002

Hampton Inn Meeting Center - Davenport, 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), and Missouri Department of Conservation (MODOC), U.S. Department of Transportation (MARAD) and Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri River Association (UMIMRA).

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WIDNR) was unable to attend due to the State's travel restrictions at this time. 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.

A copy of the January 2002 meeting minutes and the Agenda (enclosure 2) was provided to the RRCT members and there were two corrections to the minutes; page 1, para. 3, first sentence; changed "authorizations" to "appropriations". Page 2, para. 5, bullet Pool 22; after "...placed along 1000'..." delete "of bankline". The minutes will reflect the changes and the RRCT approved the Agenda and January meeting minutes as corrected.

3. NAVIGATION STUDY

Denny Lundberg, PM, gave an overview of the status of the Navigation Study. The draft interim report was out on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, for the stakeholders' review and comments. A stakeholders meeting is scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the comments and positions on the report. The submission of the Interim Report is scheduled for Headquarter's review in July 02. Denny went through a slide presentation with detailed explanation on the processes used in developing the restructured Navigation Study (see enclosure 3).

A discussion involving what roles would the various agencies and special interest groups have in making decisions and under what authority? Consensus of the RRCT was to develop a unified group specifically in the interest of the Upper Mississippi River and proceed to obtain support and special authorization to work together. Participants would be Federal, State and local governments and funding should be shared. Gary Christoff suggested the Corps would be the right agency to develop and spearhead a group because of their authorities and to keep other agencies involved. Also suggested that each District (St. Paul, St. Louis and Rock Island) keep consistent with each other through diligent coordination.

Several people voiced their concern with the fact that everyone knows where we're going, but we don't see the architecture yet. The question was posed as to the possibility of each agency laying out goals and then get together to contribute knowledge and funds, or are we required to organize a formal group and go to Congress for their approval?

Denny assured the RRCT that 9 months from now, we (meaning the Corps and the other groups/agencies involved) will have developed the basic architecture. Dick Steinbach of the FWS, Refuge Systems, voiced concern that in one workshop a feasibility study would be developed and finalized. Denny assure him that the workshop is a tool to get people geared up to get involved in working on the feasibility study. Bill Bertrand, ILDNR, commented that an integrated management will not happen without funding and we need specific designated authority to get funding.

The authority and funding was mentioned in various points during the meeting. The discussion ended with each of the members being charged to think about how this challenge can be resolved.

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

Fred Hanshaw, PM-M, went over the schedules on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, DMMP studies.

Mike Griffin questioned as to why the Public Notice on Keithsburg/Huron went out before the Report itself was received for public review? Fred explained that he was not aware that the Public Notice had been sent out, and the signature sheet was slower than usual in getting through the system.

He then presented the following DMMP reports' site plans (see enclosure 4), with brief explanation of each plan, for the Board's recommendation to the Colonel:

- Howards/LaGrange – Christoff, MODOC, moved to recommend, seconded by Nelson, FWS.
- LaMarsh/Pekin Bend – Clark, ILDNR, moved to recommend, seconded by Griffin, IADNR.
- Beardstown Site 5 – Clark, ILDNR, moved to recommend, seconded by Griffin, IADNR.

Bob Clevestine, FWS/FWIC, commended the COE for accomplishing the Conservation Plan on Beardstown.

Steinbach, FWS, suggested removal of Willow Bar Island, from the FWL Cooperation Agreement in DMMP plan, per Rod Hallstrom, COE, RE-A.

Fred then reported that the Programmatic NEPA, ITR has been completed and the document will be sent out; some in hard copy, some in CD ROM, for Public Review and MVD approval. It will also be posted on the Internet.

#### 5. SECTION 404 STUDIES

Mark Cornish reported on status of 4 the 5 ongoing 404 studies which is analysis of the impacts of Dredged material placement.

- Fisheries study: The contractor is Carterville field office of FWS, is providing 4 years of sampling the Illinois River near Havana (Senate Island) and the Mississippi River at Pool 21 (Hogback Island). On the IWW, Senate Island flooded this month and will not be studied. Next year they will take samples before and after material placement.
- Invertebrate's study: The contractor completed fieldwork at Hogback Pool 21. Chuck Theiling, COE, is overseeing this contract.
- Vegetation study: The contractor to finish analysis of the last three year's data this summer. No other work to be done. Steve Johnson, COE, is coordinating this contract.
- Sediment transport study: Sampling at Campbell's Island began after material placement and another sampling in late December. Analysis is ongoing, with the completion of a draft report scheduled for June this year.

- The report on Micro-modeling Analysis was completed in February. The study on 3-D computer modeling by WES anticipated completion by this summer and reports by end of 2002.
- The reports for the studies on mussels and vegetation, should be complete this year. Studies on fisheries, sediment transport, and invertebrates will actually continue on a case by case basis.

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

Mike Cox, COE, OD-T, 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, (see enclosure 5). The main changes made on the plan are shaded in grey.

- Sabula/Dark Slough – Two years behind on work and won't be done this year either.
- 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.
- Pool 24 – Bank stabilization, rock placement at Sny Levee/Drainage District.
- Pool 18 – below Oquawka Bend, rebuild wing dam.
- Webster Mounds – possibly do some bankline protection, 600 ft. Slough is cutting into the bankline, exposing artifacts especially since the Spring's high water event.

Kenn Shoemaker, COE, OD, stated the rock budget has been cut and continues to be cut, so we need to prioritize.

## 7. DREDGING UPDATE

Mike Cox provided copies of the Schedule of Projected Dredging Locations for 2002 on each river (see enclosure 6) and reported that there was an emergency action taken at Turtle Island – Pool 22. The material was placed behind the South River Levee and used to expand the flank levee. There is also an immediate need to dredge at Furnal Island – Pool 18. COE to contract dredge, St. Paul. The base rate is low, but the travel distance ups the costs considerably.

Mike also mentioned the need to maintain Willow Island by cutting trees and developing the 'bathtub' for DMMP. Another concern for DMMP is that at Whitney Light – Pool 22, and eagle nesting was discovered which would determine the timing of work at that DMMP site.

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (EMP)

Roger Perk, COE, PM – M, reported on the FY03 program and that there is a squeeze on the budget. Letters have gone up to the House and Senate Committees requesting more money for the budget. The Appropriations Committee still hasn't responded.

The District has 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/Weiss Lake/Duck Lake/Bilsbach Lake

After sitting down and going through the ranking system, Fox Island came out on top of the list. They do need more spatial information to analyze the distribution of ‘key’ habitat. They also found a need to refine the criteria in more detail per site. Questions were raised as to how ‘key’ habitat is defined and what is the relationship of the project to other plans, such as pool planning, etc? Key habitat, simply put, depends on each individual site and it’s uniqueness, what it is best suited to.

Henderson #3 - project relies on land acquisition and land availability. If it becomes available, it may suddenly become the number one on the list and would add over 1000 acres for water resource use.

More information will be provided to the RRCT on Huron Island – Pool 18 and Upper Peoria Pool.

Report to Congress – The final author on this report will be the Corps. They will pull it all together, with input from other various agencies.

Mark Cornish, PM-M, reported on the Long Term Resource Management Program (LTRMP)

- The financial status: The FY02 budget for LTRMP was \$5,150,000.
- With the FY03 budget we will continue acquisition of bathymetry work.

Mark went on to explain the HNA (Habitat Needs Assessment) is a query tool that has been developed for our use. Cost for license is only \$100 compared to the ARCVIEW’s \$1000. HNA has 3 components, they are: GIS framework, Matrix wizard and data set drawn from the HNA query tool, which will load image data, import tabular data and create maps and charts. The stand alone version of the HNA Query tool will cost \$125, and will be available in August this year.

#### 9. WATERSHED & ECOSYSTEM PROGRAMS (ILLINOIS RIVER ECOSYSTEM)

Teresa Kincaid, Acting Chief, PM-M, reported that the status of the Peoria Riverfront Improvement is that the ITR is complete and it was forwarded for Public Review and to MVD. Illinois River Ecosystem Restoration study has not changed since the last report to the RRCT. The ILDNR is the Corps cost-share partner and we may receive GI funds for next year. This study is scheduled for completion in December 2003.

#### 10. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTINUING AUTHORITIES

Teresa Kincaid, Acting Chief, PM-M, reported that the status of projects has not changed, and there are no changes strategically.

#### 11. FWIC UPDATE AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UMR REFUGES

Bob Clevenstine, FWS, representing the Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee (FWIC), gave the status of the Environmental Pool Plans. Due to shortage of funds, the drafts will wait to be worked on this summer, and there are no specific dates for completion to date.

#### 12. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND FLOW FREQUENCY STUDY

Jerry Skalak gave a presentation on the status of the Flow Frequency Study. It is anticipated that we are looking at \$1.5M to continue the study. The heaviest part of the hydro modeling needs resolution of issues and glitches. The draft is to be completed for public review is projected for second week of October, 2002 and we will have public meetings November 12<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.

Jerry also mentioned that FEMA is receiving substantial funding to develop digital flood insurance rate maps and the Corps has been designated to receive a part of the funds to assist in the development of such maps. Corps must provide scoping needs to FEMA for July and November.

Comprehensive Planning – He’s looking at the reconnaissance level of detail, which is hydraulics and hydrology, economics, etc, and would require approximately \$5-6M for the study. Corps is still trying to do some Plan Formulation and Floodplain planning.

### 13. FY02 AND FY03 BUDGET STATUS

FY02 – O&M funding for the entire division of MVD was \$27.0M. Rock Island’s request for funds fell short by \$3.0M. The funds only covered 40 days of dredging, which is usually 70 days. COE had to decide what they can and can’t do with what they had. Hopefully we will be able to get more funds to continue the year. FY03 may be a little better, more consistent with the past couple of years. It is a possibility that additional funds will be authorized to do the backlogged items on the locks and dams.

Construction General (CG) – The focus for FY03 is to continue Loves Park (capable of \$7.5M), and perform rehab on Lock and Dams 11 and 12.

In March, at the states meetings with Iowa and Illinois, the General Investigation (GI) study funds were discussed for Des Moines and for the Flow Frequency Plan. FY03 – the ceiling is lower than the needs and capabilities. Funding is needed to continue on the following studies:

- Illinois Ecosystem
- Rock River Ecosystem
- Peoria Riverfront Restoration
- Fort Dodge Ecosystem Rehab.
- Navigation Study
- Lower Des Moines River – Saylorville to Keokuk.

Congress is presently having hearings on the WRDA 02.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

It was suggested and agreed upon by the RRCT, that there will not be a meeting in August this year, but that the next meeting will be planned for the first part of October.

Questions or comments on the meeting minutes may be directed to (CEMVR-PM), telephone 309/794- , or Email at .

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Kenn Shoemaker, P.E., COE  
RRCT Co-Chairman

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Gary Christoff, MODC  
RRCT Co-Chairman

**RRCT ATTENDANCE LIST****21 May 2002**

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