

DRAFT

River Resources Coordinating Team Meeting
12 May 2004

Memorandum for Record (MFR)

Meeting location: Hampton Inn, Davenport, IA

Meeting attendees

CEMVR

Mike Cox	Roger Perk	Mark Schroeder
Kenn Shoemaker	Steve Johnson	Frank Monfeli
Kevin Landwehr	Mark Cornish	Camie Knollenberg
Jerry Skalak		

USFWS

Jon Duyvejonck

IA DNR

Mike Griffin

ILDNR

Robert Schanzle*
Scott Stuewe*
Rick Mullahan*

MDOC

Janet Sternburg*

* - participated via speaker phone

Note: This meeting MFR was provided to M. Cox and S. Johnson for initial review and subsequently to the primary presenters for their review prior to distribution to the RRCT members. Final approval of this meeting MFR will be requested at the next meeting of the RRCT.

1. The meeting started at 12:50 p.m. K. Shoemaker welcomed participants and requested introductions. K. Shoemaker called for a motion to approve previous meeting minutes. M. Griffin motioned to approve. Motion carried. A request for additions/modifications to the agenda (attachment 1) was made, none were offered.
2. K. Shoemaker spoke on the status of the FY04 O&M budget and how constraints, are taking their toll (e.g. reduced contracting, increases in maintenance backlog, release of contract employees, reductions in services, etc.). He noted that the FY05 budget is on a similar track as the FY04 budget. M. Schroeder summarized the status of other Corps budget components. He noted that high savings and slippage rates continue to result in even tighter budgets. GI is already 83% obligated and 71 % expended while we are barely half way through the FY. Navigation Study is experiencing a high rate of expenditure and remains highest priority for any additional funding.

The UMR Comprehensive Plan will likely run out of funds by late June if not sooner. CG still has funds but we are now just entering the construction season. FY05 S&S rates could be even higher than FY04 rates. The President's FY05 budget does not include funding for the Navigation Study even though a capability of \$18 million was expressed. EMP is in the President's FY05 budget for (\$28 million) while the expressed capability was \$33.52 million. The impacts of inflation on flat or declining budgets are taking their toll. K. Shoemaker added that, traditionally, the S&S rate on the O&M budget has been +/- 2%. It was 6.5-7% in Fy04 and may be as high as 9%+ in FY 05. M. Griffin asked how partners might help with respect to S&S figures. K. Shoemaker explained how it is calculated (it is a direct function of how Congress sets spending limits and then adds projects). There was no definitive advice as to how the partners could help to minimize S&S percentages. Their continued support for budget amounts as requested is ultimately most important.

3. K. Shoemaker expects the District to have a \$1.3 million shortfall in the UMR dredging budget this FY.

Navigation Study (attachment 2)

1. M. Cornish briefed the attendees on the status of the Navigation Study. He highlighted the fact that the Draft Feasibility Study w/Integrated EIS was recently distributed. His presentation included an overview of the report contents.
2. J. Sternburg (MDOC) inquired if appendices are available via the Study website. M. Cornish will confirm and provide answer [note: subsequent to the distribution of this MFR M. Cornish confirmed that the appendices are available via the web]
3. M. Cornish acknowledged that the National Academy is reviewing the draft recommendations (navigation improvements and ecosystem restoration).
4. M. Griffin asked about the significant disparity in early levels of investment between navigation efficiency improvements and ecosystem restoration. In response K. Shoemaker pointed out that mitigation for navigation improvements will take place up front and that these costs are included in the cost estimates for navigation improvements (not the ecosystem restoration component).
5. M. Griffin expressed concerns based on L&D 26 experience and the Corps credibility with respect to carrying out out-year environmental restoration commitments.
6. M. Cornish noted that the official review/comment period for the draft feasibility report is 90 days and that 8 public meetings are scheduled for this June. He went on to state that the final feasibility report is scheduled to be distributed this September and the Chief's Report in November.

EMP

1. R. Perk reported the following general program and project-specific status information:
 - a. Program outreach plan development is continuing.
 - b. A new program brochure is being prepared under the direction of G. Benjamin, WI DNR.
 - c. Two teams are being set up for FY05 project selection and prioritization support. These teams are the DET (District Evaluation Team) and the SET (System Evaluation Team).
 - d. The Report to Congress is currently out for public review and that comments are due by May 14th. He also noted that the Commander's Notice is still expected in the July timeframe.
 - e. The LTRMP SOW is now in place and the assessment team is working on comments. Recommendations as to how to reduce the base program to allow for more focused research and analysis are expected prior to the next EMP-CC meeting.
 - f. Although the program is in the FY05 President's budget at \$28 million the Corps is developing its program based on \$19 million due to the program's funding history.:

- g. Pool 11 Islands
 - i. Base construction is done
 - ii. Awarding 2 contract options for additional shallow dredging
 - iii. 2 media events are scheduled during May
- h. Pool 12 overwintering habitat
 - i. Public review draft is currently out for review and comment
- i. Lake Odessa
 - i. Cultural resources concerns need to be addressed
 - ii. Public review draft has been prepared
- j. Fox Island
 - i. Public Review draft prepared
- k. Gardner Division
 - i. Main contract work done
 - ii. Minor completion items remain to be accomplished
- l. Rice Lake
 - i. Meeting with State scheduled for next month
 - ii. Multiple project close-outs are underway.

IL River Ecosystem Study and Environmental CAP (Sections 1135, 206, 204)

1. C. Knollenberg reported the following:
 - a. IL River Ecosystem Study:
 - i. The draft feasibility study report is done
 - ii. Development of the draft feasibility study report has been a national effort
 - iii. Funding is quickly becoming an issue; hoping to get through at least public review stage before funding runs out.
 - iv. 3 site specific projects are being developed: Pekin North; Pekin South; and Waubonsie.
 - b. Environmental CAP (attachment 3)
 - i. Funding both 1135 and 206 projects was pulled earlier this year
 - ii. One Section 1135 and four Section 206 projects are still being worked on.
 - iii. Funding for Section 204 is not a problem now however need is increasing.
 - iv. The Milan Bottoms Section 1135 project is done; the 1st periodic inspection of this project is pending
 - v. Several projects are on hold pending availability of funding
 - vi. Black Hawk Bottoms Section 204 project kick-off meeting is to be held yet this week

UMR Comprehensive Plan (attachment 4)

1. K. Landwehr reported the following:
 - a. Flood damage reduction is the primary purpose of the Study
 - b. Team is currently evaluating various levels of protection alternatives (confined and unconfined)
 - c. The hydraulic impacts of various actions (e.g. flood fighting) are being evaluated
 - d. Any impacts to the MR&T will be minimized
 - e. Collaboration team input to the NED/NER is being coordinated
 - f. FY04 funding constraints will soon (June timeframe) affect the project
 - g. There is \$944K in the FY05 President's budget
 - h. Recommended plan needs to be economically justified

Floodplain Management (attachment 5 [slide 6])

1. J. Skalak provided the following status update on:
 - a. Flow Frequency Study
 - i. Final report and appendices available thru web site.
 - ii. Nearly 100 CDs of final report and appendices distributed to date
 - iii. Portfolio plates developed for UMR
 - iv. Elevation data (DEM's, break lines and mass points) being made available via Internet
 - v. Query tool developed to find profiles by river mile
 - b. Floodway Computations
 - i. UMR deliverables late June/early July
 - ii. Project coordinated with States and FEMA with UMRBA facilitation support
 - c. Planning Assistance to States(PAS)/Floodplain Management Services (FPMS)
 - i. PAS - Sunset Marina entrance channel numerical and micro models being developed to support solutions to siltation problems
 - ii. PAS - LaSalle/I&M Canal dredging plan being developed for restoration of limited reach of canal
 - iii. FPMS – SOW for H&H analysis of Joyces Slough, Clinton, IA being developed

DMMP (attachments 5,6, and 7)

1. J. Skalak reported on program funding status and study/implementation progress-to-date. Copies of current program milestones schedule and expected FY04 products were provided. He confirmed that no RRCT approval recommendation actions are required at this time. He also noted that previously projected contracting activities, including certain acquisition actions, have been postponed until FY05 due to current FY budgetary constraints.
2. J. Skalak provided the following project specific status information:
 - a. Sabula – public review scheduled to begin 6/04
 - b. Keithsburg – real estate preparations being made to acquire the mitigation site during the 1st quarter of FY05
 - c. Kemps/Craigel – purchase offer has been made for the mitigation site
 - d. Howards/LaGrange – purchase offer has been made
 - e. Lucas-Berg CDF – site analysis progressing
 - f. Grist Island – public review 6/04
 - g. LaSalle – draft report 6/04; phase I cult. Resources investigation underway
 - h. Spring Valley – draft report yet this FY
 - i. Pekin/LaMarsh – real estate preparations being made to acquire the placement site and access during the 1st quarter of FY05
 - j. Quiver Island- expect to advance report this FY beyond initial schedule
 - k. Beardstown Site 1 Chorus Frog monitoring – continuing
3. B. Schanzel noted that the State of IL has issued a real estate permit to allow testing and surveying on the State property at the Spring Valley site.
4. M. Griffin inquired about the status of mitigation at Huron Island.

DMMP Channel Maintenance Pool Planning (attachment 8)

1. S. Johnson provided a presentation on District channel maintenance pool planning initiative:
 - a. The CM pool plans will contribute to overall District systemic/comprehensive pool planning goal

- b. CM pool planning priorities will be pools 18 & 21 on the UMR and LaGrange pool on the IWW.
- c. Efforts this FY will be focused on Pool 18 and LaGrange.
- 2. M. Griffin asked why an “easy” pool was not being used for initial CM pool plan development. M. Cox responded that there is a need to address high priority areas first
- 3. CM pool plans are primarily intended to address channel maintenance dredging and dredged material placement activities and CARS. Certain other pool planning components, such as navigation facilities (e.g. access needs, harbors, etc.) and permitted activities (e.g. stream crossings, etc.) may also be incorporated.

Dredge Thompson

- 1. M. Griffen asked about the capabilities of the new Dredge Thompson and wondered if it will allow for better use of existing gravel/mining pits as dredged material placement sites. In response M. Cox provided the following:
 - a. Will have pumping distance capability of 7,000’ w/o booster; 9,000-11,000’ w/booster
 - b. Will require less labor and booster pump usage than old dredge however will not provide significant additional distance capability

404 Studies (attachment 9)

- 1. M. Cornish provided the following:
 - a. The studies consist of 5 major components
 - b. 404 permit renewal is a 2004 study product
 - c. Study results were presented at UMRCC meeting
 - d. Sediment transport micromodel is calibrated
 - e. Analysis of dyed sand study is continuing
 - f. Fish
 - i. Draft report
 - ii. Draft journal article
 - iii. Seeing some shifting in minnow species communities
 - g. Future steps
 - i. SOW for Island 241 plant monitoring
 - ii. Data mining still needs to be done
 - iii. Sediment transport report needs to be completed
 - iv. Document shifts in fish microhabitats

CARS/Dredging

- 1. M. Cox provided the following:
 - d. Sabula rock work, although started in 1999, will still require several years to complete
 - e. IA is monitoring fish (radio tagging)
 - i. Corps is paying for tags
 - ii. IA is providing tracking labor and resources
 - f. Oquawka
 - i. Emergency dredging needs
 - g. Pool 18 Micromodel study
 - i. Multi-purpose
 - ii. Final report yet this FY
 - iii. MVS will review and validate

- h. IL River
- i. Significantly less \$ than necessary for dredging are available
 - i. Additional buoys
 - ii. Increased surveying and monitoring efforts to help reduce dredging needs
 - iii. UMR reconnaissance report is done and available on the web
- j. ILWW
 - i. Reconnaissance surveys are underway
 - ii. May be OK with respect to dredging funding
 - iii. Anderson Lake is a high priority
 - iv. Channel stabilization project
- k. Non-DMMP EAs will be addressing L&Ds with out current temporary placement sites (e.g. expanded Brandon Road lock site)
- l. M. Griffen asked if tow boat operators could be held financially liable for any additional dredging necessitated by a tow boat grounding event. M. Cox was not aware of any recourse that could be taken by the Corps. He did note that the Coast Guard does have some authority but that enforcement is very difficult.
- m. The topic of safety zones was raised. K. Shoemaker stated that Corps' OC is hesitant to pursue this issue. In addition, the Coast Guard has final authority to regulate safety zones.
- n. M. Cox added that due to the projected dredging funding constraints more bankline placement (e.g. Willow Bar Island) may be necessary this season.
- o. M. Griffin complimented the Corps on its commitment to accomplishing the 404 Studies and the valuable information those studies is producing. MDOC inquired about development of associated query tools. It was confirmed that basic tool has been developed, however this will be an ongoing effort.

The next RRCT meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 20th from noon to 4:00 P.M. It will be held in Rock Island at the Corps of Engineers' main conference room (Clock Tower building).

Kenn Shoemaker,
Chief, CEMVR-OD

Cf: PM-M (Dist File)