

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 2-3, 2006.

1. A meeting of the River Resources Coordinating Team was held on May 2nd 12:30-4:30 and May 3rd from 8:30-12:00 in the Rock Island District, Conference Rooms ABC. The agenda is provided as Attachment 1. The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Kenn Shoemaker, Corps (Co-chair)	George Hardison, Corps
Mike Griffin, Iowa DNR (Co-chair)	Teresa Kincaid, Corps
Jim Fischer, Wisconsin DNR	Ken Barr, Corps
Martin Konrad, Iowa DNR	Bill Graham, Corps
Bob Schanzle, Illinois DNR	Scott Whitney, Corps
Janet Sternburg, Missouri Department of Conservation	Marvin Hubbell, Corps
George Schaefers, NRCS Iowa	Brad Thompson, Corps
Bob Dean, NRCS Illinois	Dorie Bollman, Corps
Rick Nelson, USFWS Rock Island Field Office	Ken Cook, Corps
Jon Duyvejonck, USFWS Rock Island Field Office	Steve Johnson, Corps
Bob Clevenstine, USFWS Rock Island Field Office	Jodi Staebell, Corps
Tim Yager, USFWS Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge	Lynn Parker, Corps
Ed Britton, USFWS Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge (phone-in)	
Vicky Stoller, UMIMRA (phone-in)	
Mark McNally, Mid-American Port Commission (phone-in on 5/3)	
Mike Klingner, Klingner and Associates (phone-in on 5/3)	

2. The group approved the minutes of the January 2006 meeting without revision. The final minutes are included as Attachment 2.

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3. Watershed and Ecosystem Programs/Environmental Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)

(Brad Thompson)

Public meetings were held coinciding with the public review of the Illinois River Basin Restoration Comprehensive Plan. Six meetings were held in March 7-9 and 14-16 with a total of 175 in attendance. The Illinois River Basin Restoration Program adds significant new restoration capabilities by providing a mechanism to address the entire watershed in addition to the mainstem. The US Fish and Wildlife Service noted the report needs an expanded explanation regarding coordination with the Environmental Management Program (EMP), Navigation Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) and other restoration programs. Jon Duyvejonck stated that coordination of programs and projects at the RRCT would address FWS concerns, but he stated he would like to see the coordination with RRCT formalized in the report. Brad noted that he anticipated that roughly 75% of the projects on the mainstem Illinois River would be funded by EMP or NESP. Mike Griffin expressed concern that mainstem projects on the Illinois River would compete with EMP and NESP funding on the Mississippi River. Thompson noted that Corps headquarters has concerns with perceived high amount of funding for the monitoring component. Thompson reported that planning work has been completed on four Critical Restoration Projects (Peoria - Upper Island, Pekin Lake - Northern Unit, Pekin Lake - Southern Unit, and Waubonsie Creek) and is ongoing for projects seven projects (Starved Rock Pool; Alton Pool, side channels and islands; Kankakee River Riffles; Fox River-Batavia Dam; Blackberry Creek; Senachwine Creek; and Yellow River, IN). A brochure was distributed (Attachment 3)

Brad Thompson reported on the following Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration CAPs:

Emiquon (Lewiston, IL)- The Nature Conservancy is working to get the Wetland Reserve Program easement executed and site planning with NRCS initiated prior to further detailed planning on potential river connection components with the Corps.

Storm Lake (Storm Lake, IA) – The feasibility phase of study will be initiated soon.

Ventura Marsh (Clear Lake, IA) - Feasibility study and evaluation of alternatives is ongoing.

Blackhawk Bottoms (Burlington, IA) – Archaeological contractor is carrying out cultural resources investigations.

4. Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) (Jerry Skalak)

The DMMP Products List is included as Attachment 4. The District is moving forward on acquisition of a number of sites including Bass Island partial acquisition of Site 6, Beaver Island Site 11, Kemps-Craigel Site 2. The final report for Lock 21 DMMP is scheduled for July 2006.

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The Keithsburg-Oquawka Mitigation Site has been acquired. Vicky Stoller noted that Two Rivers Levee and Drainage District are meeting next week to vote on the river-side access agreement. The Corps will provide funds to the USFWS to implement restoration of site and site management. Hunting will not be allowed at the mitigation site. Bob Clevensine acknowledged Tom Cox (USFWS) for his coordination efforts with the mitigation site landowner.

The Channel Maintenance Management Plan (ChaMMPs) efforts on the Illinois Waterway have been shut down due to funding shortfalls. The Pool 18 ChaMMP is being finalized. There will be a public meeting June 13 in Fort Madison, IA for the Pool 19 ChaMMP. The group briefly discussed the lack of placement sites for any channel maintenance work in Pool 19 where there is no Corps fee title land. Some GIS work and cultural archival search has been initiated for the Pool 20 ChaMMP.

Jerry Skalak reported that work continues on the legislative proposal for Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs). This would allow levee districts to provide lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations and disposal (LERRDs) on behalf of landowners in the levee district. Vicky Stoller asked for a copy of the proposed legislation. Jerry Skalak or an individual from the Corps legal office will contact Stoller regarding this request.

5. Floodplain Management Services (Jerry Skalak)

Jerry Skalak report on the following floodplain management studies:

a. Joyce's Slough. Joyce's Slough (near Clinton, IA) report is complete. It showed that the sediment contribution from local upland sources plays a larger role than sediment from the Mississippi River in the filling in of Joyce's Slough.

b. FEMA Map Modernization and Levee Certification.

Levee Certification is on hold pending guidance from FEMA and Corps Headquarters on how to conduct levee certification. Vicky Stoller stated that some of the levee districts have received letters from FEMA Regional 7 stating that certification of levee height and strength will be required for the levee to be shown on FEMA maps. Stoller asked if the Federally-constructed levees will receive Federal funding to bring them up to certification standards if they are not currently at certification standards. Kenn Shoemaker stated that the Corps will get back to Ms. Stoller regarding who to talk to get these concern addressed by the decision-makers.

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6. Dredging and Committee to Assess Regulating Structures (CARS) Bill Graham

Bill Graham report on dredging projects for 2006 (Attachment 5). An Environmental Assessment for a placement site near the Quincy Bridge was initiated. Lock 21 stabilization was initiated. Hogback Island Wing Dam 22 will be rebuilt. The Corps may help the Coast Guard with placement of aids to navigation. Mechanical dredging is anticipated at Lock 20 Upper and Lower, Lock 21 Upper and Lower, Lock 22 Lower, and Lock 14 Upper. Hydraulic dredging on the Upper Mississippi River is projected to start August 1st. Hydraulic dredging on the Illinois Waterway is uncertain due to funding limitations. Dredging will likely be conducted with a mechanical dredge and the majority of the sites will not likely be done this year. For dredging on the Illinois River only 2 upland placement sites will be used this year – Bulls Upper and Starved Rock Lower. The majority of the dredged material will be placed on the bankline and will be coordinated with the On-site Inspection Team (OSIT). The LaGrange dredge cut may be dredged hydraulically but will have bankline placement. Priority dredging areas for the Illinois Waterway are LaMarsh Pekin Bend- Turkey Island, Duck Island and Senate Island. The dredge cuts near Mackinaw are still visible.

7. 404 Studies (Ken Cook)

Ken Cook gave a brief overview of the 404 studies (Attachment 6). The draft summary report will undergo independent technical review (ITR) before it is finalized. The report is scheduled for completion and distribution in August 2006. Bob Schanzle asked if the Corps planned to dive in Illinois River to see if mussels are recolonizing the dredge cuts. Bob noted that this must be done quickly if this information is to be included in the summary report. The Corps replied that it was too late to include Schanzle's dive information in the summary report, but that the information would be useful in planning future projects and should be considered during the next 404 permit review. The Wisconsin DNR asked to have Jim Fischer added to the distribution list for the report. The summary report and other data will be considered when the Corps applies for the next 404 permit in FY08.

8. Environmental Management Program (EMP) (Marvin Hubbell)

A summary of EMP status is attached (Attachment 7).

Marvin Hubbell highlighted the ways in which the FY06 appropriations bill has affected EMP. The bill prohibits initiation of new projects. Since the Beaver Island and Huron Island projects were initiated previously, work on these projects will continue. No other new Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Projects (HREPs) will be initiated. The prohibition on continuing contracts will affect how the construction contracts for HREPs are implemented. Work will be broken into phases that can be fully funded.

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Beaver Island and Huron Island HREP Fact Sheets were approved by MVD. Pool 11 Islands and Lake Odessa will be impacted by the requirement to fully fund contracts. Construction on Pool 11 is being completed with final shaping and planting and modification of the inlet structures. The Final DPR for Pool 12 HREP should be completed in May. Contract award for the first phase of Lake Odessa is anticipated in late May or early June. The Final DPR for Fox Island is expected in May. For Rice Lake, IL, the Corps and IL DNR are resolving levee alignment and real estate issues with the public review of the Draft DPR expected in June or July.

A total of 8 construction contracts are underway – Lake Odessa (Rock Island District – MVR), Pool 11 (MVR), Longmeadow Lake (St. Paul District - MVP), Pool 8 Phase 3 Stages 1 (MVP), Pool 8 Phase 3 Stages 2A (MVP), Pool Slough (MVP), Spring Lake Islands (MVP), and Calhoun Point (St. Louis District – MVS). Bob Clevestine expressed concern with the larger number of projects constructed in St. Paul District as compared to Rock Island and St. Louis Districts. Hubbell noted that the St. Paul projects are often broken into smaller chunks, resulting in a larger number of projects. He also noted that St. Louis projects cost more resulting in fewer projects. The Corps is awaiting transmittal of the Fact Sheets for the new HREPs recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee (FWIC). Once received, the System Evaluation Team will evaluate these projects for system-scale issues.

The draft report for LTRM Status and Trends should be available in June or July with the final report completed by the end of the summer. Marvin Hubbell is looking for ideas for future Additional Program Elements (APEs) and encouraged individuals to submit proposals.

The FY07 budget request was less than previous years, though EMP is still one of the top 8 ecosystem restoration programs in the country. If the full funding is provided in FY07, the Office of Management and Budget expects a \$3 M Aquatic Restoration Plan for EMP. This would be a guiding document for restoration on the Upper Mississippi River and would be similar to a plan prepared for Louisiana Coastal Area. The Corps is unsure what this report would entail or how it would be coordinated with all programs (NESP/EMP/IL Basin Restoration). With so much coordination underway at present, Janet Sternburg expressed concern regarding the ability of the states to participate in another effort. Bob Clevestine expressed concern with the narrowness of focus on “aquatic restoration” as there are also resource concerns with the terrestrial habitat in the floodplain.

2006 is the 20th anniversary of EMP. The Corps is encouraging installation of signage at all completed projects that indicate the project was funded by EMP. A revised draft of the HREP Design Handbook will be completed in June 2006. Work continues in populating the HREP database which is intended to be a central location for information on all HREPs.

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9. Mississippi River Project (Roger Bollman)

Roger Bollman, Natural Resource Manager for the Rock Island District Mississippi River Project highlighted visitor and natural resource activities at the project. Hand-outs of the presentation are included in Attachment 8. Information about forest management, avian surveys and recreation sites at the project can be found at <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/missriver/>. The project consists of 215,000 acres of land and water. It has a strong volunteer program and is in top 10 for volunteer hours for Corps projects, nationwide. The nature trail on Smiths Island was recently designated a National Recreation Trail. The forest management program on the river is strong. The forest management strategy since 1981 has been “Sound natural resource management through cooperation”. Annual forest management meetings have been held with state and federal resource staff along the river for the last 25 years.

Visitation on the Upper Mississippi River is estimated at 15 million visitors per year. Roger Bollman noted the need for standardized collection of visitation data by state and federal agencies along the river. Bollman stated that the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) recreation technical section has re-formed and may address this issue. Janet Sternburg stated that the Missouri Department of Conservation has a human dimensions specialist that handles visitation surveys, etc. Scott Jackson with the Corps’ Engineering Research and Development Center specializes in recreation usage surveys as well.

Roger Bollman will be retiring in July after 28 years in the Mississippi River Project.

10. Pool 13 Recreation Use Survey and Recreation Boating Impacts (Mike Griffin)

The Iowa DNR conducted a recreation survey in Pool 13 in 1991. The survey noted types of recreation, distance traveled and other data. The study estimated annual expenditures related to recreation in Pool 13 at \$5.3 M per year (report in 1991 dollars). A summary of key data is provided in Attachment 9. Mike Griffin also gave a presentation on Recreation Boating Impacts prepared by Scot Johnson with the Minnesota DNR (Attachment 10). The presentation noted that wave impacts of cabin cruisers are higher because they don’t get up on plane. Cabin cruisers represent the highest number of boats in Pools 2-4. An erosion study based on 14 years of quantitative survey noted 2-3 feet/year of erosion near Red Wing, Minnesota.

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11. Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee (FWIC) (Bob Clevestine)

Bob Clevestine provided responses to some questions identified in the January 2006 meeting. The FWIC and the On-Site Inspection Team (OSIT) do not have designated voting members. No official decision-making process has been identified. In the past, decision-making has often been by consensus. The committee often functions by caucus, with participants breaking into groups by agency to discuss the issue at hand and returning to vote, with one vote per agency. Clevestine stated that he would like to develop a process for capturing the minority vote in meeting summaries. Clevestine stated that the FWIC is a stand-alone committee which was formed as a result of the GREAT II Study (Attachment 11) and does not serve at the pleasure of the RRCT. The group discussed how to get NRCS participation in the FWIC (and OSIT). NRCS participation would need to be on a state-by-state basis.

12. USFWS Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) (Tim Yager)

The CCP will be finalized in June. There will be a 30-day waiting period following the Final CCP, then the EIS Record of Decision will be signed and implementation will begin. The Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge staff thanked the states and the Corps for their support throughout the CCP process. The CCP is a 15-year plan with a review in 5 years.

13. Natural Resources Conservation Service (Bob Dean and George Schaefers)

Bob Dean, the Assistant State Conservationist for Illinois Region 4, began by reviewing some of the NRCS programs. The NRCS provides technical assistance and is program driven. Programs include Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). The NRCS in Illinois currently has a hiring freeze. EQIP in Illinois is funded this year at \$13.5 M and WRP is funding \$15M in contracts. There is a special EQIP priority area in the Spoon River watershed with \$800k for stream bank stabilization. Many NRCS programs are under-funded as are the technical assistance funds. In the Spoon River watershed, NRCS received applications for \$4M. Of note, the Cochran Law (Public Law 108-498) states that when there is no funding in a NRCS program for technical assistance, there is no work on that program.

George Schaefers (NRCS in Iowa) stated that the NRCS in Iowa has good relations with the state department of agriculture. The NRCS provides a lot of engineering support to the state. Schaefers gave an overview of the Conservation Security Program which rewards landowners for good practices that they have been doing. NRCS is working on projects on tributaries to the Mississippi River in Jackson and Dubuque Counties in the Rock Island District and the Upper Iowa River, Bear Creek and Little Paint Creek in the St. Paul District.

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The group noted that the EMP Long-term Resource Monitoring staff is doing monitoring on the Upper Iowa and Spoon River.

Prior to the next meeting, the Rock Island District will send a letter to NRCS offices in Wisconsin and Missouri to encourage participation in the RRCT.

14. State review.

a. Missouri. Janet Sternburg stated that the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is sufficiently funded and has stable staffing. MDC is working with sister states on sturgeon harvest regulations. The MDC Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy is targeted for work on priority conservation species. There is the potential for future projects under this program along the Mississippi River. The report on a multi-state recreation survey along the Missouri River is being prepared. Sternburg would like to see a joint effort for recreation surveys on the Upper Mississippi River.

b. Wisconsin. Jim Fischer echoed Sternburg's ideas regarding recreation survey. Fischer noted that Lock and Dam 3 in the St. Paul District has high recreation lockages with roughly 18,000 recreation vessels per year passing through the lock; although 2004-05 numbers were lower (about 14,000 and 12,000 respectively), the number of lockages is expected to increase. The Wisconsin DNR received an application for another 211 slip marina in Pool 3. The River Resources Forum (St. Paul District counterpart to the RRCT) Recreation Work Group conducted a boater attitude and use survey for Lower Pool 4, and Pools 5 and 5A during the 2006 Pool 5 drawdown. USEPA documented the presence of the New Zealand Mudsail in the Duluth-Superior Harbor. This is the first reported incident of the exotic snail in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

c. Iowa.

Martin Konrad stated that the Iowa DNR is conducting a marketing campaign to recapture lapse fishers and increase license sales. The marketing targets males and has shown positive results. Konrad stated that the state has \$8.9 M appropriated for lake restoration. A total of \$18 M from lottery sales will be spent on water quality. Iowa is working on legislation with Illinois and Wisconsin to implement a slot limit for sturgeon. Konrad noted that most commercial fisherman in Iowa have been contacted by Russians about sturgeon roe.

15. Budget, Funding and Authorization Status. Teresa Kincaid discussed the proposed funding for the Corps in the President's FY07 Budget (Attachment 12). Operation and Maintenance funding for the Mississippi River may be short \$10 M compared to FY06. The Illinois Waterway and reservoirs may also be short on funding in FY07. There was a reclama on \$2M for the Navigation Study that will be used for economic modeling. There is no Construction General funding for the Illinois River Basin Study in the FY07 budget. The other agencies comment on their funding situations. US Fish and Wildlife Service stated that their funding was flat. NRCS in Illinois is status quo in FY06 with a funding shortfall of approximately \$1M. The

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NRCS in Iowa has more funding than that in the state of Illinois. Iowa DNR funding is status quo. Wisconsin DNR funding has stabilized. Missouri DC is doing well. Illinois DNR has significant funding concerns.

It is uncertain whether the Water Resources Development Act, which authorizes Corps projects, will be passed this year. The Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System Navigation Improvements is waiting authorizing. Funding for Pre-construction Engineering and Design work on Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) projects is uncertain. There is \$10 M for planning for NESP. As mentioned previously \$2M will be spent on preparation of an interim report on economic modeling.

16. RRCT Operating Procedures. The group discussed the RRCT Operating Procedures (Attachment 13) which were revised in 1996. In the 1996 version includes a list of priority topics which primarily focused on dredging and regulating structures. The team felt that significant progress has been made on these issues and that the list of priority topics should be updated. Bob Clevenstine recommended that the topics be re-written as goals. Recommended topics to be added included habitat restoration through EMP and floodplain management. Teresa Kincaid will draft updated goals to be included in the RRCT Operating Procedures and send a draft out for review.

The team discussed potential future topics for the RRCT. Mike Griffin recommended one session per meeting in the future outlining how different processes work. Potential topics could include Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects, Committee to Assess Regulating Structures, Operations and Maintenance, dredge placement site planning and implementation, and dredge cut surveys and dredging. Mike Griffin stated that he would like to see one meeting per year held out on the river. He recommended a meeting and site visit in Pool 18 and review of ongoing efforts in this pool to include EMP, channel maintenance, and NRCS activities in the Henderson 3 Levee and Drainage District. The team discussed that they would like the RRCT to address program integration.

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17. Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) Scott Whitney

Scott Whitney provided an overview of the first increment of \$3.6 B proposed for authorization. Funding would be allocated as follows:

Item	Proposed funding level
Programmatic	\$ 49.6 M
Re-evaluation report	\$ 4.6 M
Navigation projects	\$ 1,910.2 M
Ecosystem restoration projects	\$ 1,625.9 M
Public/stakeholder involvement	*Included in Programmatic Cost (Systemic) and within each of the other three component costs (Project Specific)

The Corps identified an expressed capability of \$43 M in FY2007. Construction on the ecosystem restoration projects would start sooner, but navigation projects would catch up quickly in terms of funding levels once lock construction started. Whitney noted that delays in funding and authorization have added 3 years to navigation efficiency implementation schedule. A revised schedule for the ecosystem restoration component is also being developed. The Assistant Secretary of Army for Civil Works asked for more information on the economic modeling. Economics work is being accelerated with completion of an interim report scheduled for September 2007. The interim report will not include reformulation of alternatives, but will apply new economic information to the recommended plan. A meeting of the Navigation Study Navigation Environmental Coordinating Committee (NECC) and Economics Coordinating Committee (ECC) is schedule for May 16, 2006 in Rock Island to discuss ongoing economic work. Whitney stated that the Corps would like to get information about the economics work posted on the website and distributed in public newsletter. Jim Fischer stressed the need to fund public involvement to keep stakeholders informed.

18. Navigation Study Science Panel (Ken Barr)

Ken Barr stated that the Navigation Study Science Panel will be meeting with the Illinois River Coordinating Council Science Advisory Committee to build relationships. Discussion will focus on ecosystem restoration on the Illinois River mainstem and the middle Peoria Pool.

The Pool 11 NESP team is working to see if there is an experimental island design that might reduce potential impacts to mussels. The study team is awaiting comments from the Science Panel.

Ken Barr reminded the team that the NECC was partly formed to facilitate Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act coordination activities. The team discussed whether FWCA coordination would be done at the Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee or RRCT level when the NECC is disbanded. This will affect who attends the RRCT and FWIC meetings to give agency perspectives.

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19. NESP Reach Planning (Hank DeHaan)

Hank DeHaan presented on reach planning efforts. The goal is to develop an implementation plan with project sequencing. Pool 18 was separated into sub-areas. The sub-areas were evaluated using quantity of area of benefit. Quality was measured using number of habitats affected. Draft results looked at cost efficiency, restoration of deepwater habitat, migratory bird habitat, and water quality improvement and assigned totals for each sub-area. The Interim Report for UMRS Ecosystem Restoration Management Planning will have the final draft by the end of FY 06.

The group discussed the potential for integration of reach plans with existing floodplain restoration work that the NRCS and FWS are already doing. Bob Clevestine noted that the next reach meeting to be held in late May or June will include local landowners. Bob noted that it would be good to bring in the NRCS, especially for the Boston Bay sub-area. Bob Dean noted that approximately 2,700 acres in Henderson County are enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program. Vicky Stoller asked that the levee and drainage districts be invited to participate in meetings regarding floodplain restoration.

Janet Sternburg expressed concern that if the pool planning efforts are going to drive project sequencing, the agencies may want to have broader representation on the pool planning team. The NESP team explained that there is already broad partner representation on the reach planning teams (both state and federal). Also, the reach planning activities (such as those for Pool 18) are only part of the process that will sequence NESP projects. The results of the Pool 18 reach planning activities will be incorporated into broader systemic planning activities conducted by USACE and the partnership to ultimately identify and select appropriate projects to proceed with. Ken Barr stated that this effort may transition to the planning at the geomorphic reach level.

20. Comprehensive Plan (Teresa Kincaid)

Public meetings for the Comprehensive Plan will be held in the leveed part of the river in June 2006. The report will be forwarded to Corps Headquarters for policy feedback on the conclusions and recommendations. Some recommendations have been revised due to input from the Upper Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri River Alliance (UMIMRA) and some re-thinking related to Hurricane Katrina and Rita. A portion of the Executive Summary is included as Attachment 14. The Corps is planning to coordinate the recommendations with the state development groups to see if there is any state interest in the recommendations. For example, the states may have interest in protecting the Quincy Bridge through work on the Fabius and Quincy levees. Kincaid noted that Plan G was identified in the report as the locally or regionally preferred plan.

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21. Boston Bay Ferry Proposal (Dorie Bollman)

A study on the feasibility of having ferry service between Boston Bay and Ferry Landing was completed in 2003 by Dunbar-Jones and was funded by the Resource Conservation and Development District (Interstate RC&D and Geode RCD&D). NEPA compliance requirements and other issue have been identified regarding the use of Federal lands. Congress allocated \$300,000 through the FY 06 Highway Transportation Appropriation to the Iowa Department of Transportation to prepare NEPA documentation; however, cost-share funds are needed. It is unsure whether this project will be cost-shared by the State of Iowa or the State of Illinois or both. [Update: As of Dec 06, Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Illinois Department of Transportation have contributed approximately \$100,000 for the project. However, rather than pursuing NEPA immediately, Stanley Consultants has been hired to determine: 1. major investments to be made (detailed project description), 2. levee crossing modification plan, 3. hydraulic modeling and analysis, 4. an operational structure such as “publicly owned” or “publicly operated”, 5. financial feasibility and sustainability plan, and future project development plan. If these assessments warrant further progress on this proposal, funding will be sought to initiate and complete NEPA compliance for the proposal.]

22. Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District

The Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District has proposed development of a port downstream of Lock and Dam 21 on the Illinois side (Attachment 15). The initial phase of the port proposal would not be on Federal land. The Corps is concerned that the proposal may affect the capacity of a Dredged Material Management Plan placement site (DMMP Site 10) in the area. The proposal may include an aerial conveyer over the DMMP site and some road realignment through the site. There is also the potential that the port development may affect wing dams in the area. The original port proposal was located upstream of Lock and Dam 21. The Corps was concerned with impacts related to operations and maintenance of the lock and dam and alignment of potential lock expansion. Thus port district relocated the proposal to the downstream location.

Phase 2 and 3 would affect Federal land, specifically Ward Island. These phases are said to be 20-30 years in the future. Bob Clevestine asked when agency coordination would start. Clevestine would like to look for opportunities to use the dredged material for Phase 1 development. The port district would like to purchase DMMP Site 10 and give the Corps an easement to place dredged material.

23. The next meeting of the RRCT was scheduled for September 19-20 with a site visit to Pool 18 to see and discuss a variety of projects in the area.

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20. Following are some action items from the meeting.

Action Item	
Invite participation in the RRCT from NRCS in Wisconsin and Missouri	Staebell
Contact Paul Mach for NRCS participants in the RRF	Staebell
Mail Comprehensive Plan Executive Summary to RRCT as FYI	Kincaid
Draft RRCT goals	Kincaid

Attachments (16)

Jodi Staebell
RRCT Coordinator

CF (w/ attachments):

PM-M (Dist)

PM-F (Kincaid, Thompson, Staebell,
Schroeder, Knollenberg)

PM-M (Hubbell, Skalak, Whitney, DeHaan)

PM-A (Barr, Bollman, Cornish, Johnson,
McVay)

OD (Shoemaker)

OD-T (Hardison, Cox, Brenner)

OD-M (Gretten)

OD-I (Granados)

ED-HH (Martens)

RE (Fiscus)

External Distribution:

See Distribution List (Attachment 16)