

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007.

1. A meeting of the River Resources Coordinating Team was held on May 9th 12:30-4:30 and May 10th 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:

Mike Griffin, Iowa DNR (Co-chair)
 Jim Fischer, Wisconsin DNR
 Bob Schanzle, Illinois DNR
 Jim Mick, Illinois DNR
 Rich Lewis, Illinois DNR
 Janet Sternburg, Missouri Department of
 Conservation
 Douglas Johnson, NRCS Iowa
 Rick Nelson, USFWS Rock Island Field Office
 Jon Duyvejonck, USFWS Rock Island Field Office
 Richard Nelson, USFWS Rock Island Field Office
 Ed Britton, USFWS Upper Mississippi Fish and
 Wildlife Refuge (phone-in)
 Vicky Stoller, UMIMRA (phone-in)
 Mark McNally, Mid-American Port Commission
 (phone-in)
 Al Fenedick, US EPA, Region V
 Brad Walker, Prairie Rivers Network

Ken Barr, Corps
 Bill Graham, Corps
 Karl Schmitz, Corps
 Scott Whitney, Corps
 Marvin Hubbell, Corps
 Brad Thompson, Corps
 Jodi Staebell, Corps
 Angie Freyermuth, Corps
 Jerry Skalak, Corps
 Dave Hays, Corps
 Chuck Theiling, Corps
 Marshall Plumley, Corps
 Camie Knollenberg, Corps
 Dennis Hamilton, Corps

Attending GIS presentation only

Chris Ensminger, Iowa DNR
 James Giglierano, Iowa DNR
 Larry Robinson, USGS-UMESE
 Harry Bottorf, Corps
 Nicole McVay, Corps
 Jon Klingman, Corps
 Marvin Martens, Corps
 Joe Lundh, Corps
 Hank DeHaan, Corps

Rachel Depuy, Corps
 Jon Schultz, Corps
 J'Layne Begelow, Corps
 Scott Kool, Corps
 Shirley Johnson, Corps
 Mary Craig, Corps
 Kevin Landwehr, Corps
 Heather Bishop, Corps
 Matt Zager, Corps

2. **Agenda** (Mike Griffin, Jodi Staebell)

The group approved the minutes of the Jan 2007 meeting with minor revisions. The final minutes are included as Attachment 2.

3. **Dredging and Committee to Assess Regulation Structures (CARS)** (Bill Graham/Karl Schmitz)

a. IWW – No CARS work this year, see attachment 3. Some mechanical dredging work has already been completed this year (Brandon Road Lower, Lockport, and Grist Island). Will be dredging Dresden Lower in near future. Once the hydraulic contract is awarded work will start at Mackinaw and will continue to Copperas Creek, Duck Island, Senate Island, and Quiver

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007

Island. There will be 2 jobs in Peoria Pool and will possibly do Bulls Island in Starved Rock as a beneficial mechanical job. See attachments 4 and 5 for 2006 dredging and 2007 projected dredging.

b. MISS – No CARS work this year, see attachment 3. Dredged 280K hydraulically last year, and 86.5K mechanically last year. Anticipate dredging 270K hydraulically and 147K mechanically this year. OD is anticipating that most of the placement will be behind the levee or in thalwegs, with only 2 sites on the bank line. There was some discussion about work near Elk River; one island is complete and has started to be capped with fines, the other island is more difficult due to the shallow water of the site, but OD it still anticipating completing this work. There was some discussion regarding beach plans; MVP has beach plans, but due to legal constraints, MVR does not. However, MVR does place along the bankline and does dress the sites. See attachments 6 and 7 for 2006 dredging and 2007 projected dredging.

4. Iowa State-wide LIDAR efforts (Jim Gigliarano/Chris Ensminger)

Jim had a PowerPoint Presentation (no attachment).

Jim of the Iowa Geological Survey Bureau (IGSB) described LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging). He discussed multiple returns; one light beam may present multiple returns as it is interrupted by various particles on its way to the ground. LiDAR can be used to develop bare elevation data, but also vegetation data, canopy data etc. Because this is near infra-red, it can return an image that is similar to an aerial photograph. LiDAR does not penetrate water and can not be used to collect bathymetric data.. LiDAR captures data returns as clouds of elevation points which can be used to develop tins and interpolated rasters.

Jim discussed potential LiDAR applications. Iowa Geological Survey (IGS) conducted a pilot project in 2005 including a project at Lake Darling. He also showed how the LiDAR captures sinkholes and how this information can be used in application like ArcHydro.

The vendor will provide 2x2km bare earth tiles. While USGS Topo maps have been used to develop 30M elevation grids, LiDAR provides 1m grids. Jim compared the accuracy of aerial photography and LiDAR. LiDAR has a vertical accuracy of 15-18cm for flat surfaces. Jim showed comparisons between elevation models develop with USGS Topos vs. LiDAR for various areas.

The current geographical extent of the project is those portions of Iowa that lie between the eastern bank of the Mississippi River to western bank of the Missouri River, but that won't capture the entire floodplain of the rivers. The State has negotiated a contract price of \$75-\$85 per sq. mile. For the State of Iowa it will cost about \$4.3million. Jim said that the contract is set up with a rather low price, so any new data will cost significantly more (about a 25% increase in cost).

The standard product is primarily raw LiDAR data with a minimal amount of manual filtering. The standard product will be developed for 80 counties. An enhanced product, meeting FEMA standards for floodplain mapping, will be collected and developed for the remaining 19 counties. The FEMA standards are more rigorous and require more effort to manually filter the data.

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007

There are also some differences in the way the data are collected. For FEMA data the GPS base stations are closer resulting in 15cm accuracy rather than 18cm accuracy.

The 2 year period for data collection started in Fall/winter 2006. The State is working with the contractor to schedule data collection during leaf-off, dry conditions. The State is also trying to put together simultaneous collection of 4-band 2' pixel ortho-photos. An additional 2 additional years will be required to create elevation surfaces from the elevation point data (i.e., ASCII x,y,z data). IGS will be creating county-size DEM's. The IGS will post to their FTP sites within a couple of months of receiving it. Once the GIS products are created the IGSB will post them to the IA GIS library. The State hopes to develop some GIS web application tools that will allow users to extract smaller amounts of data...but that will be some time in the future.

Get Chris Red Rock Drawdown dates and then keep him up to date during drawdown (Hagerty). He said they may not be able to fly during the drawdown, but having the data will be helpful.

5. Floodplain Management Services (Jerry Skalak)

Jerry presented a PowerPoint (see attachment 8).

Jerry Skalak reported on the following floodplain management studies:

- a. Jack Oak Slough - Fully funded. Jerry handed out a SOW for modeling work at Jack Oak Slough (see attachment 9). This will be a sediment and hydraulic model to determine sediment transport. Congressman Kind is interested in this project. The work is already beginning, and is anticipated to be a 12-month effort.
- b. Iowa River Erosion Control - This is also fully funded (\$50K). Jerry handed out a fact sheet (see attachment 10). This is near Wapello. The District built some erosion control structures in the 1980's. This study will look at how effective those structures were. This will be mainly H&H work.
- c. FEMA Mainstem Levee Evaluation - FEMA has given us money for levee evaluation. However, this does not pay for certification. There is an Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) coming out from the Corps in June that will detail how to evaluate levees. Once this is out we will be able to use this money to carry out structural, geotechnical, and other evaluations of mainstem levees. We have \$2.?? Million from FEMA to do this, but we are waiting until we have the ETL. Also, all the mainstem levees need to be recertified to be included on the new FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps, however, MVR does not have the funds to do this. We do have SOW's for Dubuque and Evansdale levees, but are waiting for the ETL until we pursue this. Vickie asked if anyone has addressed the gap between FEMA and the Corps regarding inspections. If any levee did not have an acceptable rating it could not be certified. There was supposed to be some discussion between FEMA and the Corps. Jerry said that there was a Corps and FEMA Region 5 meeting in April, but he wasn't certain of the outcome of that. He said that he would have Rodney Delp call her to speak to her on this.

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007

- d. National Levee Database - Develop a detailed nationwide database of levees that provide 100-year level of protection. There is money at HQ. Work is supposed to be done this July, but we don't have money in hand as of yet.
- e. Planning Assistance to States (PAS) - We are seeing a lot of work to develop storm water GIS databases.

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

Jerry presented a PowerPoint (see attachment 8).

Program Status – FY07 base program has some shortfalls: UMR \$105K, IWW \$142K Jerry mentioned that one of the challenges of the program this year are increasing acquisition costs. He also discussed some of the difficulties regarding placement site donations. IADNR asked if USACE was working to have similar legal interpretation of dredged material placement throughout the different Districts. Jerry said that our District is different from MVP due to the levees. There is some work to add language to WRDA to address some of our Office of Counsel's concerns:

- a. ILWW: Dresden – Assume ~\$50k of additional funds, due in FY08, but won't know for sure until court ruling. Next court date is 30July07. Pekin-LaMarsh - ~\$400k+ for acquisition. (\$8-\$10k/acre). Quiver Island – Trying to complete Final Report and REDM. Acq. Est is \$280k. Spring Valley – ILDNR and FWS had some concern regarding some of the preferred sites, so need to refine final selection of sites. Other sites - Are progressing, though funds may not be readily available this year.
- b. UMR: L&D22 – Site 8 mapping underway. Coordination with NESP for potential staging area. Lock 21 Lower – Getting Rights of Entry to conduct archeological survey. Kemps/Craigel (site 2) – Starting condemnation paperwork. This is not a \$ disagreement, rather some verbiage that the owners want included in their real estate agreements. NE Missouri Power – Buried utilities has been resolved. Moving forward with acquisition. Oquawka – Real Estate Plan has been completed. ITR has been initiated. Bass Island – FWIC is adamant that there will be no more bankline placement at this location. Land acquisition negotiation is underway.
- c. ChaMPP – Steve Johnson referenced the draft document. He said that there were early public meetings in August of 2005. The plan included chronic and non-chronic dredge cuts as well as regulating structures. He referenced the fact sheets for the sites (map on one side fact sheet on the other). He said that some of these sites were already addressed in other NEPA documents. He said that there are some new sites and the ones that will be potentially implemented in the next 5 years will be addressed by NEPA in this document. For those projects beyond the 5-year time frame, they will need to be addressed in a SEA in the future. He said that this draft report will be distributed to all agency attendees of the public meetings and anyone else who would like a copy. They will be distributed in June. Steve was asked about identifying beneficial use sites (use this as an advertising mechanism for those who may want to remove the material). This is being patterned after the MVP CMMPs. See following link: (<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/navigation/default.asp?pageid=167&subpageid=321>). Some of the internal comments received have been regarding NEPA, also to include other, non-channel

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007

maintenance activities occurring in the pool. Ultimately these will be published on the web, but for now the drafts will be published in hardcopy or CD.

Griffin asked about Pool 19. The Corps only owns 6 acres of land in the entire pool. What would happen in Pool 19 if there was a closure? Steve said he didn't know. Cornish said that the Corps would maintain the channel. It would probably be side cast or placed in the thalweg. This is a legitimate concern. Steve said he would welcome comments regarding Pool 19. Griffin said that someone was willing to sell some land to DesMoines County.

7. Mid-America Regional Port (Mark McNally)

Mike Klinger, the Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District Engineer, submitted permit application to Illinois DNR and USACE last month. John Betker is USACE representative, with IDNR letter signed by Mike Diedrichsen. During discussions after submission of the permit package, IDNR representative said verbally they want a 0.0ft. head. The District is working to meet this goal. A USDA Rural Business Opportunity Grant has been applied for. USDA requested more information on population decline and job loss in the District to process the grant. The District provided the additional information requested.

The District has entered a verbal agreement to purchase the land adjacent to the Corps' Dredged material Placement area downstream of LD21. The Port District believes they will receive significant Federal Funding in FY08 for land purchases. Additionally, they have agreements in place to all ROW for the rail lines into the port site. Current total cost for project is \$34 Million, which includes cost of land, engineering and construction for the facilities for phase one of the project. (Note that phase one of the project was briefed to the RCCT in January 2007.)

8. NRCS Update (Doug Johnson)

Doug covered the following items:

a. US Farm Bill Proposal. Increase funding by \$7.8 billion over the next 10 years. EQUIP – expand lands eligible for assistance and will combine several other programs into it. Also proposed to increase EQUIP funding by 30%. New Private Lands Protection Program – Combine FRPP, GRP, and HFRP, which will continue to be an easement based program. Will encourage leveraging through state and local efforts, which should hopefully double the \$'s available. Conservation Security Program – want to simplify the program and try to make it eligible to everyone each year and work to expand enrollment. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Will be reauthorized, which will allow for the production of perennial crops for cellulosic energy production. Wetlands Reserve Program will be reauthorized and the cap will be increase to 3.535 million acres. Will also be employing a reverse auction type of system. Emergency Landscape Restoration Program – combines ECP and EWP. Also looking at introducing Market Forces into the programs (conservation credit trading).

b. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Area – this is the first in the nation. It is modeled off of the bird conservation Area. Partners include FWS, USACE, NRCS, County Conservation, IADNR, and TNC. Approximately 75% of the Herp species found in the state are found in this area, many of which are ONLY found in this area. Has to do with proximity of floodplain near sandy nesting areas. Jodi Staebell said that USACE has an EMP project in the Herp

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007

designation, and would like to restore a sand prairie. Jodi wondered if this area would extend into MO. Doug said yes and gave her some contacts in MODOC. There was some discussion regarding the use of dredged material for creating sand habitat adjacent to aquatic habitat. Central Newt., Blandings turtle, Illinois Mud Turtle, and Massasauga snake are the more rare species in this area.

c. Lower Cedar and Iowa Rivers Area WRP Special Project – 3,500 acre project area. Want to build on existing restored wetlands, improve connectivity of existing wetlands, and focus on migratory birds, wetland dependant species, and other species of concerns, especially herps. \$3.5 million was received for this, and will be used primarily for land interests. We would like recommendations regarding sites in this area that need to be conserved.

9. FWS (Jon Duyvejonck/Ed Britton)

a. Ecological Services (Jon Duyvejonck). Said that RIFO has moved into their new building. Emails stay the same. Phone extensions are the same. Main phone number is (309) 757-5800 and address is 1511 42nd Ave, Moline IL 61265. He also said he will be the Service's representative for Long Term Resource Monitoring Program – Strategic Planning Team. This effort will be focused on the next 5-year increment of program, FY09-14. Jim Fisher added to the discussion of the Strategic Planning Process. It was a facilitated effort. He felt very good about the process and where it is going to go. This is an ability to look at the program more holistically. He said that if anyone here wants to see changes in LTRM they should talk to their LTRM representative.

b. Refuges (Ed. Britton). He talked about the CCP. He said that the duck blinds have been phased out. He also said they are posting the new closed areas. The Slow/No wake areas did not make it into the Federal Register in time, so that will wait one more year. They got a grant to do research of the faucet snails, which is an invasive species that carry a trematode that is killing migratory waterfowl. They live in riprap, so they (MVP) are now filling the interspatial spaces of the rip-rap with sand. The Corps and FWS are doing some research regarding this effort. Senator Jacobs created a proposal to create a UMR Port District – New Barge Terminal at the Old Savannah Army Depot, which is now the Refuge. They never coordinated with the USFWS or USACE. There was a Feasibility study done in 1998 that determined this project to be infeasible. Right now this legislation is still sitting, but can be attached to any bill. FWS has sent a letter to the Congressman, but haven't received a response from him.

DAY TWO

10. Watershed and Ecosystem Programs and Environmental CAP (Brad Thompson)

a. IL River Basin – We received HQ approval for our IL River Basin Restoration Comprehensive Plan. HQ will now forward the report to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and the Office of Management and Budget as part of the Administration processing the report to Congress. The next steps for the study team are to continue working on the 16 existing critical restoration projects. The team is planning some more interagency coordination meetings in the July timeframe. An Executive Committee meeting, composed of the Corps offices and the States of IL and IN, was held yesterday. There was some discussion at the Executive Committee about having an Illinois Focuses FWIC type of meeting in the July

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007

timeframe (the topics covered would include EMP, NESP, Channel Maintenance, 519 etc. activities on the IL River).

Illinois River Work Group (FWIC like) - Brad asked for input on the concept of an Illinois focused FWIC level meeting that would bring together all programs and Districts working on the Illinois River. Mike Griffen noted that it seemed like there has been a reduction in participation from the State of IL at the existing FWIC. He said he is concerned the State of IL may get more representation in EMP if they have 2 meetings (IWW and UMR) and that it may be more difficult to prioritize if a separate group decides their own IL River projects that the Program managers then have to decide between IL River Projects and Miss River Projects. Mike Griffin said that given EMPs limited funding, it needs the strengths of all 5 states. He felt that EMP discussions and prioritization should occur at the existing FWIC meetings, but that channel maintenance and the Section 519 programs may be appropriate for a separate group. Ken Barr added that the Illinois Governor's office and Congressman LaHood have made the recommendation to have a separate IWW group. Ken stated that the current proposal is to have a separate technical group for the IWW (like the FWIC), that will report back to the RRCT (still multi-state). They want to try out the concept. Janet Sternberg mentioned that the ILWW is also discussed at the RRAT. Brad said that if they are able to organize this meeting possibly as early as July (near Peoria), it will include invitations to St. Louis, Rock Island, and Chicago District as well and other federal partners and the States of IL and IN. Rick Nelson asked if there would be a Charter and who would Chair it. Brad Thompson said yes, eventually there would be a charter, and they would need to discuss and finalize who will Chair the meetings. There was general support for a trial meeting. Brad stated that an update will be provided at the next RRCT meeting.

b. Environmental Continuing Authorities Program (CAP):

Emiquon – TNC will be hosting General Riley at Emiquon and Spunky Bottoms the last week in May. They announced that 100,000 trees have been planted to date, water is being held on site, and the Prairie has been planted. The Corps has a partnering agreement with NRCS...hopefully this can become a demonstration project.

Ventura Marsh (located in North Central Iowa) is out for ITR. Storm Lake (located in Western Iowa) is making good progress. Blackhawk Bottoms 204 alternatives are undergoing some modifications to avoid some archeological issues.

Brad highlighted that recent policy changes will affect any new CAP projects. In the future the first \$100,000 will be 100% Federal, additional study cost cost shared 50/50 (but work in kind allowed – construction cost will remain 65/35 or 75/25 per authority), and then a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) must be executed prior to design and construction.

11. FWIC (Jodi Staebell)

The last FWIC meeting was held on April 10, 2007. The agenda included updates on NESP and EMP. The group discussed Adaptive Management. A "Winter" OSIT will be held yet this spring. Bob Schanzle and Jim Fischer asked to be added to the OSIT mailinglist. will be held May 15, 2007 at the Rock Island Field Office. FWIC members indicated that they did not want dredged material placed on the bankline of Bass Island. The IL DNR announced the purchase of

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007

Henderson 3 Levee and Drainage District. The FWIC wants to do some follow up work at Burnt Pocket which will include fisheries sampling accomplished jointly by Iowa and Illinois, Corps Operations is doing survey work and the FWIC may try to get a graduate student to do a project at Burnt Pocket. FWIC is still working to finalize Pool Plans. Mike Stueke is finalizing GIS now. Mike Griffin stated that the FWIC and RRCT need to discuss how to publish them. It will cost about \$12,000 for the publication. Staebell said that the FWIC has talked to UMIMRA and UMRBA about hosting the public meetings for the Pool Plans. There is no timeframe as of yet for the public meetings.

12. EMP (Marv Hubbell)

Appropriation for FY07 is \$21,894,000 with no Savings and Slippage, so highest budget of our history. LTRM = \$6.1 mil, funding for HREP projects is a little over \$15mill. Of the increase, \$2 mil was earmarked for construction in the St. Paul District. MVR ended up with \$5.3 million, with the only construction this year being Lake Odessa. Lake Odessa had Option B left over on the original contract that– we exercised Option B of the contract in early April. The Stage I work will complete the perimeter levee and construct the lower spillway. The cost for Lake Odessa Stage 2 will be more than expected (total cost is expected to rise from \$4mill to around 6.5 mil) due to more recent surveys. The Lake Odessa Stage II contract is scheduled for award in early August. This means that virtually all of MVR budget in FY08 will go toward Lake Odessa construction. Pool 12, Fox Island and Rice Lake HREPs are currently in DPR development. Pool 12 is getting close (got final information for 401 water quality certification). Anticipate Rice Lake Public meetings in August or September. Jason Rohweder (USGS) will be attempting to form a closer relationship between LTRM and HREP program components and will be working on one project for each District in FY07. For MVR, LTRM will work with the pre-project monitoring for Pool 12. LTRM will be able to assist the State of Iowa regarding their LiDAR project (can spend about \$250,000). The System Ecological Team is working to help improve sequencing of HREP projects for the 3 Districts. What is resulting is a new way to sequence and evaluate proposals...looking at the system needs and be more interactive with the Project Delivery teams. There are a number of policy items that will have to be addressed by the Program Project Team (PPT)...how we prioritize projects by reach. Also will be talking about the role of the EMP-CC and other Partners to help set Goals and Objectives. All of this will have to be brought up to the EMPCC. LTRMP strategic planning committee met for the first time last week. Looked at big picture items. Laid a great foundation for Meetings 2 and 3. Yesterday in DC the Department of the Interior honored the LTRM component of the Program for their efforts over the last 20 years. The entire partnership was recognized for their hard work. DeHaan added to the LiDAR discussion. It was determined that we are getting a reduced price for the acquisition of LiDAR, which will allow from 8-10 pools of FEMA accurate data. USGS will be serving the data which will also be redundantly hosting in the District. Another benefit for partnering with IA is their post-processing work of the data. We anticipate that we will be able to collect data for Pool 8-24 but will not know the exact extent until negotiations are completed with the contractor. This will be bluff-top to bluff-top.

Regarding Lake Odessa, Griffin was interested in the 8A-Setasides – he asked about what is the federal recommendation for that. Is 19.9% the Target. He also said that we tend to be concerned about cost and ability to do the work, but the current contractor is doing a good job. Because of this experience we are comfortable to be working with this company again. Griffin

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007

said he was concerned with EMP being “picked” on for 8A targets as funding is tight and it seems to cost 17-20% more for these contracts.

13. States Updates

a. Wisconsin (Fischer). Fischer is participating in the 18 month LTRMP Strategic Planning process. It’s been about three years since the program was quickly restructured for primarily fiscal reasons. The EMP has continued to have strong support by the administration since then and it’s appropriate that we begin to make plans for the next five year increment in a deliberate and reasoned manner. The process will be complete one year prior to implementation, thereby allowing time to implement changes (if any). The Record of Decision was signed for the L&D 3 embankment and Navigation safety project. Construction will be completed in 3 phases and will begin with the spot-dikes on the upper embankment. The plan calls for the second phase to begin on the lower embankment, but Wisconsin DNR wants the Navigation Safety portion to be the second priority. A stakeholder group will be working with the Corps to help reduce impacts at the lower embankment. WIDNR and FWS still feel strongly that Fish Passage should be considered now while the embankment work is being done, and Wisconsin is working to get authorization and appropriation for this work. MVP said that if they can’t get authorization then they will try to get the priority moved up in NESP should NESP be authorized. Jim handed out a letter from Congressman Kind and Senators Kohl and Feingold supporting construction of a fish passage (attachment 11) in conjunction with work on the lower embankment, and requesting that the Corps move forward with a cost assessment.

b. Iowa (Griffin). He said that IA has a new director – Rich Leopold. Have Odessa and Poole Slough under EMP. He said that the permit process will be changing, so will need to monitor the permits better. Griffin said that there is supposed to be a fish barrier at L&D 11 in 6 months for \$4 million dollars. Mark Cornish said that there is a fact sheet out on this. MNDNR requested this. So, WI is requesting fish passage in Pool 3 and MNDNR is requesting a fish barrier in Iowa. Fisher asked about Guttenberg Marina. Griffin said that this will be going forward.

c. Illinois (Mick and Schanzel). Since the last RRCT meeting, IL OSIT released the 2006 dredging report. There was no Hydraulic dredging last year. Rich Lewis is about to begin the CERP review of the Peoria Islands. We think the internal review will go fairly quickly. Brad briefly described the project, which includes 3 islands with dredging to create depth and place material on the island. There will be geotubes to be used for the outer ring of the islands. The geotubes will be experimental and shall be monitored closely. Schanzel said that IL DNR has some experience with geotubes in the Fox Chain of Lakes, and consequently, the tubes have begun to deteriorate, requiring them to go in and lay new fabric and rock. Mick discussed some new commercial fishing laws, of which there are several proposed right now. The ones in the legislature passed the committee and have gone to the senate. There are proposals about the harvesting of fish eggs from pallids and paddlefish. Mick can send the information if people are interested. Anticipate that everything will be in effect for the 2007 commercial fishing season.

d. Missouri (Sternburg). Trying to keep up with the various Corps Planning efforts. The MODOC staff is starting to get overwhelmed. The State Budget is assumed to be pretty flat this year. Travis Moore is conducting lake sturgeon telemetry work. This species was released

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007

approximately 12-15 years ago and we are seeking to follow females to learn more about spawning locations. Sternburg asked if there had been a presentation of this work at the FWIC and if they would like one? There is a lot of pallid and shovelnose sturgeon telemetry work being done on the Middle MISS as well. The RRAT boat trip is scheduled for June 18 - 20. The Middle Mississippi River Partnership is holding its annual meeting in Cape Girardeau on July 11th. The Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee is to meet the 2nd or 3rd week in September in Mississippi.

e. USEPA (Bill Franz). Bill is attending the LTRM strategic meetings. He mentioned that his office is being reorganized. This may allow them to be in the field more often by streamlining their responsibilities. Griffen asked if there is any research in how HREPs are affecting water quality? Al said he wasn't aware of any, and that this is more of a USGS questions. They did have a meeting focusing on TMDL with USGS and EMP to make everyone aware of the program. Fisher asked about Great River EMap. Al said he wasn't sure, Bill would know more. There was some discussion about EMap, and what are the long-term plans of this program. It was decided that there needs to be a discussion on EMap at the next meeting.

14. River Pilot Update (Ken Barr)

(Angie handed out maps)

MRV Col. Sinkler is focused on communication by watershed. He has created Basin Integrators Positions for each of the major watersheds in MVR. They are a single point of contact for each watershed, they do not replace the PM's. This is a person for you to go to for each watershed. DeHaan (Mississippi River), Bollman (Rock River), Plumley (Illinois), Knollenberg (Iowa and Cedar River), Hamilton (DesMoines and Sunk River). Hank showed the Basin map for the Mississippi River Basin that the GIS group has been developed. If partners are aware of a project or potential of a project they should communicate that to the Basin Integrators. Angie Freyermuth is handling the coordination among the integrators. Each of the Basin Integrators introduced themselves. Griffin asked how many of the rivers still have authorization for their low head dam flood control. Hamilton said that there are no low-head dams that he is aware of. There are 5 dams in the district (the 3 reservoirs in Iowa and 2 dry dams in IL). Thompson said that the Corps may be able to help with dam removal, but there has to be a Federal significance, however, we cannot help if there is a regulatory requirement to remove it. Plumley said that there has been a lot of discussion on the DesMoines River for fish passage and dam removal. There is starting to be a critical mass of interest in these projects. There are some concerns regarding sediment issues (contaminants, release of the sediments, etc.). Nelson said that FWS has a fish passage program as well. Jodi will send link to the Fox River study as well. Nelson asked about the key on the maps, as it seemed unclear to him. He also recommended adding the refuges. Barr said that the Col wants the partners and partnerships added to the map (RIFO, refuges, Western IL).

15. NESP (Scott Whitney)

(Handout: NESP topics-attachment 12, one page overview of \$14M project allocations, attachment 13)

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007

a. Overview - The NESP program is organized into 4 components...Program Management (Whitney); Economic Reevaluation (Rich Astrack); Ecosystem Restoration (Ken Barr); Navigation Efficiency (Jeff Stamper). Scott said this has been very challenging year due to budget constraints related to the Continuing Resolution Authorities. We had to run several funding scenarios from \$0 to \$24mill. The NESP now has a \$14mill budget for FY07. The NESP FY2007 Revised Workplan details the breakout of this \$14mill. Expressed Capability for next FY is for \$40mill (\$24M PED and \$16.2M construction) So, our first priority for FY07 is to finish the Interim Report on the Economic Re-Evaluation of the Recommended Plan (Interim Report). Next priority is to focus on those projects that would allow us to be ready for construction in FY08. The \$40 million is the same budget capabilities that we have stated for the last 3 years. Currently, the capability for construction is mostly ecosystem restoration with some small-scale navigation efficiency projects – there are no Large-scale Navigation Projects for construction next year. He said that one of the main priorities for each of the two primary components (Nav and Ecosys) is to develop a first increment plan that reflects project scheduling and resourcing. On the Navigation side we have very detailed schedules so we can answer any of the Congressional and HQ “what-if” budget scenarios. We need to develop more detailed schedules for the Ecosystem component. Institutional Arrangements – this has been delayed until the authorization of WRDA. We want to fully develop this plan once WRDA is established. FWS and USACE need to finalize the draft document and then it will be shared with the other stakeholders. Website – Scott showed the website (<http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/UMRS/NESP/default.cfm>). The plan for this website will eventually be a UMRS website that will include NESP, EMP, 519, CAP, etc. He said that the website is in Phase 1 right now. Phase 2 will have more project specific information. Phase 3 will have a GIS interface. Phase 4 would be a central UMRS portal for easier access and standardization for all management activities on the UMRS (operations, navigation, recreation, ecosystem restoration, flood damager reduction, regulatory, emergency response). The NESP team is seeking comments from all stakeholders, comments should be sent to Whitney, Spitzack or Bluhm. The site has a search engine which is working. In the future they hope to have shorter link to the website (something with a .org). Control, care and feeding, security are some issues. Can FWIC, RRCT dates be added to calendar? Yes, Marsha Dolan (CEMVR-PM-A) is “web mistress”. All of these groups and efforts will eventually be integrated into the Phase 4 UMRS regional portal.

b. Economic Re-evaluation - Major effort underway for the Interim Report. Models on 2 new models by NETS: global grain, survey model brings in all. Scenarios have been developed with stakeholder and Expert panel input, these will parameterize the GGM runs for the reevaluation. Non-traditional scenarios to understand benefits outside navigation such as ethanol, container on barge, etc; not traditionally part of NED. There will be a meeting/workshop in St Louis on 18-19 June to present information such as non-grain forecasts and elasticity. The Interim Report must be completed by very early August to ensure review beginning mid August. More will be presented at upcoming NECC/ECC meetings.

c. Ecosystem - Institutional arrangements will be updated by Corps and FWS, getting ready for authorization. EPA reminds all agencies to look internally to prepare for this. If authorized and appropriated, want to be able to construct ASAP. The current list of NESP projects that we believe will be ready for FY08 construction starts include the following:

NESP FY08 Construction Capability (CG)

Purpose	Cost (x1000)	
Traffic Mgmt Concept - Test	\$150	
Construct Mooring Cells @ Locks 14, 24 & LGR	\$3,600	
Implement Switchboats at two UMR locks	\$2,000	\$6,750
Environmental Mitigation	\$1,000	
Ecosystem Habitat Restoration Measures	\$800	
Pool Drawdowns (2 sites)	\$1,400	
Side Channel Restoration (2 sites)	\$3,500	\$9,450
Wing Dam Alterations (2 sites)	\$2,000	
Island Shoreline Erosion Protection (3 sites)	\$1,000	
Island Creation in Pool 18	\$750	
TOTAL	\$16,200	

How do we ramp up? Ecosystem "First Increment plan" currently underway to manage ramp up to \$100mil/yr program; 1st increment plan working with stakeholders for what's in the queue and why. There will be a NECC/ECCC meeting May 23-24, here in Quad Cities. It will start with an Adaptive Management Workshop, which will look at the Columbia River. The ecosystem goods and services workshop proceedings are available at NECC/ECC in draft for comments. Also on web site along with all 'green reports'.

d. Pool 18 Drawdown - Unintended negative impacts are a concern (e.g. mussels). Pool 5 trying to do pool-wide mussel sampling. Efforts underway in several locations. Systematic grid, statistically random, spacing varies but is pretty dense. Stratified sampling by depth has not worked well elsewhere; few and scattered mussels in shallow water. This can be done with the data after the fact. Will get pool wide population estimate from this also. Unofficial project to construct islands in lower pool 18; looked at Brown's survey; modern islands are re-establishing in this area in a similar configuration. Concentrate mussel surveys in this area to ID potential impact. Looking at an alternative mussel sampling methodology (skimmer dredge - handout) for specific sampling for potential impact zones and thalweg. Only works in sand and mud; not cobble. Snags are also problematic. Sampling efficiency and bias are similar to Brail bar. Traditional dive surveys will occur in all 'problematic' areas and areas identified by agencies/states. Will use on islands, thalweg, and above dam. Wilcox found 10% mortality for thin shelled species and 0% for thick shelled. Will be using Teresa Newton's method for pool wide sampling. Chuck will rework SOW and re-coordinate. Pool wide assessment can extrapolate shallow water and population impacts from drawdown for NEPA impact assessment. How will island construction affect chronic dredge areas? Ongoing coordination with Channel maintenance.

e. Navigation - FAPRI info and website included in Whitney handout shows double lockages taking longer now. EWG proposal included in packet to examine reasons (ex. data collection, increased safety requirements, lots of new hires). Could increase benefits on new locks. Lots of unknowns at this time. Better understanding is sought before any action is taken. LPMS lock performance monitoring system. NESP newsletter mid to late June; October issue focus on reevaluation, November public meetings, comment thru Dec. No promise of more money for FY08, all current NESP projects, except the economic re-evaluation work, will stop by end of

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, May 9-10, 2007

Sept unless Congress appropriates funds. FY07 funds (\$700K) are being withheld to ensure the economic Re-evaluation work can continue to completion by 30 December 2007.

16. FY07 District Funding and WRDA Update (Dave Hays)

(handout FY 06-08 corps wide budget appropriation summary-attachment 14).

FY 07 unusual with series of continuing resolutions, no bill for year; and joint resolution for remainder of year (in Feb). O&M looks like appropriation less than budget but not real significant; reflects change in budgeting. For 07, major rehabs in good shape, EMP in good shape, NESP looks to have sufficient funding, Miss. O&M is less than needed, IWW O&M looks OK. New congress this year; if markup bills for FY08 from both houses have funding for NESP, then we can use funds even though not in President's budget. CG looks lower in 08, EMP is an Administration national priority, but Congress normally funds at a lower level, President's budget for EMP in 08 is \$23.5 mil. FY 08 appropriation amounts will be out in next few months.

WRDA - new congress, start from 'scratch'. House has recently passed WRDA; Senate working on it soon?

17. Next Meeting Of The RRCT

The next meeting is scheduled October 9th and 10th, 2007 with a site visit to pool 18 to see and discuss a variety of projects in the area.

18. Summary, Administrative Issues, Next Meeting Topics (Jodi Staebell/Mike Griffin)

Read-aheads are normally provided with minutes of previous meeting in advance of the upcoming meeting. The Corps will work to address this at future meetings. The next meeting will be held Oct 9-10, 2007 and topics will include the following: EMAP, field trip to Pool 18 (Pool 18 drawdown, Lake Odessa HREP, Burnt Pocket, Huron Island, archaeology Barr, Henderson 3). The meeting tentatively will consist of a field trip on the first day with the 2nd half-day meeting.

19. 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	Staebell
Set up October meeting and site visit	Staebell
Draft RRCT goals	Staebell

Attachments (15)

Jodi Staebell
RRCT Coordinator

CF (w/ attachments):

PM-M (Dist)

PM-F (Thompson, Staebell, Plumley,
Knollenberg)

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

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

OD (Shoemaker)

OD-T (Hardison, Klingman, Brenner,
McVay)

OD-M (Gretten)

OD-I (Cox)

ED-HH (Martens)

RE (Fiscus)

External Distribution:

See Distribution List (Attachment 15)