

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

March 2003

Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan



PURPOSE: These monthly status reports are intended to provide collaboration team members, project delivery team members, and other interested parties with a brief overview of significant events and activities occurring within the major components of the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan. We welcome your comments and input on the status reports to ensure they provide timely and useful information. If you identify monthly events that we have overlooked, please let us know and we will correct it on the website <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/UMRCP/>. POC: Mr. Richard Astrack, Project Manager, ph.: (314) 331-8491 or email address richard.f.astrack@usace.army.mil.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT (Astrack)

- Richard Astrack, St. Louis District, has been designated the Project Manager for this study, in addition to being the lead of plan formulation. Jerry Skalak has been reassigned to other project work.
- With the Corps' budget passed by Congress and signed by the President in the Omnibus Bill, Fiscal Year 2003 funding should be clarified within the next month.
- Rock Island District retains program management responsibility. Rich will work closely with Teresa Kincaid.

PLAN FORMULATION (Astrack)

- Information on measures, planning constraints and the development of alternative plans strategy are being developed for coordination with the Collaboration Team.

ECONOMICS (Abney)

- Inventory of levees within the study area is nearly completed. Inventory includes names, identification if urban or agricultural, State, and Flow Frequency Study data on upstream and downstream river mile and upstream and downstream overtopping elevations.
- Working with the Engineering Team on the levee inventory to insure completeness and consistency.
- Work is continuing on calculating existing condition average annual damages.
- The Existing Economic Base Conditions report is being started by the Tennessee Valley Authority this month. It is scheduled to be complete in August 2003.
- A contract was issued to Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, to investigate the use of a model to estimate average annual damages based on census data inputs.
- Working with the GIS Group on completing a listing of locations of major state and federal highways, and bridges crossing the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers in the study area.

HYDROLOGY AND HYDRAULICS (Stephens)

- St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis Districts provided draft profiles to the Economics Work Group for the Upper Mississippi River. The Illinois River profiles for Rock Island and St. Louis Districts are scheduled to be available during March.

- Hydrology and Hydraulics (H&H) Team establishing a methodology to analyze the alternative plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL (Gates)

- An EIS Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on 13 Dec 02.
- An outline has been prepared for the EIS main report and associated appendices.
- Environmental GIS needs have been coordinated and structured with the GIS Team.
- Team is reviewing a draft letter forwarding study background information (EIS POCs list, EIS outline, EIS development strategy, and EIS problems) to interagency environmental coordination group.
- Environmental measures reformatted consistent with flood damage reduction measures format.
- Team discussions underway on framework for NED/NER planning.
- Discussed study approach to watershed sediments and also soil associations mapping and descriptions with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

RECREATION (Star)

- Ms. Dorie Bollman attended a meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Trail Work Group on January 17, 2003. This group is working towards a trail system on both sides of the river, from Minnesota to Missouri.

MAPPING AND GIS (Craig)

- Study team is refining mapping of 38 black and white ortho photomaps.
- A GIS analysis of Census 2000 data was completed for the Economics Team, which required an analysis of Census Block data (population and number of housing units) for census blocks that lie wholly or partially within the floodplain of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.
- Infrastructure data (of differing geographic extent and from a variety of agencies) is being assembled for the Economics and Environmental Teams. Descriptions of the GIS data (including age, scale and attribution of geographic features) are being prepared.
- Study team is assembling soils and land cover data for the Environmental Team. Study team is working with the Environmental Team to develop a protocol for analyzing these GIS data.

COST ENGINEERING (Ulivi)

- To be able to determine quantities for levees, a spreadsheet template is being created and is presently being tested with levee samples. Spreadsheet template consists of levee data including crown width, average height, slopes, levee length, road length, stone depth, asphalt depth, and right-of-way widths. From this information, quantities can be calculated for clearing, stripping, crushed stone, asphalt, other surface treatment, embankment, seeding, and additional right-of-way. The spreadsheet template also includes a sketch of a levee section.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (Simmons)

- A summary of the September 2002 public workshops is posted on the study's website (see above for website address).
- Gathering study information for the next study newsletter – possible release date in the spring 2003 timeframe.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- Collaboration Team meeting scheduled for April 10th.