

**UPPER MISSISSIPPI, LOWER MISSOURI, AND ILLINOIS RIVERS
FLOW FREQUENCY STUDY
CITIZENS' PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT GROUP MEETING
March 25, 1998**

Final Minutes (Approved 11/17/98)

1. The Citizens' Public Involvement (P.I.) Group met for the first time on Wednesday, March 25, 1998, from 1-5 p.m., at the Airport Hilton Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. An attendance list is attached.
2. Jeannette Thompson, Fleishman Hillard, Inc., was hired to facilitate this organizational meeting. Ms. Thompson began the meeting by introducing herself and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District representatives: Paul Soyke, Citizens' P.I. Group Chairperson; George Gitter, Flow Frequency Study Coordinator; and Sue Simmons, Citizens' P.I. Group Recording Secretary.
3. S. K. Nanda, Chairperson for the Flow Frequency Study's Task Force, welcomed the group and gave an overview of the study including: study area, background, and purpose; levels of quality control within the study; Task Force (Federal/State Study Team) members; and a study timeline. NOTE: This information is contained in the Summary Draft Plan of Study (March 1998) that all P.I. Group members previously received.
4. George Gitter also presented a study timeline, which showed that the study started in October 1997 and is scheduled to end in September 2001.
5. Paul Soyke welcomed the group members and explained the significance of their participation in the study. The Group will play an important role in assuring that the Task Force understands the concerns of the citizens in the study area. Mr. Soyke said as Chairperson he will assure that the P.I. Group and Task Force educate each other on what the respective groups are doing and that the P.I. Group's concerns are heard.
6. Paul Soyke explained that the Task Force meeting on Thursday, March 26th was open to all P.I. Group members and that he would present the Group's concerns to the Task Force. (See paragraph 14 below for a list of the concerns that were reported to the Task Force.) The P.I. Group members will receive a copy of the minutes from the Task Force meetings. Those P.I. Group members who were not present at the Task Force meeting, and who have questions about or comments on the Task Force minutes, can provide them in writing to Mr. Soyke. Mr. Soyke will try to get an answer by the next meeting.
7. St. Louis will probably be the site for most Task Force and Citizens' P.I. Group meetings. The current schedule is for the Citizens' P.I. Group to meet the afternoon before the Task Force meetings. That schedule works well because the P.I. Group Chairman reports the Group's issues and concerns at the Task Force meeting the next morning. However, if the P.I. Group deems that a meeting is necessary at other times, we will try to schedule it. When scheduling those meetings, the schedules of those who farm will be considered (e.g., we will try to avoid the months of April, May, June, September, October, and November). The idea of surveying the Group to find out what dates would be best for them was considered. For now, unless it is too difficult for most of the Group members to attend the P.I. Group meetings that are scheduled the day before the Task Force meetings, scheduling will remain as is.
8. All Citizens' P.I. Group members will receive a copy of the Group's minutes. Those who attended the meeting will receive a copy of the draft minutes and will be asked to provide comments, corrections, etc. Corrected minutes (marked "pending approval") will be sent to all P.I. Group members and also will be

made public. The minutes will be approved as final at the next P.I. Group meeting (date not determined at this time).

9. Many issues and questions were raised throughout the afternoon. Every effort will be made to address unanswered questions by or during the next P.I. Group meeting.

a. How does Flow Frequency Study affect Missouri River Master Plan?

b. Is the Illinois River part of this study? *Yes, but only the main stem.*

c. The hydrology must be accurate – the Task Force must focus on the right hydrology. There is concern that environmentalists could criticize and stop flood control projects if the hydrology is incorrect.

d. The P.I. Group agreed that they not only want someone to listen to them, they want action.

e. What is the focus of the P.I. Group and the study? *Paul Soyke responded that the P.I. Group must be assured that the Task Force performs the best hydrology because the flood profiles will be used on all future studies. The Task Force will educate the P.I. Group and the P.I. Group will provide feedback to the Task Force.*

f. What is the role of reservoirs in the Flow Frequency Study?

g. How will the study affect flood control benefits? *By assuring that the best hydrology is used in measuring benefits.*

h. A P.I. Group member recommended that the P.I. Group have a technical advisor separate from the Task Force. This advisor would be funded by the Corps of Engineers and would assure another level of Quality Control by reviewing the Task Force findings for the P.I. Group. The Group agreed that it wants a technical expert. **Paul Soyke will begin to pursue this issue with the Planning Division Chief and the Office of Counsel.**

i. The P.I. Group member further recommended that each member of the Group be provided with copies of the Task Force's draft reports and have the right to approve or disapprove the Task Force findings. However, another P.I. Group member stated that he did not have the expertise to assess the Task Force findings and felt that the Group should rely on the experts that the Task Force has hired. *Paul Soyke stated that the P.I. Group has to be given the information to understand what the Task Force is doing.*

j. The P.I. Group wants to be heard; the members will not be “yes men.” The P.I. Group wants to be involved throughout the study process.

k. The P.I. Group needs input from the Task Force so it can understand and buy into what goes into the flow frequency model. *Paul Soyke said that that is the purpose of the P.I. Group -- to try to get answers that the Group can understand.*

10. The Group began to discuss the charter, but did not complete the task. The charter will be discussed at the next meeting. Following are the issues relating to the charter that were discussed:

a. The membership of the Citizens' Public Involvement Group will be kept open at all times. There will be no limitation on number of members; new members are welcome.

b. There is no formal procedure for resigning from the Group. A written notification would be appreciated; however, if a person chooses to resign, then he/she can just stop coming to the meetings.

c. The agenda will be developed by the Chairperson, with input from the P.I. Group. A preliminary agenda will be proposed at the end of each meeting and will include a time slot for previous business as well as new business. A draft agenda will be sent prior to the meetings. Comments about the agenda should be sent to the P.I. Group Chairperson.

d. The charter will contain a provision for amendments, if necessary.

e. Paragraph VI will be rewritten for clarification. The Corps of Engineers will pay for the meeting room costs for the Citizens' P.I. Group meetings. The P.I. Group members (excluding the Corps of Engineers members) will be responsible for their own transportation, lodging, and meals.

f. The P.I. Group recommended that it have its own technical advisor to review the Task Force's findings. **As stated above, Paul Soyke will pursue this issue with the Planning Division Chief and the Office of Counsel.**

g. If the P.I. Group does not agree with the study findings, a provision for appeal rights, such as an Alternate Dispute Resolution, should be written into the charter. (A Group member stated that FEMA has an appeal rights procedure.)

11. Dr. David Goldman, from the Corps of Engineers' Hydrologic Engineering Center and a member of the Task Force, visited with the P.I. Group for a few minutes. He stated the following:

a. In response to concern about using a computer model rather than a physical model, Dr. Goldman stated that the Task Force will not use physical models, but mathematical models. The computer (mathematical) models are less expensive than physical models. These computer models can reproduce what has been observed for the past 100 years. Flood records are used to verify the model's findings. The models have been used at several locations.

b. The Task Force is using the UNET model, which allows more flexibility by looking at a whole flood event. **If a P.I. Group member is interested in getting a write-up of the UNET model, he/she should contact George Gitter.**

c. Dr. Goldman was asked, as a technical person, how a sixth level of Quality Control should be part of the process? *Dr. Goldman replied that the Task Force's draft technical reports will be available for the public to comment on.*

d. The question of the P.I. Group getting its own technical expert came up. Dr. Goldman explained that the technical experts used by the Task Force are world-wide experts; however, he had no problem with the P.I. Group getting its own technical expert if the group felt it was necessary.

e. George Gitter suggested that as the study proceeds, that various Task Force members attend upcoming P.I. Group meetings to explain study progress to the Group and to answer questions.

12. Martin Becker, a P.I. Group member, expressed concern on several occasions that the technical people are censoring information that will adversely affect the credibility of the outcome of the study. This is information which he has been trying to present for 9 months.

13. Mr. Becker asked that the following responses to his questions be included in these minutes:

a. Dr. David Goldman said that he had no problem with distributing correspondence and draft reports back and forth from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

(Although Dr. Goldman did not say this in response to Mr. Becker's question, the meeting notes indicate that earlier in the meeting Dr. Goldman said that after the TAG agrees, the draft SOW in the Plan of Study would be available for comment.)

b. Dr. Goldman could not comment on the need for an alternative dispute resolution procedure; but that as an engineer, he would always be willing to listen to other opinions about the analyses performed.

c. S. K. Nanda will draft a letter for Martin Becker saying that the Task Force would not try to change 17B for smaller basins.

(Mr. Nanda later amended this statement as follows: Mr. Martin Becker raised the question whether this study will change the Bulletin 17B guidelines. It is not the charter of this Task Force to change Bulletin 17-B guidelines for which there exists a separate committee. This is a special regional study of large drainage areas.)

14. The list of issues that the P.I. Group members asked Paul Soyke to bring forth to the Task Force are summarized below. Mr. Soyke presented the issues at the March 26th Task Force meeting. The P.I. Group members who were present at the meeting concurred with these statements.

a. The Task Force needs to educate the P.I. Group on all important issues in a way that the Group can understand.

b. How will risk and uncertainty be used and how will it improve the study? There needs to be a balance of making conservative estimates vs. the most accurate estimates. *(Dr. Eugene Stakhiv will be asked to make a presentation to the P.I. Group.)*

c. The P.I. Group wants to assure that the Task Force understands and responds to the Group's issues. The P.I. Group wants credibility and will not be a "yes" group.

d. The P.I. Group wants to assure that the Task Force interacts in a manner to maintain its credibility with the P.I. Group.

e. There are some concerns with the Plan of Study that need to be addressed before they are overcome by events.

f. The Task Force needs to hear the P.I. Group's input and assure the Group's understanding as issues arise rather than at the end of the study. The Task Force needs to know where the problems are.

g. The Group is considering a dispute resolution process and providing a technical expert. How can the Group be assured of accuracy?

h. Will the final results of the Flow Frequency Study affect the Missouri Master Manual?

i. How do reservoirs fit into this study?

15. Since an agenda for the next P.I. Group meeting was not determined, the Chairman will send the proposed agenda for the next meeting with the meeting announcement.

SUZANNE R. SIMMONS

Recording Secretary
Citizens' Public Involvement Group

Attachment