

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER RESTORATION

Joint Charter of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Coordinating Committee, Analysis Team, and Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects Selection Process Teams

The Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) program is authorized under the Upper Mississippi River Management Act of 1986, Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act* of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 652), as amended in WRDAs 1990 (P.L. 101-640, §405), 1992 (P.L. 102-580, §107), 1999 (P.L.106-53, §509 and the Water Resources Development Technical Corrections of 1999, P.L. 106-109, §2), 2007 (P.L.110-114, §3177), and 2020 (P.L. 116-260, §307), to ensure the coordinated development and enhancement of the Upper Mississippi River system. Congress recognized the system as a nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system that provides a diversity of opportunities and experiences and should be administered and regulated in recognition of its several purposes. The program was established for the planning, construction, and evaluation of measures for fish and wildlife habitat rehabilitation and enhancement and implementation of a long-term resource monitoring, computerized data inventory and analysis, and applied research program, including research on water quality issues affecting the Mississippi River (including elevated nutrient levels) and the development of remediation strategies.

The mission of the UMRR program is to work within a partnership among federal and state agencies and other organizations; to construct high-performing habitat restoration, rehabilitation, and enhancement projects; to produce state-of-the-art knowledge through monitoring, research, and assessment; to engage other organizations to accomplish the Upper Mississippi River Restoration program's vision for a healthier and more resilient Upper Mississippi River ecosystem that sustains the river's multiple uses. UMRR's [2015-2025 Strategic Plan](#) outlines the program's key approaches in support of this vision.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is charged with implementing the UMRR program in consultation with the Department of the Interior and the states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Three major interagency initiatives, the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Coordinating Committee (UMRR CC), the Analysis Team (A-Team), and the Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects (HREP) Selection Process Teams, are key mechanisms for this consultation and facilitate implementation of UMRR. This charter, executed by the program's partner agencies, describes the purpose, membership, roles and responsibilities, and operation of the UMRR CC, A-Team, and HREP Selection Process Teams.

Authority

The UMRR CC, A-Team, and HREP Selection Process Teams are consistent with the UMRR authority established under Section 1103 of WRDA 1986, as amended. Each member agency of the three major initiatives participates under the auspices of its own authorities governing interagency coordination and management of the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS). Participation does not restrict any individual agency's authority to issue permits, manage programs, manage lands, operate projects, or fulfill other individual agency mandates. The views expressed and actions taken by individual agency representatives and by the UMRR CC, A-Team, or HREP Selection Process Teams are not binding on any agency.

*[Note: The program was named the Environmental Management Program in Section 1103(e) of WRDA 1986. In 2006, the Office of Management and Budget and Congress began referring to the program as UMRR in its budgeting and appropriations documents.]

Upper Mississippi River Restoration Coordinating Committee

Purpose:

The Upper Mississippi River Restoration Coordinating Committee (UMRR CC) is the over-arching body for coordinating issues related to all aspects of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) program and was established to ensure the Congressionally directed consultation with state and federal partners. In this role, the UMRR CC provides the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) with the partner agencies' perspectives on UMRR policy, budget, and implementation.

Membership:

The following federal and state agencies are official members of the UMRR CC:

Federal

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Maritime Administration

State

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Department of Conservation
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Each member agency will appoint an official representative to the UMRR CC. In the event that an agency's official representative is unable to participate in an UMRR CC meeting, the agency may designate another staff person to serve in that capacity on a substitute basis.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The major roles of the UMRR CC include the following:

1. Provide a forum for the UMRR partner agencies and other interested parties to discuss policy, programmatic, and budgetary issues related to program implementation.
2. Identify and communicate the official member agencies' perspectives on UMRR policy, programmatic, and budgetary issues to the Corps and other implementing agencies.
3. Seek to establish a consensus among the member agencies on major issues related to program priorities and direction.
4. Review fiscal performance, project implementation, product quality, and other key measures of program performance.
5. Provide guidance regarding the implementation of specific UMRR projects and studies when requested by a member agency or other interested party.
6. Foster coordination between UMRR and other federal and state agency programs.

In serving these roles, the UMRR CC's specific responsibilities include the following:

1. Provide guidance to the A-Team regarding the UMRR CC's perspectives and priorities. Seek and consider the A-Team's input regarding scientific and technical matters, in part by including an A-Team report as part of UMRR CC meetings.
2. Provide guidance to the HREP Selection Process Teams regarding the UMRR CC's HREP planning and sequencing perspectives and priorities. Seek and consider the HREP Selection Process Teams' input regarding matters related to project planning and sequencing, in part by including a HREP Selection Process Team report as part of UMRR CC meetings, as needed.

3. Discuss and provide input on pending projects, studies, and products at UMRR CC meetings.
4. Provide a forum for interested stakeholders and members of the public to address the Committee at its regularly scheduled meetings.

The responsibilities of the official representatives of the UMRR CC include the following:

1. Consult with the UMRR CC regarding policy, programmatic, and budgetary issues and ensure that the Committee has the background information necessary to consider those issues.
2. Determine and communicate their agency or state's full range of interests and perspectives related to issues being addressed by UMRR and reflect those interests and perspectives to the UMRR CC.
3. Ensure that other key people within their agency or state are aware of important decisions and developments related to the UMRR CC.
4. Coordinate review of key documents within their agency or state and communicate the results of that review as appropriate.
5. Respect the perspectives of other UMRR partner agencies and stakeholders and attempt to further the consensus positions of the UMRR CC to the extent possible.
6. Representatives must be prepared to fully participate at each quarterly meeting.

Operation:

The Corps' official representative, from the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), to the UMRR CC will co-chair the Committee with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's official representative from Region 3. If needed, each co-chair can appoint a designated representative in the event that they are not able to serve as co-chair at an UMRR CC meeting.

The Corps' MVD has delegated overall regional program management responsibility to the Corps' Rock Island District but retains program oversight responsibility. The UMRR Regional Program Manager is responsible for managing the program on behalf of the Corps, and, as such, provides a program report and update, and ensures that the official documents and records of the UMRR CC are developed and maintained.

The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA), under contract with the Corps, will be responsible for preparing meeting announcements, agendas, meeting summaries, and minutes and making meeting arrangements. Other UMRR CC communications, including communication with the A-Team, will be coordinated by the Corps. Each UMRR CC member agency will be responsible for all costs associated with its personnel's participation in UMRR CC meetings and activities. The UMRR CC will typically meet on a quarterly basis, or as needed, with the time and location of meetings to be determined by the Committee. The Committee may schedule additional meetings and/or conference calls as necessary.

Whenever possible, the UMRR CC will attempt to achieve unanimous consent among the official representatives present on questions before the Committee. When this is not possible, each official member agency represented at the meeting will have one vote for the purpose of determining the UMRR CC's position. A two-thirds majority of the members present is required for formal recommendations. However, the meeting minutes will reflect all positions articulated by UMRR CC representatives and the Corps will consider all input received in making decisions regarding program implementation.

Upper Mississippi River Restoration Analysis Team

Purpose:

The Analysis Team (A-Team) addresses technical matters related to implementing the Long Term Resource Monitoring (LTRM) element and the Science in Support of Restoration and Monitoring efforts of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) program. The term “LTRM” henceforth will include both traditional LTRM and UMRR science efforts. The A-Team serves as an advisory body to the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Coordinating Committee (UMRR CC) and advises the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on technical issues.

Membership:

The following federal and state agencies are official members of the A-Team:

Federal

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*
U.S. Geological Survey*

State

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Department of Conservation
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

* Non-voting members

Each member agency will appoint an official representative to the A-Team. In the event that an agency's official representative is unable to participate in an A-Team meeting, the agency may designate another staff person to serve in that capacity on a substitute basis. The Corps and the USGS are non-voting members of the A-Team (denoted by asterisk). The Team Leaders from each of the six LTRM Field Stations, or their representatives, and the Component Principal Investigators from USGS cannot be official A-Team representatives, however, they are expected to attend and participate in the A-Team, as appropriate.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The major roles of the A-Team include the following:

1. Provide a forum for the UMRR partner agencies and other interested parties to discuss technical issues related to LTRM implementation.
2. Identify and communicate the official member agencies' perspectives on LTRM technical issues and on UMRS natural resource management needs and questions to the Corps, USGS, and UMRR CC.
3. Advise the UMRR Coordinating Committee regarding the technical implications of policy, programmatic, and budget decisions affecting LTRM.
4. Seek to establish a consensus among the member agencies on priorities for LTRM components, projects, activities, and research. Provide guidance regarding how LTRM can best further those priorities.
5. Report LTRM results and information to partner agencies, interested stakeholders, and the general public.
6. Support UMRR program implementation through actions identified in the UMRR Strategic Plan.

In serving these roles, the A-Team's specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Determine and articulate partner information needs for use in prioritizing and implementing LTRM.
2. Respond to UMRR CC, Corps, and USGS requests for information and perspectives regarding LTRM. Provide A-Team briefings at UMRR CC meetings.
3. Review, provide comments, and recommendations on major LTRM guidance documents, including, but not limited to, strategic plans, research frameworks, scopes of work, and monitoring methods and protocols. Forward such recommendations to UMRR CC for consideration as appropriate.
4. Review and provide comments on major LTRM publications, LTRM website, and other information dissemination efforts, when requested.
5. Provide advance notice and written summaries of its meetings to all official agency representatives and other interested parties upon request.
6. Ensure that perspectives of interested stakeholders and members of the public are considered by the team at its regularly scheduled meetings. Any specific actions will be coordinated with and directed by the UMRR CC.
7. Promote integration of HREP and LTRM.

The responsibilities of official agency representatives to the A-Team include the following:

1. Consult with the A-Team regarding LTRM technical issues and ensure that the team has the background information necessary to consider those issues.
2. Determine and communicate their agency or state's full range of interests and perspectives related to LTRM and reflect those interests and perspectives in the positions they take as an official representative to the A-Team.
3. Ensure that their agencies' UMRR CC representative, LTRM Field Station staff, and other key people within their agency or state are aware of important recommendations and developments related to LTRM.
4. Coordinate review of key documents within their agency or state and communicate the results of that review as appropriate.
5. Respect the perspectives of other UMRR partner agencies and stakeholders and attempt to further the consensus positions of the A-Team to the extent possible.
6. Representatives must be prepared to fully participate and provide technical expertise at each meeting.

Operation:

The chair of the A-Team will rotate among the team's state agency members on a two-year basis. Agencies have the option of declining the chair. Official agency representatives will serve as chair in the following order: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The A-Team will typically meet on a quarterly basis, or as needed, with the time and location of meetings to be determined by the team. The A-Team chair will be responsible, in consultation with the Corps and USGS, for preparing meeting announcements and agendas. The USGS will be responsible for making meeting arrangements. The A-Team chair, or his/her identified delegate, will be responsible for preparing minutes of A-Team meetings. The A-Team chair will be responsible for working with the UMRR CC to ensure appropriate coordination and communication between the

A-Team and the UMRR CC. The USGS will facilitate other A-Team communications as requested by the A-Team chair. Each A-Team member agency will be responsible for all costs associated with its official representative's participation in A-Team meetings and activities.

Whenever possible, the A-Team will attempt to achieve unanimous consent among the official representatives present on questions before the Committee. When this is not possible, each official member agency represented at the meeting will have one vote for the purpose of determining the A-Team's position. A two-thirds majority of the members present is required for formal recommendations. However, the meeting minutes will reflect all positions articulated by A-Team representatives. The Corps, USGS, and UMRR CC will consider all input from A-Team member agencies in making decisions regarding program and/or LTRM implementation.

**Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program
Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP)
Selection Process**

The UMRR CC officially endorsed the Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) Selection Process in 2020. The HREP Selection Process identifies and outlines responsibilities for the following:

- UMRR Coordinating Committee
- Program Planning Team (PPT)
- District River Teams (DRTs) (one in each of the three UMR Districts)
- Non-Federal Project Sponsors

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The signatory agencies to this Charter agree that the 2020 HREP Selection Process will serve as the governing document for the UMRR CC, PPT, DRTs, and non-federal project sponsors until such time as the signatories elect to update the 2020 HREP Selection Process or modify the Charter to more fully address the teams' roles and responsibilities.

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Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) Selection Process

Goals of HREP Selection and Sequencing Process

- Optimize investment in restoring, rehabilitating, and maintaining the quantity and quality of fish and wildlife habitat leading to a healthier and more resilient Upper Mississippi River ecosystem.
- Ensure that UMRR habitat projects address UMRS ecological needs at pool, reach, and system scales by building on existing HREP sequencing mechanisms and integrating the Habitat Needs Assessment-II (HNA-II) and other planning efforts into project selection.
- Enhance public understanding of and trust in the decision-making process by making HREP evaluation criteria explicit, transparent, and consistent.
- Retain the flexibility necessary to ensure efficient, effective program execution and apply adaptive management principles to project planning, design, and implementation.

Roles and Responsibilities

UMRR Coordinating Committee – Provide direction and guidance to the PPT (including as members) both in the development and implementation of the HREP Selection and Sequencing Process including endorsement and transmittal to Mississippi Valley Division (MVD).

Program Planning Team (PPT) – Structure the overall HREP selection and sequencing process and provide guidance to the District-based, executive and technical-level river teams (herein referred to as District River Teams or DRTs). Establish program priorities, facilitate engagement of science experts in the areas of ecological resilience, landscape ecology, hydraulics and hydrology, GIS, HNA-II, fisheries, forestry, and vegetation among others with the DRTs, and consult with the District HREP managers regarding administrative factors. Provide briefings at the UMRR Coordinating Committee meetings and seek input and concurrence from the Committee. Membership includes the UMRR Program Manager, the UMRR Coordinating Committee, District HREP Managers, and District-based River Team chairs or their designee. Note that the UMRR Program Manager leads the PPT.

District River Teams (DRTs) – Through a thorough, interdisciplinary vetting process, the three DRTs evaluate habitat objectives within their respective Districts (St. Paul - MVP, Rock Island - MVR, St. Louis - MVS), formulate restoration ideas, develop project proposals, and sequence the project proposals based on merit. DRTs will also engage the candidate cost share sponsors and the public as appropriate. Membership (see Figure 2) consists of MVP's Fish and Wildlife Work Group (FWWG), MVR's Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee (FWIC), and MVS's River Resource Action Team - Technical Section (RRAT-tech) and their respective executive-level river teams. District river team chairs can structure the DRTs as desired – whether as a full river team or as an ad hoc group.

The relationship of the FWWG, FWIC and RRAT-tech to the River Resources Forum (RRF), the River Resources Coordinating Team (RRCT) and River Resource Action Team Executive Board (RRAT-exec), respectively, will not be affected by this HREP sequencing process. Each DRT will be responsible for coordinating with their respective committee and receiving committee concurrence on recommendations as is the current policy of each committee.

Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) Selection Process

River Team structure

St. Paul District (MVP)

RRF - River Resources Forum

FWWG - Fish and Wildlife Work Group

Rock Island District (MVR)

RRCT - River Resources Coordinating Team

FWIC - Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee

St. Louis District (MVS)

RRAT Exec - River Resources Action Team Executive

RRAT Tech - River Resources Action Team Technical



The *River Resources Forum (RRF)* provides a mechanism for all federal and state agencies with management or regulatory responsibilities within the floodplain along the commercially navigable sections of the Mississippi River and its tributaries in the St. Paul District to facilitate the coordination of their programs and activities; and to provide an opportunity for other interested parties to express their concerns and views to the agencies.

The *Fish and Wildlife Work Group (FWWG)* enhances the exchange of fish and wildlife related technical information and provides a forum for early coordination between federal and state agencies by field level technical experts and resource managers on issues pertaining to, and assigned by the River Resources Forum (RRF). The FWWG deliberates and provides technical comments and information on matters concerning design and sequencing of studies and projects, alternatives being considered, methods, data needs and related items on topics that are reported to and assigned by the RRF.

The *River Resources Coordinating Team (RRCT)* provides a mechanism for all federal and state agencies with management or regulatory responsibilities along the Mississippi River and tributaries in the Rock Island District area to facilitate the coordination of their programs and activities; and allow other interested parties to express their concerns and view to the agencies.

The *Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee (FWIC)* enhances the exchange of fish and wildlife related technical information and provides a forum for early coordination between federal and state agencies. Field level technical experts and resource managers deliberate and provide technical comments and information on matters concerning design and sequencing of studies and projects, alternatives being considered, methods, data needs, and related items on topics that are reported to, and assigned by the RRCT.

The *River Resources Action Team (RRAT)* provides a mechanism for all federal and state agencies with management or regulatory responsibilities within the navigable reaches of the Upper Mississippi River within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District to facilitate the coordination of their programs and activities in matters dealing with fish and wildlife resources; and for planning, prioritizing, and operating UMRS projects/actions.

Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) Selection Process

The RRAT operates at two administrative levels; the RRAT Technical Team and the RRAT Executive Team. The RRAT Technical Team is composed of individual representatives from each agency that lend special expertise and knowledge regarding particular programs and projects. The RRAT Executive Team is composed of representatives of each agency with knowledge of their respective agency’s policies, authorities, and budgetary processes to make operational decisions on particular projects and programs.

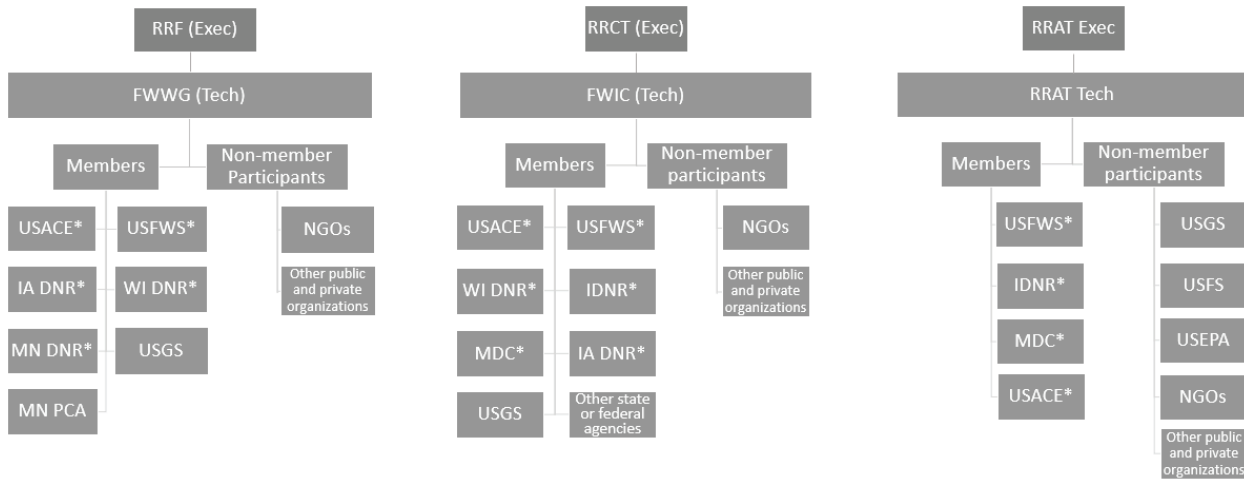


Figure 2. Organizational structure of the District River Teams.
* Denotes voting members.

Non-Federal Project Sponsors – must provide a letter of intent, self-certification of financial capability, and demonstrate the full legal and financial authority to perform the terms of the project partnership agreement. This includes the ability to:

- Provide the required 35 percent cost share;
- Provide all lands, easements, relocations, rights-of-way, relocation of utilities and other existing structures, and disposal of dredged or excavated material (LERRDs);
- Perform operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement in perpetuity.

UMRR HREP Selection Process Diagram & Schedule

Process Preparation

*2-3 months prior
to process initiation*

Objective:

Review and distribute guidance and references to facilitate river teams in their development and sequencing of UMRR habitat projects.

Actions:

- PPT reviews guidance documents with District River Team Chairs
- Establish schedule for implementing Framework
- Develop new, or update existing, guidance materials and references; and serve in central location
- Science experts present on newly available knowledge
- DRTs will inform non-federal sponsors and the public about coordination of HREP project development

Notes:

Preparation may consist of a webinar re: science, modeling tools, etc. that can aid in deliberations of project locations and objectives.

In developing recommendations, PPT will consult, as necessary, with the RRF, RRCT, RRAT-exec., project sponsors, science experts and others.

HREP Proposal Development

*6 months (fall-winter)**

Objective:

Develop project fact sheets with clear explanations of how project will advance ecological goals and habitat needs at various spatial scales.

Actions:

- DRTs engage federal and non-federal project sponsors** in collaborative fact sheet development process
- Hold inter-DRT meeting as necessary
- DRTs engage with science experts as necessary
- Fact sheets should be developed in consideration of the indicators identified and evaluated during the HNA-II development
- DRTs rank project fact sheets
- Submit proposed projects and sequencing to UMRR Coordinating Committee for consideration
- Submit projects to MVD for approval

Notes:

* Schedule subject to change

**NGO-sponsored projects require voting river team member noted as “champion.”

Implementation and Amendments

Ongoing

Objective:

Maintain flexibility through a process to facilitate amendments to the HREP Implementation Strategy.

Actions:

- District HREP managers will develop the HREP Program Plan that considers ecological merit and administrative factors for effective and efficient execution of UMRR appropriations
- Summarize how recommended sequence of projects advances ecological goals at various spatial scales
- Work with project sponsors to identify and resolve potential issues to project implementation
- Assess pool, reach, and system conditions to determine changing needs or threats
- Provide annual opportunity for candidate non-federal sponsors to propose project ideas
- Secure approval of any amendments through UMRR Coordinating Committee and MVD

Notes:

Maintaining flexibility in order to take advantage of restoration opportunities is important to ensuring a robust, seamless sequence of HREPs are available to implement.

Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) Selection Process

Selection and Sequencing UMRR HREPs Directions for River Teams

The Program Planning Team (PPT) is requesting river teams to engage in a collaborative process for UMRR HREP project idea generation. Project proposals should consider the indicators as described and prioritized by District-based river teams in the HNA-II reports. The PPT requests that the river teams place greater weight on projects that can address the top four priority HNA-II indicators – i.e., aquatic functional classes, floodplain functional class, floodplain vegetation, and aquatic vegetation.

Each river team is asked to develop projects of varying size and complexity to ensure a diverse array of projects to promote efficient and flexible obligation of program funds. Additional direction will be provided by the PPT based on program goals, anticipated funding levels, and other considerations. Thresholds on size of projects - e.g., dollar amount or acres, will be determined based on programmatic needs.

Specific instructions are as follows:

- Limit fact sheets to four pages (excluding maps), pointing to references such as technical reports, other project fact sheets, white papers, and journal articles to support statements as needed.
- Projects should be developed in consultation with federal, state, and nonprofit organization sponsors. Nonprofit organization participation will be facilitated through a “champion” voting member on the river team.
- Decision support tools can be developed as needed and upon request, following initial collaborative project development process. Data layers are available for agency use and Corps GIS experts can be made available to assist river teams as needed.
- Use decision logs and record discussions throughout the process to ensure transparency and adequate understanding and buy-in and to inform future project selection efforts.
- Invite candidate cost-sharing nonprofit organizations to consider submitting an HREP proposal. The PPT has provided the river teams with a template invitation letter. Other references for how to engage nonprofit organizations throughout the planning process include the UMRR HREP Selection Process Diagram Schedule, UMRR HREP Selection Goals, Roles, and Responsibilities, and UMRR HREP Fact Sheet Template.
- Describe whether and how projects will maintain (e.g., ensure indicator remains green) or improve (e.g., move the indicator from red to yellow) for each respective HNA-II indicator. A Corps planner will be available to support this exercise and overall decision-making.
- Structured decision-making exercises can be used as needed. Past iterations have utilized evaluation matrices and paired-comparisons for project ranking.

**Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program
Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP)
Selection Process
Fact Sheet Template**

**Project Name
Pool, River, State(s), Corps District**

Location

- General description (side channel, backwater lake, island(s), etc.)
- River mile reach, left or right descending bank, geomorphic reach
- Nearest town and distance
- Current land use/ownership (national wildlife refuge, state wildlife management area, Corps project land, private, etc.)

Existing resources

- General description of the existing habitats and conditions (vegetation communities, current velocities, dissolved oxygen, etc.), including how long it has been this way
- List primary plant communities, fish and wildlife species that are known to exist in the area (generic, when?), including any rare or unique habitats or species, and noxious or invasive species
- Pool and cluster group from the HNA-II in which the project is located
- Current status of the HNA-II indicators for the pool and cluster

Problem identification

- Describe changes in habitat conditions that have occurred including a description of monitoring that quantifies the changes
- Factors influencing these habitat changes
- Examples of the species/communities affected by the habitat changes
- Describe forecasted future habitat conditions without habitat protection or restoration

Project Goals

- Identify the area where different habitat types (and/or health) are desired
- Describe the desired future conditions for each type of habitat
- Describe the primary HNA-II indicators likely to be impacted by the project
- Identify the HNA-II indicators that might be impacted by the project
- Describe how the project would be designed to improve and/or maintain the HNA-II indicators
- Compare/contrast to desired future conditions identified in the HNA-II for the project area
- Identify the species and communities that would benefit from the project
- Describe the relationship(s) to system, reach, and pool needs (relate to pool plans, project sponsor management plans)

**Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program
Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP)
Selection Process
Fact Sheet Template**

Proposed Project Features

- Project description (potential habitat protection and restoration features)
- Alternatives or strategies that may be/have been evaluated or applied

Implementation Considerations

- Opportunities and constraints
- Synergy with other efforts
- Known data needs
- Sequencing requirements

Financial Data

- Rough cost estimates for General design, Construction, and O&M (include basis)
- Potential organizations responsible for project cost sharing (if applicable) and O&MRRR

Status of Project

- Current project phase/actions
- Partnering organizations

Sponsorship

- Who, level of support, etc.

Point(s) of contact

- Name, organization, telephone, email

References

- Examples: prior proposals, LTRM reports, etc.

Attachments

- Examples: map of project area, color aerial photo of project area, etc.

UMRR HREP Selection Process

Nonprofit Sponsorship Letter Template



TO: [Name of Nonprofit or Community/County]

FROM: [River Team Chair/Co-Chair]

We understand that your organization may be interested and eligible to serve as a cost-share sponsor of an Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR*) Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) on lands that it owns. On behalf of the UMRR Partnership, we are pleased to extend an invitation to you to provide your organization's proposal for sponsoring habitat restoration projects on lands it owns.

The Upper Mississippi River ecosystem benefits from a deeply rooted history of federal-state-local and interdisciplinary partnerships. The ecosystem is complex and requires thoughtful coordination among numerous agencies, organizations, and individuals with varying but related mandates, missions, and talents. Through UMRR, five federal agencies, five states, numerous nongovernmental organizations, and community members all work toward a common goal – a healthy and resilient river. This starts with a thorough evaluation of habitat needs (<https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Protection-and-Restoration/Upper-Mississippi-River-Restoration/Key-Initiatives/hna2/>) and deliberation of the optimal location and objectives for habitat projects that will individually and collectively increase the overall abundance, quality, distribution, and diversity of fish and wildlife habitat as well as improve the river's overall ecological integrity.

UMRR is at the very early stages of developing a plan for sequencing the implementation of habitat restoration projects in federal fiscal years 2021-2025. Deliberations of UMRR project ideas and sequencing are delegated to the federal-state river teams that operate within a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District. In the [Geographic USACE District], that consultative body is the [Respective District River Team] and is responsible for planning and coordinating on river management. Membership consists of one voting member from a federal or state agency. To assist your efforts in developing your project for consideration, a champion will be assigned to your project by the [Respective River Team].

Additionally, UMRR is implemented through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and, therefore, the program's non-federal project sponsors are subject to the agency's partnership policies including cost sharing. Enclosed are the relevant policies for your reference.

Please contact [insert name] if you have questions about this invitation or wish to discuss potential project ideas.

At this time the [Respective River Team] is planning on holding a meeting to initiate discussion on future HREP project development. The date of the meeting is [Insert any relevant planned meeting]. Future coordination meetings may be scheduled.

*[Note: The program was named the Environmental Management Program in Section 1103(e) of WRDA 1986. In 2006, the Office of Management and Budget and Congress began referring to the program as UMRR in its budgeting and appropriations documents.]

UMRR HREP Selection Process Nonprofit Sponsorship Letter Template

UMRR Habitat Project Cost-Sharing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Relevant Policy

Section 2003 of the 2007 Water Resources Development Act amended the 1970 Flood Control Act to expand the non-federal interests eligible to sponsor water resources projects to include nonprofit entities. On April 5, 2012, USACE Headquarters issued implementation guidance that confirms that nonprofits can serve directly as non-federal sponsors of USACE's civil works water resources projects, including UMRR HREPs. The guidance outlines specific eligibility standards for candidate nonprofits, as follows:

1. Consent from all affected local governments in each jurisdiction throughout the impacted area must be secured in writing.
2. The nonprofit must be incorporated under the laws of the state in which it operates and be exempt from paying federal taxes, under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.
3. The proposed project's purpose and nonprofit's mission must be directly related.
4. The nonprofit must demonstrate the full legal and financial authority and capability to perform the terms of the project partnership agreement and to pay damages, if necessary, in the event of failure to perform. This includes the ability to perform operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement in perpetuity.
5. For projects with additional purposes, such as recreation or flood risk management, a legally constituted public body must agree to co-sponsor the project.

A nonprofit, municipality or county must also demonstrate its capability to meet the non-federal sponsor requirements articulated in Section 221 of the 1970 Flood Control Act as amended. They include the following:

1. Provide the required 35 percent construction cost share.
2. Provide all lands, easements, relocations, rights-of-way, relocation of utilities and other existing structures, and disposal of dredged or excavated material (LERRDs).
3. Land and project may not be part of a wetland bank or mitigation for another project.
4. Operate, maintain, repair, replace, and rehabilitate the project, or functional portion of the project, using non-federal funds as long as the UMRR is authorized.
5. Maintain the federal government's right to enter the property.
6. Hold and save the federal government free from all damages.
7. Assume all responsibility for hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste cleanup and liability.
8. Prevent any obstructions or encroachments to the project.
9. Comply with USACE's bookkeeping standards, the project partnership agreement, and all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Additionally, the nonprofit sponsor must meet the requirements currently applicable to UMRR non-federal HREP sponsors. These include a letter of intent, self-certification of financial capability, and entry into a project partnership agreement. Examples of these documents can be provided upon request by contacting the following:

Executed this 3rd day of November, 2021 on behalf of Upper Mississippi River Restoration program's partner agencies by the undersigned official agency representatives to the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Coordinating Committee.

Brian Chewning

Digitally signed by Brian Chewning
Date: 2021.10.05 08:08:23 -05'00'

Brian Chewning, UMRR CC Representative
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Chad A. Craycraft

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Date: 2021.10.20 13:28:39 -05'00'

Chad Craycraft, UMRR CC Representative
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

SABRINA CHANDLER

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Sabrina Chandler, UMRR CC Representative
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Randall Schultz

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Randy Schultz, UMRR CC Representative
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

MARK GAIKOWSKI

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Mark Gaikowski, UMRR CC Representative
U.S. Geological Survey

Megan Moore

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Megan Moore, UMRR CC Representative
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

NOLLER HERBERT

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Noller Herbert,
Acting Regional Conservationist – Central Region
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Matt Vitello

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Matt Vitello, UMRR CC Representative
Missouri Department of Conservation

CHERYL NEWTON

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Cheryl L. Newton,
Acting Regional Administrator – Region 5
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**JAMES FISCHER
(Affiliate)**

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James Fischer, UMRR CC Representative
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

vacant, UMRR CC Representative
U.S. Maritime Administration