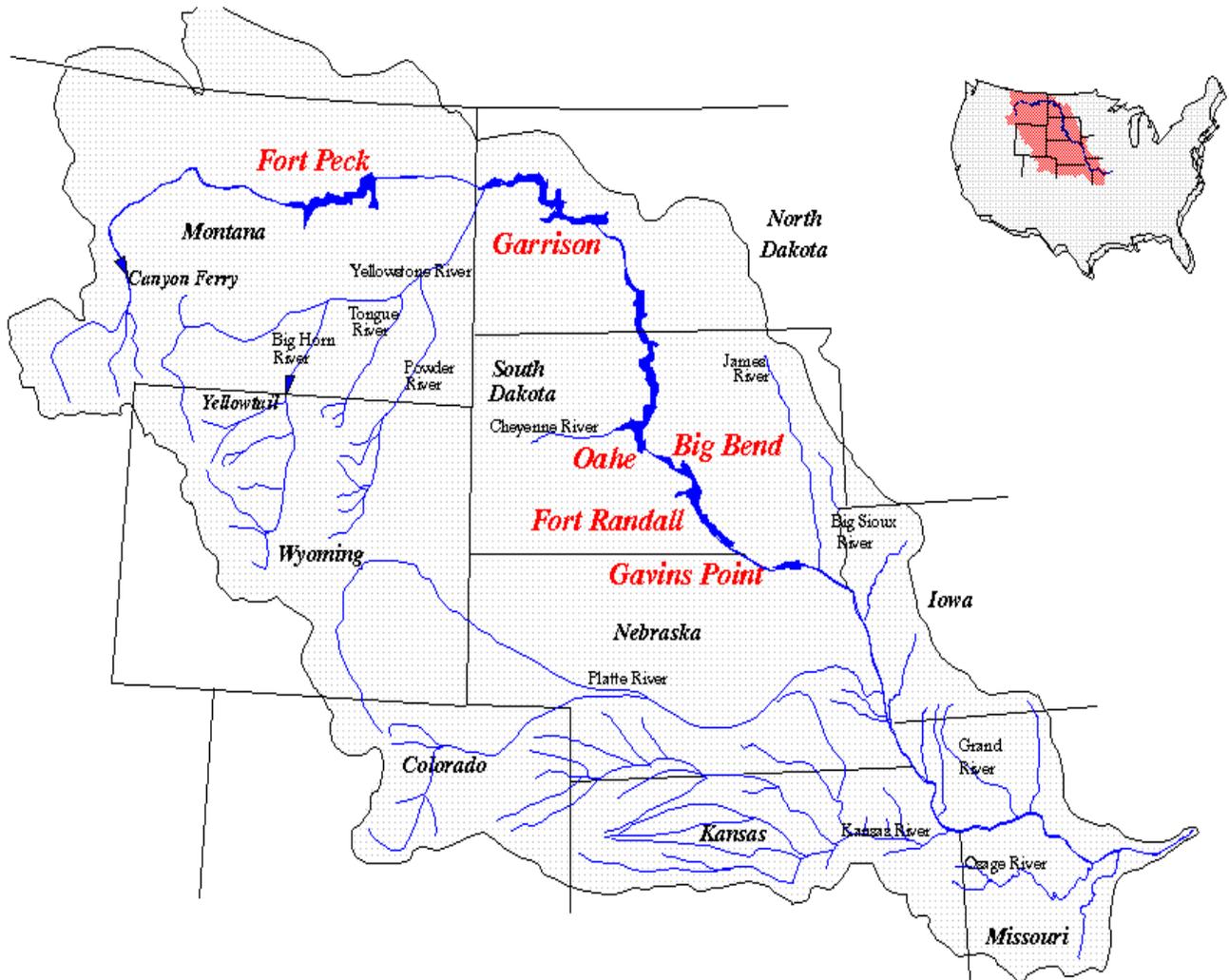


FINAL Meeting Minutes (v. 2)
Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC)

Inaugural Meeting

St. Louis, Missouri

**September 29, 30, and
October 1, 2008**



**Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC)
Inaugural Meeting**

St. Louis, Missouri

FINAL Summary (v. 2)

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (Committee) held its inaugural meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 29, 30, and October 1, 2008. The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (U.S. Institute) facilitated the meeting and notes were taken by a contractor, Juanita Barboa. Meeting participants included Committee members from each of the stakeholder interest categories, some alternate members, and appointed representatives of the Missouri River basin states, tribes and federal agencies. Members of the public also attended the meeting each day.

Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) covered the following subjects during information sharing sessions:

- Historical Milestones (Mary Roth, USACE)
- The Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan (Randy Sellers and Jennifer Switzer, USACE)
- The Missouri River Recovery Program (Mike George, USACE, and Mike Olson, USFWS)
- Cooperation: A Better Path to Conservation (Guest speaker Jimmy Bullock, Resource Management Service, LLC)
- Pallid Sturgeon Recovery (George Jordan and Henry Maddux USFWS)

During the three-day meeting, the Committee reached consensus on the following:

- The Committee agreed to use the Operating Procedures of the former MRRIC Planning Group until the Committee develops its own operating procedures.
- Randy Asbury will serve as the interim Committee chair until a Chair and Vice-Chair selection process is completed by the Committee.
- The Committee agreed to use professional third-party facilitation for MRRIC meetings. The selection process will be coordinated with the U.S. Institute and will be similar to the process used to select the facilitation team for the MRRIC Planning Group.
- Committee meeting locations will be rotated among each state in the basin.

Working groups were established to work on the following procedural topics:

- Operating procedures
- Information technology and communications
- Agenda development for the December 2008 meeting
- Travel funding
- Nominating candidates for Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

In coordination with the USACE and the USFWS, the Committee identified action items and possible agenda topics for future meetings.

The next Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee meeting will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, on December 16, 17, and 18, 2008.

**Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC)
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SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Committee, Committee Members and/or Work Groups

Operating Procedures Work Group

- Draft media communications procedure; i.e., how the Committee will communicate with members of the media and others outside the Committee, to include in the Operating Procedures
- Insert language about conflicts of interest after receiving input from USACE (John Seeronen)
- Clarify process for selecting alternates based on feedback from the USACE
- If “internal” chair is selected, determine whether they can give up their place on the Committee to their alternate
- Report to the full Committee on Operating Procedures progress by November 1 via email

December Agenda Drafting Work Group

- Collaboratively develop next meeting agenda (Interim Chair, Agenda Work Group, Committee, USACE, U.S. Institute, USFWS)
- Seek out educational opportunities on the river and garner stakeholder perspectives including tours, field trips and presentations (federal agencies and Committee members)

Travel Funding Work Group

- Document travel funding hardships
- If travel funding is acquired through grants, establish the criteria for allocating the funding among members (coordinate with Operating Procedures Work Group)

Information Technology Work Group

- Coordinate with the USACE and Committee members to determine how best to share information between meetings.

Chair and Vice-Chair Nominating Work Group

- Develop a list of potential Chair and Vice-Chair nominees – both internal and external – to vet with the Committee and FWG

Committee Members and Alternates

- Recommend alternates in their interest category
- Alternate candidates who identified the wrong interest category will submit an email to Mary Roth stating that the wrong category had been selected.

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- Applications for alternate members are due to the USACE by November 1, 2008.
- Provide estimates of travel funds needed for MRRIC meetings to the Travel Funding Work Group
- Disseminate to the Committee a copy of draft letter to Congress seeking travel funding (Chair)
- Provide recommendations for potential qualified facilitators to the U.S. Institute
- Draft a letter of appreciation to Ruth Siguenza for her work with the MRRIC Planning Group; bring it to the next MRRIC meeting for vetting by the Committee (Pat Cassidy)

General Committee Action Items

- Review exiting programs and projects
 - Identify those projects that are not achieving results
 - Identify those projects that are contentious
 - Identify those projects that have significant negative impacts on stakeholders
- MRRIC will explore those projects and work on consensus recommendations that
- Make those projects more effective
 - Make those projects more widely supported
 - Decrease negative impacts on stakeholders
 - Mitigate negative impacts on stakeholders
 - Negate negative impacts on stakeholders
- Expand contacts in the basin and get more people involved with the recovery process.

USACE and Other Federal Agencies

Committee Operations

Committee Membership

- Work with the Committee to answer question on replacing/renewing members whose terms expire or who resign.
- Determine how soon members whose terms expire September 30, 2009, can reapply.
 - Must they reapply for the same interest group? (USACE)

Alternates

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- Send Committee members a PDF version of the MRRIC member applications for alternates to complete (USACE)
- Clarify whether alternates represent their primary Committee member or the interest category (USACE)
- Confirm whether alternates can serve members in different interest areas (USACE)

Chair and Vice-Chair

- Confirm funding for non-member Chair (USACE)
- Clarify whether funding is available for members who give up their seats on the Committee to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair and identify process for providing funding (USACE)
- Determine whether funding is available to the Chair for speaking at forums outside of the MRRIC meetings (USACE)

Travel Funds

- Confirm whether the Committee can solicit private funds for travel (USACE)
- If the Committee achieves consensus on a statement of need for travel funds for Committee members, can they take that information to the Assistant Secretary? (USACE/John Seeronen)

Information Items

General Tasks

- Post all Power Point presentations (MRERP, MRRP, Pallid Sturgeon) on website (USACE/Mary Roth)
- Define FACAs (USACE/John Seeronen)
- Provide the status of MRRIC funding and report on the number of USACE employees assigned to the Committee (USACE/Mike George)
- Research conflicts of interest and provide information to the Operating Procedures Work Group (USACE/John Seeronen)
- Research the development of a website to use as a repository for Committee documents (USACE/Mary Roth)
- Provide Tribal Consultation Overview (USACE & USFWS)

Information Needs Related to Committee Work on Recovery Program and

MRERP Activities

Overarching Needs

- Clarify FY2009 activities for MRRIC (USACE)

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- Provide the Committee with MRRP and MRERP key decision points, milestones and a timeline to help MRRIC prioritize work plan (USACE)
- Define decision space for MRRIC integration (USACE and USFWS)
- Explain how MRRIC engages on “science” and where it can influence science review process recommendations in the near term (USACE)
- Confirm the role of the USACE’s St. Louis district and watershed studies to the MRERP and MRRP (USACE)
- Clarify definition of “adaptive management” (USACE)
- Provide a glossary of terms and acronyms

MRERP

- Study Rationale: Identify the MRERP project purpose and need (USACE)
- Clarify whether MRERP is a programmatic EIS (USACE)
- Coordinate various NEPA activities (such as 404, navigation, etc., projects) with MRRIC (USACE)
- Define the “cultural” value of cottonwood trees, medicine plants, sources of food, fruit trees, water and other items important to tribal ceremonies; are they being studied and how? (USACE and Tribes)
- Coordinate with Platte River group planning process and other independent processes (USACE and USFWS)
- Review in detail each step of the MRERP process with the Committee (USACE)

MRRP

General Recovery Program Items

- Provide overview of Mainstem Operation; review flow modifications out of Fort Peck; construction of structure at intake in Montana (USACE)
- Disseminate or post USACE’s winter assessment to project flows for following year (USACE)
- Provide Overview of Endangered Species Act (USFWS)
- MRRP Work Plan (09, 10, 11); identify recovery projects on the ground for the 2010 work plan
- Determine how “we” can use the river as an environmental resources

Property Issues

- Disclose who has rights to lands obtained through recovery funds (USACE)

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- Clarify Order of Refusal of Property as set forth in the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (USFWS)
- How are Wildlife refuges and land acquisitions accounted for in the whole system? (USFWS – briefing sheets)

Science

- Provide Overview of Biological Opinion Requirements (USFWS & USACE)
- Discuss the scientific premise and historical relevance of science on Missouri River. Provide an interpretation of existing science (USACE, USFWS, USGS)
- Brief the Committee on Missouri River endangered species: identify where species are doing well and why; how to preserve the species (USFWS)
- Assist in identifying appropriate time frame for recovery for (1) reaches, (2) tributaries, (3) basin. Recovery would be for a species, ecosystem, hydrology.
- Make available R & D by universities and research institutions
- Review and analyze scientific studies for their application to (a) policies, (b) programs, (c) specific projects, (d) AOP for Missouri River
- Endorse or modify study plans for new ecosystem studies
- Examine scientific opinions, etc.

Current Projects

- Provide an inventory or glossary of existing activities/projects that impact the river and their “visions” including projects that may not be directly related to the USACE or USFWS, such as EISs and other concurrent projects in the basin (USACE and USFWS)
- Deliver sandbar presentation and discussion (USACE)

Economic/Funding

- Explain funding for recovery vs. funding for mitigation: how does MRRIC engage on these discussions and when does MRRIC engage (USACE)
- Provide detailed Recovery program costs - respond in writing (USACE)

Pallid Sturgeon Recovery

- Seek a recommendation from MRRIC on the updated draft recovery plan once it receives the draft from the Pallid Recovery Committee.
- Explain how the recovery of sturgeon relates to water flow, water quality, and habitat
- Review the trigger points [for listing] and the species selected for listing
- Seek a recommendation from MRRIC to USACE and USFWS to halt commercial harvest of shovel nose sturgeon.

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- Provide spring pulse data
- Provide information about federal hatcheries and their budgets

U.S. Institute

- Develop list of facilitator qualifications and interview criteria and send to the Committee with a request members provide recommendations for potential facilitators
- Send the Committee potential dates for MRRIC meetings January, February, March and/or April, 2009 and request members identify dates they and their alternates are not available
- Coordinate with the Nominating Committee to identify candidates for chair and vice-chair.
- Send list of Chair and Vice-Chair skills and qualifications brainstormed by the Committee to the Nominating Work Group
- Assist Committee work groups as needed

Long-Term Parking

- Charter calls for 28 stakeholder members but there are 16 interest categories and 2 seats per interest totaling 32. Consider reconciling mathematical discrepancy by adding four more seats (Long-term Parking, requires change in Charter)

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The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (Committee) held its inaugural meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 29, 30, and October 1, 2008. The meeting was facilitated by Sarah Palmer, Melinda Holland, Brian Manwaring, and Patricia Lewis of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (U.S. Institute). Notes were taken by Juanita Barboa, contractor to the U.S. Institute.

DAY 1: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

Meeting Opening and Introductions

G. Witt Anderson, Director of Programs, Northwestern Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) opened the meeting, welcomed Committee members, and acknowledged the work of the members of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee Planning Group (Planning Group) who developed and came to consensus on the MRRIC Charter (Charter). He described the importance of this collaboration and explained that the federal agencies in the Missouri River basin are committed to being transparent and to providing information that discloses how decisions are made.

The Committee has two primary tasks as set forth in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA): 1) to provide guidance to the Secretary of the Army (the Secretary) and any affected federal agencies, states and tribes on the Missouri River Ecosystem Recovery Plan (the Study); and 2) to provide guidance to the Secretary on the existing recovery and mitigation efforts in the basin.

Steve Guertin, Regional Director, Mountain Prairie Region, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), expressed his belief that the Committee can collaborate to build consensus using the best science and adaptive management processes. The USFWS is a member of Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR) along with other federal agencies in the basin. MRBIR members anticipate that consensus recommendations made by the Committee will inform agency decisions.

Agenda Review and Approach to this Meeting

Sarah Palmer of the U.S. Institute announced that members of the public who would like to speak during the meeting are encouraged sign the comment sheet list at the registration desk. The public will be given an opportunity to speak each day at a specified time in the agenda. Comments will be limited to five minutes each, as was set forth in the Federal Register Notice of this meeting. Committee members were asked to complete 1) a meeting scheduling survey; and 2) a photo release. If members prefer not to be photographed they should advise the facilitation team. Scheduling surveys should be left at members' seats at the end of today's meeting.

Agenda Review

The facilitation team reviewed the agenda for day 1. Some Committee members felt that developing the operating procedures should be the group's priority, and suggested eliminating the historical milestones session to allow more time for addressing the operating procedures. Others requested keeping the historical milestones session on the agenda to provide background for new members. Committee members agreed to retain an abbreviated historical milestone session on the agenda and to use the second half of the session to discuss plans for 2009 and what the USACE expects from the Committee.

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The Committee discussed operating under the MRRIC Planning Group Operating Procedures and Ground Rules until a similar set of operating procedures could be developed by this Committee. There was also discussion about convening a work group to develop the operating procedures. The Committee agreed to operate under the operating procedures of the MRRIC Planning Group until the Committee develops its own operating procedures.

Decision: *The Committee agreed to operate under the operating procedures used by the MRRIC Planning Group until Committee operating procedures are developed.*

Decision-Making for this Meeting

Sarah discussed the two-day decision-making rule for “substantive” decisions as defined in the Charter and asked the Committee for guidance on the substantive or procedural nature of some of the tasks on the agenda. The Committee agreed to address the substantive nature of each agenda item as it arose during the meeting.

Review of Materials in Committee Notebooks

Mary Roth (USACE) described the contents of the Committee’s MRRIC briefcases and the enclosed binder materials, which were distributed at the outset of the meeting.

Member Introduction

Committee members introduced themselves, identified their MRRIC interest category and spoke briefly about their goals for the MRRIC.

Information Sharing Session I: Setting the Stage

Historical Milestones and Overview of the Committee

The Committee briefly reviewed the Missouri River historical milestones that led to the establishment of the MRRIC. Committee members were invited to add their own milestones to the timeline during the meeting.

Witt Anderson shared with the Committee the organizational structure of the USACE’s Northwestern Division, whose jurisdiction includes the Columbia and the Missouri River basins. The Division is tasked with providing high-level interface, consistency, and policy guidance across the region. The USACE is further divided into the Omaha, Kansas City, and St. Louis districts. The Committee will interface largely with the Omaha and Kansas City districts, which will include the water and program management aspects of the Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) and the Missouri River Restoration and Recovery Plan (MRERP).

Rose Hargrave (USACE), reviewed the language in WRDA Section 5018 and provided additional background. The 2000 Biological Opinion and the 2003 revised Biological Opinion called for recovery of three endangered species: the piping plover, least tern, and pallid sturgeon. The USACE and EPA funded a National Academy of Sciences National Research Council (NAS/NRC) study which recommended stakeholder involvement in the recovery of the endangered species and restoration of critical habitat. Subsequently, the USACE funded a situation assessment, conducted by the U.S. Institute and its contractors, to determine the feasibility of a group of non-governmental stakeholders, basin Tribes, states and federal

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agencies to work collaboratively on recovery, restoration and mitigation efforts in the Missouri River.

WRDA Section 5018 was initiated by the governors and constituencies in the basin. Section 5018 establishes MRRIC and its membership. The USACE has been tasked to work in consultation with Committee on MRERP and MRRP.

The USACE and the USFWS have been reviewing processes for the current recovery program to determine when and where the Committee's involvement will be beneficial. The USACE and USFWS are seeking guidance from the Committee on where it wants to be involved. The lead agencies are looking at interfaces with the MRERP and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) tasks related to it. This Committee will aid in defining the future condition of the river.

Biological Opinion

To comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS on actions that may impact the listed species. USFWS consultation on the Missouri River began in the late 1980s-early 1990s. In the 2003 Biological Opinion the USFWS echoed the need to create a collaborative stakeholder group like MRRIC that would provide direction for recovery, restoration and mitigation efforts in the Missouri River basin.

Budget

Committee funding comes from the USACE construction general account, generally under the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act. Mike George noted that USACE is willing to budget the monetary resources required to meet the needs of the Committee. Witt explained that as the Committee works on determining the number of meetings and the resources necessary to carry out the Committee's work, those needs will be taken into account as future budgets are developed. The USACE's 2009 budget will be sufficient to carry out the Committee's work for the next six months.

Committee Member Travel

Funding for member travel to MRRIC meetings is an issue of concern. Rose Hargrave of the USACE reminded the Committee that Assistant Secretary J.P. Woodley recommended that Committee members document the hardships incurred by members whose travel expenses constrain their ability to attend meetings. John Seeronen, USACE legal counsel, clarified that the Committee cannot lobby Congress for travel funds; however, members in their capacity as private citizens do not have this restriction.

Operating Procedures

The MRRIC Charter references Committee operating procedures in six different places as noted on a hand-out provided to the Committee (see Appendix A).

Some Committee members stated that the Committee should start by projecting the Planning Group procedures on the screen and going through the issues item-by-item as a full group. Others thought it would be better to establish a work group to develop the operating procedures outside of this session. (Click on this link to view the Planning Group Procedures and Ground Rules: http://missouririver.ecr.gov/pdf/FINAL_MRRICGOPGR.pdf)

Bill Lay's draft version of the operating procedures was distributed to Committee members. The Committee was tasked with reviewing the updated versions of the draft operating procedures

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provided by Mr. Lay and Mr. Williamson and discuss them on Tuesday. (Click on this WebEx link to view Bill Lay's and Bob Williamson's Draft Operating Procedures: <http://mrric.webexone.com/default.asp?link=> then click on "Documents.")

Agenda Review for Tuesday

The group discussed Tuesday's agenda. Proposals included moving the information sharing session scheduled for Tuesday afternoon to the morning; moving the business session to the afternoon; or conducting business sessions interspersed with information sharing sessions throughout the day. The Committee's proposal was to schedule the information sharing pieces in the morning, discuss the compilation of the meeting scheduling survey results, then conduct the business session in the afternoon. The group reached consensus on this approach.

Decision: *The Committee agreed to change Tuesday's agenda: information sharing pieces in the morning, followed by a discussion on meeting date availability, then the business session.*

Committee members agreed to indicate on their binder calendars the days they were unavailable to attend future meetings. Members were reminded to consider travel days as well.

Chair and Vice-Chair as Paid Positions

There was discussion about whether the USACE could fund the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair positions. It was noted that the Charter may need to change if the USACE agrees to provide funding for the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Charter stipulates that the Chair and Vice-Chair can't be federal employees; therefore, they could not be contractors paid by the USACE. John Seeronen clarified that a contractor would not be considered a USACE employee.

Call to Public

There were no comments from the public.

Business Session

Review Member Responsibilities and Roles

The facilitation team read the member responsibilities set forth on pages 11 and 12 of the Charter.

The USACE led a discussion on the application process for Committee member alternates. The USACE's non-governmental stakeholder member selection process did not include notifying individuals who had applied as alternates of their status on the Committee because some of the applications for alternates were incomplete and in some cases, individuals who applied as alternates in a category were not recommended by the primary member. A few individuals who were recommended as alternates applied for a different interest category than the person who recommended them.

There was discussion about whether the Charter writers intended that an alternate could represent multiple categories. If one person could serve as an alternate for multiple members, that may give that alternate more opportunities to attend, participate, and stay current. Process questions arose: Can two people in a similar interest category use the same alternate? If two members with same alternate are absent, which of the two does the alternate represent? One

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option would be to clarify the issue in the MRRIC operating procedures. The Committee was reminded that one reason for alternate members was to help ensure a quorum at the meetings. The USACE feels that one alternate should represent only one member, but agreed to get consensus from the Committee.

The USACE agreed to the following procedure to complete the alternate member selection process:

- Members who haven't identified an alternate and wish to, need to recommend someone to fill that role and ask them to fill out the MRRIC membership application by November 1. If alternate members identified the wrong interest category on their application, the primary member will ask them to send Mary Roth an email acknowledging that they identified the wrong interest category on their application and letting her know which interest category they wish to apply for.
- This will be an evolving process. If an alternate member gives up their membership, for instance, the new alternate needs to complete a membership application. Mary will make the membership applications available on the MRRIC website. The Charter is not clear on whether an alternate is correlated to a member. The USACE will research and discuss this issue, and will follow-up with the Committee.

USACE's Response to Questions about Alternates

The USACE agrees that two members representing the same interest category can share an alternate with this caveat: the alternate will have only one vote if both primary members they represent are absent. Alternates must complete the application process and must be recommended by the primary member prior to attending a meeting on their behalf. The deadline for submitting applications for alternate members to the USACE is November 1.

Members verified that the end of a member's term is also the end of the alternate's term. If an alternate leaves the Committee, the primary member can recommend a new alternate who will be required to complete the application process.

Adjourn

DAY 2: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Meeting Opening

Witt Anderson thanked the Missouri River Natural Resource Committee (MRNRC) for funding Monday night's reception. As part of his opening remarks, he noted that the USACE acknowledges that tribal participation in the MRRIC does not constitute government-to-government consultation. He announced that Henry Maddux of the USFWS would serve as an alternate for Steve Guertin at today's meeting.

Reflections from Day 1

The following Committee members voluntarily offered their observations from day 1 of the meeting: Sue Lowry of the State of Wyoming; Don Borgman representing Agricultural interests; Robert Goodwin of the Department of Transportation, Maritime Division; and Bob Walters of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

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Review of Day 2 Agenda

The facilitation team briefly reviewed the revised agenda for day 2.

Committee members were invited to look at the posted historic milestones chart and add missing pieces or milestones to the timeline.

Information Sharing: Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan (MRERP)

The MRERP team distributed handouts with the following three questions to the Committee members:

- How can the Corps best communicate with MRRIC on the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan?
- What are the most important issues for MRRIC to weigh in on during the MRERP process?
- How would the Committee like to engage on these issues (for instance, assist with planning, participate in a workshop, or host a public forum)?

Committee members were asked to answer these questions by the end of the day and submit their written responses to the USACE who will compile and discuss the results to review on day 3.

Randy Sellers of the USACE Omaha District, introduced Wayne Nelson-Stastny and Carol Hale of the USFWS, and Jennifer Switzer of the USACE, Kansas City District who are also members of the MRERP Project Delivery Team (PDT). Randy's presentation included PowerPoint slides that were provided to the Committee members in their binders. This presentation will be posted on the MRRIC website.

The USACE was asked for clarification on definitions of the "plan" vs. the "study." Randy explained that MRERP is the study and MRRP is the existing plan for recovery of the endangered species. Randy described the relationship and differences between the MRRP and the MRERP. Updates to the recovery program will be addressed in the MRERP.

Randy explained that previously, USACE projects were developed to a site-specific level. The MRRP activities are very site specific. MRERP is a holistic way at looking at the mitigation, recovery and restoration activities in the basin. It represents the relationship between ongoing, existing recovery and mitigation activities and future projects. WRDA requires that the USACE conduct a study of the Missouri River and its tributaries to determine actions required to: mitigate losses of aquatic and terrestrial habitat; to recovery listed species; and restore the ecosystem to prevent further declines among other native species. The USACE is obligated to comply with Army's civil works regulations and federal laws, including NEPA, to make sure the MRERP is legally defensible. The USACE must also consult with tribes and other jurisdictional agencies in the basin. The USACE wants to work with MRRIC every step of the way. This is an opportunity to help define the vision of the future condition of the Missouri River. Because people and agencies have different visions, it is important to work together to integrate and develop one future vision.

The MRERP PDT is drafting a *notice of intent* (NOI) that announces the USACE's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by NEPA. The NOI is anticipated to be published in the federal register in December 2008. The PDT would like input from the

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Committee on the NOI. The purpose of the study is to establish a long-range plan, not just a year-to-year operating plan. The goal of the study is to develop sustainable decisions.

Jennifer described the phases and steps of the MRERP study and its schedule from 2009 through 2016. MRERP is asking for input into all phases of the project. Over the next few months, MRERP will want to coordinate with MRRIC to work on a purpose and need statement for the draft EIS.

Committee Discussion of MRERP

One member asked that “time” be properly placed in the context of the Plan Goal slide (the slide with four interlocking circles). Time is critical and the suggestion was made that 25 to 50 years would be an appropriate timeframe.

One member asked about the nature and scope of this EIS and how the USACE plans to integrate this with other ongoing projects. Where are ongoing projects going to fit in? If the USACE is doing an overarching EIS, why are we working on small specific projects now? Other ongoing projects seem completely unrelated to this project. Jennifer explained that the USACE doesn't have the luxury of suspending other projects while the study is being established and there are mandates to continue work on those other projects.

Jennifer explained that MRERP will have to engage other groups in terms of technical expertise. MRRIC will provide input, but MRERP will also need to get input from others. Jennifer explained that the “study” becomes the “plan” at Step 9. She explained that MRERP, by law, must engage cooperating agencies, tribes, and the public.

The USACE was asked about the “Proposed Ecosystem Restoration Plan Intent” PowerPoint slide and indicated that the project purpose was missing. Randy Sellers explained that the language of the Plan Intent came from WRDA and Jennifer added that MRRIC should address this issue in upcoming meetings.

Committee members expressed the need to get past the discussions about its procedural issues (e.g., meeting scheduling, etc.) and get to the substantive issues because the MRERP process will move forward with or without the Committee.

The question was asked: Will the NOI be for a programmatic EIS or a focused EIS? The concern is that the process is backward because you can't have an EIS without knowing what you are studying, and a programmatic EIS would give overarching direction. Jennifer said that the USACE will not be pre-decisional. The study and the EIS process will go hand in hand. The USACE would like the Committee and MRERP to identify the future condition of the Missouri River ecosystem.

When asked what ecosystem restoration would look like, Henry Maddux of the USFWS said that the statutes define restoration as “not continuing to do damage.”

Committee members added that tributaries and the entire watershed need to be included in the scope of the Study. A Committee member asked if the Platte and Mississippi Rivers will be included in the Study. Jennifer said the idea is to meet with the Platte River governance board and coordinate with them. The goal is to capitalize on the good work of the Platte River.

The USACE and the Committee discussed the MRERP timeline. Some members expressed concerns that 18 months was too little time for step 2: “Study the Affected Environment.” Jennifer explained that MRERP has thought about what goes on in each of the steps and phases of the project and she hopes that the MRERP PDT will have time to describe this in more detail with

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Committee members. She said that more studies will be carried out in 2010 – 2013. The USACE agrees that the Study must incorporate good science, be fiscally responsible and make decisions that are in the best interest of everyone in the basin. Randy explained that the MRERP roadmap is a place to start, but nothing prevents incorporating new steps in the process should something unexpected arise.

A Committee member asked whether there was now an opportunity to review the biological opinion taking a more collaborative approach. The USACE responded that the challenge of the MRRIC is to help address how current projects will be incorporated into the long-range plan. There will be a role for MRRIC on the adaptive management plan to adjust goals to address current projects.

A Committee member asked if it is expected that at the end of this process there will be numerous plans, or is the expectation that short-term and long-term projects are identified and a process is developed for addressing overall concerns that could apply to all projects? Jennifer explained there will be opportunities to focus on existing projects but also to have a plan that lists priorities and the types of projects that would be done, but not a list of specific projects. When asked if there was a list that prioritized projects, Jennifer said that identifying a decision making structure for the future is one thing MRRIC should consider for inclusion in the MRERP EIS.

In the MRERP timeline slide it indicated that MRERP is in the initial planning stages, but planning has been going on for some time and contracts may have even been let. How far behind is the Committee to MRERP? Mike George responded that in the past, the USACE and the USFWS have engaged in some work to determine what needs to happen from start to finish, how to facilitate the process, and how to staff the project. There are currently no requests for proposals to do any on-the-ground work; however, a contractor was hired to assist the MRERP PDT and the contract was a fair competed contract.

Information Sharing: Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP)

This was a joint presentation by Mike George, USACE, MRRP Program Manager, and Mike Olsen, Missouri River Coordinator, USFWS. A PowerPoint presentation was part of the session and it will be posted in the MRRIC website.

Mike George discussed how the Committee process differs from the USACE's "old way of doing business." Mike went on to say that the MRRIC Planning Group no longer exists. This is a new group and everyone has to be brought along in order to be informed enough to participate in the consensus process. The Committee's role is to provide the USACE with consensus recommendations. Members have an obligation to question, listen, and understand the impact of their decisions.

The MRRP presentation started with the vision and mission for recovery of the Missouri River endangered species and continued with a brief discussion of key authorities. Key recovery elements of the biological opinion were listed.

Mike discussed the challenge of balancing economic, social, and cultural needs with environmental needs. He described the necessity of "best" science and independent review by people who are not associated with the Missouri River basin.

Adaptive management will allow for more informed decisions, reduce uncertainty, improve public involvement, and inform the public. The Committee members' constituencies need to

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understand the decisions – they don't all have to agree – but they all need to understand the decisions that are being made.

Engagement opportunities include MRRIC helping to determine

- Budget
- Work plan
- Science
- Adaptive management

Mike explained that spring 2009 is the time to influence the 2011 budget. It's important that the Committee assist with the work plan, which drives the budget.

Committee Discussion of MRRP

A member asked what the federal agencies are doing to make sure the Committee will be heard. Mike responded that the USACE will engage other federal agencies along the way. The USACE and other agencies in the basin are committed to making the MRRIC work. A new memorandum of agreement will codify agency roles and ensure support of the Committee. The USACE and all agencies are committed to connecting their decisions to the MRRIC recommendations.

A Committee member said the agencies are still talking about funding shallow water habitat for the sturgeon. Mike said this topic should be "scrubbed" with independent science review and presented as an agenda item at a subsequent meeting. Sand bars were also added to the long-term parking lot as an agenda item for another meeting.

A Committee member asked whether the plan is covering the 20,000 acres in a continual string along the Missouri River. Mike's graphic showed that activities are taking place along the river in clumps, more like a string of pearls.

A member asked about cottonwood restoration and if states are supporting the fish hatcheries. Mike said that there are states that support and help fund the hatcheries. The emphasis on cottonwood trees is primarily in the Upper Basin. Cottonwood trees benefit species ecosystem-wide and they are culturally important to some basin tribes.

A member asked about the scope of engagement in species restoration. Is the Committee starting from some point in time or is it authorized to challenge the accuracy of the scientific premise put forth in the Biological Opinion? Mike said that the piping plovers are still endangered so USACE must protect the piping plovers. A future agenda item may include review of the plovers' status.

A Committee member asked if the Committee would have the opportunity to be involved in deciding where the money is spent (e.g., purchasing land, etc.) This was added as a future agenda item.

Mike noted that timing is of the essence. In the absence of input from the Committee the USACE will make decisions. The Committee needs to delve into the science and give the USACE feedback. On project work in 2009, the USACE needs to get guidance from the Committee wherever possible.

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A Committee member asked for information on wildlife refuges and how they fit into the calculations of enhanced habitat. Are they part of the calculation? Mike will provide briefing sheets that address this question at the next meeting.

The Committee requested an inventory or glossary of all USACE and USFWS activities and projects that may be impacting the river. A starting point would be a listing of where all the projects are and their purposes.

AFTERNOON AGENDA

Business Session

Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

Sarah reviewed the requirements of a Chair and Vice-Chair as set forth in the Charter. Regarding the previous day's discussion about the USACE providing funding for a non-member Chair and Vice-Chair, Witt Anderson clarified that the USACE can fund a non-member Chair and Vice-Chair and their travel, if that's what the Committee elects to do.

A Committee member was concerned that as the Committee considers using the services of chairs and facilitators, it needs to know the project budget. Mike George explained that the USACE will support whatever the Committee needs to operate. The USACE doesn't want funding issues to constrain the Committee's ability to get things done.

Chair and Vice Chair Selection Process

Committee members brainstormed the pros and cons of selecting its Chair and Vice Chair from among its membership (internal) or selecting people from outside the Committee to fill these roles (external) and then brainstormed about the attributes the Chair and Vice-Chair should possess.

Attributes of a Chair

- Needs to help with time management
- Needs to be unbiased, even-handed
- Needs to be an extension of the facilitator
- The skill set could be very different depending on the level and degree of facilitation that will be brought in: if the committee hires highly professional facilitators, then the Chair/Vice-Chair wouldn't need such strong facilitation skills
- Should have experience with tribal consultation
- Should be open minded, keep the Committee on task, and endorse operating procedures even if that becomes uncomfortable
- Needs to have a hydrology or systems background, familiarity with economic impacts, listening ability, and ability to communicate
- Ability to move people forward to consensus
- Someone with good character and the ability to learn; would rather bring people up to speed on the science than on character, because you can't teach character

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- Needs to have balance

The Committee asked the USACE if a person steps down from the Committee and is no longer a member could that person be compensated for serving as Chair? The USACE would have to follow federal acquisition regulations; it may not be able to automatically contract with someone who steps down.

By a show of hands, the Committee indicated their preference for an internal or external chair. Two tallies were taken, one assuming professional facilitation, and the other assuming no facilitation.

Regarding the selection process, Sarah explained that one option was to have the Committee identify possible candidates and vet those people through a smaller group, or the Committee could develop a ballot for internal candidates.

Some Committee members recommended that a small working group screen the nominations. Others felt the Committee must be made up of one member of every constituency – every state, every tribe, every other interest. Another Committee member expressed that they must operate by consensus and the two-meeting decision making rule. Using this approach, it might take several meetings to choose an external chair. It was pointed out that nominating a Chair is a substantive decision. Another suggested process option was to select an interim Chair.

The facilitators posed a question to the group: Can you live with having an external Chair?

- Some were against the interim chair idea, but in favor of selecting an internal Vice-Chair who would act as the Chair until the external process could be developed.
- Some had difficulty with the amount of time it will take to establish an external chair because of the commitment required by an external chair to keep the Committee moving forward.
- Others felt the USACE should go through the process of finding a Chair like they did for the Planning Group, using the Federal Working Group.
- It was recommended that the Committee choose an internal, interim Vice-Chair before the end of the meeting. It was noted that according to the Charter, the term of this position would be the end of the year.

One member proposed an iterative ballot process to select an interim Chair that would include the following steps:

1. Each member identifies a nominee on a slip of paper.
2. The facilitation team lists each nominee and the number of people who identified the nominee on a flip chart.
3. The listed nominees are asked if they prefer to remain on the list of nominees or if they prefer to be removed from the running.
4. The Committee votes for the remaining nominees.
5. Steps 2, 3, and 4 are repeated until there is a majority winner.
6. The Committee conducts a consensus ballot to determine the winner.

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7. If consensus is not reached the process starts again.

The Committee agreed to follow this process for selecting an interim Chair.

Decision: *The Committee agreed to select an interim chair using an iterative ballot process.*

Nomination of Interim Chair

Members identified their preferred candidates in writing by ballot. Several members were identified as candidates. The candidates were asked if they would like to be removed from consideration. After the final list of candidates were compiled, another ballot was taken. This ballot identified the top two candidates. Another ballot was taken and Randy Asbury was identified as the preferred candidate. The Committee then reached consensus on choosing Randy Asbury as its interim Chair.

Third Party Facilitation

A question before the Committee was whether or not it would like its meetings facilitated. Sarah briefly described the role of third-party facilitators in a multi-stakeholder collaborative process.

Some members expressed the desire to hire the '*best of the best*', and perhaps a firm instead of an individual because the Committee needs highly qualified and capable facilitators. Most agreed that the Committee needs a team of facilitators. A Committee member stated that a note taker needs to be included on the facilitation team. Sarah suggested integrating the two and that a note taker role could be included in the call for proposals.

Decision: *The Committee agreed by consensus to have its meetings professionally facilitated.*

The Committee agreed by consensus to have its meetings facilitated.

Committee members brainstormed the desired facilitator attributes for the MRRIC meetings:
Scientific background

- State, tribal, and federal interaction
- Organized, thoughtful, engaged, good listener, able to summarize things, focus on action items, results oriented
- Should be an organization with more than one person
- Must have a proven track record of working with diverse interest groups
- Must be able to keep things moving
- Environmental background is necessary for at least one member of the team
- Cannot have a conflict of interest – cannot be contracted to do other work on Missouri River projects
- Could be from out of or within the basin
- If within the basin, need to be impartial; out of the basin makes coordination/travel a bit more difficult
- Must have experience with large groups and complex materials
- Clerical items should be moved along quickly

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Sarah explained that the U.S. Institute maintains a roster of approximately 280 third-party neutral facilitators. She recommended that the U.S. Institute draft a call for proposals that would be sent to up to 30 practitioners. The U.S. Institute would screen the proposals based on the criteria (the attributes) developed by the Committee, identify 6 or 8 qualified facilitators for the Committee to review and then seek a consensus recommendation from the Committee on a facilitation team to either interview in-person or select from the pool of qualified facilitators.

The following issues were raised:

- Ruth Nicholson-Siguenza's facilitation team who facilitated the MRRIC Planning Group should be a finalist. Sarah explained that the request could be sent to Ruth but she and her team cannot be predetermined as a finalist.
- Would the facilitator have a three-year commitment? Sarah recommended a one-year contract. Then if the Committee decided, the contract could be modified or a new team could be contracted.

Sarah asked if the Committee could agree to having the U.S. Institute send out a call for proposals for facilitation of the meetings and other related coordination. By a consensus decision, the Committee agreed to have the U.S. Institute send out a call for proposals. The Committee also agreed by consensus that the U.S. Institute would do the initial screening of the facilitator proposals and would provide up to six qualified candidates for vetting by the Committee and any candidates that were not the top candidates but still strong contenders.

Sarah will provide the U.S. Institute's list of criteria for evaluating third party facilitators and a list of potential questions to ask qualified candidates during an interview.

Decisions: *The Committee agreed by consensus that the U.S. Institute will send out a call for proposals for a MRRIC facilitator / facilitator team.
The Committee agreed by consensus that the U.S. Institute will make the first cut and provide the proposals from six – eight candidates for the Committee to vet.*

Meeting Schedule

The facilitation team reviewed the results of the Committee meeting schedule survey and reported following results:

- Meetings every 2 months to 3 months ranked highest
- Meeting duration of 2 days to 3 days ranked highest.
- Meeting location preferences were as follows: Omaha, Kansas City, Bismarck, St. Louis, Denver, Minneapolis, and Sioux City.

The issue of the 30-day public notice for meetings was raised. Logistical planning for MRRIC meetings takes at least 30 days according to the USIECR. Some members would like to see the Committee hold more meetings in the winter and less during spring and fall. Others noted that meetings need to be coordinated with the USACE's work schedule. The USACE would like input from the Committee on its work plan for fiscal year 2011 by June 2010. Input on activities planned for fiscal year 2009 would be very limited at this point in time.

The facilitation team reminded the Committee that consensus must be reached on recommendations to the USACE, and decision making requires following the two-step decision-making rule (see the Charter 6) d) (2). The Committee discussed limited budgets, schedule

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limitations, and the need to have more meetings between now and spring 2009 to get things moving, particularly to allow adequate time for the 30-day meeting notices and to allow for the two-step decision-making rule.

Members expressed that the frequency of meetings once the Committee is established is one issue, but for now there's an urgency to get the Committee up and running. The facilitation team reviewed the November 2008 through September 2009 calendars of member availability that resulted from the Committee scheduling survey. Based on the survey, members' calendars are already booked in November and December. Up to six members were unavailable to meet at any time in November.

Based on member availability Committee members agreed they could live with holding the next meeting on December 16, 17 & 18, 2008, in Omaha, Nebraska. The U.S. Institute facilitation team will work with the Committee to start developing an agenda.

Decision: *The Committee agreed the next meeting would be held in Omaha on December 16, 17, and 18, 2008.*

The U.S. Institute will send out a list of dates when members indicated they would be available for meetings in January and February.

Call to Public

There were no comments from the public.

Adjourn

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2008

Meeting Opening

Randy Asbury thanked the Committee for nominating him as interim Chairperson. He greeted the Committee with a message of optimism and encouraged members to maintain a larger vision of the river. Randy reviewed the agenda and explained the need to get through the operating procedures today. He recommended that the Committee refer some procedural items to work groups in lieu of developing them in a plenary session. He said the Committee should recognize that it is setting an example not only for the Missouri River basin but for the nation.

Welcome from Witt Anderson

Witt addressed the group and praised the progress made yesterday. He suggested creating a set of working operating procedures instead of going into gridlock over making procedures perfect at this point. The USACE compiled a menu of topics the Committee may want to consider as agenda items for the next several meetings based on the Committee's comments during yesterday's presentations. Witt discussed possible options for getting the group out to see on-the-ground projects that could be arranged around, during, or after meeting days.

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Reflections from Day 2

Jim Redmond representing environmental/conservation interests on the Committee; Jim Riss of the State of South Dakota; Mike Mac of the USGS; and Kate Vandemoer of the Northern Arapaho Tribe shared reflections of day 2 of the meeting.

Agenda Announcements

The facilitation team asked members to review the timeline throughout the day and referred members to the milestones that had been added to it over the last two days.

Members were asked to inform Pat Lewis if they would not be at the meeting for the term selection portion of the agenda and to identify a proxy to select their term. They were given the option to have Pat serve as their proxy.

Guest Speaker: Jimmy Bullock – Cooperation: A Better Path to Conservation

Mr. Bullock is a private landowner and lives adjacent to the Mississippi River. He shared his experiences participating on a multi-stakeholder collaboration process addressing black bear conservation issues in the Southeast U.S. More than seventy organizations were involved. Membership was open to anyone who would set aside their personal opinions and look at conservation.

Jimmy explained what contributed to the collaborative process and what were some barriers to the process.

Contributions to Success:

- It was a true partnership: all participants must leave organizational biases at the door
- Open door for all willing stakeholders
- Open and credible communication
- All members communicate
- Identify common ground
- Mutual respect

Critical to Success:

- Trust absolutely critical
- Understand and respect all viewpoints and constraints
- Be willing to listen
- There must be trust

Benefits of Working Together:

- Players in the game are at the table
- Allows you to address multiple issues
- Greater credibility

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- Better identify opportunities and barriers
- Better able to find the balance
- Cost effective
- Encourage creative management solutions

Business Session

Operating Procedure Drafting Discussion

Bob Williamson described how he developed the draft operating procedures that were distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. The Committee briefly discussed the definition of “substantive,” the two-step decision-making rule, and the role of facilitators.

The Committee agreed to create a work group that would use Bob Williamson’s draft as a starting point for drafting the operating procedures. The following people volunteered to **serve on the work group: Patrick Cassidy, Lynn Muench, Joe Gibbs, Vicki Marquis, Tom Graves, Bob Williamson, Dave Johnson, Randy Asbury, Kate Vandemoer, and Brian Barels.** The work group may communicate via conference calls and emails. The U.S. Institute can be available if the group needs assistance. The discussion group may want to consider Bill Lay’s input on the definition of “substantive.” Bob Williamson will contact people by email to arrange for meetings or calls.

Decision: *The Committee agreed to create an operating procedures work group: A draft of the Operating Procedures will be sent to the full Committee by November 1.*

The group will send draft operating procedures to the full Committee by November 1.

John Seeronen (USACE) will research what constitutes a conflict of interest for Committee members and provide that information to the Operating Procedures work group.

Best Way to Communicate with the USACE

- **Ask for information:** The Committee should let the USACE know when they, the Committee, need information.
- **Add the USACE to meeting agendas:** The Committee should add the USACE to upcoming meeting agendas as appropriate.
- **Email the USACE:** Make sure questions are specific. It would be helpful to the USACE if the Committee identifies questions that need to be answered. The Committee asked if the USACE could reply to all members so everyone receives the same information.

Agenda Topics to Consider at Future Meetings

Mike George (USACE) asked the Committee to complete a survey of topics of interest to be considered as agenda items for the upcoming fiscal year. The Committee will be encouraged to add items to the list as needed.

Witt and USACE staff reviewed the results of the surveys with the Committee. Mike George presented a list of 12 agenda topics to consider for future meeting agendas:

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1. Mainstem System Operation
 2. Biological Opinion Requirements Overview
 3. MRRP Work Plan (09,10,11)
 4. MRRP Science Program Overview
 5. Overview of Past and Future On-Ground Projects
 6. Independent Science Review Process
 7. MRERP Next Steps
 8. Tribal Consultation Overview
 9. Recovery Plan
 10. Endangered Species Act Overview
 11. Goals and Objectives of Refuges
 12. Order of Refusal of Property per FWCA
- PLUS Activities of other agencies

The majority of agenda topics identified on the survey reflected the Committee's desire for science-related information. Another common request was for an overview of past and future projects on the Missouri River. The USACE thought the following were issues were important to cover (based on items submitted in writing and on issues raised verbally during the presentations): tribal consultation overview, Endangered Species Act overview, order of refusal of property, and activities of other agencies (could be lessons learned from other parts of the country). Mike also recommended that Committee members could provide presentations about their constituencies to the whole Committee.

A Committee member noted the importance of a Missouri River science overview, including water quality and health. It is also important to explore the tribal vision for the river. Several Committee members expressed the need to add the role of tributaries. Mike responded relationship of MRRIC to the tributaries needs to be determined.

A member asked what the USACE would recommend as important input for the next meeting. Witt replied that the USACE's top agenda topics to consider at the next two meetings would be:

- Mainstem system operation
- Overview of the Biological Opinion requirements
- MRRP work plan (fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011)
- MRRP science program overview
- Overview of past and future on-the-ground projects
- Independent science review process

Witt would be willing to flesh out the agenda topics and identify science review and recovery projects on the ground, on which the Committee could provide input.

A Committee member suggested that for the next couple of meetings, the agenda should be guided by the USACE and should address some of the suggestions related to exploring the tribal vision of the River. Members expressed that they need to know what recommendations

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are needed by the USACE and the timeline for those recommendations. Another member suggested there are two types of agenda items, those focused on making recommendations and those that provide education.

Other possible agenda items recommended by Committee members:

- A PowerPoint presentation on different areas of the river – an example would be floodplain districts or conservation districts
- Information from various entities besides the USACE
- How the Missouri River and the watershed overlap
- Spring surge should be addressed soon
- It would be interesting to have a review of the pallid sturgeon triggers and the species selected for listing (the USACE can provide that information)
- Exploring a moratorium on land purchases.
- Purpose and need of the MRERP study
- Review draft of the MRERP EIS Notice of Intent
- A Committee member noted that tribes lost medicine plants, sources of food, fruit trees, and other items as well as cottonwood trees, which are used in sacred ceremonies. A member asked if MRERP is going to study plant species in addition to cottonwood trees. Mike said the USACE has contracted with a college to study plant life on the Missouri River. Jennifer mentioned that cultural values are part of the vision of the Missouri River projects and cultural values are a very important.

The USACE was asked for the following items:

- Definitions of “cultural plants” and other terms and acronyms in common language
- A list of other projects/studies that may not be directly related to the USACE or the USFWS, such as EISs, and other concurrent projects in the basin
- Where MRRIC can influence science review process recommendations in the near term
- Recovery projects on the ground for the 2010 work plan

Several Committee members recommended having webcasts or other electronic forums for communicating information sharing pieces between meetings; this would allow the meetings to focus on items that require action. Mike George responded that information-sharing documents could be posted on the MRRIC website. A Committee member stated that stakeholders may appreciate webcasts of some of the meetings. Other Committee members were concerned that webcasts, and other technical solutions, may put them at a disadvantage because of their lack of access to the appropriate technology (for example, fast internet connections, etc.).

Mike Armstrong, Paul Lepisto, and Terry Fleck formed a work group to research possibilities for web-based technologies, determine what types of technology each Committee member has access to, and research how to meet everyone’s needs. Mary Roth (USACE) will check with its information technology department as well.

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Agenda for Next Meeting – December

Randy Asbury proposed a process of establishing an agenda work group that would coordinate with the USACE and the U.S. Institute to develop a draft agenda for the next meeting. The goal for the work group would be to prepare a draft agenda for review by the whole Committee by early November. He recommended starting by identifying critical topics.

Agenda items might include:

- Finalizing operating procedures
- A speaker regarding other collaborative processes
- The facilitator selection process
- Prioritizing recovery efforts
- Identifying decision-making opportunities on projects identified by the USACE

Decision: *The Committee agreed to create a work group responsible for coordinating with the USACE to develop a final agenda for the next meeting: Randy Asbury (lead), Bill Beacom, Paul Lepisto, John Pozzo, Buzz Mattelin, Terry Fleck, Mike Wells, Mike Armstrong, Tom Graves, Lanny Meng, Tim Bryggman, Kate Vandemoer. The final agenda will be sent to the full Committee by November 15.*

The USACE agreed to put together a list of potential decision-making milestones.

The U.S. Institute should have a list of facilitator candidates for the Committee to review by the next meeting.

Communications

How should internal Committee communications take place? Committee members discussed whether a password-protected, member-only site would be appropriate. John Seeronen explained that the USACE is responsible for filing the decisions of the Committee and that all information would be available to the public. The meetings are open to the public and although the MRRIC can conduct meetings that are closed to the public, decisions cannot be made in a closed meeting. In response to tribal members not wanting certain information made available to the public, John noted that by law, information about cultural sites would not be posted for public review.

- Resource documents, biological opinions, etc., should all be on a website.
- Some members suggested the public should have access to material on the website, but only Committee members should be allowed to post information.
- A member asked about the difference between something being discoverable and being available to the public. John Seeronen explained that the public does not have access to pre-decisional working drafts.
- Other members noted that some states represented on the Committee have sunshine laws and that communications need to remain transparent. John said that any document available to the Committee would be available to the public per state sunshine laws.

Decision: *The Committee agreed that the U.S. Institute could distribute notes from the inaugural meeting and from work groups to the full Committee.*

Sarah asked and the Committee did not object to the U.S. Institute distributing notes from this meeting and

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from the working groups to Committee members and alternates.

Committee Representation Outside the MRRIC and Media Relations

According to the Charter, the role of the Committee Chair is to speak on behalf of the Committee. The Committee would like the Operating Procedures Work Group to draft a procedure that delineates how the Committee will communicate with members of the media and others outside the Committee. The Committee may also need a policy that addresses whether the Chair will be paid for speaking at forums outside of the Committee meetings.

Information Sharing: Pallid Sturgeon Recovery

Henry Maddux provided an overview of where and how the USFWS's recovery work fits into the MRERP phases and steps.

George Jordon delivered a presentation on the status of the pallid sturgeon recovery that included an overview of the shovelnose and pallid sturgeon similarity issue. The USFWS will make the presentation available on the MRRIC website.

The pallid sturgeon recovery team was formed in the 1990s. The first release of hatchery fish was in 1992.

The recovery team does not make decisions regarding recovery actions but does provide recommendations. The team looks at the range of the species, which is broken into upper, middle, and lower basin reaches. Basin advisory groups at the local level provide input to the recovery team. The pallid sturgeon project was a Bureau of Reclamation project funded by WRDA through the USACE.

George Jordan explained that artificial augmentation of the pallid sturgeon is taking place at multiple hatcheries.

State, federal, private organizations, and universities are all involved in the hatchery program. The endangered status of the pallid sturgeon is being impacted by commercial fishing of the shovelnose sturgeon, which can be mistaken for the pallid sturgeons. The USFWS is starting to revise the pallid sturgeon recovery plan. The USFWS will seek comment from the Committee and others on the plan revision.

Committee Member Discussion of Pallid Sturgeon Recovery

A Committee member stated that one of the first things the Committee needs to do is recommend banning commercial fishing of the pallid sturgeon.

The Committee suggested that a future agenda item might be identifying the delisting criteria for pallid sturgeon, as well as the impact of river flow on the pallid recovery, water quality and habitat issues.

A Committee member asked about the budget for the recovery program. Mike George responded that the budget is \$3 million for next year. Project estimates are between \$45 and \$55 million in a phased process.

Random Drawing for Initial Members' Terms

According to the Charter (5)v)(2)(a) "At the first organizational meeting of the Committee, through random drawing, one-third of the stakeholders will be appointed to a one-year term. Another third will be appointed to a two-year term. The final third will be appointed to a three

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year term. This provision applies to the initial terms of the founding Committee members. Thereafter, all terms will be three years.” The USACE clarified that member terms start October 1, 2008 and run until September 30, 2009.

Drawing Results:

- David Shorr – 2 years
- Lynn Muench – 3 years
- Marian Maas – 1 year
- Don Borgman – 3 years
- Roger Huizenga – 2 years
- Mike Armstrong – 3 years
- Bill Lay – 1 year
- Terry Fleck – 3 years
- Vicki Marquis – 2 years
- Bob Williamson – 1 year
- Lanny Meng – 2 years
- Buzz Mattelin – 2 years
- David Sieck – 3 years
- John Pozzo – 2 years
- Kenneth Reeder – 2 years
- Paul Lepisto – 1 year
- Jim Redmond – 1 year
- Steve Nagel* – 3 years
- Kara Nagel – 1 year
- Joe Gibbs – 3 years
- Tom Graves – 1 year
- Jason Skold – 2 years
- David Swartz – 2 years
- Brian Barels – 1 year
- Pat Cassidy – 1 year
- Bill Beacom – 1 year
- Randy Asbury – 3 years
- Jim Becic – 3 years

*Alternate for Russ Kaldenberg.

The USACE will answer the question about how soon an individual needs to reapply for membership on the Committee if they are randomly selected for a one- or two-year term.

Mary Roth (USACE) explained that the Committee Charter allows for 28 stakeholder members for sixteen interest categories. This means that some of the interest categories have two representatives and others have one representative. The Committee could consider changing the Charter to create two seats for each interest category, bringing the total number of stakeholder seats to 32. This issue was placed in the long-term parking lot.

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Travel Funding Work Group

Jim Redmond, Michael Catches Enemy, Marian Maas, Lanny Meng, Kenneth Reeder, and Kate Vandemoer volunteered to form a work group to discuss potential strategies for addressing ways to provide funding for Committee member travel. During its ad hoc meeting, the work group developed a proposal for identifying private sources of travel funding (see Appendix B).

John Seeronen (USACE) clarified that the Committee can make recommendations regarding travel funding to the Secretary of the Army (the Secretary), particularly if it can document the hardship caused by the lack of travel support for Committee meetings. He explained that it may not be appropriate for the Committee as an entity to lobby Congress. When asked whether Committee members could sign a petition or a letter addressed to Congress requesting travel funding, John Seeronen explained that it would be appropriate for individuals, not the Committee as a whole, to send letters to Congressional delegates.

John Seeronen (USACE) will research whether the Committee can solicit private funding for travel.

Randy Asbury agreed to share with the Committee a letter he intends to draft to his congressional representative regarding the need for travel support for Committee members.

If external funding is secured, criteria for distributing those funds must be addressed. There may have been people who didn't volunteer for Committee membership because travel costs were a hardship. A member expressed surprise that they were among the minority of members whose travel support was out-of-pocket and not funded by an organization.

Committee members were asked not to write letters until the Travel Funding Work Group can report to the group a plan for action. The Committee concurred.

Nominating Work Group

The following members volunteered to work with the USACE and the Federal Working Group to develop a list of potential candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee: **David Sieck (lead), David Johnson, Bill Lay, Lynn Muench, and David Barfield.**

The USACE will verify, by report to this work group, whether or not an individual external to the Committee and selected as a Chair or Vice-Chair can be provided an honorarium and reimbursed for travel expenses. The Nominating Work Group will send an invitation to Committee members to provide recommendations for Chair and Vice-Chair nominees. The U.S. Institute will distribute to the work group the list of Chair and Vice-Chair qualifications brainstormed by the Committee on day 2.

Decision: *The Committee agreed to create a Nominating Work Group to develop a list of nominees for Chair and Vice-Chair in coordination with USACE and the Federal Work Group.*

The work group should also clarify whether, if the selected Chair and Vice-Chair are sitting Committee members, they must give up their seat as a voting member. The USACE will verify whether a Committee member can resign their seat for a paid position. The USACE will check federal acquisition regulations (FAR) regarding sole sourcing and any other contracting constraints. John Seeronen will review the Charter and research any legal constraints.

The Committee concurred that the Nominating Work Group can go forward. The Nominating Work Group will coordinate with the Operating Procedures Work Group to develop voting guidelines if sitting Committee members are selected for the Chair and/or Vice-Chair.

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Meeting Locations

Vicki Marquis and Lanny Meng proposed a system for identifying meeting locations as follows: Meetings will be held in each of the eight basin states in the order the states joined the Union. State representatives on the Committee will recommend where to hold the meeting in their state. The Committee agreed to this proposal.

Decision: *The Committee agreed that meetings will be held in states represented on the Committee in the order the states joined the union. Committee members representing the states will determine the meeting location within the state.*

Call to Public

There were no comments from the public.

Feedback on Meeting Process

Positive

- The Committee wants to recognize the MRRIC Planning Group facilitation team. Pat Cassidy will draft a letter to acknowledge that team.
- Thanks to Witt, the USACE, and USFWS staff for their hard work.
- The USFWS and USACE working collaboratively - shows great progress.
- The Institute facilitators were thanked for their skill and work to put this meeting together.
- Thanks to non-Committee members.
- Thanks to the presenters for their hard work and good presentations.
- Expression of pride in the effort and commitment of Committee members.

Suggestions for Improvement

- The sign-in sheet should be modified so members can check off their attendance for each day.
- Need wider spaces at the table.
- Need longer lunch breaks.
- The last day should end earlier (noon).

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Closing Words from the Interim Chair

Randy Asbury extended his thanks to everyone who supported his nomination as interim Chair. He thanked the non-Committee members for their support of the Committee, including those who provided presentations to the group. Randy reiterated his belief that the group will set a precedent for collaboration in the basin and throughout the nation.

Adjourn

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Appendix A – DRAFT Overview of MRRIC Charter References to Operating Procedures

DRAFT Overview of MRRIC Charter References to Operating Procedures

Note: This draft document is intended to inform Committee members of Charter references to the phrase “Operating Procedures”.

Section 3 Definitions. Paragraph (f), page 4. “Meeting: A gathering of the Committee lasting one or more partial or full days, as defined in the Committee’s operating procedures and guidelines.”

Section 3 Definitions. Paragraph (r), page 5. “Substantive Issue: An issue for which the Committee is considering developing recommendations and other decisions identified as substantive in the committee’s operating rules and procedures.”

Section 5 Membership and Representation of Interests. Section b) Roles, Responsibilities, and Leadership. Paragraph ii) member and alternate responsibilities, subparagraph 6), page 12. “Members and alternates will adhere to the Committee’s charter, operating procedures and ground rules. They are expected to give due consideration to the procedural guidance and recommendations of the Chair.”

Section 5 Membership and Representation of Interests. Section b) Roles, Responsibilities, and Leadership. Paragraph v) Independent Panels, page 12. “Lead and participating agencies may convene panels independent of the convening agencies as requested by the Committee to advise the Committee on substantive issues as identified by the Committee. The Committee will recommend panel members as established by its operating procedures.”

Section 6 General Committee Operations, Paragraph a) Operating Procedures and Guidelines, page 13. “The Committee will develop a set of operating procedures and guidelines to set forth in detail how it shall conduct meetings and accomplish the requirements of this charter.”

Section 6 General Committee Operations, Paragraph c), Section iii) Notice of meetings, page 13. “Public notice of each such meeting of the Committee will be given as provided for in the Operating Procedures.”

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Appendix B –Travel Funding Work Group Proposal presented at the St. Louis Committee meeting.

Proposal presented by the Travel Funding Work Group at the St. Louis Committee meeting.

The participation of most members of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee is supported by organizations/constituencies with sufficient resources to reimburse them for travel and lodging expenses while other members may be challenged to come up with sufficient support for faithful attendance at locations throughout the basin

AND

Since the Water Resources Development Act prohibits the use of federal dollars for travel purposes

AND

The members of the MRRIC are critical to developing a vision of and plan for the restoration of the ecosystem

We propose the establishment of a work group to identify sources of private funds to help defray the costs of members' travel/lodging expenses (purpose)

The tasks of this work group are

- 1)to develop at least two estimates of the level of funding needed
- 2) To identify 3 to 5 foundations or other private sources of funding
- 3) To develop grant proposals
- 3)To identify an agency to receive funds and the process for managing, dispensing and, accounting for these funds

Work Committee members

Lanny Meng

Kate Vandemoer

Jim Redmond

Kenneth Reeder

Michael Catches Enemy

Marian Maas

U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution

The group will complete these tasks and return a report at the next meeting of the Recovery Committee(time frame). We believe the recovery committee's consideration of the report and any proposal should take up no more than fifteen minutes late in a day's session.

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Appendix C – Attendee Lists

MRRIC Members	Interest Category, Tribe, State or Federal Agency	09/29/08	09/30/08	10/01/08
LaDonn Allen (Alternate for Steve Hudson for Days 2 & 3)	U.S. Coast Guard		X	X
Witt Anderson	USACE	X	X	X
Michael Armstrong	Water Supply	X	X	X
Randy Asbury	At Large	X	X	X
Brian Barelis	Thermal Power	X	X	X
David Barfield	State of Kansas	X	X	X
William Beacom	Waterway Industries	X	X	X
Jim Becic	Fish & Wildlife	X	X	X
Marilyn Bercier (Alternate for Mike Black)	Bureau of Indian Affairs	X	X	X
Don Borgman	Agriculture	X	X	X
Tim Bryggman	Sate of Montana	X	X	X
Patrick Cassidy	Thermal Power	X	X	X
Michael Catches Enemy	Oglala Sioux	X	X	X
Joe Cothorn	Environmental Protection Agency	X	X	X
Gary Davis	Bureau of Reclamation	X	X	X
Brian Dunnigan	State of Nebraska	X	X	X
Terry Fleck	Recreation	X	X	X
Joseph Gibbs	Flood Control	X	X	X

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MRRIC Members	Interest Category, Tribe, State or Federal Agency	09/29/08	09/30/08	10/01/08
Robert Goodwin	Department of Transportation, Maritime Division	X	X	X
Thomas Graves	Hydropower	X	X	X
Steve Guertin	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	X		
Robert Harris	Western Area Power Administration	X	X	X
Steve Hudson	U.S. Coast Guard	X		
Roger Huizenga	Conservation Districts	X	X	X
David Johnson	State of North Dakota	X	X	X
Paul Lepisto	Environmental/Conservation	X	X	X
William Lay	Local Government	X	X	X
Sue Lowry	State of Wyoming	X	X	X
Marian Maas	Water Quality	X	X	X
Michael Mac (alternate for Max Ethridge days 1, 2 & 3)	U.S. Geological Survey	X	X	X
Henry Maddux (Alternate for Steve Guertin for part of day 1 and all of days 2 & 3)	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	X	X	X
Michael Madell	National Park Service	X	X	X
Deb Madison	Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes	X	X	X
Vicki Marquis	Conservation Districts	X	X	X
Buzz Mattelin	Irrigation	X	X	X
Lanny Meng	Flood Control	X	X	X

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MRRIC Members	Interest Category, Tribe, State or Federal Agency	09/29/08	09/30/08	10/01/08
Lynn Muench	Navigation	X	X	X
Kara Nagel	Irrigation	X	X	X
Steve Nagel (Alternate for Russ Kaldenberg days 1, 2 & 3)	At Large	X	X	X
John Pozzo	Water Quality	X	X	X
Steve Predmore	National Weather Service/NOAA	X	X	X
Jim Redmond	Environmental/Conservation	X	X	X
Kenneth Reeder	Recreation	X	X	X
Jim Riis	State of South Dakota	X	X	X
David Schorr	Waterway Industries	X	X	X
David Schwarz	Major Tributaries	X	X	X
David Sieck	Agriculture	X	X	X
Jason Skold	Fish & Wildlife	X	X	X
Darwin Snyder	Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska		X	X
Al Sturgeon	State of Iowa	X	X	X
Kate Vandemoer	Northern Arapaho Tribe	X	X	X
Robert Walters	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	X	X	X
Michael Wells	State of Missouri	X	X	X
Bob Williamson	Local Government	X	X	X

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Non-Member Attendees

Name	Affiliation	9/29/08	9/30/08	0/01/08
Joel Ames	USACE	X	X	X
Chance Bitner	USACE	X	X	X
Eric Blechinger	USACE		X	X
Dale Blevins	USGS		X	
Michael Bollinger	Alternate for John Pozzo representing Water Quality`	X		
Bill Bryan	State of Missouri		X	X
Cheryl Chapman	Matrix Consulting	X	X	X
David Combs	USACE	X	X	
Harold Draper	No Affiliation Listed – from Kansas City, MO	X		
John Drew	State of Missouri	X	X	X
William Empson	USACE		X	
Steven Fisher	USACE	X	X	X
Tania Fragomeno	Katz & Associates	X	X	X
Michael George	USACE		X	X
Carol Hale	USFWS	X	X	X
Rosemary Hargrave	USACE	X	X	X
George Jordan	USFWS		X	X
Steve Iverson	USACE			X
Todd Iveson	State of Missouri	X	X	
Amy Keferl	U.S. Coast Guard	X	X	X
David Kolarik	USACE	X	X	X

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Casey Kruse	USACE	X	X	X
Mike Mayer	The Lewis Berger Group	X	X	X
Donald "Skip" Meisner	Alternate for Al Sturgeon, representing the State of Iowa	X	X	X
Jim Mitas	Congressman Todd Akin's Office, State of Missouri	X		
Wayne Nelson-Stastny	USFWS	X	X	X
Michael Olson	USFWS	X	X	X
Eileen Padberg	Katz & Associates	X	X	X
Caroline Pufalt	Sierra Club, St. Louis, MO	X		
David Pope	MoRAST	X	X	X
Kevin Quinn	USACE	X	X	X
Teresa Reinig	USACE	X	X	X
Paul Rohde	Waterways Council	X		
Mary Roth	USACE	X	X	X
Mick Sandine	USACE			X
John Seeronen	USACE	X	X	X
Randy Sellers	USACE	X	X	X
Jim Stefanov	USGS			X
Jennifer Switzer	USACE	X	X	X
Robin Wankum	USACE	X	X	X