

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Mississippi River Study Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	08/16/2013	7:00	USFWS La Crosse District Visitor Center
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Wes Domine at 7:02 pm
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Mike Britton, Wes Domine, Dan Heidel, Marc Schultz, Ted Engeliem, Gary Diallaber, William Howe, DNR Liaison Bob Jumbeck, DNR Liaison Dave Heath
EXCUSED	Richard Wayne, Larry Dobbe, Lauren Smith, Wayne Stietz, Joshua Hennlich
UNEXCUSED	None
GUESTS	Brian Klawitter, Nichol Michel, USGS Randy Hines, USFWS Stephen Winter, USCOE Randy Urich, UMRNWFR Jim Nissen, Alan Suchla – Executive Council, Kevin Smaby-Executive Council

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Motion by Marc Schultz to move item II. A. down to just before item III. Member Matters
ACTION	2 nd by Ted Engeliem, Vote Carries

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Mission statement read, discussed, and left unchanged
ACTION	No action taken

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	<p>Brian Klawitter & Nichol Michel, MN Flathead Catfish Association – Goal to match up border waters fishing regulations for Flathead Catfish Limits between WI and MN. Gave power point presentation. 7 million anglers nationwide fish for Flathead Catfish, believes too many large catfish are being allowed to be taken, they are the 1st line of defense against Asian Carp. Pool 4 upstream of Lake Pepin, the fish gather and lay dormant with their mouth open during the winter months.</p> <p>Proposing 10 total catfish (channel & flathead) Season from 04/01-11/30 to protect during winter months and realize trophy potential</p> <p>Not against harvest, just want legal harvest</p> <p>Dan-mentioned that 150,000 pounds from Pool 4 commercially taken, would like to know how much sport fishing takes</p>
ACTION	Time limit reached

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. FWS HABITAT PLAN FOR THE UMNWFR

STEPHEN WINTER

DISCUSSION	<p>Habitat or species- how we manage, dictated by legislative, system is striving to follow refuge plan from 1924 with State Wildlife plans + regional plans which filters down to the species, Workshop in 09/2013 with State DNR, USGS, Corp of Engineers- to set priority habitats/species, focus resources to create objectives, then to monitor success on objectives.</p> <p>Marc- Concern 1. Fish were not mentioned, Concern 2. No Public Involvement; Purpose of the Refuge? Stephen- Aquatic habitats in Main Channel, Fish & Mussels, Secondary – Backwater flood plain – Fish species highest concentration with testing is the bluegill.</p> <p>Marc- asked for a summary of where they are now- Stephen, Process is in technical stage</p> <p>Bill – we have lost much of woodlands or eliminated the forests- public isn't seeing plan of trees/plants to reenter the habitat.</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Not required		

B. INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH UPDATE

RANDY HINES

DISCUSSION	<p>Asian carp big topic- Development of Rapid Molecular Surveillance Tools to detect Asian Carp - testing time has been reduced from 7 days to 4 hours and cost from \$9.00 per test down to \$2.50 per test. Accuracy is improving. Evaluating sound and sound pressure technology to alter Asian carp behavior. Some trial experiments are being attempted. One test site is in Morris, IL. These are the 1st trials with a hydro gun. It has worked in laboratory studies, now in field study. Another trial is using loaded particles against the Asian carp. Another is in trial of the effects of electricity on eggs of Asian carp. Marc – Lake Darling in zebra mussels, he believes the water resource controls zebra mussels. Current field testing with Zequanox which may be effective in controlling Zebra and Quagga Mussels.</p>	
ACTION	Pamphlet handed out – USGS – UMESC Aquatic Invasive Species Research	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Not required		

C. UMRS SYSTEMIC FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

RANDY URICH

DISCUSSION	<p>Executive Summary- Copies available of the complete Upper Mississippi River Systemic Forest Stewardship Plan go to www.ourmississippi.org. The stewardship plan was developed to provide a guide for sustainable management of the UMRS forests including restoration. The plan describes the current state of the resource, provide guidance for forest restoration, establish goals & objectives, utilize data, develop a monitoring strategy, and develop recommendations that ensure long-term sustainability. Discussed resource trends and predicted future trends. UMRS Floodplain Forest Ecosystem Services looks to: Water Quality, Living Resources, Land Based Resources, Education / Research, and Cultural / Recreational Resources. Goals are “To seek long-term sustainability of the economic uses and ecological integrity of the Upper Mississippi River System.” This is also the vision statement for the plan. Restoration tools include: Timber stand improvement, how to harvest, site preparation, forest establishment, prescribed burns, and water level management</p> <p>Wes- what has been done in the past hasn't worked-wondering what are the management tools</p> <p>Randy- 1st - study for forests is at 10%</p> <p>Jim N- 2010 & 2011 Floods hurt tremendously</p> <p>Randy – purple loosestrife – mechanically pulling / cutting heads, along Hwy 35 will take a lot of work</p> <p>Marc – Rodeo was used as a herbicide and was killing it, then Japanese Bamboo, when will the public see the efforts</p> <p>Randy – There are active projects going on</p> <p>Wes – showed 6 pictures of uprooted trees & resultant lost shoreline, millions of dollars spent on island restoration – why not practice more forestry preventive maintenance for saving shorelines by cutting leaners before uprooting?</p> <p>Randy – funding – possible trial project depending upon the objective of UMRS</p> <p>Wes – Need program for cutting trees that lean. Leave the stabilizing roots in tact so new grass & Forbes can grow in full sun exposure.</p> <p>Bill – shore line is not stable</p> <p>Alan – question on flooding from 1993 in St Louis- there should be the data necessary that can help out in the future.</p>	
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ACTION	Pamphlet handed out - Upper Mississippi River Systemic Forest Stewardship Plan Executive Summary
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Not required	

D. River Project updates

Discussion	The River Project updates were given in each presentation. Funding – outlook 2013 \$24.18 million 2014 - \$31.19 million for total budget For the St. Paul District 2013 \$6.08 million and 2014 \$7.00 million. This is to be used for Stage 1 & Stage 2 construction projects	
ACTION	Discussed at each presentation	
Person(s) responsible	Deadline	
Not required		

E. Hydro Power update

Discussion	Randy – can get an update on dates of current projects if any- many changes Bill – Hydro, control production of Hydro output – WI testing Marc – Most of the applications for Pool 10 & Pool 11 have been removed	
ACTION	Discussion	
Person(s) responsible	Deadline	
Not required		

F. Department Information Update – Presented by David Heath & Bob Jumbeck

Discussion	Numbers discussed on perfect time for of flood for Walleye production in the river, data is found to be solid as it is over a 21 year period. Trends down for walleye and sauger except in Lake Pepin. Finding abundance and size increasing, however, in Pool 4, 8, and 9 numbers are both down in abundance and size. There is some thought that the declining length trend may be due to a very large 2001 age class. Discussed Iowa Regulation Changes – 2004 winter closure of tail waters in Pools 12, 13, & 14 to protect sauger. The closure was removed as no clear evidence was seen as data seen in the non-closed Pool was very similar to the data in the closed Pools of 12, 13, & 14. Walleye slot limit went into effect 04/2004 in Pools 12-20 to help protect females There was a modest increase in 20-25 inch walleyes. The abundance of walleye increased 3 times in Pool 13 where the regulation is in effect, and did not increase in Pool 8 where the regulation was not in effect. Males at 13-14 inches start to spawn and Females at 15-16 inches start to spawn. Marc – what is the DNR seeing? In 2012 there was a large die off of Adult Large Northern Pike Dave – Possible warm water temperatures Gary – Sunset on a pool got extended by 2 years, we need to make some effort to protect large female walleyes with protected slot limits. DNR needs to give the direction of what size. Law Enforcement update: No real changes this year. Bill Wrasse, Pepin County warden is retiring and the DNR is looking to fill vacancies. This year one of the largest recruiting classes.	
ACTION	Pamphlet handed out - Walleye and Sauger Trends Mississippi River bordering Wisconsin	
Person(s) responsible	Deadline	
Not required		

G. Citizens Resolution

Discussion	<p>Reading of Resolution #150213,310213,320413,380213 – Darkhouse spearing on WI/MN boundary water Motion by Marc Schultz to reject (based on legislation), 2nd by Bill Howe Dan – questions amount of take spearing vs. mortality of hook & line. Bob Jumbeck – No Impact Dan – believes it opens an opportunity Bill calls question to vote – 5 yea to reject, 2 nay – Resolution Denied</p> <p>Marc Schultz – this new motion is intended as a Spring Hearing Question – Should the WCC and the WDNR work to determine how best to implement regulations on Darkhouse Spearing of Northern Pike on the Mississippi River? 2nd by Gary Dillaber. Motion Carries Discussion – Dan, this may be the best option for the WCC & WDNR to discuss this issue.</p>	
ACTION		
Person(s) responsible	Deadline	
Not required		

G2. Citizens Resolution

Discussion	<p>Reading of Resolution #120113 – Mississippi River Walleye Regulations – this resolution proposes a protected slot limit of 20-27 inches with 1 fish allowed over 27 inches on the Mississippi River. Author’s aim is to improve protection to spawning female walleye & still allow the harvest of some larger fish. Marc- complexity of states regulations is an issue. Culling is allowed in Iowa/ Illinois. WI / MN does not allow.</p>	
ACTION	Motion by Gary Dillaber to accept resolution #120113, 2 nd by Marc Schultz – Motion Carried	
Person(s) responsible	Deadline	
Not required		

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Wes- does Friday night work? Dan – None, Ted-upper end of Pool 7 is disappearing, Marc – none, Mike-none, Gary – none, William- none
ACTION	Consensus good meeting, Friday works

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	9:38 with motion to adjourn by Gary Dillaber and 2nd by Ted Engelen
SUBMITTED BY	Mike Britton
DATE	08/16/2013