

**Planning Process to Develop a MRRIC Charter  
(Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee)**

**Membership Application Review Process Conference Call Summary  
August 8, 2008**

**Present**

**Corps of Engineers:** Witt Anderson, Rose Hargrave, Dave Ponganis

**Planning Group:** Paul Lepisto, Bill Beacom, Bill Lay, Jason Skold, Mark Rath, Skip Meisner, Lanny Meng, Geno Adams, Tom Graves, Vicki Marquis, John Drew, Mike Wells, Jack Majeres, Maryann Maas, Cheryl Chapman (Co-Chair), John Thorson (Co-Chair)

**Institute Team:** Sarah Palmer, Brian Manwaring, Pat Lewis

**Facilitation Team:** Ruth Nicholson, CPF, Doug Huston

**Other:** Todd Iveson, State of Missouri, Attorney General's Office

**1) Opening and Introductions**

- a) Ruth opened the discussion by conducting a roll of those present, and reviewed the plan for the call. She asked Witt Anderson of the Corps of Engineers to address the questions raised by the group on its July 14, 2008, conference call.

**2) Witt Anderson**

- a) Witt Anderson opened his remarks by commenting that he understood there were some tough issues to be dealt with and he appreciated the Planning Group's efforts. He described an internal reorganization within the Northwestern Division office and discussed his recent meeting with General Van Antwerp.

**3) Question Responses**

- a) Federal Working Group (FWG) Involvement in Application Review
  - i) Witt clarified that there was no need for FWG review of the applications and the FWG would not be involved in this process.

**b) Corps of Engineers Review Process**

- i) A panel of senior civilians including Steve Iverson, Eric Schlessinger, Larry Cieslik and Dave Ponganis will review the MRRIC stakeholder applications against the six criteria in the *Federal Register* based on the information in the application. They will provide input to Witt who will make the final decision. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will be invited to have a senior manager present also.

- ii) In the event of more than two applicants for a seat, the Corps will use the information available in the application and the Planning Group's input to choose the most representative pair for the seat.
- iii) Once membership decisions have been made, the applicants will be called. They will also receive a formal letter.

#### **c) Planning Group Input**

- i) Witt commented that it would be very helpful if the Planning Group could provide input to the Corps, either as a group or individually based on the six criteria, but particularly criteria four, five, and six.
- d) Witt closed his comments by stating that his direction to the panel was not to look for the negatives but to affirmatively determine why the applicant meets the criteria. He stated that the objective was still to hold the first meeting on October 1, 2008.

#### **4) Planning Group Questions**

- a) There was concern about the role of the FWS in the application review process
  - i) . Witt responded that the FWS would be reviewing the information, but that the final decision was still his.
- b) The group asked where the selection would be made, in Portland, Oregon or Washington, DC?
  - i) Witt responded that the selection would be made in Portland, Oregon.
- c) The group expressed concern that there were non-Planning Group members of the public on the call.

#### **5) Next Steps**

- a) The summary of this conference call will go out Monday, August 11, 2008.
- b) There will be a conference call Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. Central, 12:30 p.m. Mountain, 11:30 a.m. Pacific to consider MRRIC stakeholder application review proposals.
- c) Members of the Planning Group were asked to get their application review proposals to Doug and Ruth by 9:00 a.m. Monday, August 11, 2008.