

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

Potential Membership Criteria

In order to prepare for the upcoming Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) Drafting Team/Planning Group meetings, the facilitation team conducted a review of the raw notes for the Drafting Team/Planning Group meetings, the October Public Workshops, and the Membership Committee conference calls. The team also reviewed the Drafting Team/Planning Group e-mail correspondence to determine the various membership selection criteria that had been discussed by Group members. The results of that review are summarized below.

This list is a compilation of suggestions made by Drafting Team and Review Panel members between June 2007, and January 2008.

This compilation of ideas does not reflect, imply, or represent a consensus of the group. It is not a formal list of agreed upon recommendations or criteria from the Drafting Team, the Review Panel, or the Planning Group.

Criteria Discussed in Meetings:

1. Prospective members should be required to make some kind of financial disclosure.
2. Preference should be given to prospective members who live in or adjacent to the Missouri River basin. This was clarified to indicate that organizations with economic interests in the basin were considered residents of or organizations located in or adjacent to the basin.
3. It was suggested that membership be restricted to those individuals who reside in the eight states listed in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA), with the possible inclusion of Illinois and Arkansas.
4. Using the criteria the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (Institute) used to select Drafting Team members was discussed.
5. The Group discussed the need to review the membership requirements of WRDA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) membership criteria
6. The Group discussed requiring prospective members to provide up to five (5) letters of recommendation.
7. The suggestion was made that prospective members formally agree to abide by the MRRIC charter as part of the application process.
8. The Group discussed requiring prospective members to demonstrate they have an interest in the Missouri River basin.

Criteria Discussed in Conference Calls and e-mails:

Some of the following are redundant or very similar to each other, but since they were mentioned at different times by different individuals, they are included separately below.

1. The following specific criteria were mentioned:
 - a. Applicant must be able to dedicate the time required.
 - b. Must be willing to work for consensus (show evidence of experience working in a collaborative process).
 - c. Demonstrate that she/he represents a recognized stakeholder group.
 - d. Commit not to engage in adversarial communications and unilateral actions.
 - e. Need a certain number of letters of endorsement by the group you represent (from two to five was the range discussed) - or maybe just one from the president of the organization.
 - f. Have the financial support necessary to participate.
 - g. Familiarity with the project and the persons who will be involved.
 - h. Review WRDA criteria.
 - i. Willingness to make a good faith effort to seek balanced solutions that address multiple interests and concerns.
 - j. Formal designation or endorsement by an organization, local government, or constituency, as its preferred representative.
 - k. Established communication network to keep constituents informed and efficiently seek their input when needed
 - l. Overall balance of representation should be considered.