

FINAL Meeting Summary
Missouri River Interagency Roundtable Meeting (MRBIR)

January 10, 2011
Denver, Colorado

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Interagency Roundtable, chaired by Max Ethridge, USGS, met at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Denver, CO, January 10, 2011. Missouri River basin executives or their alternates, representing 12 federal agencies, attended the meeting along with Planning Committee members and staff. The meeting was facilitated by Sarah Palmer of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (U.S. Institute).

Draft MRBIR Work Plan

MRBIR members reviewed and approved, with changes, the Draft MRBIR Work Plan proposal developed by the Planning Committee between July 2010 and January 2011 meetings. The proposal identified four priority topics for the MRBIR Work Plan:

- Climate Change
- Sediment
- Interagency Coordination on Government-to-Government Consultation
- Missouri River Watershed Functions

Information Sharing

Over the course of the meeting, MRBIR members were briefed on numerous topics, including:

- NOAA's one-day climate-focused workshop scheduled for Tuesday, March 8 (Doug Kluck, presenter)
- USACE's concept for a Federal Working Group Tribal Convention (Witt Anderson, USACE)
- Next steps on the recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Sediment Study and the related Federal Position paper (Steve Iverson, USACE)
- Mississippi River Sediment Monitoring Proposal (Charlie Demas, USGS)
- Updates on the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) and its forthcoming Chair selection process (Witt Anderson, USACE)
- Updates from MRBIR members on tribal outreach and consultation activity and on an array of activities taking place around the basin (Regional Executives)

Agreements Reached

- To approve the four (4) MRBIR Work Plan priorities as revised based on MRBIR member feedback from January 10, 2011 meeting (weighted equally):
 - 1) Climate Change
 - 2) Sediment
 - 3) Interagency Coordination on Missouri River Basin Government-to-Government Consultation (Note: the executives suggested including this in the overarching goals section of the work plan)
 - 4) Missouri River Watershed Functions
- To task the Planning Committee (PC) with developing a broader proposal on sediment management in the basin

- To task the PC with integrating the establishment of six sediment monitoring stations along the Missouri River into the MRBIR Work Plan
- To task the PC with deciding where the topic of Water Quality should be considered (as part of the sediment topic or under the watershed functions topic)
- To task the PC with integrating the FHWA's effort to develop landscape level conservation initiatives with the USFWS's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives as part of the Watershed Functions topic and/or the Climate Change topic
- To task the PC with considering, as they develop implementation plans for Work Plan topics, how to leverage resources and ensure coordination in the basin.
- To hold the next MRBIR meeting in Denver, CO.

Meeting Participants

Agency	Executive	Planning Committee and/or other Agency Representatives Present
BIA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhonda Knudsen, <i>Regional Water Resources Officer, Rocky Mountain Region</i>
BLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamie Connell, <i>State Director, Montana and the Dakotas</i> 	
BOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary Campbell, <i>Deputy Regional Director, Great Plains Region</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Fritz, <i>Resource Services Program Manager, Great Plains Region</i> • Rae Olsen, <i>Special Assistant</i>
DOT/FHWA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Yanchik, <i>Ecologist</i>
EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron Hammerschmidt, <i>Director Environmental Services, Region 7</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Cothorn, <i>NEPA Team Leader, Region 7</i> • Jim Berkley, <i>Missouri River Basin Coordinator, Region 8</i>
NOAA/NWS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug Kluck, <i>Regional Climate Services Director, Central Region</i>
NPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ernie Quintana (by phone), <i>Regional Director, Midwest Region</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven Mietz, <i>Superintendent, Missouri National Recreational River</i>
NRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Christensen, <i>Regional Conservationist for the Central Region</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verlon Barnes, <i>NRCS Missouri River Basin Coordinator</i>

Agency	Executive	Planning Committee and/or other Agency Representatives Present
USACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.G. John R. McMahon, <i>Commander and Division Engineer, Northwestern Division</i> • Witt Anderson, <i>Programs Director, Northwestern Division</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Col. Anthony Hofmann, <i>District Engineer, NWK</i> • Col. Robert J. Ruch, <i>Omaha District Commander</i> • Richard Mahn, <i>Aide to General McMahon</i> • Eric Blechinger, <i>Deputy District Engineer and Chief of Planning, Programs & Project Management</i> • Steve Iverson, <i>Deputy District Engineer for Project Management and Chief, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division</i> • Christina Austin-Smith, <i>Counsel, Northwestern Division</i> • Joel Ames, <i>Tribal Liaison</i>
USFWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Guertin, <i>Regional Director, Mountain Prairie Region</i> • Charles Wooley, <i>Deputy Regional Director, Region 3</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Maddux, <i>Geographic Supervisor, Mountain Prairie Region</i> • Mike Olson, <i>Missouri River Coordinator</i>
USGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max Ethridge, <i>Regional Executive, South Central Area</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda Leake, <i>Deputy Regional Executive, North Central Area</i> • Charles Demas, <i>Director, Louisiana Water Science Center</i> • Mike Slifer, <i>Director Missouri Water Science Center</i>
WAPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Harris, <i>Regional Manager, Upper Great Plains Region</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Stas, <i>Regional Environmental Manager, Upper Great Plains Region</i>

Sarah Palmer Sr. Program Manager and Pat Lewis Sr. Program Associate of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution provided facilitation and staff support

APPENDIX A

**Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable
DRAFT Meeting Agenda v4
January 10, 2011
10:00 AM – 4:15 PM MST**

**Embassy Suites at DIA
Salons III-IV
Denver, CO**

Meeting Goals:

- Review and reach agreement on MRBIR work plan for FY11 and 12
- Learn about the Mississippi River Sediment Monitoring Proposal
- Hear an update on the NAS sediment study recommendations, the Federal position and next steps
- Share agency updates on Missouri River Basin projects/activities/accomplishments including recent MRRIC recommendations

Agenda

- 10:00 Welcome - Max M. Ethridge, USGS Regional Executive, South Central Area
- 10:15 Introductions, agenda review, announcements
- 10:25 MRBIR work plan: Review proposed plan for MRBIR activities in FY11 and FY12 Linda Leake, USGS and Dan Fritz, USBoR
- Seek Executive approval for the plan and task implementation
 - Suggestions for future topics
 - Confirmation that emergent issues may periodically take priority over work plan goals, priorities, and tasks in a given year.
- 12:00 LUNCH
- 1:00 Briefing of NAS sediment report recommendations; briefing on the Federal position, how it will be used and discussion of next steps – Colonel Anthony Hofmann and Steven Iverson, USACE NWK
- 1:45 Briefing on Mississippi River sediment monitoring proposal – Charlie Demas, USGS
- Are there any actions that MRBIR executives would like to consider?
- 2:30 BREAK
- 2:45 Interagency updates on basin government-to-government tribal consultation and brief update on key Missouri River basin agency initiatives with basin tribes.

- 3:15 Optional agency updates on Missouri River-related activities of interest to MRBIR. (3-5 minutes per agency)
- 3:45 MRBIR Operations
- Distribution of MOU extension
 - Briefing on MRBIR website
 - Chair rotation - Bureau of Reclamation
 - General dates for next meeting, suggested locations
- 4:00 Review action items and timelines
- 4:15 Adjourn