

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR) Meeting Summary

February 22, 2017

Denver, CO

<http://projects.ecr.gov/mrbir/>

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR), chaired by Jim Berkley and Damon Frizzell (on behalf of Jeff Robichaud), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), met at the EPA Region 8 Building in Denver, Colorado, on February 22, 2017. Missouri River Basin executives or their alternates, representing ten Federal agencies, attended the meeting along with Planning Committee members and staff. The meeting was facilitated by Carrie Thompson of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (US Institute), and meeting notes were prepared by Mitch Chrismer (US Institute). The meeting agenda is provided in Appendix A.

A main purpose of the meeting was for agency executives to brief one another on Basin agency programs, projects, and recent activities occurring in the Missouri River Basin since the group met last in August 2016. Several informational briefings were given at the meeting, including: (1) an update on EPA Regional Perspectives; (2) an update on Missouri River Sediment Budget Report Findings; (3) a report on Sediment in the Lewis and Clark Reservoir; (4) a report on the Dakota Access Pipeline – Standing Rock and Tribal Consultation; (5) a report on DOJ – USACE – DOI Listening Sessions; (6) an update on the DEIS status of the Missouri River Recovery Program; (7) an update on the ongoing Ideker litigation; and (8) an update on the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016. In addition to these reports and updates, the MRBIR group discussed their respective agency transition plans for the newly inaugurated Trump Administration and discussed the future of the MRBIR group, including the drafting of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Additional updates from MRBIR committees included: (1) an update from the Sediment topic team; (2) a briefing from the Climate Collaboration topic team; and (3) an update from the Ecosystems Functions topic team. MRBIR executives and Planning Committee members provided updates from each of their agencies and discussed Missouri River basin issues and opportunities for increased collaboration and coordination amongst federal agencies working in the region (see Appendix B to this Executive Summary for the updated MRBIR work plan as of February 6, 2017).