

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR)

Meeting Summary

February 13, 2020

Omaha, NE

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR), chaired by Robin Webb (NOAA), met at the Hilton DoubleTree in Omaha, NE on February 13, 2020. Missouri River Basin Executives or their alternates, representing eleven federal agencies, attended the meeting along with Planning Committee members and staff. The meeting was facilitated by Marci DuPraw and Mitch Chrismer of the National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution (National Center), and meeting notes were prepared by Mitch Chrismer. The meeting agenda is provided in Appendix A, and a list of meeting attendees can be found in Appendix B.

The objective of all MRBIR Executive Roundtable meetings is to provide opportunities for executives of the federal agencies in the Missouri River basin to engage in collaboration, coordination, and communication pertaining to natural resource management challenges in the basin. They do this by developing partnerships, sharing information, finding ways to support efficient resource use, reporting accomplishments, and garnering federal focus and fiscal support for natural resource enhancement in the basin.

At this meeting, the first since August 2019, participants briefed one another on: (1) the DOI reorganization; (2) member agencies' federal disaster response activities and preparation, with special emphasis on flood preparation by FEMA Region VII, USACE, and NRCS; (3) the NOAA Climate Prediction Center's Probabilistic Hazard Risk Forecast Tools; (5) NRCS efforts to reduce impacts of flood and drought through landscape restoration and resilience; (6) NRCS easement and watershed programs; (7) Missouri River water management, including climate and river outlooks, a water supply update, and 2020 snowpack assessment; and (8) Federal efforts to prevent looting of cultural resources during times of low river flows. In addition to these reports and updates, the MRBIR group discussed the top priorities and pressing issues from their respective agencies and various operational aspects of the group.

The next MRBIR Executive Roundtable is anticipated to take place September 23, 2020 in the Upper Missouri River Basin. USGS is looking into potential meeting locations.