

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR)

Meeting Summary

August 27, 2019

Billings, MT

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR), chaired by Robin Webb (NOAA), met at the US Department of Interior's (DOI's) Great Plains Regional Office in Billings, MT on August 27, 2019. Missouri River Basin executives or their alternates, representing thirteen federal agencies, attended the meeting along with Planning Committee members and staff. The meeting was facilitated by Marci DuPraw of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (U.S. Institute), and meeting notes were prepared by Mitch Chrismer (U.S. Institute). 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 Roundtables are to provide opportunities for executives of the federal agencies in the Missouri River basin to engage in collaboration, coordination, and communication. They do this by developing partnerships, information sharing, 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 February 2019, participants briefed one another on: (1) the DOI reorganization; (2) member agencies' flood disaster responses, with special emphasis on those of FEMA Regions VII and Region VIII; (3) NOAA's drought early warning system for the Missouri Basin; (5) impacts of the 2017 drought on the states of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota; and (6) member agencies' efforts to comply with the Administration's guidance new NEPA guidelines and recommendations. 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 in February 2020 – most likely in Omaha, Nebraska.