

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable Meeting (MRBIR)

Meeting Summary

January 28, 2015

Omaha, NE

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable, chaired by Mike Thabault, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) met at the Papio Missouri River NRD / Chalco Hills NRD building in Omaha, Nebraska, on January 28, 2015. 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 Sarah Palmer 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.

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 July 2014. Several informational briefings were made at the meeting, including: 1) a report on Pallid Sturgeon research funded by Western Area Power Administration; (2) an overview of initiatives of the Western States Water Council; (3) an update on the Ideker Farms litigation; (4) an update on the Intake Environmental Assessment; (5) an overview of the emergency spill response plan from the Bakken Federal Executive Group, (6) a report on the Missouri River Recovery Program management plan EIS; (7) water management report from USACE.

Updates from MRBIR committees included: (1) a briefing on tribal consultation best practices from the Tribal-Federal Relations Committee; (2) an update from the Sediment topic team; (3) a briefing from the climate collaboration topic team; and (4) an update from the MRRIC Federal working group. At the meeting MRBIR executives and Planning Committee members discussed ideas for the future direction of the group, specifically the focus of MRBIR - whether it is basin-wide or mainstem focused and in light of its focus what topics and tasks are a priority for the body over the next six months. See Appendix B to this Executive Summary for the updated MRBIR work plan as of December 18, 2014.