

**MRBIR Meeting Agenda as of 1/21/15 V9**

**Papio Missouri River NRD/Chalco Hills NRD**  
**8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Omaha, NE 68138-3621**  
**Main number: 402-444-6222**

To participate in the meeting remotely: [https://udall.adobeconnect.com/mrbir\\_jan2015/](https://udall.adobeconnect.com/mrbir_jan2015/)

Call number: 1-888-557-8511

Access code: 7956172

**January 28, 2015**

**8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Central**

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Learn about a wide-range of recent activities related to pallid sturgeon: research funded by Western Area Power Administration; findings from MRRP Management Plan Effects Analysis.
- Discuss next steps and federal engagement in Missouri River Recovery Program Management Plan
- Learn about Western States Water Council initiatives and discuss areas of commonality with MRBIR
- Updates on: a) work at Intake; b) Ideker Farms litigation; c) Bakken Federal Executives Group; d) Water Management.
- Seek executive perspective and input about MRBIR as an action oriented body
- Hear reports from Planning Committee teams on climate collaboration and MR ecosystem functions. Including identification of executive perspectives about a “fully functional Missouri River ecosystem”
- Hear report from the Tribal-Federal Relations Committee and overview of best practices in tribal consultation.
- Update one another about Basin agency programs, projects, and recent activities.

**Convene in Executive Session**

8:30 – 8:40 Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks– MRBIR Chair Mike Thabault, Assistant Regional Director Ecological Services, USFWS Region 6

- Overview of building logistics – Jim Becic, Environmental Coordinator Papio-Missouri River NRD

8:40 – 8:45 Agenda Review, Meeting Guidelines– Sarah Palmer, US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (IECR), meeting facilitator

**Read Ahead:** *MRBIR Agenda V9*

**Background document:** *MRBIR Guidelines v3*

8:45 – 9:45 Missouri River Recovery Program –Management Plan – Mark Harberg, USACE

**Goal:** Discuss summary of Effects Analysis; Cooperating Agency Report; Federal Engagement through ProACT in MRRIC; opportunity for executives to hear from PC re agency engagement, input on this process to-date

**Read Aheads:** *To be provided at the meeting.*

**Executive Discussion**

- 9:45 – 10:15 Report on Pallid Sturgeon Research Funded by Western Area Power – Lou Hanebury, Western Area Power  
**Goal:** Learn about findings of recent pallid sturgeon research  
**Read Aheads:** “*UGP Pallid Recovery Efforts for MRBIR\_combined*” (Provided as hard copy only given file size.)
- 10:15 – 10:30 BREAK
- 10:30 – 10:55 Update on Intake Environmental Assessment, Notice of Intent –Gary Campbell BoR, Mike Thabault, USFWS  
**Goal:** Status update on Intake project (schedule, construction etc.) and ESA consultation  
**Executive Discussion**
- 10:55 – 11:30 Update on Ideker Farms Litigation – Christina Austin-Smith, USACE and Terry Petrie, USDOJ  
**Goal:** Hear and update on the status of the litigation.  
**Executive Discussion** regarding implications for interagency work.

### **Adjourn Executive Session**

- 11:30 –12:00 Lunch, on site – details to be provided
- 12:00–1:00 Open Session: Tony Willardson Executive Director of Western States Water Council  
**Goal:** open communications with MRBIR and WSWC; hear about WSWC concerns/initiatives  
**Read Aheads:** *To be provided at the meeting.*  
**Executive Discussion**

### **Reconvene in Executive Session**

- 1:00 – 1:20 Updates from Bakken Federal Executive Group (BFEG)– Tim LaPointe, BIA and Kate Kitchell, BLM  
**Goal:** Discussion of BFEG emergency spill response strategies and coordination; identification of any potential energy development demands in Montana.  
**Read Aheads:** “*Bakken MOU\_Signed\_Final\_2014*”
- 1:20- 1:50 MRBIR Planning Committee Reports and Ideas for the Future Direction – Casey Kruse, USFWS and Planning Committee Chair  
**Read Aheads:** “*MRBIR MOU w FEMA March 2012*”  
**Context:** There is interest and support among the MRBIR Planning Committee (PC) agencies for being more action oriented. The PC is looking to executives for guidance on what that could look like.
- **Discussion of MRBIR Vision Statement** (see MRBIR MOU in read aheads)

*“The vision of this MRBIR partnership: “The Missouri River basin is a fully functioning ecosystem that provides benefits for the human community and habitat for native plant and animal species”*

- **Discussion of MRBIR Engagement**

- Does the biennial meeting schedule meet your needs and expectations?
- What suggestions do you have to change executive MRBIR engagement?

1:50 – 2:05 Break

PC Topic Team Updates

**Refer to:** “MRBIR Work Plan v14 updated 12-18-14”

- 2:05 – 2:15 Sediment Team Update – Bob Swanson, USGS Topic Team Lead
- 2:15 – 2:25 Missouri River Basin Ecosystem Functions Update and Next Steps - Verlon Barnes, NRCS, Topic Team Lead  
**Goal:** Based on the discussion of the MRBIR Vision, discuss preliminary next steps for the topic team.
- 2:25 – 2:35 MRRIC Federal Working Group Update - Mary Roth, USACE Federal agency  
**Goal:** Update on Federal agency coordination in the Management Plan activities with MRRIC; accomplishments of MRRIC
- 2:35 - 3:05 Climate Collaboration Topic Team Report - Doug Kluck, NOAA, Topic Team Lead  
**Goal:** Update regarding: GAO study on Upper Missouri Basin moisture monitoring authorized in WRRDA2014; Missouri River basin multi-agency and multi-tribal initiatives regarding drought preparedness and climate change preparedness; Montana Pilot for National Drought Resilience Partnership  
**Read Aheads:** “CentralUSAssessementExecSumm”; “MORB-Fall2014-Final-v1”
- 3:05 – 3:35 Federal Tribal Relations Committee Report and Presentation on Tribal Consultation Best Practices - Diane Mann-Klager, BIA  
**Goal:** Provide some general best practices for Tribal Consultation from developed handbooks/policies, update on discussions with Lower Brule  
**Read Aheads:** “Tribal consultation documents”  
**Executive Discussion** Have additional discussion about a Tribal Consultation 101 training associated with the Summer Executives Meeting
- 3:35 – 3:45 Water Management Update – Jody Farhat, USACE  
**Goal:** Update executives on the status of the Mainstem Reservoir System and expected regulation in 2015.
- 3:45– 4:20 Agency Round Robin – MRBIR Executives or designated alternates  
**Goal:** Hear brief updates (~3-5 minutes per agency) from member agencies about matters impacting agency mission and goals in the Missouri River basin.
- 4:20 – 4:25 Transition of MRBIR Chair – Michael Thabault, USFWS to Incoming Chair, Tim LaPointe Bureau of Indian Affairs

Incoming Vice-Chair Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

4:25 – 4:30

MRBIR Operations – US Institute

- Upcoming Planning Committee activities
- Review action items from today – US Institute

4:30

Adjourn - MRBIR Chair Tim LaPointe, BIA