

Missouri River Interagency Roundtable Meeting (MRBIR)

Meeting Summary

July 25, 2012

Omaha, Nebraska

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Interagency Roundtable, chaired by Tom Christensen, Natural Resources Conservation Service, met at the National Park Service Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska, July 25, 2012. Missouri River Basin executives or their alternates, representing 11 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 prepared by Bridget Radcliff (U.S. Institute). The complete meeting agenda is provided in Appendix A.

The purpose of the meeting was for agency executives to brief on another on key activities and priorities occurring in the Missouri River Basin since the group met last in January 2012. Updates at this meeting focused on the conclusion of the Missouri River Flood Response Task Force (MRFTF) and specifically the disposition of its work groups to other entities. MRBIR executives agreed at this meeting to transition the MRFTF Tribal Work Group to MRBIR noting that the federal-tribal relations in the basin are important to maintain and that a communication network across the agency tribal liaisons would improve the needed interagency coordination. The Tribal Work Group will report to executives in November on a proposed structure and tasks for the work group. Executives also supported a multi-party effort to develop a proposal for funding improved plains snow and soil conditions monitoring.

The USACE reported on the current status of river flows and updated executives on the agency's implementation of the recommendations from the Independent External Peer Review regarding the 2011 flood response. USACE briefed the group about the status of the Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) including the outlook on FY13 funding; recovery implementation committee (MRRIC); and implementation of the findings from the Independent Science Advisory Panel (ISAP) regarding spring pulse and adaptive management.

MRBIR executives also heard reports from each of the four MRBIR Planning Committee Topic Teams (sediment, ecosystem functions, climate collaboration, and tribal federal relations) and discussed what topics and tasks within each topic are priority for the teams to work on over the next six months. See Appendix B for the updated MRBIR work plan as of September 20, 2012.

Agreements Reached

Executives agreed:

- To incorporate the MRFTF Tribal Work Group into MRBIR.
- On the Planning Committee continue work on four general priority topics: climate collaboration, sediment, tribal-federal relations, watershed/ecosystem functions.
- On the Climate Collaboration team to continue to work with others on a proposal for plains snow and soil conditions monitoring.
- To hold a fall webinar.
- To hold the next MRBIR Meeting in January 2013.

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable Summer Meeting

Action Items V3

Below are the action items and task leads identified at the July 25, 2012 MRBIR meeting.

Lead/ Task	Status
1. Verlon Barnes NRCS and Dan Fritz, Reclamation meet regarding linkages between Rural Development and Rural Water.	
2. Plains snow monitoring proposal: Doug Kluck, NOAA (lead); Kevin Grode, USACE; Verlon Barnes, NRCS; TBD, USGS; TBD, NPS; TBD, WAPA (Note: participants are updated in the MRBIR work plan) meet in September (possibly after MoRAST in mid-September) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outline next steps regarding monitoring (identify steps first then think about funding needs) b. Identify existing monitoring resources c. Identify types of expertise needed (e.g., high plains climate center staff, state climate representatives, e.g., Tim Kearns). Articulate as drought and flood monitoring system for soil moisture d. Report at a possible MRBIR webinar in the fall 	Team met. Task integrated into work plan
3. In general, as MRFTF task groups transition to other groups, identify clear POCs and leads	COMPLETED Integrated into work plan
4. BIA Tim La Pointe send DOI g-t-g consultation policy to Institute (completed). Institute send to execs and PC ;	COMPLETED
5. Tim will contact Diane Mann-Kleager re the agenda for the water summit and discuss possible additional topics such as drought, water supply suggested by Verlon Barnes.	COMPLETED
6. Paul Cloutier and others work with Planning Committee to identify tribal work group members from each agency and near and mid-term (next 6 months and 12 months). Possible tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify liaison from each MRBIR agency (near term) b. Identify key tribal federal events in basin and put on a calendar (near term) c. Post 1 and 2 to MRBIR website d. Develop executive level tribal trust responsibility ppt (long term) e. Primer regarding agency resources to tribes (long term) f. Report at a possible MRBIR webinar in the fall 	Integrated into work plan. Paul asked that next steps on this task happen after the September tribal water summit.
7. Verlon Barnes, NRCS PC Chair; Doug Kluck NOAA; US Institute coordinate with Midwest Natural Resource Group re nature of organization (similarities/unique attributes) to MRBIR. Identify ways to coordinate across the groups. Note: there execs that participate on both (Max Etheridge, Tom Christensen)	

<p>8. MRBIR Executives: if appropriate, write letters of support regarding Jameson Island send to Dave Hoover at USACE before September 5. Steve Fischer, USACE to provide Mr. Hoover's contact information.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>9. Beth Freeman, FEMA identify a person for floodplain discussions on PC and on the Missouri River watershed/ecosystem topic team. Give name and contact info to Bridget Radcliff (Radcliff@ecr.gov)</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>10. US Institute for ECR: send schedule request to MRBIR Execs and PC re winter meeting dates and fall webinar; coordinate with NOAA, NPS re meeting space for winter meeting;</p> <p>11. ASAP send e-version of meeting survey to execs and PC members;</p> <p>12. Prepare meeting summary;</p> <p>13. Send PC integrated notes and track changes to work plan based on priorities discussion.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>COMPLETED</p> <p>COMPLETED</p> <p>COMPLETED</p>