

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable Meeting (MRBIR)

Meeting Summary

July 30, 2014

Omaha, NE

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable, chaired by Mike Thabault, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) met at the Regional National Park Service building in Omaha, Nebraska, on July 30, 2014. Missouri River Basin executives or their alternates, representing ten 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 Chrimer (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 January 2014. Several informational briefings were made at the meeting, including: 1) a briefing on federal interagency coordination in the Bakken oil field; 2) a report on Water Resources and the Reform Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014; 3) an update on the Ideker Farms litigation; 4) an update on the Intake project; and 5) a report on the Missouri River Recovery Program.

Updates from MRBIR committees included: (1) a briefing on federal trust responsibilities from the Tribal-Federal Relations Committee; (2) a report on the current focus of the Missouri Basin Regional Project from the PC ecosystems function topic team; (3) an update on a USGS-USACE project to quantify a sediment budget; and (4) a briefing from the climate collaboration topic team on the National Integrated Drought Information System pilot project. The MRBIR executives discussed what topics and tasks within each respective topic are a priority for the teams to work on over the next six months. See Appendix B to this Executive Summary for the updated MRBIR work plan as of April 17, 2014.

Executives agreed:

- To coordinate with the Bakken Federal Executives Group on natural resource and staffing impacts related to oil and gas issues in Bakken in the coming year;
- To establish the Missouri Basin Federal Climate Collaboration (MBFCC) subcommittee;
- To continue working towards a shared vision on what the Missouri River ecosystem could / should look like in accordance with the MRBIR MOU.