

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR) Meeting Summary

September 26, 2017

Bozeman, MT

<http://projects.ecr.gov/mrbir/>

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR), chaired by Matt Marsh (on behalf of Jody Sundsted), Western Area Power Association (WAPA), met at the USFWS National Fish Hatchery in Bozeman, Montana, on September 26, 2017. Missouri River Basin executives or their alternates, representing eleven Federal agencies, attended the meeting along with Planning Committee members and staff. The meeting was facilitated by Carrie Thompson of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (US Institute), and meeting notes were prepared by Mitch Chrismer (US 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 February 2017. Several informational briefings were given at the meeting, including: 1) an update from NOAA on Drought; (2) a report on the five-year strategy for USGS Climate Science; (3) a report on Crow Creek water rights suit dismissal; (4) a USGS report on pesticides; (5) a report on NioCorp and its development of the highest grade niobium project in North America; (6) an update on the Keystone XL project; (7) an update on the ongoing Ideker litigation; (8) an update on litigation pertaining to the Yellowstone Intake Bypass; and (9) an update on the Dakota Access Pipeline. In addition to these reports and updates, the MRBIR group discussed their ongoing agency transition plans for the Trump Administration and discussed the future of the MRBIR group, including the dissemination for signature of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Additional updates from MRBIR committees included: (1) an update from the Sediment topic team; (2) a briefing from the Ecosystem and Climate topic team; (3) an update from the Water Quality topic team; and (4) a report from the Data Identification and Sharing topic team. MRBIR executives and Planning Committee members provided updates from each of their agencies and discussed Missouri River basin issues and opportunities for increased collaboration and coordination amongst federal agencies working in the region (see Appendix B to this Executive Summary for the updated MRBIR Work Plan).

MRBIR Executive and Planning Committee members also toured the Bozeman Fish Technology Center, which is one of six Fish Technology Centers within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Program.