

Missouri River Interagency Roundtable Meeting (MRBIR)

October 12, 2011

Video Teleconference/Webinar

Meeting Summary

The Missouri River Interagency Roundtable, chaired by Gary Campbell, Bureau of Reclamation, convened via video-teleconference (VTC) on October 12, 2011. Missouri River Basin executives or their alternates, representing 11 federal agencies, participated 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).

Mr. Campbell opened the meeting, welcomed participants, and reviewed the meeting objectives and goals in the agenda (see attached Appendix A). The primary purpose of the VTC was to discuss and take next steps regarding the Missouri River Flood Task Force (MRFTF). The VTC focused on the MRFTF purpose and its relationship to existing Missouri River programs; confirmed the near-term actions of the federal agencies in the Missouri River basin and determine which are relevant to the Task Force; and where feasible explored long-term priorities for flood response in the Missouri River basin.

Ms. Palmer briefly reviewed the ground rules for the VTC format. Mr. Campbell turned the dais over to Brigadier General McMahon, USACE Northwestern Division. General McMahon thanked the MRBIR executives and planning committee for their efforts since the August MRBIR meeting.

Missouri River Flood Task Force Overview and Rationale

General McMahon delivered an overview of the MRFTF purpose and its relationship to other Missouri River programs. He reported that Tom Christensen from NRCS, Beth Freeman and Robin Finnegan from FEMA are co-chairing the MRFTF with USACE. He noted that MRBIR could be considered the federal level of the task force and is important because of the role each agency plays in the basin. Through MRBIR, the federal executives can review and shape some of the activities in the basin related to the MRFTF. A copy of General McMahon's power point is in Appendix A. His key remarks are summarized below.

The **purpose of the MRFTF** is to provide a temporary forum for coordination, collaboration and cooperation to address floodplain management challenges and keep comprehensive flood risk reduction as the top priority. The MRFTF is composed of federal officials and designated officials from state, local and tribal governments in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Missouri, Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The mission of the MRFTF is to:

- Leverage agency authorities and resources.
- Provide a forum for members to coordinate and complete initial repairs by 1 March 2012.
- Coordinate long term recovery activities/actions and programs.
- Implement basin-wide flood risk management.

General McMahon emphasized that the prolonged nature of the flood has changed the complexion of the basin – its attitudes and physical characteristics and how everyone thinks about flood risk. Moving forward it's important to try to synchronize to be more effective and utilize resources.

The **key operating principles of the MRFTF** described in the presentation include **timeliness** and being able to respond quickly in the small window of time while making smart decisions about the immediate needs of the basin.

Coordination, collaboration and communication. The 2011 flooding was a wide ranging event that requires creative thinking in order to utilize resources and authorities to make positive change. As conceived the MRFTF is not a decision making body; instead a place to coordinate and communicate about authorities and programs and the differing roles of the agencies in the basin in order to work together more effectively to achieve comprehensive flood risk management. It is also a place to coordinate messages and better inform the public about what is being done and the rationale behind the activities. General McMahon noted that agencies are accountable to those they serve at every level of government and they should have faith and trust in what we do. He also shared that the forum presents an opportunity for the basin to develop a shared vision in contrast to a vision that is imposed.

Another key principle of the MRFTF is **leveraging authorities**. Noting that each agency has its own authorities, in some cases there are overlapping authorities between agencies. The MRFTF is a place to leverage similar authorities for the maximum benefit including streamlining decision making and achieving efficiencies. One effort of the MRFTF is to identify the purpose and amount of funding needed for flood recovery and over what timeline. General McMahon noted that the long term restoration efforts will take years and depend on the amount of appropriated funds at all levels of government. The leveraging of authorities should supplement the government to government consultations between federal agencies and the basin tribes.

The fourth principle of the MRFTF is **partnerships**. The USACE has a strong desire for the MRFTF to operate in an open and transparent manner while consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Governmental agencies (Federal, State, Tribal, Local governmental entities) are members of MRFTF, and collaborative partnerships with NGOs are expected in order to understand what everyone is doing and to be more effective in flood recovery efforts. The non-governmental entities are listed as observers in the draft conceptual organizational chart for the MRFTF. General McMahon offered that these partners/observers are already engaged in the Missouri River Basin flood response and recovery and are important to include in MRFTF work groups. The USACE has made a significant effort to reach out to tribes about the MRFTF. General McMahon noted that each agency is expected to fund its own participation in the MRFTF.

Structure of MRFTF Work Groups. The MRFTF working groups are the place where the substantive work of the MRFTF is addressed. Early thinking about the working group composition is that interested individuals can self-nominate for a working group and that the MRFTF co-chairs will decide how working groups are organized. At its inaugural meeting on 21 October the MRFTF will identify working groups, nominees to working groups, and a designated lead for each working group. The objective is to jump start the coordination on near term flood recovery efforts.

Questions and Discussion

A MRBIR Executive asked about the status of the charter for the task force. General McMahon reported that the charter was being developed and would be distributed for comment and input later today (October 12). He stated that in the spirit of getting things organized and moving forward, the co-chairs will take input and work toward a final charter. The goal at the 21 October meeting, as reflected in the draft agenda is to focus on gaining an understanding of various authorities and activities and spend less

time on organizational work of the MRFTF. That said - the goal is to finalize the charter at the beginning of the 21 October meeting.

Another MRBIR Executive asked about the conceptual model for the MRFTF and what is meant by short-term and long-term actions and if it is the working group that determines which are the actions to pursue.

General McMahon referenced the 21 October agenda and noted that short or near term actions are those activities that should be accomplished between now and 1st March. Long-term actions are post-1st of March. He emphasized that it is important to determine what the key actions are for each agency first and address those items together to maximize effort and benefits.

Role of MRBIR and its Relationship to the Task Force

Rose Hargrave, USACE described the relationship between the MRBIR and the MRFTF. She shared that as an example of leveraging existing forums, the MRBIR, and particularly the Planning Committee, have been a tremendous resource in the establishment of the MRFTF. She reported that the MRFTF is distinct from MRBIR for a number of reasons. The MRFTF membership is broader than the roundtable – which is limited to federal agencies – whereas the MRFTF is inclusive of states, tribes, and other contributors. Rose pointed out that the MRBIR MOU describes much narrower mission than that of the MRFTF. She reiterated that the MRBIR remains an important forum to communicate about the MRFTF.

Overview of Initial Plans and Topics for the First Task Force Meeting

Maria Placht, USACE reviewed the agenda and key topics for the first MRFTF meeting on October 21, 2011. A copy of Ms. Placht's presentation is in Appendix B. The USACE used feedback from MRBIR Planning Committee (PC) to develop the MRFTF meeting agenda. Members of the MRFTF will be asked to prepare a three-minute overview of their agency authorities and priorities in regards to the MRFTF. The purpose of the exercise is to balance between learning and sharing information and identifying opportunities. The information from the morning session will be used to identify key themes in the afternoon, particularly what should the MRFTF do based on priorities, activities, and challenges presented? The objective is to leave the meeting with concrete outcomes and a path forward. It is important to lay the groundwork to determine what the most effective processes to leverage authorities and reduce redundancy.

Ms. Placht noted that a call-in number and webinar option will be available for those unable to attend in person.

MRBIR Discussion of MRFTF

The executives discussed the following questions in preparation for the 21 October meeting.

- *How can the Federal agencies best work together to achieve our respective actions in a coordinated manner?*
- *What communication tools are most effective for coordination in the basin, e.g., a web-portal, Facebook site, other ideas?*
- *Should there be work groups?*

To the first bullet the group discussed using the agency ‘priorities and authorities’ slide as a tool to coordinate their actions. Other points made:

- Not knowing the funding situation makes it difficult to understand how to begin coordinating and communicating.
- As the funding does/doesn’t come in it is important for the federal agencies to have common messages on the need for funding and to work together on this front. What’s necessary for the near-term and to plan for the long-term? Critical to develop common messages as soon as possible. There are already many questions regarding the MRFTF and important to develop common messages about the role of the task force.

With respect to **communication tools** the following points were made:

- Web portal – provides the ability to share common/key messages, it is good to utilize with tribes and communicate via face-to-face meetings with tribes
- Send an email notification when updates made so that people are aware information is available and don’t have to check a site daily.

MRBIR members shared the following thoughts about **potential MRFTF work groups**:

- There is a large need for coordination on permitting in the near term, particularly to make the process more efficient.
- There needs to be an operations and hydrology working group to review operations from 2011 and to look at USACE Independent Review Panel recommendations.
- There should be a communication group in order to speak with one voice, to discuss talking points and getting on the same page as a federal family.
- Levee repair is a near-term issue that needs to be addressed. Need to focus on levee repairs and broaden that topic. There are multiple joint field operations across the basin not just on rehabilitation but on emergency repairs. What are the projects that entities are undertaking and pinpoint issues surrounding these projects. The MRFTF could compile the list of projects, issues, and discuss how MRFTF will interact on specific projects.

Other questions and discussion

A MRBIR executive asked if the start time of the meeting could be moved to earlier in the day, stating that the MRFTF was a top priority over other Missouri River projects and programs. USACE noted that there is a MRERP Cooperating Agency Team (CAT) meeting the morning of the 21 October. USACE agreed to explore the degree of overlap between MRFTF and MRERP-CAT participants and check with key participants to determine if they could come a little earlier on the 21st.

A MRBIR representative asked what role the US Institute will play in communication and facilitation of the MRFTF. Sarah Palmer shared that the US Institute does not have staff available for the 21 October MRFTF but is coordinating with Maria to provide names of third party neutrals in the Denver region. Ms. Palmer added that the US Institute can help with communication and be a bridge between leads at the agencies and MRBIR including status updates on MRFTF on MRBIR PC calls. She observed that the MRBIR PC could also be a forum to craft messages from the federal family.

The USACE invited ideas to reach out to basin tribes and ways to increase their participation. Sarah suggested working through the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association to reach a number of tribal leaders at a single event.

Agency Round-Robin

The MRBIR Executives discussed which near-term (now to March 2012) federal actions are relevant to the Task Force and in preparation for the spring 2012 run-off season. Executives also shared status of any post-flood assessments underway in their agencies that are relevant to the MRFTF.

Reclamation: Reclamation is conducting NEPA analysis and completing contracting for repairs to damaged irrigation projects. Reclamation is utilizing new and continuing authorities to move forward with repairs. The agency is addressing issues around rebuilding in the flood plain. As of today's VTC (Oct 12, 2011), the Tiber and Yellowtail reservoirs remain in the flood pool.

EPA: The EPA's work with FEMA and state governments during the flood response is largely completed. There are some ongoing efforts with various wastewater utilities although most facilities are operational once again. EPA continues to work with one of tribes that have had drinking water issues as a result of the flooding. In the long-term EPA anticipates assisting with issues related to permitting and NEPA.

USGS: The agency is preparing a retrospective looking at the communications and lessons learned from the 2011 floods. The report is expected in two to three months.

FHWA: There are hundreds of activities underway by state and local governments to repair roads and bridges. There is interest from elected officials in how FHWA is handling the emergency relief program.

NRCS: Programs that NRCS and the Farm Services Agency (FSA) could operate are dependent on supplemental funding from Congress. The FSA Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides assistance on a field-by-field approach whereas the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program is at the project scale level and requires a local sponsor. The EWP supports infrastructure repairs, and small levee repairs. Both types of programs would operate in states submitting requests if funding becomes available. NRCS will work closely with FEMA to define priorities and each type of assistance. The long-term Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the component for floodplain easements within the EWP provide landowners long-term opportunities to address areas where there are designated wetlands. The NRCS is providing guidance documents to USACE regarding: prime farmland designation and how NRCS manages the requirement to define prime farmland disturbances. NRCS noted that in USDA, Risk Management is the entity administering crop insurance. Crop insures considerations are important; if land is flooded this year and if it floods again this year it impacts insurance.

NOAA: The agency's flood response assessment is ongoing. A first draft is anticipated in November and will focus on services for decision support, river forecast operations, the use of social media and technologies utilized, and science and modeling issues. NOAA is working with USACE, USGS regarding the 2011 flooding to discuss best practices and what worked well in preparation for 2012. In the both the short and long-term NOAA can provide climate, weather, and water information pertinent to the MRFTF.

NPS: Park Service has a variety of post-flood assessments underway. They are completing an EIS for site stabilization at the Knife River site and are implementing a bank-line monitoring and stabilization study along the Missouri National Recreation River. The representative noted that there are both concerns

and opportunities to address building in the flood plain though leveraging agencies authorities related to easements and purchase authority. Communication is a key issue and import to have issues/topics in MRFTF filter to field staff as well as public. In the near term the Park Service will address Section 404 and Section 10 permits and Wild & Scenic permits.

FEMA: Four joint field operations – one in each state – are currently open. Emergency and permanent restoration plans are in place and currently being formulated as a result of the length of time that there was water covering areas. Agency has a long-term hazard mitigation program that is available to states. Near term coordination to improve infrastructure, implement mitigation programs and non-structural approaches to flood management. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides flood plain mapping, flood plain management, flood insurance, risk MAP (mapping, assessment, planning). The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to State and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures which could include acquisition of properties that have been flooded.

USACE: USACE has received \$35 million in flood response funding and is working at the national level, with headquarters, to address demands for critical emergency repairs related to: risk to life and safety and a long list of repairs. The estimated repair costs are well over \$1 billion. Agency is focused most immediately on dam and levee repairs. In Kansas City District: Union Township, Holt County, there is an estimated \$9 million worth of work to restore levees. During the flooding event 17 levees breached or overtopped with significant damage. In Omaha L575 and L550 with significant damage -estimated \$18 million to repair breached portions. Approximately \$6 million in dam repairs are anticipated on 4 of 6 upstream dams. Relief well systems and an abutment damaged during high releases. Assessments may show more repairs needed. The long list of priorities are being discussed with headquarters including how to fund the needed repairs and work through the priority list.

In terms of operation of reservoir system, currently Gavins at 40,000 CFS and winter target is 20,000 CFS. Water management program has an external technical review underway that will be completed by end of December. The review is of the flood fight activities and their effectiveness. Lower releases allows for damage assessment and restoration activities to take place as funding permits. Initiated a long-term basin-wide systems review - a long-term activity to include the economic and socio-economic impacts. Effort needs funding and if funding becomes available the systems review will be discussed with federal family.

General McMahon reiterated the need to coordinate actions as they impact other agencies. He shared that he has asked District staffs to analyze the levee breaches and overages to determine if things can be done in a smarter way at individual sites. He stressed the importance of a local sponsor supporting doing things in a different/smarter way. General McMahon expressed his thanks to all with the efforts that have gone into flood response. He is energized about work before the basin and looks forward to working with everyone.

Mr. Campbell thanked the executives and planning committee members for their engagement and participation in the VTC and adjourned the session.

Action Items:

- USIECR: send charter and agenda to MRBIR members
- MRBIR Executives and PC Members: Send feedback regarding MRFTF agenda and charter to Maria Placht
- Maria Placht: send the template slides to prepare for MRFTF meeting
- USIECR: provide a summary re: VTC/Webinar
- USIECR: send DOODLE to secure date for MRBIR Executives winter meeting
- Next MRBIR PC call: October 27

Participants:

Bureau of Reclamation: Gary Campbell, Dan Fritz, Rae Olsen

Bureau of Indian Affairs: John Kill Eagle

National Park Service: Steve Mietz, Carmen Thomsen

US Fish and Wildlife Service: Casey Kruse

US Geological Survey: Max Etheridge, Linda Leake, Mike Slifer

Environmental Protection Agency: Ron Hammerschmidt, Jim Berkley, Joe Cothorn,

Federal Highways Administration: Brian Yanchik

Federal Emergency Management Administration: Richard Leonard, Dennis Moffett

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Verlon Barnes, Tom Christensen

NOAA: Bethany Hale

US Army Corps of Engineers: General McMahon, Witt Anderson, Rose Hargrave, Maria Placht, Colonel Hoffman, Steve Iverson

Regrets:

US Coast Guard

Western Area Power Administration

Missouri River Flood Task Force (MRFTF)

Concept Briefing

11 October 2011



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG



Mission

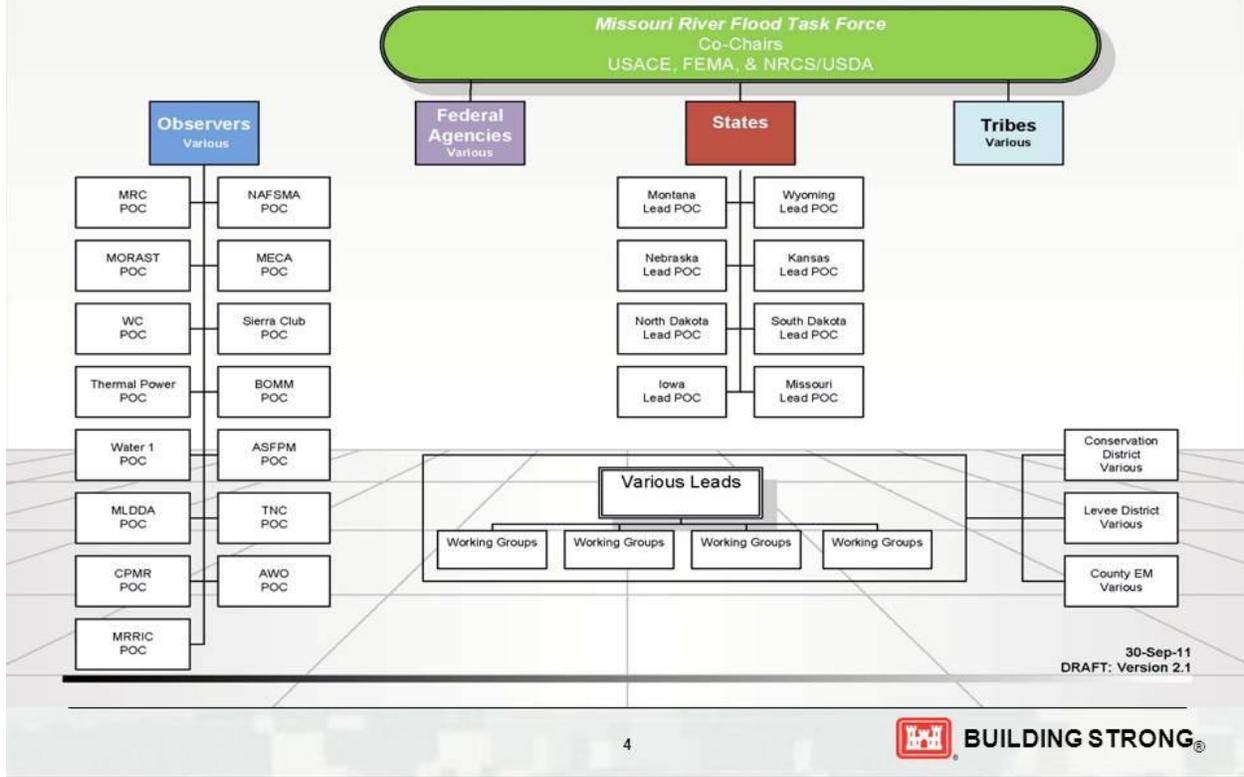
In response to the Missouri River Basin flood of 2011, the Missouri River Flood Task Force (MRFTF) will provide a temporary forum for coordination, collaboration, and cooperation to address floodplain management challenges and keep comprehensive flood risk reduction as the top priority.

- ***Complete Team.*** Federal officials and designated officers of state, local and Tribal governments within the States of Nebraska, Montana, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Kansas and Missouri;
- ***Leverage agency authorities and resources.***
- Provide a forum for members to ***coordinate to complete initial repairs*** by 1 March 2012
- ***Coordinate long term recovery activities/actions and programs***
- Implement ***basin-wide flood risk management***

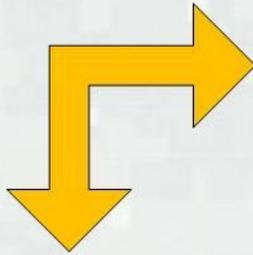
Key Operating Principles

- **Timeliness**
 - ▶ Seize the window of opportunity - act quickly yet deliberately
 - ▶ Apply innovative, outside-the-box thinking
- **Coordinate, collaborate, communicate**
 - ▶ Realize a Shared vision with Shared responsibility
 - ▶ Speak with one voice to the public
 - ▶ Be open and transparent
- **Leverage authorities**
 - ▶ Members are empowered with authority to make decisions
 - ▶ All agencies retain their statutory authorities and responsibilities related to their programs; MRFTF does not operate by consensus
 - ▶ Understand and apply all relevant authorities and programs of each agency
 - ▶ Supplements Government to Government consultation with the Tribes
- **Participation**
 - ▶ Each agency will fund their participation
 - ▶ NGOs can participate as observers, commenters , or partners

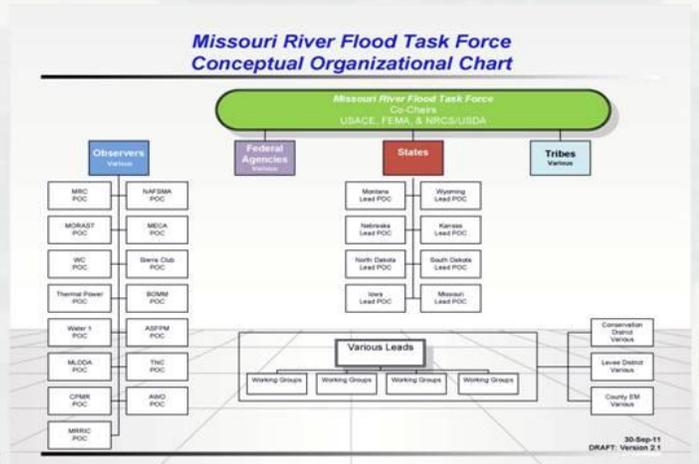
Missouri River Flood Task Force Conceptual Organizational Chart



Purpose



- 1 Agency Post Flood Tasks:
- 2 Agency Post Flood Tasks:
- 3 Agency Post Flood Tasks:
- 4 Agency Post Flood Tasks:
- 1 Agency Post Flood Tasks:
- 2 Agency Post Flood Tasks:
- 3 Agency Post Flood Tasks:
- 4 Agency Post Flood Tasks:
- 1 Corps Post Flood Tasks:
- 2 1. Water Management Review
- 3 2. Flood Fight Review
- 4 3. Infrastructure Damage Assessment
- 1 4. Basin Impact Assessment



**Decisions
Progress
Results**

Representatives Designated To-Date

Organization	First/Middle	Last Name
NE Governor Rep	Brian P.	Dunnigan
MO Governor Rep	Sara P.	Pauley
MT Governor Rep	Mary	Sexton
SD Governor Rep	Jason	Glodt
ND Governor Rep	Todd	Sando
KS Governor Rep	Tracy	Streeter
USGS	Michael E.	Slifer
NPS	Steven N.	Mietz
WAPA	Nicholas J.	Stas
BLM	Theresa	Hanley
FEMA - Region VIII	Roger	Jones
FEMA - Region VII	Dean	Ownby
FEMA - Region VII	Dennis	Moffett
NRCS	Verlon	Barnes
NRCS	Thomas	Christensen
USDA-FSA	Skip	Hyberg
USDA-RMA	Dan	Sobieck
USDA-RMA	Rebecca	Davis
BIA	Diane	Mann-Klager
BIA	Andrew	Baker
USFWS	Michael	Thabault
USFWS	Henry	Maddus
MARAD	Bill	Paape
FHWA	John	Rohlf
USCG	Byron	Black

RSVP List for 21 Oct Meeting (As of Oct 11)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>First/Middle</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>First/Middle</u>	<u>Last Name</u>
MT Gov Rep	Mary	Sexton	MECA - Contributor	Tom	Graves
For the MO Gov Rep	Dru	Buntin	MLDDA - Contributor	Tom	Waters
For the MO Gov Rep	Harry	Bozoian	MoRAST - Contributor	J. Michael	Hayden
For the MO Gov Rep	John	Drew	MCGA - Contributor	Shane	Kinne
ND Gov Rep	Todd	Sando	IWLA - Contributor	Paul	Lepisto
For the KS Gov Rep	Earl	Lewis	MFB - Contributor	Dan	Cassidy
USGS - Fed Rep	Mike	Slifer	BOMM - Contributor	Ken	Royse
NRCS - Fed Rep	Tom	Christensen	SWWater - Contributor	Mary	Massad
USDA FSA - Fed Rep	Skip	Hyberg	ASFPM - Contributor	George	Riedel
USDA RMA - Feb Rep	Dan	Sobieck	MO-ARK - Contributor	Ron	Blakley
USDA RMA - Fed Rep	Rebecca	Davis	MRC - Contributor	Cpt Bill	Beacom
NRCS - Fed Rep	Craig	Derickson	AWO - Contributor	Lynn	Muench
NRCS - Fed Rep	Verlon	Barnes	MRRIC - Contributor	Robert	Vincze
NPS - Fed Rep	Steve	Mietz	MRRIC - Contributor	Kenneth W.	Reeder
USFWS - Fed Rep	Michael	Thabault	MRRIC - Contributor	Frank	Pogge
MARAD - Fed Rep	Bill	Paape	MRRIC - Contributor	Marian	Maas
FHWA - Fed Rep	John	Rohlf	MRRIC - Contributor	Don 'Skip'	Meisner
FEMA VIII - Fed Rep	Roger	Jones	MRRIC - Contributor	Michael	Armstrong
BIA - Fed Rep	Diane	Mann-Klager	Private - Contributor	Bill	Lay
HSEMD - State IA - Contributor	BG Derek	Hill	Private - Contributor	Philip	Graves
WY State Engineer's Office	Sue	Lowry	Private - Contributor	Charla	Graves

Upcoming Opportunities to Collaborate

- Oct 12: conference call with MRBIR execs
- Oct 17: Meeting with Governors, Omaha
- Oct 18-20: MRRIC meeting, Denver
- Oct 21: First meeting of MRFTF, Denver
- AOP meetings
 - ▶ 24 Oct - Omaha Marriot, Omaha, NE
 - ▶ 25 Oct - Holiday Inn Riverfront, St. Joseph, MO
 - ▶ 26 Oct - Sheraton Overland Park Hotel, Overland Park, KS
 - ▶ 27 Oct - Capitol Plaza, Jefferson City, MO
 - ▶ 31 Oct - Fort Peck Interpretive Center, Glasgow, MT
 - ▶ 1 Nov - Best Western Ramkota, Bismarck, ND
 - ▶ 2 Nov - Best Western Ramkota, Pierre, SD
 - ▶ 3 Nov - Holiday Inn, Sioux City, IA

Kickoff Meeting

- Denver, Colorado, Oct 21th, full day
- **Meeting prep:** Review draft agenda; fill in slide template (capabilities, authorities, interests, activities (assessments, permitting needs, decision timelines, etc), challenges; review draft charter
- **Draft Agenda**
 - ▶ Members and relevant partners present template slides
 - ▶ Members and partners discuss ideas for what Task Force should accomplish and identify initial activities and leads
 - ▶ Form Working groups as required
 - State /Local
 - Project-specific
 - Permitting (CWA)
 - Environmental compliance (NEPA, ESA, NHPA etc.)
 - Operations –hydrology
 - FEMA – emergency declarations, Public Assistance
 - Construction/contracting – roads, levees, etc
 - Public outreach
 - Tribal outreach

Appendix B: Overview of MRFTF Kickoff Meeting Agenda and Draft Charter as presented by Maria Placht, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Missouri River Flood Task Force
 Kickoff Meeting
 Room XXX, Crown Plaza Hotel Denver International Airport, Denver, CO
 October 21, 2011, 9am-4:30pm

Draft Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

1. Learn about each others' capabilities, authorities, interests, activities, and challenges related to flood recovery and restoration
2. Discuss short-term (pre-March) ideas for what the Task Force should accomplish
3. Identify initial activities members and partners should undertake

October 20		
6:00 – 7:30	Optional Group Dinner & Discussion at Hotel Restaurant	
October 21		
8:30 – 9:00	Sign-in	
9:00 – 9:20	Welcome and Opening Remarks Introduce facilitation team Plan for the day	Task Force Co-Chairs: General McMahon (USACE) Tom Christensen (NRCS) Beth Freeman (FEMA R7) Robin Finegan (FEMA R8)
9:20 – 10:00	Introductions 1-2 most important things representatives want to get out of the Task Force	Facilitators
10:00 – 10:45	State Perspective presentations: Authorities and capabilities; interests and short-term activities; challenges	3-min presentations: Members present their 3 slides from the template
10:45-11:00	Break	
11:00 – 11:30	Federal Perspective presentations: Authorities and capabilities; interests and short-term activities; challenges	3-min presentations: Members present their 3 slides from the template
11:30 – 12:00	Tribal Perspective presentations: Authorities and capabilities; interests and short-term activities; challenges	3-min presentations: Members present their 3 slides from the template
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch (for sale by hotel)	
1:00-2:00	Presentations by Partners with post-flood activities and programs: Authorities and capabilities; interests and short-term activities; challenges	3-min presentations: Partners present their 3 slides from the template
2:00-3:00	Discussion – Ideas for what the Task Force should accomplish pre-March and beyond	Facilitated discussion
3:00 – 3:15	Break	
3:15 – 4:15	Identify initial activities members and partners should undertake/ Working groups; Assign leads	Facilitated discussion
4:15 – 4:30	Wrap-up, Next Steps, Closing remarks – What we heard and how we will proceed	Co-Chairs

Organizational Charter

Missouri River Flood Task Force

(MRFTF)

1. Purpose: The purpose of this charter is to provide the members and other participants in the MRFTF with the requisite basis for its establishment, its background, vision and mission, its operating principles, and other relevant information and context for its efficient formation and operation. We intend this charter to be sufficient to get the Task Force started and contain the necessary information to sustain its operation—it is a living document that may change as we move forward and understand the situation in the Missouri River Basin (MRB) better. The Charter may be updated or modified to meet the specific needs of the emerging circumstances.

2. Background: As a result of unprecedented precipitation across the upper Missouri River Basin (MRB) in May, June and July of 2011, the Corps of Engineers experienced record flood inflows to its Missouri River Mainstem reservoirs, and carried out historic high releases from these reservoirs through the summer and fall of 2011. The States of Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska were adversely affected by these flood waters and regulated releases. The 2011 flooding event has once again drawn our attention to the benefits and risks associated with the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System, its tributaries, levee systems, and the floodplain. The significant damage caused by this event has affected people and their livelihoods, their homes, farms and businesses, not to mention public infrastructure and the character of the Missouri River floodplain itself. Hence, there are tremendous challenges and opportunities ahead of us which carry both immediate and long-term consequences.

3. Vision: The numerous challenges and opportunities associated with the immediate and long-term restoration of the Missouri River Basin floodplain are facing all levels of government (federal, tribal, state and local). In an era of constrained resources and many demands on the public treasury, the post-flood recovery period provides a window of opportunity for increased collaboration, shared vision and responsibility, wise investment of scarce resources, and streamlined decision making, all leading to a better future for the people we serve throughout the Missouri River Basin (MRB).

4. Mission: The Missouri River Flood Task Force (MRFTF) will provide a temporary forum for coordination, collaboration and cooperation among the federal officials and designated officers of State and Tribal governments within the States of Nebraska, Montana, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Kansas and Missouri. The mission of the Task Force is to complete initial repairs to federally supported or other government financially supported infrastructure (e.g. levee systems) by 1 March 2012 and to conduct long-term recovery activities in response to the Missouri River Basin flood of 2011 to address overall flood risk reduction strategies and plans and keep comprehensive flood risk reduction as a focused priority. The Task Force is chartered to seize the opportunity to shape the results of relevant government and non-government activities, and to set conditions for success for all involved by streamlining governmental processes; accelerating necessary assessments, coordination, and permitting requirements; and by applying agile and critical thinking to the collective set of problems. These

coordinated efforts will ensure timely progress and yield the intended results on the ground in the immediate future, and lead to a comprehensive recovery plan to achieve long-term flood risk management.

5. Authority: This task force is established under authority granted in references 1.a, 1.b, 1.c, 1.d, and 1.e, of the references found in Appendix 1. Each member participates on the basis of its own authorities and interests, and by the mutual consent of all members.

6. Membership and Participation: Taking the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act into account, MRFTF will be composed entirely of federal employees and representatives from Tribes and States who have letters delegating them to represent an elected officer of the State or tribal government. As such, and given the mission of MRFTF with its focus on collaboration, coordination and cooperation, membership will be limited to the following:

- Federal agencies with authorities and responsibilities in the MRB
- Tribal members designated by their Tribal chairman to participate
- State government designated leads

Hence, the MRFTF will include senior regional representatives from each federal agency and appropriate State and Tribal government representatives.

- a. Federal members include representatives of the MRBIR agencies and other federal agencies as appropriate, including:
 - USACE, Northwestern Division (NWD) and its subordinate districts in Omaha and Kansas City
 - Department of Homeland Security, FEMA Region VII and Region VIII
 - Department of Homeland Security, Coast Guard
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
 - Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
 - Department of Interior, National Park Service (NPS)
 - Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
 - Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
 - Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 - Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service (NFS)
 - Department of Commerce, NOAA/National Weather Service (NWS)
 - Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA)
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
 - U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
 - Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
 - Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)

- b. State members are elected officials, or their designated leads, for the states identified in paragraph 4. Local governments will work through their state designated leads and participate on working groups as appropriate.

- c. Tribal members will be elected officials from Native American Tribes, or their designated leads.

In addition to formal membership, and because we intend to perform this work in an open, transparent and collaborative way, we encourage other entities in the basin (non-governmental organizations, associations, media, and others) to participate in the various efforts and initiatives. These participants could be partners, contributors, or observers (PCOs), depending on their programs and interests. We are committed to working together in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation to seek a better future for all the people in the MRB. This work is very difficult and necessarily involves many public and private entities which have various responsibilities, authorities, interests and priorities. Hence, while PCOs are not formal members per se, they are encouraged to participate in ways deemed appropriate by the Co-chairs of the MRFTF.

Finally, this charter may change and its Members and participants may come and go as their participation meets both the individual missions of the various organizations and entities, and they are willing and able to contribute to the mission of the MRFTF.

7. Chair of MRFTF: The MRFTF will be co-chaired by the Commander, USACE Northwestern Division (NWD), FEMA Regional Administrators from Regions VII and VIII, and the NRCS Regional Conservationist. The Chairs' roles may be delegated to senior members of these respective agencies when the incumbent cannot participate.

8. MRFTF Concept of Operation: The MRFTF will be focused on providing support to States, Tribes and local communities where the people we serve are closest to the issues and have the greatest needs. The mission of the MRFTF will be achieved mainly through the efforts of the working groups, which will be established by the co-chairs.

The co-chairs will meet virtually on a regular basis (initially weekly) and decide on when to convene meetings of the MRFTF (at least monthly initially). The co-chairs will establish an agenda for each meeting and meetings will be held to address the agenda items, to monitor the progress of designated working groups, and any new business of the MRFTF. The co-chairs will hold the ultimate decision making authority within the MRFTF as it establishes working groups, designates their leaders, assigns tasks to the working groups, and sets schedules for the completion of assigned work. Participation on the working groups will be by self-nomination by any member agency or any PCO.

The co-chairs will provide oversight to the task force and its working groups, facilitate the sharing of information, and work to identify issues requiring resolution at the appropriate level of government. When issues involve multiple levels of government, the MRFTF will seek consensus-based, win-win solutions to the invariable issues that arise, through the appropriate forum or vehicle (legislation, proclamation, etc.) The MRFTF is not a decision-making body per se; decisions will be made by the appropriate authority at the appropriate level of government.

The MRFTF will identify the issues, opportunities, challenges, interests and conflicts it seeks to resolve, coordinate or collaborate. These will be identified in the first meeting of MRFTF and adjusted as needed in subsequent meetings as goals and objectives. These goals and objectives will be assigned to working groups to develop and carry out necessary coordination to achieve their intent and associated outcomes. By fostering cooperation, collaboration and coordination, we envision the MRFTF enabling streamlined product delivery, efficient processing of permits and consultation, and effective Agency and PCO decisions to accomplish the suite of short-term post flood actions while setting the stage for long-term comprehensive flood risk management.

9. Goals: The overarching goal of the MRFTF is to restore the Missouri River Basin to its pre-flood condition or better in a manner that holds public safety paramount, promotes economic prosperity, and facilitates sound environmental stewardship. We must act quickly to get people back into their homes, onto their farms, into their businesses, and to restore transportation routes as soon as possible. Furthermore, the flood control benefits of the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir system and the levees, other flood control works, and the authorized navigation channel in the Missouri River must be repaired and restored. Initial specific goals are identified below. Additional, specific goals and objectives may be identified at the first meeting of the MRFTF.

- a. Coordinate and integrate post-event assessments and evaluations to avoid duplication and unnecessary redundancy by the respective federal, Tribal, state or local governments.
- b. Streamline processes and procedures to expedite (shorten) decision-making associated with permitting, consultation, compliance and other regulatory and/or statutory aspects of the respective federal authorities.
- c. Prioritize efforts by agency staffs with the delegated power of the Regional Director/Administrator/Commander to make decisions and/or get decisions made quickly when precedent-setting or complex issues arise.
- d. Enable shared learning to increase our collective understanding of the multiple functions of the floodplain to minimize future risks and avoidable consequences.

- e. Share information about programs, authorities, funding streams and policies amongst the various federal agencies, Tribes, states and PCOs to achieve and optimize effectiveness and efficiency from a public safety, economic prosperity and environmental stewardship perspective.
- f. Ensure federal and state agencies contribute to the overall repair and restoration effort with requisite resources (people, time and funding), sustain the high priority of this effort, maintain visibility and presence of the regional and state agency executives (physical or virtual) at the right times and places, and proactively implement other means to ensure the overall success of this effort.
- g. Coordinate communication to allow the federal, Tribal and state governments, where possible, to speak with one voice. Develop interagency and intergovernmental talking points on key issues. Ensure vertical (Federal/Tribal/state) and horizontal (interstate) communication and information sharing.
- h. Establish working groups with specific expertise to address both immediate needs and long-term solutions.
- i. Ensure that both potential structural alternatives and non-structural alternatives (NSAs) receive appropriate consideration.
- j. Provide oversight of regional activities in consonance with the National Flood Risk Management Program.

10. Administration:

- a. Member agencies may choose to cease participation on the MRFTF by providing 30 days written notice to the Co-chairs. Other agencies may join the MRFTF, subject to the approval of the Co-chairs.
- b. The Co-chairs are responsible for announcing meetings and ensuring preparation of a summary of each meeting.
- c. The Co-chairs will conduct each meeting in a manner designed to promote active participation and open dialog among all task force members and other partners, contributors and contributors.
- d. Resolution of issues that impact national floodplain management policy or involve multiple agency authorities may be identified by the MRFTF for endorsement and dissemination to the National Flood Risk Management structure.
- e. Quarterly reports will be prepared by the MRFTF. These reports will generally summarize the activities and accomplishments of the working groups, and include, but not be limited to the

following: the number of applications received and processed, information on Project Information Reports (PIRs) received, comments received, actions taken, and funds received and expended. The report will provide comments for consideration relative to any future comprehensive long-term studies. The MRFTF will prepare an annual report summarizing the activities of the task force for that fiscal year and recommending the continuation or disbanding of the Task Force.

- f. Task force members may recommend establishment of working groups with specific expertise to address both immediate needs and long term problems and challenges. These working groups may include representatives of state emergency management offices, local levee and drainage districts (or watershed districts), and communities (land use decision authorities), as deemed appropriate by the members.
- g. State-level working groups may be established as needed to provide local resources and information to the MRFTF with the goal of reducing flood risks statewide and enabling implementation of state flood risk mitigation plans. These working groups would coordinate with (not duplicate) the efforts of existing state-level working groups, such as state flood risk management teams (ND, KS) or inter-agency levee work groups (IA).

11. Applicability: This charter is nonbinding and applicable to those agencies self identified as being committed to these endeavors to affect the purpose and meet the goals of this charter. The purpose of this charter shall not usurp any authorities currently vested in any member agency or PCO. The activities of the MRFTF are to be taken in synchronization with National Flood Risk Management activities.

12. Period: The MRFTF is a temporary group that will convene as long as members benefit from the forum.

13. Funding:

- a. As required by the Anti-deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. § 1341 and 1342, all commitments and participation by each federal agency in the actions and activities covered by this Charter is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds and budget priorities.
- b. Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies will fund participation of their own representatives.
- c. Nothing in this Charter, in and of itself, obligates the parties to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or other financial obligation.

14. Charter Endorsement: This charter is adopted as written by the undersigned Co-chairs, effective upon the date signed. This charter may be modified on recommendation of any member and upon approval of the Co-chairs.

Appendix 1: References

References:

- a. Executive Order 11988, May 24, 1977;
- b. Office of Management and Budget/Council on Environmental Quality (OMB/CEQ) memorandum, dated February 18, 1997, Subject: Floodplain Management and Procedures for Evaluation and Review of Levee and Associated Restoration Projects;
- c. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Engineering Regulation (ER) 500-1-1, Civil Emergency Management Program, dated 30 September 2001;
- d. USACE Engineering Pamphlet (EP) 500-1-1, Emergency Employment of Army and Other Resources, dated 30 September 2001;
- e. USACE HQ Office of Contingency Operations and Homeland Security memorandum, dated 15 August 2011, Subject: Guidance for Establishing an Interagency Recovery Task Force;
- f. USACE Draft ER 1110-2-1156, "Safety of Dams, Policy and Procedures", dated 01 Nov. 2010;
- g. National Flood Risk Management Program established May 2006;
- h. Public Law 93-288, The Stafford Act;
- i. Executive Order 12866 and the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program;
- j. National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994;
- k. Unified National Program for Floodplain Management of 1994;
- l. NRCS/USACE Memorandum of Agreement (2005).
- m. USACE "Floodplain Management Assessment of the Upper Mississippi River and Lower Missouri Rivers and Tributaries," dated June 1995.
- n. "Sharing the Challenge: Floodplain Management into the 21st Century" (Galloway Report), dated July 1994, prepared by the Interagency Floodplain Management Review Committee.