

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR) Meeting Summary

February 21, 2018

Kansas City, KC

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

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR), chaired by Jody Sundsted, Western Area Power Association (WAPA), met at the National Weather Service Training Center, on February 21, 2018. Missouri River Basin executives or their alternates, representing nine Federal agencies, attended the meeting along with Planning Committee members and staff. The meeting was facilitated by Melanie Knapp of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (US Institute), and meeting notes were prepared by Steph Kavanaugh and 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 September 2017. Several informational briefings were given at the meeting, including: 1) a briefing on the Department of Interior's agency reorganization plan; (2) a report on the Federal Partner's Resiliency and Mitigation Group ; (3) an update from the Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance group; (4) a report from the Bakken Federal Executives Group; (5) an update on MRRIC; (6) an update on the Keystone XL project; (7) an update on the ongoing Ideker litigation; (8) an update on litigation pertaining to the Dakota Access Pipeline. In addition to these reports and updates, the MRBIR group discussed the top priorities and pressing issues from their respective agencies 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 Data Identification and Sharing topic team; (2) a briefing from the Ecosystem and Climate topic team that included a report on the Drought Outlook, an update on Soil Moisture, the 2nd State of Carbon Cycle Report, and an update on NOAA's 2017 Drought Assessment. MRBIR executives and Planning Committee members provided updates from each of their agencies, including updates on new Senior-level appointments, 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).