

**Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable Meeting (MRBIR)
Meeting Summary**

January 22, 2014

Omaha, NE

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable, chaired by Brigadier General John Kem, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), met at the Regional National Park Service building in Omaha, Nebraska, on January 22, 2014. Missouri River Basin executives or their alternates, representing twelve 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 Chrismer (U.S. Institute). The meeting agenda is provided in Appendix A.

A main purpose of the meeting was for agency executives to report on Basin agency programs, projects, and recent activities occurring in the Missouri River Basin since the group met last in July 2013. Agency reports included: (1) USACE water management and the 2014 water flow predictions; (2) ways federal agencies could better leverage staff and resources; (3) the Missouri River Recovery Program focus on compliance with biological opinion; (4) status of the Intake project; and (5) the intent, progress, and next steps of the USACE Missouri River Recovery Management Plan.

MRBIR committees provided executives with: (1) a briefing on federal trust responsibilities from the Tribal-Federal Relations Committee; (2) a report on the current focus of the proposed Missouri Basin Regional Project from the MRBIR Planning Committee (PC) Ecosystems Function Topic Team; (3) an update on a USGS-USACE project to quantify a sediment budget and a briefing on the Platte River Recovery Program and findings from its recent studies regarding sediment; 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 team are a priority for the next six months.

This meeting also featured a transition of leadership from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Mike Thabault (USFWS) is the new MRBIR Roundtable chair, and Casey Kruse (USFWS) will serve as Planning Committee Chair. BIA will serve as MRBIR Vice-Chair in 2014.

Agreements Reached:

Executives agreed:

- To determine an approach for identifying needs and ways to leverage resources across agencies
- To examine natural resource and staffing impacts related to oil and gas issues in Bakken in the coming year
- To consider meeting in person once per year to accommodate for travel and budget restrictions
- To explore and seek consensus on what the vision for the Missouri River ecosystem could / should look like
 - To identify additional substantive actions that the MRBIR group can do