

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR)

Meeting Summary

September 29-30, 2021

Remote

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR), chaired by Beth Coffey, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), met via the WebEx platform September 29-30, 2021. The meeting was held virtually due to the ongoing condition of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Missouri River Basin Executives or their alternates, representing 16 Federal agencies, attended the meeting along with Planning Committee members and staff. Marci DuPraw and Mitch Chrismer of the National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution (National Center) facilitated the meeting, and Alyssa Bonini, also of the National Center, took notes.

The objective of all MRBIR Executive Roundtable meetings is to provide opportunities for executives of the Federal agencies in the Missouri River basin to engage in collaboration, coordination, and communication pertaining to natural resource management challenges in the basin. They do this by developing partnerships, sharing information, finding ways to support efficient resource use, reporting accomplishments, and garnering Federal focus and fiscal support for natural resource enhancement in the basin.

Over the course of the two-day meeting, participants briefed one another on: (1) Missouri River water management and climate; (2) water supply, flow predictions, and updates from the Lower Basin flood and navigation studies; (3) litigation updates on Missouri River and pipeline cases; (4) progress on Federal actions to prevent looting of cultural resources; (5) agency approaches to evaluating/addressing climate change implications for the Missouri River Basin; (6) invasive species in the Missouri River Basin; and (7) approaches to increased incidence of extreme weather and interacting with stakeholders about the trend. In addition to these reports and updates, the MRBIR group discussed the top priorities and pressing issues from their respective agencies. MRBIR members also reviewed updates to the Memorandum of Understanding which reflect the Chair and Vice Chair agencies' financial contribution to MRBIR.

The National Center will try to organize the next Executive Meeting in-person and will work closely with the new chair Agency, the Bureau of Land Management.