

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR)

Meeting Summary

February 15, 2022

Remote

Executive Summary

The Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR), chaired by Beth Coffey, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), met via Microsoft Teams February 15, 2022. The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Missouri River Basin Executives or their alternates, representing 14 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 Julie Minde, 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) review of cultural resources protection report; (2) litigation updates; (3) the Missouri River water management and climate; and (4) agency updates on responses to drought conditions in Missouri River Basin. In addition to these reports, the MRBIR group discussed the top priorities and pressing issues from their respective agencies, which included the Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) Memo from the White House. The group also reviewed the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and welcomed the new incoming MRBIR chair, Brent Esplin of the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

The next meeting will be held in-person in the upper Missouri River basin in either August or September 2022.