

Participation Request

Partner Input into LTRMP Strategic Planning Project

Background

The Environmental Management Program Coordinating Committee (EMP-CC) has formed an interagency strategic planning group to guide the EMP's Long Term Resource Monitoring Program (LTRMP) component for the period of FY 2010-2014. The first five-year LTRMP implementation plan, covering FY 2005-2009, was developed three years ago in response to EMP budget fluctuations. Having an identified baseline program and a plan for expending additional resources has served the program well. As a result, the EMP-CC felt that it was important to conduct a second five-year strategic planning effort.

There are many important changes in the way the second five-year planning effort is being conducted. One of those changes was to create a 15-person Strategic Planning Team to guide development of the plan. The second important change is that this effort is anticipated to take between 15 and 18 months, rather than the approximately six months allocated to the 2004 effort. And finally, each member of the Planning Team has accepted the responsibility to actively coordinate with other LTRMP partners/stakeholders in their agency/organization.

On April 30 - May 2, 2007, the Strategic Planning Team held the first of six anticipated meetings. Discussions at this first meeting focused on the planning effort's purpose, process, and schedule, as well as initial brainstorming about the LTRMP's long-term outcomes (roughly equivalent to goals), outputs (specific products that help achieve those goals), and program inputs (staff and other resources needed to produce the outputs). Notes from this first meeting are being distributed with this participation request.

Participation Process

You are receiving this material in hopes that you will take an active interest in the LTRMP strategic planning effort. The vehicles for your participation include responding to this and future specific requests for input, contacting a member of the Strategic Planning Team with questions or comments at any time, and participating in the EMP-CC's regular quarterly meetings.

At this point, you are being invited to provide your ideas concerning the LTRMP's outcomes, outputs, and inputs. Specific questions are outlined below. Several members of the Planning Team have volunteered to be points-of-contact (POCs) to help solicit, receive, and organize partner and stakeholder input. Those POCs and their areas of responsibility are as follows:

<u>POC</u>	<u>Coordination Contact for</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
John Chick	State of Illinois agencies	618-466-9690
Martin Konrad	State of Iowa agencies	515-281-6976
Tim Schlagenhaft	State of Minnesota agencies	651-345-3365x233
Janet Sternburg	State of Missouri agencies	573-522-4115x3372
Jim Fischer	State of Wisconsin agencies	608-785-9004

Marv Hubbell	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	309-794-5428
Bill Franz	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	312-886-7500
Jon Duyvejonck	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	309-757-5800x207
Mike Jawson	U.S. Geological Survey	608-781-6221
Barb Naramore	Other federal agencies & NGOs	651-224-2880

In the coming days, these POCs will be coordinating efforts to obtain input from program partners/stakeholders within their state/agency/organization. They will communicate more specifically how they would like to receive and integrate ideas for submission to the full Strategic Planning Team. **The deadline for the POCs to gather and integrate this input is July 9.** This will then be considered by the Planning Team at its next meeting, later in July.

If you do not hear soon from the appropriate POC with further details, and you would like to provide input concerning the questions outlined below, please do not hesitate to contact your POC directly. Please also recognize that this is the first of several opportunities for LTRMP partners and stakeholders to provide input into this strategic planning process. As this point, the Planning Team is simply seeking your broad ideas to inform its thinking about potential LTRMP outcomes, outputs, and inputs. As the planning process unfolds, many challenging choices will have to be made concerning program priorities for FY 2010-2014.

First Set of Questions – June 2007

During June 2007, the LTRMP Strategic Planning Team is actively seeking stakeholder input and feedback concerning LTRMP outcomes, outputs, and inputs. These planning terms (i.e., outcomes, outputs, and inputs) are explained in the meeting notes and are further defined in Attachment E to those notes. The Planning Team will discuss your input at its July strategic planning meeting.

To help catalyze your thinking, we are providing information from the Planning Team's own initial brainstorming concerning LTRMP outcomes, outputs, and inputs. This synthesis is presented in Attachment H of the notes from the Team's April 30-May 2 meeting, and is by no means intended to limit your thinking. These ideas flowed from a brainstorming process, so many of them are quite raw. They have not been polished or analyzed by the group, though USGS staff has done some basic organizing and attempted to consolidate obviously overlapping ideas. The Planning Team will be working to refine these ideas further at its July planning meeting, so your creative input will be well-timed for the Team's consideration.

Please review Attachment H of the meeting notes, and respond in writing to the following questions:

- 1. What are 3-5 very important LTRMP outcomes? What important outcomes are missing from the brainstorm list in Attachment H?**

- 2. What are 3-5 very important five-year LTRMP outputs? What important five-year outputs are missing from the brainstorm list in Attachment H?**

- 3. What are some important LTRMP organizational inputs? Would you suggest any specific changes to current inputs and investments as the program moves forward?**

- 4. What are some effective ways for your agency/organization to involve you in this strategic planning effort?**

- 5. What other comments, questions, or concerns would you like to offer to the Planning Team as it moves forward with this important work?**

If you have any questions about this Participation Request, or any other project-related concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your point-of contact, or any of the project leaders: Barb Naramore, Mike Jawson, or Marvin Hubbell. Phone numbers for all of these individuals are provided above.