

Meeting minutes
A-Team conference call on 10/23/2012
Chair: Scott Gritters- Iowa DNR

Agenda:

Introductions

Pat Short, Rob Maher, Jim Fischer, Walt Popp, Brian Ickes, Mike Jawson, Kirsten Mickelsen, Barry Johnson, Jennifer Sauer, Nate De Jager, Nick Schlessler, Kathryn Mc Cain, Karen Hagerty, Dave Potter, Larry Sheppard, Janette Sternburg, Andy Casper, John Chick, Dave Herzog, Quinton Phelps

1. When do we want the next A-team conference call?

Next EMP-CC meeting is February 28, 2013. We will probably want to have an A-team conference call sometime before that. We may try to have the annual A-team Face to face meeting in La Crosse in April but travel is getting very difficult.

2. EPA involvement with A-team

Larry Sheppard introduced himself to the group and recognizes that Big Rivers have been a priority of the EPA in the past, but that interest has somewhat waned in the agency. Larry recognizes the gap left by Bill Franz in the EPA who has since retired. Larry will work with the A-team to engage the EPA to get some of their "Water Folks" on the A-team board. For now Larry will be the EPA A-team contact for the EPA.

3. Status of the Connectivity framework: Role of A-team on that.

Ken Lubinski is working on summarizing the information gathered from the Connectivity conference and the online survey of river managers and scientists. Ken is lead on this USGS effort and gave a presentation at the UMRCC fall fish tech of data summarized so far, so the A-team did not go into an in-depth discussion of this framework. As Ken evaluates more data it will be a subject of discussion at the February and April A-team meetings.

4. Science Plan update.

Barry Johnson discussed the advancement of the Science Plan. He expects in early 2013 to have a draft report out on the science plan building on the research frameworks. As the plan continually gets updated it was discussed that the science plan would need to put up on the A-team corner website so it can be reviewed. (<http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/ltrmp/ateam.html>)

5. Brief Funding update

Congressional and Presidential budgets are both lower than what are needed for base funding. The State of Iowa has some carryover funds from the Pool 12 projects and employee turnover which will help carry the field stations next year. LTRMP management staff will check to see if any other stations

have carryover for next year. Barry and Jennie will make sure LTRMP staffs have sufficient resources for this coming season. After that things might get dicier.

6. House cleaning items approval of minutes of last few meetings:

The February 3, 2012 conference call meeting notes and the April 25, 2012 meeting notes from the La Crosse face to face meeting were approved and will be placed on the A-team corner of the USGS web site. Chairperson Gritters will submit final version of these meeting notes to Jennie so they can be posted. The August 27, 2012 meeting notes needed minor editing and will be up for approval at the February 2013 conference call.

7. INDICATORS REPORT discussion

Karen Hagerty gave a complete summary of the history of the indicators report which helped the understanding of the need for this report especially among the new members of the A-team. This report will be used as a backbone of the next status and trends report. Karen has received a smattering of comments (Minnesota, others) but really few comments have been received. Karen will make all the changes that have been received and she had some items that may need more editing. Most A-team members felt the report was well done and congratulated Karen and Kathryn (many other) for a job well-done. A schedule was set for approval of the Indicators Report: November 30, 2012 will be the cutoff date for any comments. In February 2013 Karen will send back out to the A-team for additional comments. By the April face to face meeting the A-team will vote to formally approve/further edit the report. By early June it will be on target to present to the EMPCC.

8. Other items?

The Corps of Engineers is migrating it web pages to new addresses which is expected to cause some turmoil.

Andy Casper has been hired on as Team Leader for the Illinois River Biological Station and we welcome Andy to the LTRMP family!

Illinois is planning to use a continuous water quality monitor in Ellis Bay.

Dave Herzog reports hiring Sara Trip (sp?) as the new fisheries specialist. Welcome Sara!!! Dave also reports catching Stripped Mullet in the Open River reach and is doing some age/growth analysis on these newcomer fishes.

All field personal report travel restrictions which is hampering scheduling of meetings. A-Team and EMPCC meetings will need to be creative especially for face to face meetings!