

Minutes
LTRMP A-Team Meeting
April 27, 2011
12:30 – 5:00 pm
Radisson Hotel - La Crosse, WI

Participants: Illinois – Rob Maher, Greg Sass, John Chick
Iowa – Kirk Hansen, Dave Bierman, Mike Steuck
Minnesota – Kevin Stauffer, Walt Popp
Missouri –
Wisconsin – Jim Fischer, Terry Dukerschein, Jeff Janvrin
COE – Marvin Hubbell, Karen Hagerty, David Potter, Kat McCain, Len Kring
USGS – Barry Johnson, Mike Jawson, Jennie Sauer, Nate De Jager, Brian Ickes, Jim Rogala,
Jeff Houser
USFWS – Tex Hawkins
USEPA – Bill Franz

Agenda:

Roll call, agenda, Intro	Stauffer
EMP and LTRMP updates	Hubbell, Hagerty, Johnson
<u>Presentations</u>	
Potential Method for Estimating Pre-dam Distribution of Centrarchid Over-wintering Habitat	Janvrin
Habitat and Movement of Bluegill and Crappie on the UMR	Steuck
Towards a spatially-explicit Carbon model for great rivers: programmatic, management, and scientific intents	Ickes
Upper Mississippi River Aerial Image Viewer	Kratt
Seasonal zooplankton dynamics in the main channel and backwater habitats of the UMR	Burdis
Agency updates, open discussion, & other topics	All

Intro

Kevin Stauffer – agenda today is primarily focused on presentations of LTRMP related projects. This will be my last meeting as A-Team Chair. Kirk Hansen (or designee) from IA DNR will take over as chair for the next two years.

EMP and LTRMP Updates

Marv Hubbell - Budget for FY11 will be 21.5 million for total EMP, which puts LTRMP at 6.4 million. FY12 budget is tenuous, currently in President's budget at 18.5 million. Final number will depend a lot on "adds." We will see more pressure on demonstrating outcomes and products.

From a program standpoint – currently in the middle of the Implementation Issues Assessment (IIA) that is addressing 13 different issues. Hope to begin the HREP Strategic Plan by late fall or early winter. It has been delayed because of other priorities.

Karen Hagerty - Most of her effort has been directed at the IIA and hasn't had much time to work on the Indicators lately. Bathymetry data has been collected and QA/QC is in progress. High water levels this fall limited the collection of LiDar. Orthophotos – some of the upper pools need to be re-flown because of cloud cover.

Barry Johnson - He put out a call for proposals on additional Indicators analysis – did not have much response. Did not have any interest on Fish Indicators. He will prepare a SOW to focus on Fish Indicators (fish assemblages and community based metrics) and then shop it around again.

Research Frameworks – Yao Yin and Becky Kreiling are finishing up revisions on the Vegetation framework and should be able to complete in 1-2 months. Nate DeJager will have a revised Landscape Patterns framework out to A-Team for review very soon. The next framework to be addressed will be Connectivity.

Presentations – as listed in the agenda. No minutes were recorded for this part of the meeting. The A-Team extends their appreciation to Jeff Janvrin, Mike Steuck, Bob Kratt, Brian Ickes and Rob Burdis for taking time to prepare and present their information.

Agency Updates

Jim Fischer, Wisconsin DNR – they have a new Secretary (Kathy Step) and Deputy Secretary (Matt Moreny). The Department is moving to a more “straight line” structure and will be eliminating Regional Director positions. The River Team will also have a different reporting structure. Fisheries staff will report through the Fisheries Bureau and Wildlife through the Wildlife Bureau. Announced that Ken Von Ruden, Mark Anderson, and Terry Duckerschein have either retired, or will be soon. They plan to refill those positions, but not sure when that will happen.

Tex Hawkins, USFWS Upper Miss Refuge – A GS 12/13 Refuge Biologist position will be advertised nationwide next week. Rick Frietsche is retiring in June and his position will also be refilled. Lower Root River acquisition is going forward.

Bill Franz, US EPA – this will be his last A-Team meeting, as he will be retiring soon.

David Potter, US COE – St. Paul – Dennis Anderson has retired. Capoli Slough HREP is going to plans and specs soon. Hope to award contract by end of FY or early next. NESP project for the Lower Root River has stopped, as there is no funding. He would like to get out on field sampling activities with other UMR folks whenever possible. He has some interns available as well.

Dave Bierman, Iowa DNR – Iowa also has a new administration with a lot of new organizational proposals, but nothing final at this point. Roger Lande is the new DNR Director. They have lost some funding for seasonal staff. They had the fourth highest river crest on record at Bellevue this spring.

Terry Duckerschein, Wisconsin DNR – this will also be her last A-Team meeting. Has been on it for 19 years!

Rob Maher, Illinois DNR – they have two new hires (Kevin Irons and Matt O'Hara) and are in the process of hiring six more. Black carp continuing to show up, total of five so far in IL. DNR staff are being called in for flood duty ASAP.

Greg Sass, INHS – have filled two vacant field station positions, Blake Ruebush and Levi Soloman.

John Chick, INHS – finally moved into their new facility.

Mike Jawson, UMESC – Federal budgets for FY12 do not look good, but FY11 was okay. Wing D is almost done. It will have a great conference room and many amenities. They plan to take possession in August.

Wrap Up

- Next A-Team meeting will be a conference call in mid-summer.
- A-Team thanked Terry Duckerschein and Bill Franz for their years of service to the A-Team and wished them well in retirement!