

**A-Team Minutes**  
**26 October 2016**  
**Jackson, MO**

Attendees: Steve Winters, Ken Barr, Nick Schlessler, Jen Dieck, Megan Moore, Marvin Hubbell, Scott Gritters, Jon Hendrickson, Kirsten Michelson, Mary Shopec- on phone.

Yao Yin, Shane Simmons, Kat McCain, Jennie Sauer, Leo Keller, Elizabeth Bruns, Ben Greeling, Kevin Slattery, KathiJo Jankowski, Rob Burdis, Molly Sobotka, John Chick, Shawn Giblin, Dave Herzog, Karen Hagerty.

Next meeting, teleconference/WebEx ~Jan. 24. Shawn will send a Doodle poll

Minutes from 1 August 2016 meeting; voted and passed

Marv Hubbell UMRR Update:

- Redraft Report to Congress finishing up. Kudos to Kirsten Michelson
- FY17: \$20 million budget
- FY18 budget in development
- High level of scrutiny at ASA and Headquarters

Karen Hagerty: LTRM management update

- Two Scopes of work; both fully funded
  - LTRM base: \$4.61M (\$4.5 for FY16)
  - Science in support of restoration and management: \$1M (\$963K FY16)
  - \$5.6M + 183,223 carry-over = total funds \$5.7M
  - MN use carry-over for Equipment refreshment
  - \$136K for science proposals

Jeff Houser: LTRM Science update

1. Developing a plan to effectively use carryover dollars in Fy17 an out years
  - a. Assembling a portfolio of proposals
  - b. How can we obtain resources for broader; perhaps multi-year efforts
2. How to use funds and capitalize on what we have
  - a. Field temp staff to free up permanent staff time
  - b. additional analysis
  - c. collect/analyze/report additional data to fill gaps and answer questions
3. Current topics for additional research
  - a. Strategic Plan 2015-2025
  - b. Research frameworks
  - c. HNA (contact Nate)
  - d. Resilience: connectivity, velocity, TSS, fetch, depth/sediment. Contact Kristen Bouska or Jeff Houser
  - e. S&T Report
4. Looking into the future
  - a. How useful are current research frameworks

- b. Missing themes
- c. Sediment
- d. Connectivity
- e. Stochastic events
- f. Questions from Resilience assessment

Potential topic for next A-Team. Guide planning, priority questions for science

- Programmatic need
- Preserve level of creativity and flexibility at PI level
- 3 districts have science needs—share with Jeff

Marv Hubbell: Indicators

- Competed for additional funds via the Work Plan: HNA; Resilience, additional fish indicators
- Need to tie other ideas to themes (HNA, Resilience) to increase probability of getting funds

Jeff H. value more comprehensive larger scale efforts. Potential use HNA and resilience efforts as models. Sediment next??

What feedback does Jeff need? Thoughts on frameworks, additional frameworks needed (Andy Casper)  
John Chick: immediate needs with future needs “off the shelf”

Karen H. Last time prioritized then moved down list as funding became available

Jeff H. Proposal for FY17 and beyond

- Use 2015 format, Jeff will send out
- Due four weeks before next A-Team
- Review and discuss at next A-Team
- Evaluate:
  - priority for FY17
  - which are worthy of funding and you keep for subsequent years/funding
  - Evaluate good idea; needs work
  - Not appropriate for UMRR (e.g., Asian carp control)

Discussion on Rogala et al. sediment proposal

- Revisit sediment transects in Pools 4, 8, and 13
- Loss of backwater depth
- Improve forecasts HNA
- Initial sampling early November before ice-on
- Potentially think of adding on La Grange?

A-Team member voting: unanimous yes on funding sediment transect proposal

- Steve Winter: will need special permit from USFWS Refuge
- Dave Herzog: Need to look more for a systemic project, this proposal only looks at select backwaters. Jeff Houser response: that would be a broader topic, this proposal is looking backward. More concerted effort looking at sediment moving forward
- Ken Barr: Jon H. reviewed. Sediment work is a big concern, we do not do a good job of quantifying, 100% support

- John Chick: Lower portion of system, major flooding, need to consider. Sediment input major impact on HREPs—how do we manage

Other updates:

- Resilience manuscript sent out for review
- HNA moving forward with inventory and assessment.

Presentations by: Becky Kreiling, Rob Burdis, Yao Yin,

Fish Indicators discussion

- MN suggestion scale back to large migratory species, swapping out effects
- Alison-ran numbers at previous meeting, CPUs almost non-existent esp P4 and 8. A-Team agreeable to shorter list
- Entire pool of data versus backwater.
  - Andy Casper, miscommunication.
  - List generated all pool; analysis just BWC
  - Pool-wide average not and indicator of BWC
  - Using empirical data therefore that is why list was not changed. Other species suggested better indicators for other strata
  - takes away objective nature
- Indval not an indicator of abundance; but site fidelity
- Nick S. concern for # species e.g., freshwater drum
- How do we take life span of a species into account? drum 30-40 yrs vs minnows 2 year. This is not the only indicator we are using.
- Scott G. applauds effort. Difficult to lump species. we are beginning to ask questions of the data
- Andy C. interested in using indicators for reference to folks outside of partnership. Inside partnership states can look at single species
- There is a bias of LTRM sampling, poor representation of some fish (walleye). John C.--we looked hard at sampling program, always nice to do more; but LTRM cannot do everything.
- Hashed out migratory list at last A-Team. Did not think reduced list was appropriate for full UMRS
- Are we interested in BW health using fish as a proxy or BW species health overall.
- Vote on whether to calculate pool-wide BWC All states "I" FWS abstain
- 5-year running avg. ok
- Young-of-year break point using Barko et al.
- Native vs non-natives—just natives.
- Alison will rerun analysis for vote at January meeting.

Agency updates:

IL

- Understaffed
- not hiring, no budget
- beginning to look at critical hires—40-50% of fisheries staff are in mid-50s

MO

- Janet new position
- New MDOC director
- Field station doing well

IA

- Fall sampling Pool 12
- Veg. specialist open

MN

- High water
- LT gill netting down
- lots of veg and detritus
- Weaver dredging completed
- Eric Lund new LTRM veg. specialist
- LTRM Fish almost complete
- LTRM WQ going well

WI

- Jordan Weeks new fisheries staff
- Clean water act pilot going well—veg., fish, inverts, wq (metals). From Twin Cities to La Crosse
- Summer fish kills Pools 7 and 8
- New post-doc in Madison looking at TSS in relation to biotic interactions; state-wide

USGS

- KathiJo Jankowski new LTRM WQ Lead.

FWS

- Hiring new Refuge manager McGregor