

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Mississippi River Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	08/08/2014	7:00pm	Brice Prairie, WI
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------	--------------------------

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Wes Domine at 7:00 pm
-----------------------------------	--------------------------------

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Mike Britton, Wes Domine, Dan Heidel, Wil Netzer, Marc Schultz, Richard Wayne, Gary Dillaber, Taylor Hennich, Wayne Stietz, Paul Reith, Josh Hennich, Bob Jumbeck, Ron Benjamin, Youth Delegate Aren Feuling
EXCUSED	Ted Engeliem, Maurice Amundson, David LaPine, Paul Gettelman, William Howe
UNEXCUSED	None
GUESTS	David Heath, Jim Fischer, Randy Hines, Vince Beadle

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None needed

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Chairman Domine read the Mississippi River Advisory Committee Mission Statement
ACTION	Marc Schultz made a motion to not change current statement, 2 nd by Wil Netzer. Motion passed.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None needed

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. 15" LENGTH LIMIT ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER SAUGER

WES DOMINE

DISCUSSION	<p>Resolution #120114 was read. Resolution was submitted by Tim Hutchinson of Prairie du Chien, WI. The resolution was asking to increase the Sauger length limit to 15". David Heath, Mississippi River Fisheries Biologist handed out a WI DNR Fisheries Information sheet. The sheet has many facts covering the years of 1993 through 2013. The sheet abundance of "adult" sauger from Navigation Pools 4 – 9 appears to be generally declining during this time frame. Sauger abundance estimates about a 22% decrease. Pools varied greatly from Lake Pepin seeing a 30% increase while a 77% decrease in Pool 8 over 9 years of the WI DNR survey. It appears that the relative proportion of "adult" Sauger over 12" has increased since 2003. '93-'02 had a total of 39.1% greater than or equal to 12" while from '03-'13 had a total of 50.1% greater than or equal to 12". 80-85% of Sauger males will not reach 15".</p> <p>Recommendation: To avoid differing Mississippi River regulations among the 3 border states, the WI DNR should coordinate with the states of Iowa and MN on river-wide walleye and sauger management goals and cooperatively explore effective regulations to meet these goals.</p>
-------------------	---

ACTION	Motion by Dan Heidel to reject proposal #120114. 2 nd by Wayne Stietz. Motion to reject passed.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

B. MINNOW HARVEST FOR PERSONAL USE #220114

WES DOMINE

DISCUSSION	Resolution #220114 that was assigned to the Warm Water Committee was read. The Mississippi River Comm. has had many years with this issue. Chairman Domine drafted a letter to send to the WW Comm. This draft was read aloud. This draft included specific dates and statistics from 2010, 2011, and 2013 of WCC Spring Hearing questions and summarized concerns previously discussed by MRC members. This draft's purpose is strictly for informational purposes and not to directly influence any committee's decision.	
ACTION	Motion by Gary Dillaber to send a letter to the Warm Water Committee with the historical information. This draft is to be sent to the Mississippi River Committee members for review prior to any letter being sent out. The committee is to respond to Chairman Domine by 08/31/2014. 2 nd by Wil Netzer. Motion passed. 13 yay, 1 nay.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Wes Domine	November 1, 2014	

C. WINTER HARVEST OF FLATHEAD CATFISH (FOLLOW-UP 2013 MTG)

WES DOMINE

DISCUSSION	Discussion regarding the harvest and concern for snagging of flathead catfish during winter months, extending from a citizen presentation given at 2013 MRC meeting, by Brian Klawitter of the MN Catfish and Sturgeon Alliance. The citizen had asked for the MRC to form and forward as a resolution and a written question in a form of resolution was provided. Chairman Domine read the resolution to the committee. Further discussion disclosed that current laws are already in place that prohibit snagging. More information is desired regarding the proposed new harvest rules by MN DNR.	
ACTION	Motion by Paul Reith and 2 nd by Rick Wayne to reject current resolution. Motion to reject passed.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

D. WI DNR INFORMATION AND UPDATE – WI DNR

BOB JUMBECK

DISCUSSION	Full Officers up & down the river, Early Teal Season starting on 09/01/14, wanting extra eyes to help monitor success rates and to see if other duck species are being affected. WI Warden duck school for DNR recruits will be in the La Crosse area this fall. Will be working on duck identification. Also, hyper-drives after hours are causing some decibel noise levels.	
ACTION	None Needed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

E. WI DNR INFORMATION AND UPDATE – WI DNR

RON BENJAMIN

DISCUSSION	Potential trout changes-proposed from 5 categories to 3 categories. 1. 5 fish with no size limit, 2. 3 fish with 8" minimum length, 3. Specific to the particular stream/river. Potentially to Spring Hearings in 2015 for possible change in 2016. Mississippi River is fully open. The extended high water possibly created 15-20 spots where dredging may need to occur.	
ACTION	None Needed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

F. INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH UPDATE- US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

RANDY HINES

DISCUSSION	Discussion on Asian Carp, Zebra Mussels, and Quagga Mussels. Document on USGS-UMESC Aquatic Invasive Species Research from July 2014 was handed out. There is documented field research in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. Appears Asian carp are having a detrimental effect on desirable and native fish and other wildlife. Some species had lower reproductive success in high Asian carp infested	
-------------------	---	--

	waters. For 2014, UMESC is working with the WI DNR on a couple of different projects, with US Fish and Wildlife Service & US Army Corp of Engineers, Western Illinois University with eDNA to be leading edge for Asian carp. UMESC is also working with Viterbo University and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign on Asian carp. Also working with University of MN, University of MN-Duluth, MN DNR, and Purdue University. Two podcasts showing a good overview of the projects. There is the shorter version (8 minutes 47 seconds) that gives a good overview. That website is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nN8CC3Jax1K . The full version (17 minutes 19 seconds) provides more detailed information. That website is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLnFbd5FvFY .	
ACTION	None needed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

**G. RIVER PROJECT UPDATES- UPPER MISSISSIPPI
RIVER RESTORATION- US ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS**

JIM FISCHER

DISCUSSION	<p>Congress is taking notice of the UMRR (Upper Mississippi River Restoration). Strategic Planning team consisting of partners from all agencies and states in the UMRR has completed a draft 10 yr. plan for the program. This plan includes a vision for the river, a mission statement for the program, 4 goals to achieve the mission and vision. With this notice by Congress, Office Management has increased funding from \$17,000,000 to \$31,000,000 due largely to the great success over the past 27 years. Now they want to use and apply this knowledge for the next 10 years. Over the next few weeks, this draft will be available for about 2 months for public review and comment. The draft plan can be located at this website: http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/EnvironmentalProtectionandRestoration/UpperMississippiRiverRestoration/KeyInitiatives/StrategicPlanning.aspx The Vision and Mission and the 4 goals can be found on this document. LTRMP Fisheries Sampling June 15-July 30 2368 fish collected, 52 species, most abundant were 463 Bluegill, 303 Black Crappie, 212 Red Horse, 156 Large Mouth Bass, 128 Rock Bass Catches were bad throughout most of this time frame due to high water levels Minnows seem to be making a comeback – emeralds, rivers, spotfins and bullhead minnows have all been fairly abundant Have seen nice batch of Northern Pike and a few Walleye. Black Crappie seemed to have a banner hatch but unfortunately, Carp also have seemed to have a good hatch as well.</p>	
DACTION	None Needed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

H. US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**RANDY URICH VIA EMAIL TO
MARC SCHULTZ**

DISCUSSION	<p>St. Paul District completed emergency dredging operations in the Mississippi River on Thurs. Aug 7th. The Corps dredged temporary 200 feet wide pilot channels in both Pool 4 between Wabasha, MN and Alma, WI. And in Pool 6 near Winona, MN. The pilot channels allowed the US Coast Guard to officially reopen the 9 foot navigation channel to commercial traffic. Normal authorized channel width is 300 feet. Dredging began July 16 when water elevations were low enough to start. The dredges collectively removed than 290,000 cubic yards of dredged material from the river. This is nearly 30% of the avg. material removed during an entire year. This is enough material to fill a line of 10 cubic yard dump trucks from Minneapolis to La Crosse. The Corps expects to continue maintenance dredging into the fall. The Environmental Section Staff worked with many partners to sample aquatic vegetation in Mississippi River Pool 3 as part of the annual monitoring effort. Many projects: Shoreline Management in Pool 8, Audubon Society in Pool 3 and Pool 7. Working with the FWS, MN Dept. of Ag in Pools 6 and 9 for control of Emerald Ash Borer, working with a UW-La Crosse grad student to restore floodplain forest and control reed canary grass, 5000 tree and shrub seedlings in Pierce County in pool 8 & 9, working on forest restoration in Black River Bottoms, partnering with US forest Service, MN & WI DNR on field trials for enriched elm seedlings (disease tolerant). Water Level Mgmt. – task force is currently planning for drawdown in Pool 3 possibly in 2016.</p>	
-------------------	---	--

	Tree Leaner Project – This is being done for biological reasons and will hopefully create shoreline preservation. Potential Trial Site – Pool 7, Lake Onalaska, SE of Bell Island. 1.2 acre island, predominantly red and black oak, this island may benefit from selective cutting of leaning trees to limit loss of shoreline.	
ACTION	None Needed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Dan Heidel – We need to make sure we are not influencing any committee with our actions</p> <p>Wil Netzer – Information (history) within these meetings from previous meetings should be shared</p> <p>Josh Hennlich- Tundra Swan season question may come back – We could look to start new traditions. If more education and good education is a part of it – why not help this happen</p> <p>Marc – General thoughts on shotgun resolutions – Environmental Committee for example has to deal with 89 resolutions this year 88 passed and 1 rejected – causes long meeting due to specifically having to address each resolution – is there a way to combine some of those shotgun resolutions</p>
ACTION	None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	9:40. Motion by Gary Dillaber 2nd by Richard Wayne, Motion passed
SUBMITTED BY	Mike Britton, Barron County
DATE	08/08/2014