

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## Mississippi River Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	07/31/2015	7:00 PM	Buffalo County Board Room, Alma WI
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#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Wes Domine at 7:00 PM Asked for a show of hands for the Polander Lake Tour by Jeff Jarvin, DNR. Seven people will be taking the tour.
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##### B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Maurice Amundson, Jim Barbian, Mike Britton, Wes Domine, Alex Duren *, Hugh Hatch, Dan Heidel, Bill Howe, Greg Koelker, Marc Schultz, Wayne Stietz, Richard Wayne (* youth)
EXCUSED	Barb Eisenberg, Ted Engeliem, David Lapine, Paul Reith
UNEXCUSED	Paul Gettelman, Will Netzer
GUESTS	Tim Babros-WDNR, David Heath-WDNR, Bob Jumbeck-WDNR, Tim Miller-UMRNWFR, Randall Urich-US Army Corps of Engineers

##### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

##### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	<p>Chair Wes Domine read the Mississippi River Committee mission statement:</p> <p>Within and to the support of Wisconsin Conservation Congress process; it is the mission of the Mississippi River Committee (MRC) to advise the Wisconsin NRB on issues, rules, or policies which affect the river and/or other associated natural resources.</p> <p>The MRC strives to stay acquainted with current river resource management; the science in support or opposition to that management; and with public opinion thereof. The MRC encourages river management agencies to seek public participation in management decisions or policy. Influence stemming from the MRC shall be generated with greatest intentions toward long term benefits to all wildlife resources; and with an emphasis toward preserving public access and harvest of game resources, (i.e., preserving outdoor heritage activities of hunting, fishing, and trapping).</p>
ACTION	Motion to approve by Wayne Stietz, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Richard Wayne, passed unanimously.

##### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

## II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

### A. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT EFFORT

DAVID HEATH

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The Strategic Alignment Effort is a restructuring of the divisions within the WDNR. The proposed finish date is to be July 2016. The department will stay as is with divisional restructuring to promote efficiency and streamline the department. The mission statement will not change, and there will be public input at some point in the process. See attachment 1 for details.	
<b>ACTION</b>	None	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
N/A	N/A	

### B. RIVER UPDATE FROM DNR & UMRNWFR

DAVID HEATH WITH INPUT FROM  
BOB JUMBECK AND TIM MILLER

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Update on current items the department is involved in on the river. Some were algae (blue-green), walleye numbers, tournaments, water quality, commercial fishing (closure of Lake Pepin due to protected fish killed in gill nets), zebra mussels, amphibians and their habitat needs, goose banding, duck banding (good year for broods), there have been good participation from volunteer groups and individuals, island inspection (signage checked & erosion control), the river is changing with water clarity being a factor for both fish and vegetation. See attachment 2.	
<b>ACTION</b>	None	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
N/A	N/A	

### C. US ARMY CORP PROJECTS

RANDY URICH AND TIM BABROS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Randy gave a presentation on projects and the Tree Leaner Project proposal with input from Tim Babros-WDNR. See attachments for details.	
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Tim gave an update on purple loostrife, Black Turn nesting counts, Duck Guide permits, aerial survey cost vs. outside data, vegetation sampling, habitat management planning. Tim stressed the need to see success of the Tree Leaner project before large scale application. See attachment 3.	
<b>ACTION</b>	None	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
N/A	N/A	

### D. RAILROAD TRESPASS

COMMITTEE

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Following the update by Bob Jumbeck, the committee had a long discussion on the railroad trespass law that is a large issue when accessing the river for recreation. There seems to be little information available to all parties involved. The bill to fix this issue was vetoed by Governor Walker in the 2015 budget.	
<b>ACTION</b>	Marc Schultz motioned that he is to write a letter supporting/securing the right to cross railroad tracks for recreational purposes. 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Wayne Stietz. Voted unanimously by whole committee.	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
Marc Schultz		

## III. MEMBERS MATTERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Hugh Hatch had questions regarding bag limits and the sauger resolution from 2014 (Resolution #120114 from Crawford County).	
<b>ACTION</b>	Wes Domine to send info on resolution #120114	
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Richard Wayne had questions on minnow seining issue. Group discussion why resolution as written was not supportable. David Heath stated the issue is being re-evaluated.	
<b>ACTION</b>	None	

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Greg Koelker stated his concerns on the trespass issue having statewide ramifications
<b>ACTION</b>	None
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Mark Stietz would like for anyone interested in minnow/bait issue to contact the Environmental Committee and express their concerns. Also would like to see more information meetings between public and US Army Corps of Engineers.
<b>ACTION</b>	None
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dan Heidel asked Bob Jumbeck about warden enforcement powers. Expressed concern over lack of public knowledge on railroad trespass. Requested that youth member, Alex Duren, be acknowledged in the meeting attendance roster.
<b>ACTION</b>	None
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Maurice Amundson stated his concerns on the minnow regulations.
<b>ACTION</b>	None
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Wayne Stietz clarification on when/where tour of Polander Lake was to be.
<b>ACTION</b>	Meet tomorrow, August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 9:00 AM at the Fountain City boat launch. Jeff Jarvin WDNR will be the tour guide. See attachment 4.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Chair Wes Domine polled the committee to see if a different day was preferred for the next committee meeting. A vote was taken with nine members voting for Friday and one member voting for Saturday if a tour was planned, there is concern that if we had several resolutions to discuss, one day would not be enough time to accomplish both a meeting and a project tour. Friday was selected.
<b>ACTION</b>	None
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Chair Wes Domine thanked all DNR, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Fish & Wildlife personnel for their participation. Wes asked the committee to fill out comment sheet and travel expense forms.
<b>ACTION</b>	None

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>9:50 PM</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Jim Barbian</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>July 31, 2015</b>

## **DLT Announces Strategic Alignment Effort**

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### **Background**

#### **Alignment Goals**

DNR's Mission, Vision, Values and One DNR approach will be reflected in the alignment process and final organizational structure.

Increase alignment between agency services and customer groups.

Improve the management of our workload by documenting, prioritizing, and efficiently managing our core work.

Increase efficiency by grouping similar functions within divisions.

Improve consistency by building systems and processes for our business functions.

Increase integration and collaboration.

Maintain accountability through line-authority reporting.

Increase financial flexibility and sharing of resources.

Maximize outcomes we can produce.

Over the past four years, the department has been listening to your ideas and implementing improvements that help us excel at our mission. Among numerous improvement efforts, the department prioritized initiatives to improve customer service and invest in our staff.

While our work to excel continues with a focus on aligning our resources with our customer's priorities, managing workload, priorities, and resources continues to be challenging.

To help meet this challenge, the Department Leadership Team (DLT) is launching an effort starting July 28, 2015, to strategically evaluate our current functions and organization so we can operate as effectively as possible.

This strategic alignment effort is a phased approach that will take the next year to complete (through FY16). The Department Leadership Team has established several goals to define the scope and purpose of the alignment effort. The goals focus on promoting maximum effectiveness and efficiency as we strive to excel at our mission.

### **The Process**

The DLT has developed a strategic process for tackling the alignment effort. In addition to the goals for the alignment as a whole – listed in the box to the right – the DLT also established the following goals for the process.

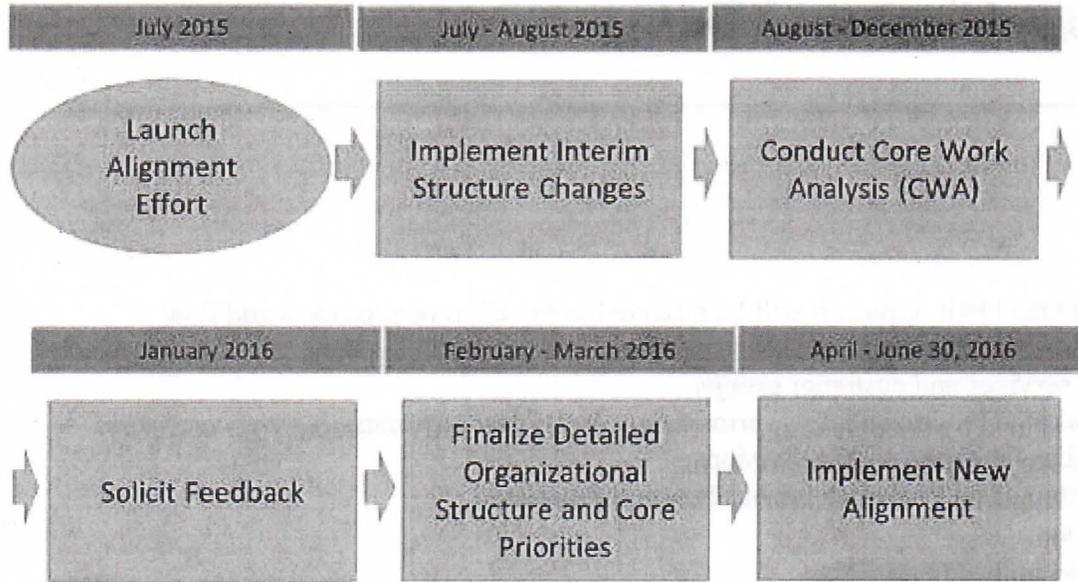
Launch an interim “framework” for the new organizational structure immediately to establish direction for the effort.

Rely on staff and program experts to inform the functional analysis and design of the detailed program level organizational chart.

Provide as much certainty to staff while allowing for staff participation to inform decision-making.

By the end of the process, we will have documented, prioritized and made decisions on how to maximize the staff resources we have available to accomplish our mission.

The alignment process outlined below is expected to be completed and fully implemented by the start of the next fiscal year, July 1, 2016. There are many details of the process that are still being developed. As those details are finalized they will be shared.



## Alignment process

### The New Interim Organizational Structure

The first step in this effort is to launch a new interim organizational structure effective July 28, 2015. This new structure accomplishes several of the alignment goals and establishes the foundation for building the detailed organizational structure over the next year.

The DLT took a One DNR approach in evaluating potential organizational structures to accomplish the goals of the alignment. Below is a table outlining how the structure meets each of the goals.

Alignment Goal	How does the alignment effort contribute to this goal?
1. DNR’s Mission, Vision, Values and One DNR approach will be reflected in the alignment process and final organizational structure.	The overall alignment effort and Core Work Analysis has been designed to help the department focus on priority functions that meet our mission, advance toward our vision, while embodying our DNR values. Integrated Design Teams will be assembled to evaluate and prioritize core work and recommend

	the “future state” organizational structure.
2. Increase alignment between agency services and customer groups.	<p>Aligns Fisheries with Wildlife providing better customer service to our customer groups interested in fish and wildlife management. Customers and stakeholder groups have recommended this alignment.</p> <p>Aligns externally focused programs that provide integrated multi-program support to customers, local governments, and business.</p> <p>Aligns internally focused programs that support internal agency customers.</p> <p>Aligns environmental management programs providing better customer service to our customer groups regulated by multiple programs.</p>
3. Improve the management of our workload by documenting, prioritizing, and efficiently managing our core work.	<p>The Core Work Analysis exercise is designed to document, prioritize, and identify efficiencies to better manage our core work.</p> <p>The Core Work Analysis will help us allocate our limited staff and funding to accomplish the work that matters the most.</p>
4. Increase efficiency by grouping similar functions within divisions.	<p>Creates efficiencies in working with customer groups and partners. For example – functions that coordinate with EPA are now in one division allowing for easier coordination; functions that heavily coordinate with the Fish &amp; Wildlife Service are now in one division, etc.</p> <p>Combining similar functions allows us increased opportunities to streamline operations and reduce costs in areas such as IT, budget, and grant administration.</p>
5. Improve consistency by building systems and processes for our business functions.	Increases ability to implement consistent policies, processes and systems that contribute to the same major business functions.
5. Increase integration and collaboration.	One division will serve as the key integration point between externally focused programs that provide multi-program support to customers, local governments, and business.
7. Maintain accountability through line-authority systems.	Continues existing line authority efforts and increases line-authority for the former Water Division programs. The line-authority aids in communication and consistent implementation of

	program policies and directives.
8. Increase financial flexibility and sharing of resources.	Better aligns programs with the same major funding sources (i.e. Fish and Wildlife Account and Environmental Management Account).
9. Maximize outcomes we can produce.	Performance measures will be developed to ensure we reach desired outcomes as a result of the alignment process and final organizational structure.

The new structure aligns programs into five divisions –

Business Support and External Services;  
 Environmental Management;  
 Fish, Wildlife and Parks;  
 Forestry; and  
 Internal Services.

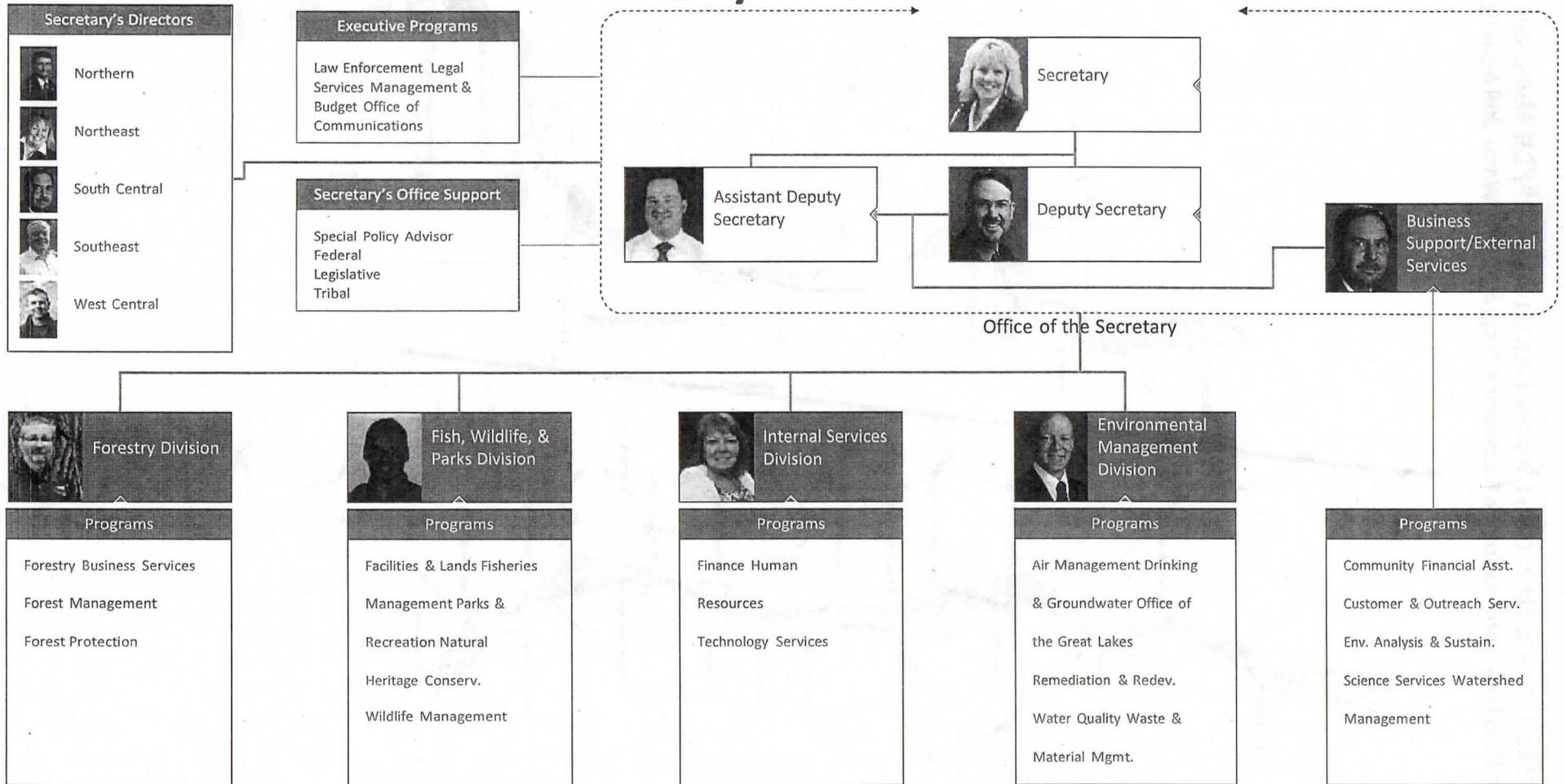
Several functions will report directly to the Secretary’s Office, including the Bureau of Management & Budget, Bureau of Law Enforcement, Legal Services, Office of Communications and the Secretary’s Directors.

FORMER STRUCTURED Divisions

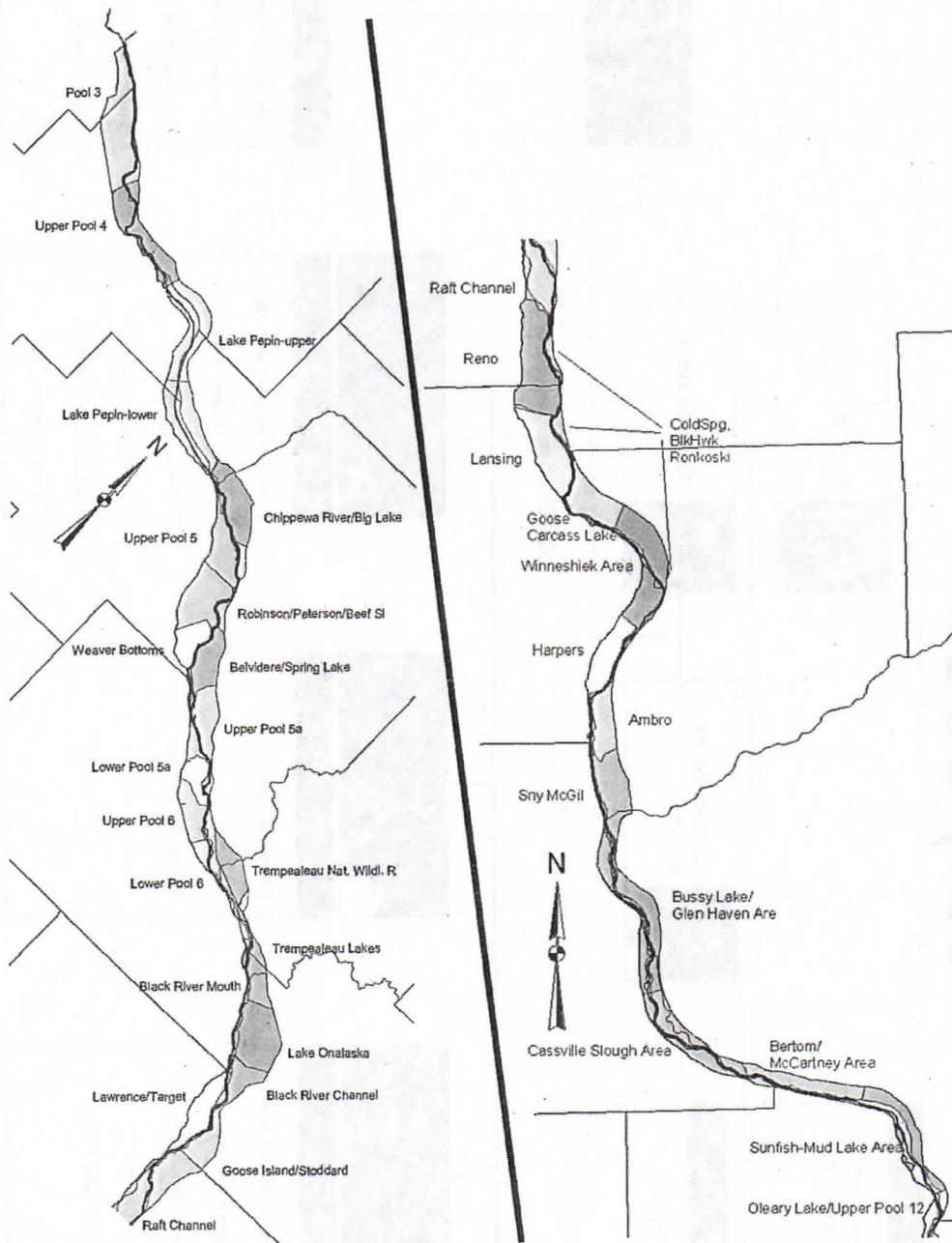


- Air, Waste, and Remediation & Redevelopment
- Customer & Employee Services
- Enforcement & Science
- Forestry
- Land
- Water

# Interim Reporting Structure, July 2015



**FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF 34 WDNR LAKE UNITS, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER.**  
 (based on 1989 Long Term Resource Monitoring Program Land/Water and Aquatic Area Coverage)

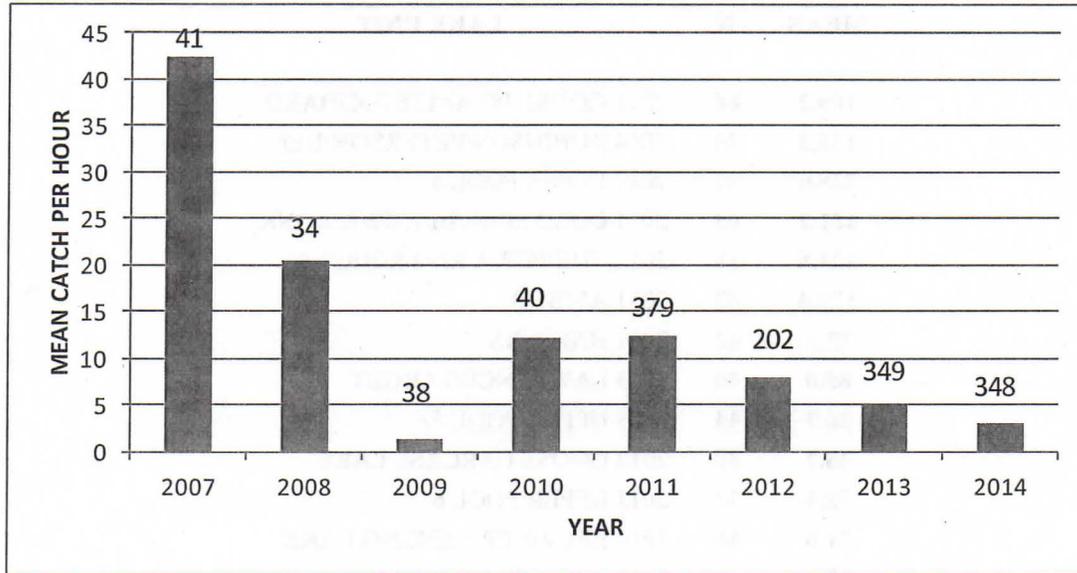


**TABLE 8. COMPARISON OF MEAN CATCH PER HOUR FROM ELECTRO FISHING AT RANDOMLY SELECTED LOCATIONS FOR ALL TARGET SPECIES\* COMBINED AMONG TWENTY-THREE FALL 2011 THROUGH 2014 LAKE UNITS.**

MEAN	N	LAKE UNIT
189.2	86	2011 GOOSE ISLAND/STODDARD
132.3	45	2014 ROBINSON/PETERSON/BEE
228.5	32	2012 UPPER POOL 5
151.2	63	2011 COLD SPRG/BLKHWK/RONK
124.8	30	2011 CHIPPEWA RIVER/BIG LK
129.4	63	2011 AMBRO
85.1	42	2011 HARPERS
85.0	40	2013 LAWRENCE/TARGET
86.7	44	2013 UPPER POOL 5A
48.7	39	2012 GOOSE CARCASS LAKE
70.3	30	2013 UPPER POOL 6
71.0	60	2014 BELVIDERE/SPRING LAKE
39.1	30	2011 WEAVER BOTTOMS
73.1	52	2013 SNY MCGIL
22.5	47	2014 BLACK RIVER MOUTH
39.2	43	2014 BLACK RIVER CHANNEL
33.3	53	2013 BERTOM/MCCARTNEY AREA
22.0	60	2012 LAKE ONALASKA
16.0	34	2013 TREMPPEALEAU LAKES
43.5	35	2014 CASSVILLE SLOUGH AREA
12.8	29	2013 RENO
19.4	56	2014 BUSSY LAKE/GLEN HAVEN
3.9	37	2013 WINNESHIEK AREA
80.5	1050	ALL

- Target species include: bluegill, black crappie, largemouth bass, northern pike, smallmouth bass, pumpkinseed, rock bass, white crappie and yellow perch.

**FIGURE 8. MEAN ANNUAL YOUNG-OF-THE-YEAR BLUEGILL CATCH PER HOUR FROM RANDOMLY SELECTED ELECTRO FISHING RUNS, FOR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER BORDERING WISCONSIN, FALLS 2007-2014 (numbers are number of runs).**

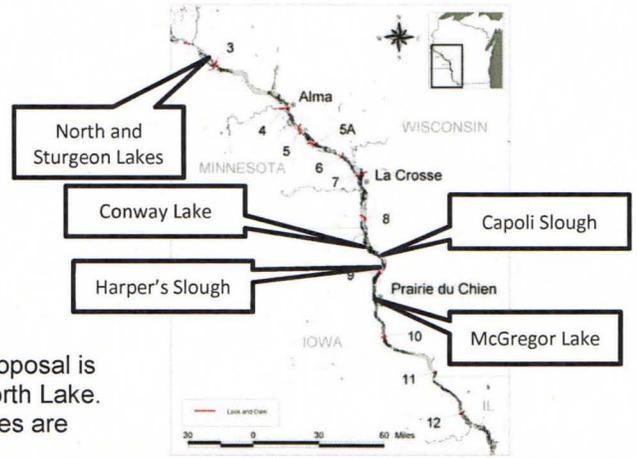


**Upper Mississippi River Restoration  
Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects  
Update for WCC Mississippi River Committee  
(July 31, 2015)**

**North and Sturgeon Lakes, Pool 3** – The North and Sturgeon Lake HREP is located in lower to mid Pool 3 near Prairie Island and across the river from Diamond Bluff, WI. The current proposal is to construct islands in North Lake and dredge 2 to 3 locations in North Lake. Sand for Island construction will be from the main channel. Agencies are working to coordinate pool wide water level management following excavation of the main channel for island construction, if channel and flow conditions allow. Construction on this HREP may begin in late 2016 or early 2017 depending on funding. The second round of public meetings are as follows:

Sept. 9, 5:30 – 7:00 at Red Wing Public Library Community Room

Sept. 16, 5:30 – 9:00 at Prescott City Hall Council Chambers

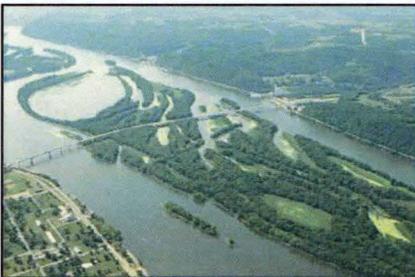


**Conway Lake/Shore Slough, Pool 9** – This project is located in the Lansing Big Lake backwaters just upstream of Lansing, IA. Project features being evaluated include: forest restoration, backwater dredging, island creation and bank stabilization. The specific waterbodies included in this project are: Conway Lake, Phillipi Lake, Zoll's Lake and Shore Slough. Currently the agencies are developing a series of alternatives which will be presented at a public meeting yet to be scheduled.

**Capoli Slough, Pool 9** – The final inspection of plantings on Capoli Slough HREP islands, near Ferryville, WI, was completed during the week of July 20, 2015. The project is DONE! Features included islands, backwater dredging, emergent wetlands and bank stabilization.



**Harper's Slough, Pool 9** – Construction of the Harper's Slough HREP, located near Lynxville, WI, began in April, 2015. The project includes 4 main island complexes and backwater dredging in the vicinity of Wexford Creek. This project will take 3 years to complete.



**McGregor Lake, Pool 10** – Planning for McGregor Lake began last year. The scope of the project includes the entire backwater complex located between the main channel and East Channel near Prairie du Chien, WI. Objectives of the project include: forest management, backwater dredging, and bank stabilization. A public meeting for McGregor Lake was held last year. However, planning for the project is temporarily on hold due to accelerated planning on the North/Sturgeon Lake HREP and Conway Lake HREP.

TO: Wisconsin Conservation Congress Mississippi River Study Committee

FROM: Randy Urich  
Environmental Section  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SUBJECT: River Project Update on 31 July 2015

#### Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR)

- FY15 Total Allocation: \$33,170,000; MVP Allocation: \$7,430,500
  - Complete draft Feasibility Study Report for North/Sturgeon Lake Islands and concurrent pool 3 drawdown. Island construction restores and protects habitat for both fish and waterfowl.
  - Capoli Slough Stages 1 and 2 has been completed. Tree and shrub plantings for Stage 2 which will be completed next spring. Complete O&M Manuals.
  - Harpers Slough Islands – Island construction underway to restore and protect habitat for both fish and waterfowl.
  - Complete Conway Lake draft Feasibility Study Report. Island construction restores and protects habitat for both fish and waterfowl.
  - Continue McGregor Lake Islands (pool 10) draft Feasibility Study Report. Island construction restores and protects habitat for both fish and waterfowl.
- FY16 Total President's Budget: \$19,787,000; MVP Budget: \$3,425,000
  - Complete North/Sturgeon Lake islands Feasibility Study Report, initiate and complete plans and specifications and award first construction contract.
  - Continue Harpers Slough construction contract.
  - Complete Conway Lake Feasibility Report. Initiate Plans and Specifications.
  - Complete McGregor Lake Feasibility Study Report.
    - North Sturgeon: hope to combine effort with minor Pool 3 drawdown-Complete draft DPR
    - Conway Lake-Complete draft DPR
    - McGregor Lake-Complete draft DPR

#### Water Level Management

- Task Force is currently planning for drawdown in Pool 3 as early as 2017
  - Notices sent recently to river stakeholders
  - Open House being planned for Red Wing / Prescott area
    - Public Notice will be sent when date is decided

#### Environmental Stewardship

- New Forester Andy Meier joined La Crescent Environment Section on 27 July

- Partnering with the Audubon Society on 60-acre reforestation project in Pool 3 near Red Wing and a 10-acre forest habitat improvement project on Richmond Island in Pool 7
- Working with FWS to identify forest management needs within the 3 upper districts of the Refuge
- We continue to work with MnDeptAg and other partners to monitor the release of bioagents on forest areas in Pools 6 and 9 for control of Emerald Ash Borer.
- Working with UW-L graduate student to study mgmt techniques to restore floodplain forest and control reed canary grass
- In Spring 2015, planted approximately 1,532 tree and shrub seedlings on Corps lands in Pierce County and Pools 8 and 9. Started in 1992 (23 years) and have planted over 120,000 seedlings on Corps Miss River Project lands to date, not including direct seeding.
- Continue to work with BPCA on forest restoration in Black River Bottoms
- Partnering with US Forest Service, MN and WI DNR on field trials for enriched elm seedlings (disease tolerant)
- Partnering with FWS and Audubon to monitor floodplain forests for birds of greatest conservation concern in Pools 10
- Current contract underway for forest inventory in Pools 3, 7, 9 and 10
- Working with FWS and Friends of the Refuge Headwaters to install tree shelters and protect seedlings planted on Pool 5 island near Weaver Bottoms
- Pool 5 Backwater Dredging and Reforestation Project began 27 July
- Staff assisting Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee agency partners to sample aquatic vegetation in Mississippi River Pool 9
- Tree Leaner Proposal for Lake Onalaska, Miss River Pool 7 (see handout)

## TREE LEANER PROJECT PROPOSAL

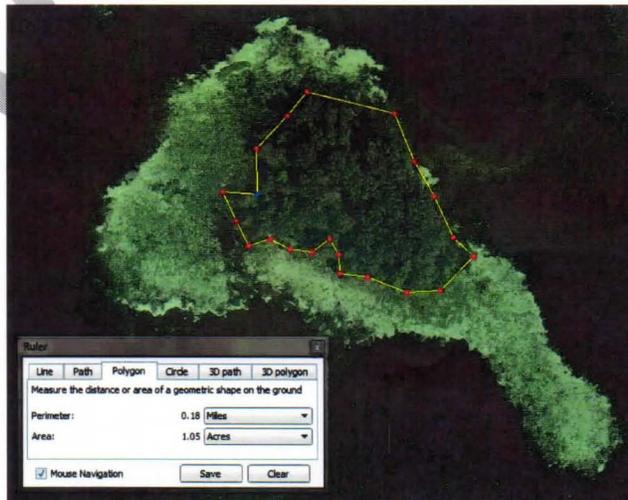
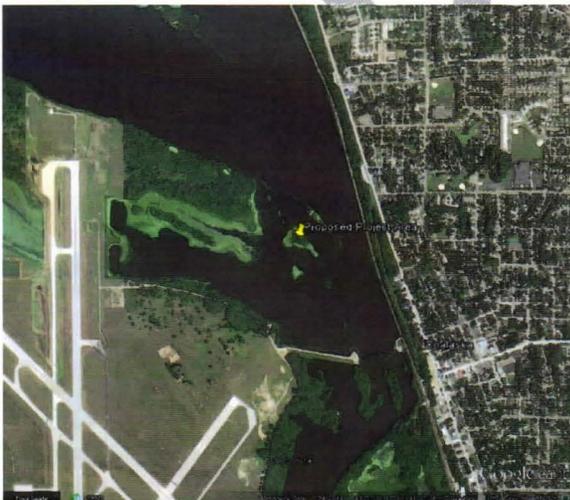
### Lake Onalaska, Pool 7, Upper Miss River Nat'l Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Background and Problem Assessment: Floodplain forest trees provide excellent erosion protection and high quality wildlife habitat on Upper Mississippi River islands and shorelines. However, there are times when winds, flooding or a combination of these forces cause mature trees on the edge of the shoreline to tip over, uproot and accelerate the displacement of soil and permanent loss of shoreline. Over time, this causes a net loss in wildlife habitat and contributes to sedimentation in river backwaters which results in degradation of fish habitat.

Potential Management Action: Past observations have indicated that the root mass of large leaning, uprooted trees, if cut near the base, will relieve the tension and oftentimes result in the roots and attached soil to return to a position similar to how the tree was growing before uprooting. This simple cutting action can minimize the amount of soil displacement, keeping more of it on the shoreline with an increased potential for reestablishment of new vegetation and slowing the island erosion process. One of the trade-offs is the permanent loss of a live mature tree. However, it is possible to also manage for growth of replacement trees either by direct seeding, planting or natural regeneration. Smaller trees are less susceptible to uprooting and could provide many years of habitat benefits before reaching maturity and potentially becoming leaner trees again.

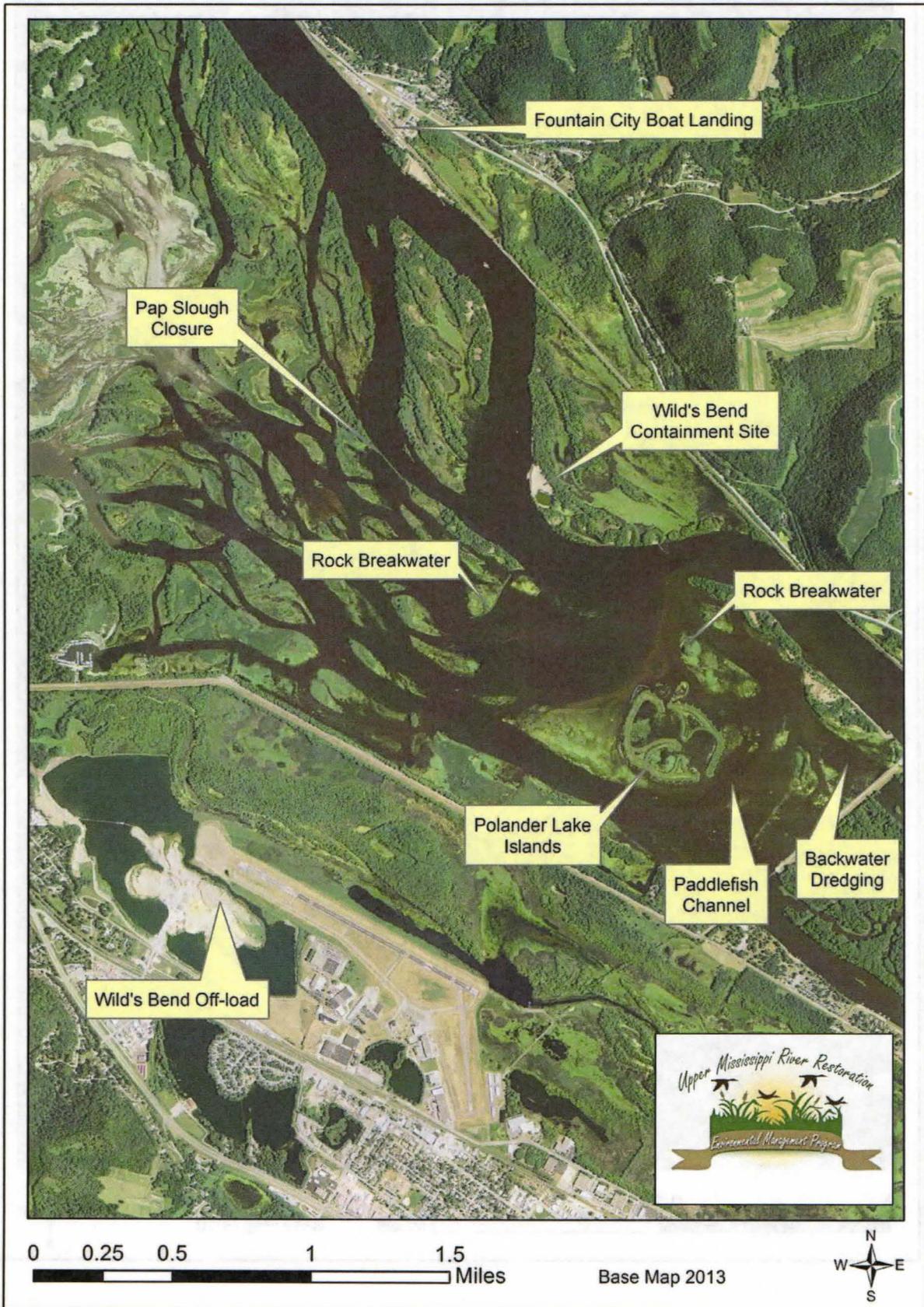
Further Discussion: Leaner trees are widespread along the Upper Mississippi River. Trying to address this issue on a large scale would require significant time and resources, and may not be the highest habitat management priority. In addition, it is not yet known if the potential action of cutting leaner trees will actually result in a significant deceleration of shoreline erosion. A small-scale trial in combination with several years of monitoring is recommended to further evaluate effectiveness.

Trial Proposal: One-acre island downstream of archipelago in the old Black River channel.

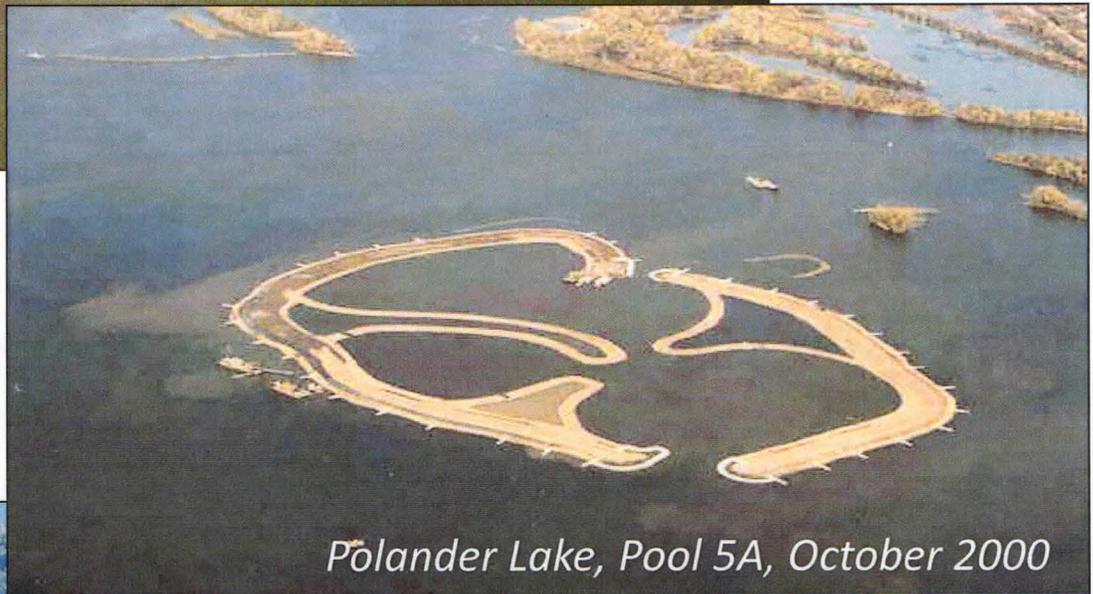


1. Eagle Scout Candidate (ESC) establishes a set of long term photo points around the island. They take first set of photos, imagery and measurements. Information is shared and filed.
2. Field crew (FWS, COE, BPCA) identifies, marks leaner trees for removal, and assesses safety.
3. Trained sawyers (either agency or contractor) fell the trees. Volunteers assist with minor positioning of downed tree debris for other habitat benefits. Work likely done in winter.
4. ESC completes post-project photo points and other monitoring for 1-2 years, summarizes and presents results, then formally identifies other party to continue monitoring for 5-10 years.

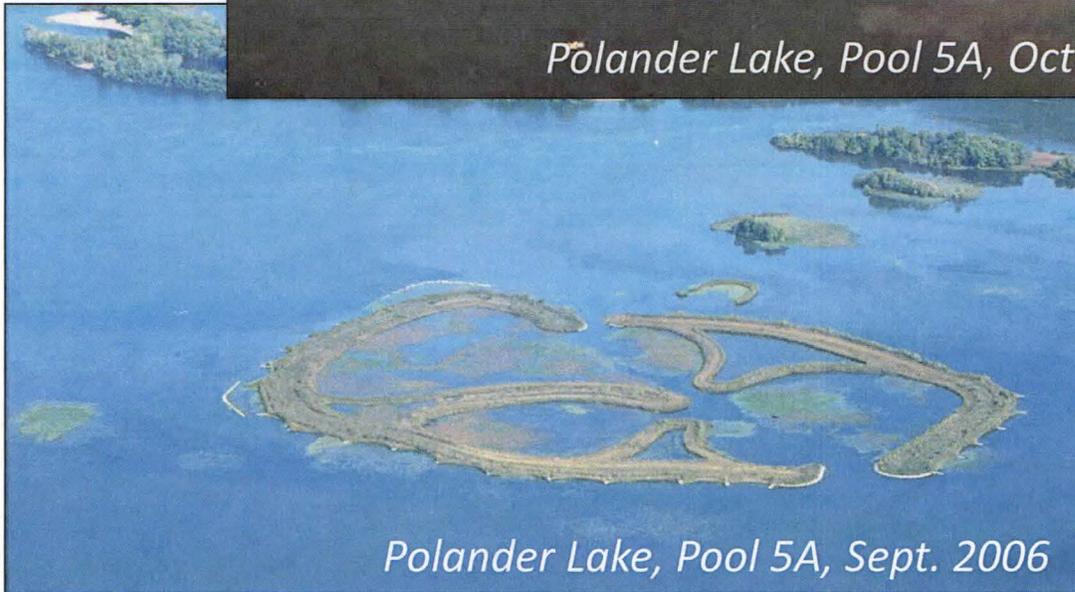
**Polander Lake, Mississippi River – Pool 5A  
Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project  
Winona County, Minnesota**







*Polander Lake, Pool 5A, October 2000*



*Polander Lake, Pool 5A, Sept. 2006*