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3 **DRAFT Meeting Summary**
4 **Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC)**

5 **Ninth Meeting**

6
7 **St. Louis, Missouri**
8 **February 2 – 4, 2010**

9 **Executive Summary**

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11 The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC or Committee) held its ninth
12 meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, February 2 – 4, 2010. Prior to the meeting, participants had the
13 opportunity to attend a field trip that consisted of visits to the Chain of Rocks Bridge, the Columbia
14 Bottom Conservation Area at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, the Mel Price
15 Lock and Dam, and the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center and Museum. The
16 meeting was chaired by John Thorson and facilitated by Gail Bingham and Paul De Morgan of
17 RESOLVE and Sarah Palmer and Pat Lewis of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict
18 Resolution (U.S. Institute). The notes were taken by Dana Goodson of RESOLVE. Meeting
19 participants included Committee members from each of the stakeholder interest categories, some
20 alternate members, and appointed representatives of the Missouri River basin states, tribes, and
21 federal agencies. A quorum of stakeholder representatives (51%) was present for each of the three
22 meeting days.

23
24 The Committee reached final consensus on several process recommendations: the MRRIC
25 engagement approach to the development of the Recovery Program Work Plan; ground rules and
26 communication protocols for how MRRIC (including member agencies), USACE, the public, the
27 U.S. Institute, third party science neutral (TPSN), and candidate and selected reviewers will interact
28 regarding independent science reviews; a protocol for non-work group members joining work group
29 calls (and the related approach to informing MRRIC members and alternates about all meetings,
30 webinars, and conference calls); and refinements to the protocols for MRRIC liaisons to the
31 Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan study (MRERP) Technical Teams.

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33 The Committee received reports from the following work groups: the Communications /
34 Information Technology (IT) Work Group; the Integrated Science Program (ISP) Work Group; the
35 MRERP Work Group; the Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) Work Group; and the
36 Nominating Work Group. The ISP, MRERP, and MRRP Work Groups also met separately during
37 the course of the meeting. The Communications/IT Work Group met during the lunch break on
38 Wednesday. The work groups presented their proposed next steps to the full Committee on
39 Thursday, February 4.

1 **Information-Sharing Sessions**

2 The Committee learned about:

- 3 • The background of Brigadier General John McMahon, the new U.S. Army Corps of
- 4 Engineers (USACE) Commander and Division Engineer, Northwestern Division, and his
- 5 perspectives on the Missouri River
- 6 • Changes to the USACE's staff alignment and how they will help the USACE and
- 7 stakeholders in achieving the work of MRRIC
- 8 • The full range of biological outcomes described in the Missouri River 2000 and 2003
- 9 Amended Biological Opinion and the upcoming USACE Annual Report
- 10 • The USACE and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) land acquisition programs, and
- 11 specifically the criteria they use for acquiring land and the program goals/objectives they are
- 12 trying to achieve
- 13 • The timeline for the Yellowstone Intake Project Environmental Assessment (EA)
- 14 • Recent USACE Recovery Program activities
- 15 • The third party science neutral's approach to independent science review
- 16 • The approach taken and results of pallid sturgeon recovery efforts on the Mississippi River

17 **Consensus Agreements**

18 The Committee reached final consensus on the following process recommendations:

- 19 • The MRRIC engagement approach to the development of the Recovery Program Work Plan
- 20 • The ground rules and communication protocols for how MRRIC (including member
- 21 agencies), the USACE, the public, the U.S. Institute, third party science neutral, and
- 22 candidate and selected reviewers will interact regarding independent science reviews
- 23 • A protocol for non-work group members joining work group calls (and the related approach
- 24 to informing MRRIC members and alternates about all meetings, webinars, and conference
- 25 calls) and approved adding the document as an addendum to the MRRIC Operating
- 26 Procedures and Ground Rules
- 27 • Refinements to the protocols for MRRIC liaisons to MRERP Technical Teams

28
29 The Committee reached consensus on the following process decisions:

- 30 • Approval of the November meeting summary
- 31 • Recognition that the USACE and the USFWS would be jointly developing their annual
- 32 report in the future
- 33 • Addition of participants to the work groups
- 34 • Approval of the formation of the Special Committee on Tribal Representation (to sunset at
- 35 end of calendar year 2010)
- 36 • Approval of the press release for the meeting

37 **Work Group Action Items/Assignments**

38 The Committee reached consensus on the work group action items below, which will be carried out

39 between the February and April 2010 MRRIC meetings or at the April 2010 meeting.

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1 **Communications/IT Work Group:**

- 2 • Follow up with the USACE on which proposed communication plan activities it can support
3 with its resources and its timelines for carrying out the activities. Report status to
4 Committee in April.
- 5 • Coordinate with work groups and the USACE to identify webinar topics that will be offered
6 in February, March, and April 2010
- 7 • Review presentations in advance of webinars to help ensure relevance and quality
- 8 • Schedule USACE Principles and Guidelines webinar as soon as possible
- 9 • Add *tribe* (as distinct from stakeholders) to communications work plan presentation
- 10 • Prioritize improvements to public website – a key component of the communications plan
- 11 • Share carpool opportunities with members prior to meetings
- 12 • Add protocol for noticing MRRIC webinars, meetings and conference calls on the MRRIC
13 WebEx and process for allowing non-work group members to join work group calls,
14 meetings and webinars to the MRRIC Operating Procedures and Ground Rules
- 15 • Add Elizabeth Wakeman to the Work Group

16
17 **ISP Work Group:**

- 18 • USACE and USFWS staff to develop a draft scope of review for the spring pulse topic,
19 building on the Work Group deliberations thus far – *March 3*
- 20 • Hold conference call to discuss spring pulse scope of review and strive to develop
21 recommendation – *March 11 (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon)*
- 22 • Collaborate with Recovery Program Work Group to review adaptive management
23 presentation in preparation for the April 2010 MRRIC meeting (pending agency movement
24 on the issue)

25
26 **MRERP Work Group:**

- 27 • Coordinate revisions to November 2009 values workshop summary and prepare a
28 transmittal recommendation
- 29 • Prepare a draft recommendation on focal natural resources
- 30 • Review revised Purpose and Need statement when available
- 31 • Implement MRERP engagement strategy
- 32 • Invite Skip Meisner to attend as a liaison to the MRERP terrestrial Technical Team meeting
33 on March 23-24 in Vermillion, South Dakota

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35 **MRRP Work Group:**

- 36 • Implement agreed-upon approach for the Work Group and the MRRIC to engage with the
37 agencies on the USACE Recovery Work Plan process
- 38 • Develop proposed schedule (e.g., timeline for development of products, calls) of activities
39 for the work group – *Bert Matya, Chance Bitner, Mary Roth, Teresa Reinig, John Drew, and Paul De*
40 *Morgan*
- 41 ○ March 9, 2010 conference call to review USACE presentation
- 42 ○ March 24, 2010 MRRIC video-teleconference
- 43 ○ April 7-8, 2010 meeting in Omaha
- 44 • Plan for April 7-8 meeting (e.g., RSVPs, location, hotel)
- 45 • Complete After Action Report (AAR) regarding April 7-8 meeting

- 1 • Continue developing tools to assist the Work Group and the MRRIC in understanding: 1)
- 2 updates to the current year Work Plan between meetings; 2) the current year Work Plan and
- 3 out-year capability estimates; 3) projects, by program, receiving current year funding, as well
- 4 as unfunded projects within capability and beyond capability
- 5 • Receive tools from the USACE to assist the Work Group and MRRIC in understanding: 1)
- 6 the longer-term Recovery Program priorities (and commitments); 2) rationale for/approach
- 7 to decisions; and 3) what could be influenced at what time in the process
- 8 • Develop a proposal for how the Work Group could approach issues around land acquisition
- 9 and set the stage for future MRRIC deliberations – *Jim Becic, Marian Maas, Lanny Meng, and*
- 10 *Mary Roth*
- 11 • Continue development of a glossary (e.g., ACT, CORE)
- 12 • Collaborate with ISP Work Group to review adaptive management presentation in
- 13 preparation for the April 2010 MRRIC meeting (pending agency movement on the issue)
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15 **Nominating Work Group**

- 16 • Finalize proposed process for new member orientation
- 17 • Draft clearer process for selecting the vice chair
- 18 • Further consider process for possibly rotating Work Group points of contact

19 **Federal Agency Action Items**

20 **USACE**

- 21 • Share contact information for Eric Blechinger and Steve Iverson with full MRRIC – *Mary*
- 22 *Roth*
- 23 • Send out slides (or other information) related to the USACE Omaha and Kansas City
- 24 District realignment to the full MRRIC – *Mary Roth*
- 25 • Share Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study (MRAPS) assessment summary, including
- 26 the Rapid City meeting with the tribes, with MRRIC – *Mary Roth*
- 27 • Circulate information on the public session summarizing the results of the focus group
- 28 meetings to MRRIC
- 29 • Share compiled MRERP scoping comments with MRRIC on WebEx and via email – *Randy*
- 30 *Sellers*
- 31 • Share the Civil Works guidance document on independent external peer review with MRRIC
- 32 on WebEx – *Randy Sellers*
- 33 • Revise the MRERP Work Plan to include an outcome regarding existing resource conditions
- 34 – *Randy Sellers*
- 35 • Post the notebooks and PowerPoints from the MRERP Technical Team meetings on
- 36 WebEx – *Randy Sellers*
- 37 • Share the original notes from the social, economic, tribal, and cultural (SETC) values
- 38 workshop with the task groups undertaking revisions to the summary – *Randy Sellers*
- 39 • Post USACE Annual Report to WebEx
- 40 • Re-send Work Plan showing all of the RPA requirements to MRRIC – *Mary Roth*
- 41 • Check on whether there might be additional lands under public ownership (other than those
- 42 accounted for in the 14% of the floodplain figure) and report back to the Committee –
- 43 *Chance Bitner*
- 44 • Ask the USACE legal department how a MRRIC work group might be formed on MRAPS

- 1 • Share a breakdown of the amount of Recovery Program money allocated to monitoring
2 activities with MRRIC – *Mike George*
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4 **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- 5 • Respond to “what acres count and where” regarding the land acquisition programs and
6 meeting the Biological Opinion and other requirements – *Mike Olson/Henry Maddux*

7 **Bureau of Reclamation**

- 8 • Share Yellowstone Intake Environmental Assessment with the MRRIC – *Dan Fritz*

9 **Facilitation Team (U.S. Institute/RESOLVE) Action Items**

- 10 • Analyze video-conference survey results, confirm sites, and provide more detailed
11 information on facility locations to MRRIC members and support staff

12 **Committee Chair’s Action Items**

- 13 • Report on visits to MRRIC tribal representatives
14 • Consider asking stakeholder members to accompany him on tribal visits
15 • Consider contacting stakeholders to meet with them and their constituents during his post-
16 meeting visits
17 • Coordinate with Kate Vandemoer and Elizabeth Wakeman on opportunities to meet with
18 Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Association and the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders
19 Council
20 • Bring the issue of governance on the system to the Agenda Work Group for consideration

21 **Committee Members’ Action Items**

- 22 • Contact Mary Roth with any questions or concerns about the binders and provide her with
23 missing street addresses, if necessary
24 • Send topics and/or ideas for the MRAPS session to be scheduled either in evening or after
25 the next MRRIC meeting (separate from MRRIC) to Mark Harberg (402-995-2554 or
26 mark.harberg@usace.army.mil)
27 • Contact Pat Lewis to inform her of your schedule if you know you will be leaving meetings
28 before the regularly scheduled adjournment (i.e., 12:30 p.m. for meetings in areas with many
29 flight options and 12:00 for areas with fewer options)
30 • Track travel time and expenses, as well as time spent outside of meetings and conference
31 calls, on MRRIC time and expense form (available on WebEx)
32 • Contact Pat Lewis with any ideas for webinar topics
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