

**Minutes of the
Upper Mississippi River Restoration
Environmental Management Program
Coordinating Committee
(UMRR-EMP CC)**

**May 29, 2013
Quarterly Meeting**

Web-Based Conference Call

Kevin Foerster of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m. on May 29, 2013. Other UMRR-EMP CC representatives present were Gabe Harris (USACE), Mike Jawson (USGS), Dan Stephenson (IL DNR), Diane Ford (IA DNR), Walt Popp (MN DNR) on behalf of Kevin Stauffer, Janet Sternburg (MO DoC), Jim Fischer (WI DNR), Larry Shepard (USEPA), and Harold Deckard (NRCS). A complete list of attendees follows these minutes.

Foerster explained that, in an effort to reduce travel-related time and expenses, the UMRR-EMP CC agreed to hold this quarterly meeting via a webinar format. This meeting is essentially serving as a trial-run to determine if webinars can effectively and efficiently provide for quarterly meeting purposes. Foerster overviewed meeting logistics — e.g., motions require a roll call of the UMRR-EMP CC members.

Minutes of the February 28, 2013 Meeting

Diane Ford moved and Janet Sternburg seconded a motion to approve the draft minutes of the February 28, 2013 meeting as written. By roll call, the motion was approved unanimously.

Program Management

FY 13 Fiscal Update

Marv Hubbell said there continues to be considerable uncertainty in FY 13 appropriations, making internal budget planning very challenging. Congress passed a full-year continuing resolution authority (CRA) for FY 13 federal spending on March 26, 2013. However, USACE will not likely release final FY 13 budget numbers for its Civil Works programs and projects until late June. UMRR-EMP will continue to execute at \$16.986 million until its final allocation is known. This funding level was approved by the House and was the lowest scenario advanced for the program in this fiscal year's appropriations process. The President's FY 13 budget request and the Senate Appropriations Committee's FY 13 energy and water appropriations measure both include \$17.88 million for UMRR-EMP.

Hubbell said that, even with sequestration, USACE has indicated that UMRR-EMP will receive at least \$16.986 million this fiscal year. There is even the possibility that UMRR-EMP could receive additional funds in FY 13 for restoration projects that would advance the Administration's priority for effective and efficient construction projects that create regional and national economic benefit. Hubbell assured that, regardless of the ultimate funding scenario, UMRR-EMP will fund the partner-endorsed LTRMP FY 13 budget under a \$16.986 million program budget. Diane Ford asked why additional funds would not be used to alleviate the constrained budget outlook for LTRMP science work, specifically base

monitoring. Hubbell said the Administration has indicated a higher preference to fund construction projects that generate additional jobs and improve infrastructure. Hubbell said this theme is being continued in the President’s FY 14 budget development.

Hubbell reviewed UMRR-EMP’s FY 13 program allocations under both \$16.986 million and \$17.88 million planning scenarios, as follows:

<i>Total FY 13 Appropriation</i>	<i>\$16.986 million</i>	<i>\$17.88 million</i>
Regional Management	\$651,000	\$676,000
LTRMP	\$5,129,000	\$5,402,000
HREPs	\$11,206,000	\$11,802,000
Program model certification and regional support	\$150,000	\$150,000
MVP	\$3,917,000	\$4,096,000
MVR	\$4,422,000	\$4,660,000
MVS	\$2,717,000	\$2,896,000

Hubbell said MVP transferred \$600,000 to MVS in FY 12. The FY 13 allocations to MVS and MVP above reflect repayment.

Joint Charter for the UMRR-EMP Coordinating Groups

Hubbell presented a revised Joint Charter for the UMRR-EMP-CC, A-Team, and HREP Planning and Sequencing Framework Teams that reflects partner input. Hubbell recalled that, at its November 29, 2012 meeting, the UMRR-EMP CC agreed on the text of the May 7, 2012 draft Joint Charter, with the expectation that the UMRR-EMP Strategic Planning Team will consider the merits of forming an HREP-related technical team that is similar to the A-Team. The Joint Charter reflects the UMRR-EMP’s 2005 Roles and Expectations for the UMRR-EMP CC and A-Team. In addition, the Joint Charter outlines the UMRR-EMP Regional Manager’s roles and responsibilities and includes the HREP Planning and Sequencing Framework as a guiding document for the HREP-related coordinating teams. Since the November 2012 UMRR-EMP CC meeting, the USEPA, NRCS, and Maritime Administration confirmed their membership on the coordinating groups.

Mike Jawson moved to endorse the Joint Charter as written, pending any major comments by June 15, 2013 that would require UMRR-EMP CC’s further consideration. Comments should be provided to Kirsten Mickelsen; and if a concern is raised, Mickelsen and Kevin Foerster will determine if the concern warrants further discussion by the Committee. Hubbell asked if there are any known concerns that the Committee could discuss at this meeting. Jawson said the additional time for review might be helpful to those who were not able to coordinate their agencies’ comments on the version included in the read ahead packet. In response to a question from Janet Sternburg, Hubbell said the November 29, 2012 version has not been modified beyond confirming membership on the UMRR-EMP CC and A-Team. Larry Shepard seconded the motion. In response to a question from Jennie Sauer, Hubbell clarified that the Joint Charter describes the UMRR-EMP Regional Manager’s roles related to the UMRR-EMP CC. In response to a question from Diane Ford, Hubbell said no comments were submitted on the November 29 draft. Foerster took a roll call vote. The motion passed with 12 ayes and one no. The ayes included Gabe Harris, Kevin Foerster, Mike Jawson, Larry Shepard, Walt Popp, Jim Fischer, Diane Ford, Dan Stephenson, and Janet Sternburg. Harold Deckerd opposed the motion.

Brief Program Reports

Long Term Resource Monitoring Program

Jennie Sauer said a list of FY 13 completed LTMRP publications, presentations, conference attendance, and other activities are provided on pages B-29 to B-40 in the agenda packet. The summary includes additional items that were not captured in the FY 13 LTRMP scope of work (SOW).

Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects

Brian Markert said MVS is coordinating with MVD regarding Rip Rap Landing's design. Currently, the project's land acquisition cost exceeds the 25 percent cap on acquisition cost relative to total project cost. MVS's other current planning priorities include Clarence Cannon and Piasa and Eagles Nest Islands. District staff will collaborate with partners to identify possible restoration opportunities in the Middle Mississippi. Markert said Ted Shanks' design is being finalized and construction is anticipated to begin this fall. High water levels are currently delaying construction on Batchtown and Pools 25 and 26 Islands.

Tom Novak said MVP awarded a construction contract for Capoli Slough Stage 2 in April. Even with delays from high water, MVP anticipates the HREP's construction will be completed in late fall or early winter. Novak explained that current designs for North and Sturgeon Lake would involve a \$2.8 million land acquisition from Prairie Island Indian Community. The Indian Community has expressed reservation with some provisions in the project partnership agreement, but Novak said USACE and the Community are working together to address those concerns. Project features on that land would result in substantial ecosystem benefits. If a resolution cannot be reached, Novak said there is some USACE-owned land within the project boundary where features can be constructed. MVP anticipates design on Harpers Slough will be finalized this fall. The District is currently sequencing several projects in its queue for new planning starts.

Hubbell anticipates initiating construction on Pool 12 Overwintering this fiscal year, subject to a 401 water quality certification. A draft DPR for Huron Island will be sent to MVD soon for review. The project is receiving strong public support. Hubbell said the District is assessing flood damage repair options for Fox Island and Lake Odessa, which experienced its third major flood since its construction in 2010. While there seems to be minimal damage to Rice Lake from record floods on the Illinois River, MVR will do a full assessment of any damages after the water level recedes. The District is also looking at potential habitat projects for new planning starts.

A-Team Report

Rob Maher said the A-Team met in-person on April 24, 2013 to discuss program budget updates, UMRR-EMP strategic planning, the *ad hoc* Indicators Report, and critical UMR science questions for LTRMP to address. In addition, the A-Team meeting included a) three presentations on LTRMP research efforts and b) a transition of A-Team Chair from Scott Gritters to Maher.

Public Involvement and Outreach

Hubbell said UMRR-EMP's Database proved effective in preparing for Congressional visits to the region, by easily extracting and summarizing program information within specific geographic areas in a useful format. USACE is working to serve the Database externally so that partners can readily access reports.

Jawson said Randy Hines submitted a half-page bulletin highlighting UMRR-EMP in the La Crosse Bassmaster Tournament brochure that occurred in June. Jawson said this event is a great outreach opportunity to fish enthusiasts. In 2012, about 15 thousand people attended the Bassmaster Tournament's weigh-in. Hubbell expressed appreciation to Jawson and Hines for quickly and successfully mobilizing partners to respond to this important opportunity.

Dave Potter said UMRR-EMP was featured in a) Stillwater, Minnesota's DaVinci Fest, a science and art fair, in January; and b) a grand opening of a new Hmong community facility in May.

Jim Fischer said staff in Wisconsin DNR's La Crosse Office are making a concerted effort to raise awareness of UMRR-EMP LTRMP in the DNR's Central Office. In early March, three presentations about LTRMP will be given at the DNR's statewide water resources meeting that resulted in positive feedback of UMRR-EMP.

Hubbell said about 50 people attended the Huron Island public meeting, including USFWS and MN DNR staff. He thanked all partners who attended the meeting and helped to make it successful.

Dave Herzog said Missouri DoC employed several Asian carp-related outreach activities this spring where LTRMP data was presented, including a Ducks Unlimited meeting, presentations at nature centers throughout the state, and public communication through various media outlets.

Jawson said UMESC also conducts many tours in the spring for local schools that feature UMRR-EMP.

FY 14 Budget and Planning Assumptions

Marv Hubbell reported that the President's FY 14 budget includes \$31.986 million for UMRR-EMP. This is a substantial increase above the President's past requests and the program's historical funding levels, and is just shy of the program's authorization. This increase also diverts from USACE's overall FY 14 budget trends, where most programs and projects' funding levels were reduced. Hubbell said District staff understand that this increase is the result of UMRR-EMP's ability to effectively and efficiently construct important habitat restoration projects. The Administration emphasized its focus on advancing construction projects that can be executed within the fiscal year and would provide jobs and other economic benefits.

Hubbell explained that USACE staff requested FY 14 funding for UMRR-EMP through a new approach, where a complete list of UMRR-EMP's planned habitat projects and science work as well as associated funding was supplied to the Administration for its consideration. This approach allows decision makers to understand the full array of projects planned and their merits. The primary objective of the FY 14 UMRR-EMP budget request was to expand the program's overall capability on the UMRS. Hubbell said UMRR-EMP must continually demonstrate its ability to advance the Administration's priorities, especially in the foreseeable future as the Corps faces declining budgets. He said USACE referenced the FY 13 LTRMP budget to estimate base monitoring expenses in FY 14. Additional science efforts will need to clearly demonstrate their relationship to better understanding habitat and restoration efforts. The program will no longer use the historical formula for allocating funds between HREPs and LTRMP, but rather allocate resources based on programmatic, partner-based priorities. Overall, Hubbell underscored the success of this new approach to developing UMRR-EMP's budget request in increasing the President's budget ask for the program. He said USACE Headquarters and the Administration responded very positively to using this approach.

Mike Jawson acknowledged that the new internal budget allocation approach represents a substantial shift for the program and said many questions need to be considered about potential long-term implications for the program, particularly any impacts to science capability and integrity. For example,

what will be the long term balance in advancing restoration and science? Jawson expressed concern with the notion that science work will need to be directly related to, and justify, the program's restoration work. He asked how this might impact the program's science integrity and ability to do honest adaptive management analyses. In addition, he asked how this shift in thinking might alter expectations for UMESC and field stations. Hubbell clarified that the intention is not to justify habitat projects, but to explicitly communicate how the program's individual science efforts increase our knowledge of the river's habitat and our ability to restore it, as well as how the information produced can be applied systemically. In addition, this new process will ensure projects are being advanced that reflect partner-vetted priorities.

Jim Fischer expressed appreciation to Corps staff in their work with the Administration to elevate the program's benefits to the region and nation, resulting in an increased funding amount in the President's FY 14 budget. However, Fischer reiterated Jawson's observation that there are many questions to address related to the new internal allocation approach as well as the new objective for LTMRP work to justify habitat projects. He also articulated concern that LTRMP is being undervalued in UMRR-EMP's budget request. Hubbell said the program's science efforts will not be compromised or substantially changed. It is only a matter of now explaining how the science benefits our ability to do restoration work — e.g., reveal relationships among biota, identify trends in river parameters. Hubbell also noted that it is unknown whether UMRR-EMP will actually realize the potential funding increase in FY 14 as well as any out-years.

Janet Sternburg echoed Fischer's appreciation to Corps staff for their work throughout the budget development process. Sternburg said the additional funding would be a great opportunity for the program to advance important work on the river. However, she requested that USACE continue to work through the *ad hoc* LTRMP funding group on an annual basis to determine allocations to the program's science efforts and consider any long term budget questions. Hubbell agreed that the *ad hoc* LTRMP funding group has been very valuable for developing budget scenarios and working through issues, and expects that the group will continue collaborating in the future. In addition, Hubbell said he anticipates continuing to work closely with the Field Station Team Leaders and component specialists in developing annual SOWs. He said their expertise is helpful in identifying science efforts that reflect partner goals and considering implementation issues.

Sternburg asked why USACE is requesting funding for base monitoring at the FY 13 planning level rather than the actual expense amount. The FY 13 base monitoring allocation is a very constrained budget and continuing to operate at that level would have significant implications for UMESC and the states. Hubbell said District staff are getting feedback from decision makers to increase resources to restoration work and thus the FY 14 budget focuses more on habitat projects. He stressed that the program will remain committed to implementing base monitoring as provided in the FY 10-14 LTRMP Strategic Plan. Diane Ford stressed that the field stations are operating under significantly constrained budgets this fiscal year in light of an LTMRP budget shortfall. Ford suggested that a different, more reflective year be used as a reference, if not the actual cost of effectively implementing base monitoring. Hubbell suggested that partners consider reclassifying the land cover/land use dataset from base monitoring to an individual effort to essentially free up more base monitoring funds for other related expenses.

Sternburg asked if the *ad hoc* LTRMP group will be convened to discuss the FY 14 LTMRP SOW and other related budget questions. Karen Hagerty explained that, on May 15, 2013, the USACE and USGS LTRMP managers, Field Station Team Leaders, and UMRR-EMP CC state members agreed to a process for developing the FY 14 field stations' budgets. Hagerty said the *ad hoc* group will reconvene this summer to discuss draft SOWs. Sternburg requested that the UMRR-EMP CC state members are included on any budget-related correspondence to the Field Station Team Leaders. She said the state Committee members can provide a restoration perspective, including how best to link the program's

science and restoration efforts. Hubbell and Hagerty agreed with Sternburg's suggestion. In response to a question from Ford, Hagerty explained that the FY 13 budget number was used as a starting point for FY 14. She said partners need to still plan for low funding scenarios, and that partners can more readily identify work priorities with additional funding than to make cuts. Hubbell said he anticipates having more frequent, routine calls with the Field Station Team Leaders about their budgets and other implementation questions as a means of enhancing communication among USACE, USGS, and the field stations.

Long Term Resource Monitoring Program

Naming Convention

Marv Hubbell recalled that, at its May 24, 2012 meeting, the UMRR-EMP CC agreed to begin referring to the program as the Upper Mississippi River Restoration – Environment Management Program (UMRR-EMP), in response to the Administration's and Congress' decision in 2006 to rename the program as the UMRR. Congress first named the program the Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program in its authorization and it was then commonly referred to as EMP by partners. Hubbell said the UMRR-EMP CC's decision to change the program's naming convention to UMRR-EMP was to directly link the program's documents and other efforts to its identification in the federal budget. Hubbell said the UMRR-EMP CC has also discussed renaming LTRMP for the same purpose. Often, partners and external stakeholders have been mistaken believed LTRMP is an independent program, which implies that it has a separate funding stream. This disconnect is especially problematic because it limits opportunities for highlighting the importance of the program's science efforts in the budgeting process.

Mike Jawson offered Long Term Resource Monitoring *Partnership* as an alternative to maintain the acronym, LTRMP. However, Jawson also stressed the need to make the name more descriptive and reflective of the element's endeavors, including research, analysis, and monitoring, as well as the partnership. Thus, he suggested Long Term Research and Monitoring Partnership as a new name. Jennie Sauer explained that USGS has been working to better communicate that LTRMP is a function of UMRR-EMP. A list of such examples is provided on page D-1 of the agenda packet. Kevin Foerster said action on a possible name change will be considered a future UMRR-EMP CC meeting.

Science Leadership

Jawson explained that UMRR-EMP's scientific understandings and capabilities have evolved over time and it is now ripe to consider how the program's science leadership going forward can most effectively and efficiently meet partners' needs. USGS would like to define a shared vision among partners of what science leadership means within the program to best foster communications and minimize misunderstandings. The vision will inform the program's strategic and science planning efforts.

Jawson outlined LTRMP's current goals, including to a) monitor resource change, b) better understand the UMRS, c) develop management alternatives, and d) manage program data and information. Jawson asked partners to consider whether scientific leadership is only about developing and implementing a program that addresses, or harmonizes, these goals. He offered the following fundamental questions regarding the future of scientific leadership:

- What is science leadership in a partnership?
- Who is being led or assisted and/or served? Who is not being led or assisted? What leadership needs are not being served?
- What outcomes are we striving to achieve?

- What means/approaches are being used to advance the outcomes?
- What resources are being used to advance the outcomes?

Jawson illustrated examples of USGS's and field stations' roles in providing science leadership. He said research provides tremendous information and is used for many purposes, including better understanding the UMR ecosystem, guiding future research opportunities, and informing decision making about resource allocations. Jawson said USGS will employ a partner survey and develop a position paper that guides the agency's future scientific leadership related to LTRMP.

Jim Fischer expressed support for Jawson's suggestion to consider the future of LTRMP's scientific leadership. Fischer said Jawson identified several important questions that merit exploration. He said UMRR-EMP has evolved over time and thus LTRMP's science leadership needs have changed. In UMRR-EMP's early years, leadership focused on developing monitoring and analysis methods. Now that the program has matured and operates effectively and efficiently, leadership is able to focus on advancing the best science opportunities. Hubbell expressed support for Jawson's proposal. In response to a question from Hubbell, Jawson he anticipates that partner input regarding USGS's and other partners' roles will inform both the program's strategic and science planning efforts. Larry Shepard noted that there may be opportunities for LTRMP to engage with UMRBA's Water Quality Task Force (WQTF) on river monitoring and analysis. Dave Hokanson said UMRR-EMP partners and UMR Clean Water Act (CWA) staff have collaborated with each other in the past. Hokanson said the WQTF is currently developing a comprehensive and coordinated CWA monitoring strategy for the UMR, and will likely request input from LTRMP staff and other UMRR-EMP partners soon.

Draft Indicators of Ecosystem Health for the UMRS Report

Karen Hagerty presented the A-Team's April 2013 draft Indicators of Ecosystem Health for the UMRS report, which was distributed to the UMRR-EMP CC on May 3 for review. Hagerty expressed appreciation to the many UMRR-EMP staff who were involved in the report's development. She explained that the report evaluates the indicators used in the LTRMP status and trends report and makes recommendations for improvement. Table 1 on pages D-6 and D-7 lists the current indicators and the A-Team's recommendations for any replacement, modification, or deletion. Hagerty noted that the A-Team recommends using percent occurrence of hypoxia as the dissolved oxygen indicator. Table 3 on pages D-8 and D-9 summarizes the A-Team's recommendations for new indicators and their associated research needs.

Diane Ford moved and Walt Popp seconded a motion to endorse the Indicators of Ecosystem Health for the UMRS report. In response to a question from Olivia Dorothy, Hagerty and Hubbell explained that the vision statement on page D-3 was developed in the joint UMRR-EMP and Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program's 2008 reach planning effort. While the vision incorporates an ecological and economic perspective, the program primarily focuses on the ecological status and trends on the river. Dorothy suggests adding clarifying language that explains UMRR-EMP's role in advancing the "Vision for the UMRS." Ford and Jim Fischer expressed support for the change. In response to a comment by Fischer, Hagerty confirmed that the A-Team's next step is to develop benchmarks for the individual indicators. By a roll call vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Implementation Issues Assessment

Marv Hubbell said the Implementation Issues Assessment (IIA) is a follow-on report to the 2010 Report to Congress, addressing 12 program- and policy-related issues that were not thought to require Congressional action. Partners explored these issues through a series of working papers that facilitated comprehensive discussions about options to resolve or advance them. These papers will

serve as a point-in-time articulation of the issues, including partners' discussions and any conclusions reached. The IIA provides a brief overview of each issue, identifies applicable policies, and articulates the partnership's recommendations.

Hubbell said the IIA was distributed to partners for review on March 22, 2013 for review. One comment was submitted and incorporated into the LTRMP issue area. The comment suggested adding the following action item: Ensure LTRMP's continuation as a world-renowned multi-partner collaborative monitoring and research program. A revised draft IIA was distributed to partners for final review on May 15. Kirsten Mickelsen expressed appreciation to all partners for their contributions in developing the IIA. Mickelsen said it was a somewhat lengthy, but worthwhile effort. The IIA will serve as an effective internal and external communications tool about UMRR-EMP's current issues and partners' recommendations for addressing them. Hubbell echoed Mickelsen's comment, and acknowledged the tremendous amount of resources that partners contribute to make this program successful.

In response to a question from Chuck Theiling, Hubbell said the program's next RTC is scheduled for 2016. Hubbell said the 2010 UMRR-EMP RTC is being transmitted to Congress, as well as the UMRR-EMP/Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program Transition Plan. Hubbell said the revised 2010 RTC, which reflects minor changes from the Administration, is available at:

http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Portals/48/docs/Environmental/EMP/EMP_RTC_2010.pdf.

Olivia Dorothy asked what is meant by an "aging, impounded river system" in the first paragraph of the Executive Summary and whether that is related to the navigation infrastructure. Theiling and Hagerty clarified that the term refers to the pool aging process, including island and streambank erosion, etc. Sternburg said the IIA includes many action items for the UMRR-EMP strategic planning team to address. She urged the team members to refer to the IIA's recommendations and how the UMRR-EMP CC agreed to address them.

Jim Fischer moved and Walt Popp seconded a motion to endorse the May 15, 2013 Implementation Issues Assessment as written. By a roll call vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

UMRR-EMP Strategic Planning

Marv Hubbell said the UMRR-EMP strategic planning team held its first meeting on April 9-11, 2013 in La Crosse, and said it was a great kickoff to the process. Hubbell expressed appreciation to USGS for hosting the meeting at UMESC. He also expressed support to Minnesota DNR for providing facilitation support through Brian Stenquist and Beth Carlson. USACE will fund state participants' travel-related expenses to the in-person meetings.

Hubbell said the planning team identified seven issue areas to explore further, including defining success, ecosystem restoration, ecosystem monitoring, collaboration, communication, funding, and integration. The team formed subgroups to develop brief papers that explore each issue area in more detail, including summarizing the issue background and identifying potential action items for the program to address/advance the issue over the plan's duration. Hubbell said the team will discuss these issues areas at its next planning session, scheduled for June 18-20 in Rock Island. In addition, the team will discuss any relationships among the issue areas as well as the Implementation Issues Assessment, which included several action items for the strategic planning team to address.

Planning for UMRR-EMP CC Meeting with Member Agency Leaders

Jim Fischer explained that the UMRR-EMP CC agreed to more proactively and directly communicate to state and agency leaders on a routine basis about the program. This includes inviting upper level state and agency leaders to one UMRR-EMP CC meeting per year that is devoted to higher-level issues and

program success highlights. Fischer said Wisconsin DNR's La Crosse office has recently been making more of a concerted effort to communicate about UMRR-EMP to its upper level agency leaders. He suggested that agency leaders are invited at least three months in advance of the meeting. Fischer also suggested that Dubuque would be a good location given ongoing travel restrictions in most states, and that a field trip component is included to see a habitat project. Diane Ford expressed support for Fischer's suggestions related to a UMRR-EMP meeting with agency leaders. Marv Hubbell agreed that Dubuque would be a preferred meeting location.

Hubbell asked if it would be worthwhile to link the agency leadership meeting with the federal appropriations cycle. Janet Sternburg cautioned against holding the meeting during the states' legislative session. In response to a request from Hubbell, the state UMRR-EMP CC members agreed to supply him with their states' legislative calendars and other times to avoid. Sternburg said the meeting should include a compelling agenda that is relevant to the leaders' priorities, with a social component for agency leaders to interact. She suggested that a subgroup consider meeting details and create an agenda for UMRR-EMP CC's consideration. In response to a question from Tim Schlagenhaft, Hubbell said NGOs are valuable program partners and would encourage their leaders' participation at the meeting. Sternburg and Kevin Foerster agreed that partner NGO leaders should be invited, and Foerster suggested that a NGO representative help develop the meeting agenda. Fischer explained that the UMRR-EMP CC initially discussed inviting leaders to a quarterly meeting. However, with the addition of NGO partners, he suggested that this is a separate meeting/event focused on keeping UMRR-EMP strong.

In response to a request for volunteers from Foerster, Ford, Hubbell, Schlagenhaft, Sternburg, and Kirsten Mickelsen agreed to serve on the subgroup to determine logistics and develop an agenda for a UMRR-EMP meeting/event with agencies' upper level leadership as well as leaders of partner NGOs. Ken Barr suggested considering holding the agency leadership meeting in conjunction with the annual Midwest Natural Resources Group.

Other Business

Webinar Feedback

Kevin Foerster said today's conference call was the first UMRR-EMP CC quarterly meeting held via webinar, essentially serving as a trial run to determine if webinars can effectively provide for quarterly meeting purposes. Foerster asked call participants to send Kirsten Mickelsen their input on the effectiveness and efficiency of this call and their preference for the future use of webinars for UMRR-EMP CC quarterly meetings. He said the August 28, 2013 UMRR-EMP CC meeting will include a discussion about the lessons learned from today's webinar and whether the Committee should continue to hold one quarterly meeting per year via webinar.

Ken Westlake said he supports the webinar format, with receiving the read ahead materials well in advance of the meeting. Westlake said web-based calls allow partners to participate at relatively no cost. Foerster agreed, and expressed appreciation to USACE and UMRBA staff for developing an effective and efficient agenda. Diane Ford said today's call seemed to work well for the meeting purposes. Janet Sternburg said the meeting was successful, but said she would not support having the quarterly meetings held via webinar on a regular basis. Jim Fischer agreed that quarterly meetings should only be held via webinar on occasion, noting the tremendous value of having these meetings in-person.

Future Meetings

The upcoming quarterly meetings are as follows:

- **August 2013 — La Crosse**
 - UMRBA — August 27
 - **UMRR-EMP CC — August 28**

- **November 2013 — St. Paul**
 - UMRBA WQEC — November 18-19
 - UMRBA Board — November 19
 - **UMRR-EMP CC — November 20**

- **February 2014 — Quad Cities**
 - UMRBA Board — February 25
 - **UMRR-EMP CC — February 26**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

**UMRR-EMP CC Attendance List
May 29, 2013**

UMRR-EMP CC Members

Gabe Harris	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR [On behalf of Renee Turner]
Kevin Foerster	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, UMR Refuges
Mike Jawson	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Dan Stephenson	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Diane Ford	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Walt Popp	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Janet Sternburg	Missouri Department of Conservation
Jim Fischer	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Ken Westlake	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
Harold Deckerd	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS

Others In Attendance

Tom Novak	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Jon Hendrickson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Dave Potter	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Derek Ingvalson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Roger Perk	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Marvin Hubbell	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Karen Hagerty	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Ken Barr	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
David Bierl	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Andy Leitchy	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Kara Mitvalsky	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Darron Niles	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Nathan Richards	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Chuck Theiling	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Brian Johnson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Brian Markert	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Kat McCain	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Larry Shepard	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
Bob Clevestine	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, UMR Refuges
Jon Duyvejonck	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RIFO
Scott Yess	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, UMRCC
Jeff Stoner	U.S. Geological Survey, Midwest Region
Barry Johnson	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Jennie Sauer	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Dave Bierman	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Mike Griffin	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Rob Maher	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Dave Herzog	Missouri Department of Conservation
Joe McMullen	Missouri Department of Conservation
Sara Strassman	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Tim Schlagenhaft	Audubon
Olivia Dorothy	Izaak Walton League
Brad Walker	Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Mark Gorman	Northeast-Midwest Institute
Dave Hokanson	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Kirsten Mickelsen	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association