Topic: Drought planning and preparation (3-5 year extended drought)

Convener: Tim Hall

Number of people: 4

Notes (verbatim from facilitator):

2012 – Not much impact, USACE kept things navigable

EM – runoff issues – Ag Issues Tourism? Steam Boats

Commercial fishing – contaminate or kill fish
ecosystem issues

Health Issues – "Chlordane Alert"

Engineering – [source of clean drinking water taken for granted.]
Redundancy for drinking water
Interconnected with Rural Water

- Industrial water intakes – Cordova Nuclear Plant
  < downstream
  Muscatine

- Irrigation – fruit

- Stress Test from Drought on Public Water Supply –
  - How long could someone last w/o rain

Tributaries? impact

- Just-in-time systems — water
  power

- How do we share water? (Communities away from the river.)

Don't be too near sighted –
100 year perspective

Topic: Cost of status quo to local stakeholders

Convener: Al Mahlenbrack

Number of people: 5

Notes (verbatim from facilitator):

- 1.1 million annual budget paid by local stakeholders to maintain existing levees. (47,000 acres)
  Two Rivers Levee & Drainage District Only!

- Cost of maintenance
  Lack of flood control – economic development is stifled!
  Reinvestment development has stopped

- Social culture

- Acres out of tax roles increase burden on "upland" stakeholders – school districts et.

- North hasn't been treated as the south – Fragmented jurisdictions – make political conflict.
  South – 1 jurisdiction

- Rates – systemic approach needed.
  Federal for Mississippi

  Politics in USACE is a problem.

- Systematic – Holistic Costs Minneapolis to Cape Girardeau?
  Need the number! (annual maintenance cost to locals)
  Total annual locally derived revenue invested on an annual basis.

- Maintenance vs flood control $\rightarrow$ MAINTENANCE $ ARE FUNDED LOCALLY!

- Public Private Funding "Big Sandy"

- Upstream concerns – hold water!

✳ Action vs Plan – TIME FOR ACTION!

Illinois assigned high water investigation
UMRBA

Storage – don't know where you need it.

Conveyance – losing ability to move water

Where do we draw the line on cost – what's reasonable where whom?

Flood control Very local – Policy made by and for folks "uphill"!

When building a highway people are paid -
Flood control costs not same

Levees – part of control – conveyance part of flood control.

New locks and dams may influence conveyance?

Increase dredging! Slow deep water beneficial to fish!

Flood control reservoirs are better today at managing flood water – In past to fail to hold water!
Coralville 2008!

Storage easements only with an adequate levee! Only to be used with major water event!

Land is privately owned.

Public policy regards residences not land ownership…

Regulations prevent locals rom increasing protection.

Topic: Multiple Use Planning for the River and its Floodplain

Convener: Doug Blodgett

Number of people: 4 plus 2 temporary

Notes (verbatim from facilitator):

Making another plan – ugh

Open market forces

Government has stepped in.

Targeted narrow incremental decisions w/out considering externalities

NEPA – at least identify externalities

Incremental annual appropriations
- Corps
- FWS
- local

Take advantage of decisions that are being made and make them put that into larger context.

Force system wide considerations in decisions

Better than big plan

Need to somehow

Grassroots

Many decision makers aren't educated – challenging

Where does science fit in

Local impacts vs downstream

Have to stop bailing communities out w/ flooding

Problem w/ NEPA on reporting impacts and not necessarily using it

Who should be responsible for looking more holistically?

Benefit cost ratios –

We need to have all the interests have input into

Need to determine holistically the best use of a parcel for society – not what is its best use for FW, or best for nav, but what is best for society

Gov. owned lands vs lands influenced by regulations.

Do we have the right authority to cause floodplain lands to be managed in best interest of nation.

Multiple uses
Flood control, Fish Wildlife, navigation, recreation, Water Control,

Are they various authorities or mandates – Probably a combination

Everyone has some mandates –

Possibilities of integrating mandates.

Some conflicts that are big & deep.

Surprisingly less conflict among mandates than might expect.

Are there overarching mandates that address multiple benefits.

Maybe we need to think of overarching mandates instead of project specific ones.

NESP – multiple use authority of Corps.
Balancing

Who might oversee such planning?
National Park Service
Corps of Engineers
UMRBA – probably a good choice.

Climate migration. 500 miles/century = 30 ft/day

Climate/migration corridor

Could use states' authorities to mandate tributary inputs into floods.

Topic: How does flooding affect communities

Convener: Brian Wright

Number of people: 3

Notes (verbatim from facilitator):

FEMA is just one tool in the tool box

Contact your senator

Oakdale was hit hard 2008

Govt entities wanted to take credit. If it wasn't for churches and others assistance Oakdale wouldn't be there.

Population

450	170
Before	After

Louisa County has loss 40,000 acres

It's now wetlands with no income coming back to County Govt.

People look at ag land. How many dollars are spent on and think its worth flooding. Maintenance of levees?

Problem w/agriculture – Has been farmed by generations and is rented out to those tenant farmers who really don't understand the soil. Soil runoff fills ditches and causes drainage problem

If we raise levees two feet here, what happens to the Illinois side?

We haven't done one thing to the levees since 1993.

Topic: How do we affect public policy regarding proper management of the Mississippi River System?

Convener: Bryan Bross

Number of people: 4

Notes (verbatim from facilitator):

Discussed purpose of UMRBA – Appointed by Governors of five states. MO, IA, IL, WI, MN

Levee & drainage districts have not spoken with unity on a plan and who is responsible

Where is the Mississippi River caucus in Congress?

May never be a comprehensive plan since it may not meet B/C ratio for federal government involvement.

Need a plan to allow a system that can be developed through private means if possible. NESP may be an example.

5 states agree there needs to be a plan.
Bridges are being built to find consensus.

Public policy is really important on the flood risk issue.

Corps policies might be a starting point.

Congress & President need to see the MR as a priority

Grassley, Durbin, Blunt, Ernst are all starting to step up.

A lot of power comes from having all the states & agencies involved.

Perception that UMRBA is driven by DNRs from each state may lead to lack of trust, but also might not be true.

Corps will rely on states to be the driver on a plan.

Who will be the champion for a process to get to a solution?

Need to find common ground.

Topic: Room for the River

Convener: Clark Bullard

Number of people: 5

Notes (verbatim from facilitator):

Davenport considering remove causeway → make room vs repair frequently
Dutch leadership
Gates in levees ⇒ gates too large (release suddenly), Trim peaks
- cheaper to blow the levee
- Max efficiency of storage
- Experience shows that blowing levees works

Set spillway (concrete w/dissipator)
What if flood keep rising? Filled too soon?
Setback ⇒ rec & enviro benefit vs econ use of formerly protected land
- case-by case

Setback → larger floodplain → trees → sediment trap
- keep old levee (maybe lower) & build new 500 yr @ setback
  - trade off conveyance vs environmental benefit

Setbacks very costly way to reduce crests
- Econ tradeoff important: reduce $ flood damage @ location.
  - breach levees at locations to reduce that damage
- Create wetlands, carbon sequestration

Need hydrologists & engineers to educate, explain floods
- Public education reduces water use

Auction to decide which levees breached?
- Need a fund
- Today the protected assets pay for levee maintenance, not flood protection
- 'You will be made whole' & taking risk (farm it or pay for storage)
  - ∴ don't need "floodfighting"

Resembles NFIP. Hard avoid same pitfalls.
Some IL levees are sand. Slump then push up.
Earthen construction essentially permanent w/proper maintenance
Deferred maintenance is main problem.
There are no fed or state levee safety inspection programs like there are for dams
Miss-IL navigation likely to grow (containers on barge)
- Lots of dredging vs. passive structures to self-scour

Container on barge would require more storage across watershed.
- Watershed wide, not just on river (room for river)

Regulate runoff local, state, fed via floodplain regulation
Regulate runoff from IL to Miss River? Unlikely.
We have riparian water law, vs West Prior Approp regulates take
- reg take vs regulate runoff.

Chicago regulated runoff/detention ponds (release rates poorly managed)