



# **Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program Coordinating Committee Quarterly Meeting**

**Agenda with  
Background and Supporting Materials**

**February 25, 2025  
Virtual**



## Quarterly Meeting Virtual

### Agenda February 25, 2026

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
8:00 a.m.	Call to Order and Introductions		Kelly Keefe, <i>USACE, Chair</i>
8:05	Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2025 Meeting	A1-6	
8:10	Regional Management and Partnership Collaboration — Fiscal Report for FY 2026 — Outlook for FY 2026 and Schedule Changes — Strategic Plan Update		Marshall Plumley, <i>USACE</i>
9:00	Reflections on LTRM Scenario Planning — Discussion Questions	B1	Marshall Plumley, <i>USACE</i> UMRR Coordinating Committee
9:30	LTRM Showcase — More Water, More of the Time: Changing Flooding Dynamics of the Upper Mississippi River		Molly van Appledorn, <i>USGS</i>
10:15	Break		

**Agenda, continued**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
10:30	Program Reports — Long Term Resource Monitoring and Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• USACE Update</li><li>• FY 2026 First Quarter Highlights</li><li>• Implementation Planning Update</li><li>• A-Team Report</li></ul> — Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District Reports</li></ul>		Davi Michl, <i>USACE</i> Jeff Houser, <i>USGS</i>  Shawn Giblin, <i>WI DNR</i> John Henderson, Jessie Dunton, and Jasen Brown, <i>USACE</i>
11:20	Audubon Reach Planning Stakeholder Perspectives		Brent Newman, <i>Audubon</i>
11:40	Any Questions From the Day		All Attendees
11:50	Other Business — Future Meeting Schedule	C1-13	Kelly Keefe, <i>USACE, Chair</i>
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn		

# Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program Quarterly Meetings

## Attachment A

### UMRR Coordinating Committee Draft Minutes

<b>Page Number</b>	<b>Document Title</b>
A-1 to A-6	Draft Minutes of the November 19, 2025 UMRR Quarterly Meeting

**Draft Minutes of the  
Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program  
Coordinating Committee**

**November 19, 2025  
Quarterly Meeting**

**Virtual**

Sabrina Chandler of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on November 19, 2025. Other UMRR Coordinating Committee representatives present were Kelly Keefe (USACE), Jon Amberg (USGS), Kirk Hansen (Iowa DNR), Chad Craycraft (Illinois DNR), Liz Scherber (Minnesota DNR), Matt Vitello (Missouri DoC), and Vanessa Perry (Wisconsin DNR). A complete list of attendees follows these minutes.

**Minutes of the August 6, 2025, Meeting**

Matt Vitello moved and Vanessa Perry seconded a motion to approve the draft minutes of the August 6, 2025, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Regional Management and Partnership Collaboration**

*Fiscal Report*

Marshall Plumley thanked the partnership for their collaboration and resiliency throughout FY 2025 and during the recent federal government shutdown.

The FY 2026 President's Budget included \$52 million for UMRR, and the House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee's draft FY 2026 appropriations bill concurred with this amount. The Senate is still deliberating their appropriations bill. The program is drafting a FY 26 workplan based off a \$52 million budget, however, the federal government is under a continuing resolution (CR) until January 30, 2026. In response to a question from Kelly Keefe, Plumley noted that funding for LTRM is a concern, as states are operating their field stations with last year's dollars and need access to new funds.

The Coordinating Committee has been meeting to discuss the possibility of a year-long CR, which could limit the program to a \$13.5 million budget based off the FY 2025 workplan. Given the shutdown, some of these conversations were held without USGS participation, which was a significant limitation. Plumley shared that he had a brief call with Jeff Houser and Jim Fischer once the government re-opened to update them on these meetings. The Coordinating Committee will continue these conversations with USGS involved in early December. Plumley is hoping for guidance in the next week regarding how much money the program can access under the CR.

Plumley reiterated the program's priority is protecting people and their expertise. The program hopes to maintain data integrity, continue to support projects in construction, and get other projects to their next design or feasibility milestone. Kirk Hansen thanked Plumley for his leadership.

In response to a question from Liz Scherber, Jim Fischer shared that he will be working on extensions to the pre-agreements with states this week. USGS is considering extending these agreements through December 30, 2025, and implementing another pre-award agreement afterwards. There is concern that if the extension is made through January 30, 2026 and another federal shutdown occurs after the current CR ends that USGS would be unable to act to extend the agreement.

### *Strategic Planning*

Plumley reported that the funding situation has prevented the program from finalizing its strategic plan. The COT and Analysis Team (A-Team) have received the plan, and several folks have provided comments, which the Strategic Planning Leadership Team will incorporate once there is funding for the effort. Then, the Coordinating Committee will review the document, followed by a public review.

## **Program Reports**

### *HREP Planning and Construction*

John Henderson, Jessie Dunton, and Jasen Brown reported on the progress in implementing UMRR HREPs, including the following milestones:

- The St. Paul District has completed McGregor Lake HREP Stage I and is wrapping up Stage II.
- The St. Paul District has approved the final report for the Robinson Lake HREP.
- The Rock Island District is holding a final inspection for Steamboat Island HREP Stage 2 on October 8.
- The St. Louis District approved a Tentatively Selected Plan for Gilead Slough HREP and Reds Landing HREP.
- The St. Louis District anticipates another River Resources Action Team trip in the fall of 2026, noting that it is a high priority.

### *Long Term Resource Monitoring, Research, and Other Science*

#### Quarterly Progress Report

Jeff Houser reported that the accomplishments of the fourth quarter of FY 2025 include the publication of the following two manuscripts that were supported by UMRR funding and the partnership infrastructure:

- 1) Impacts of newly invaded flowering rush on macrophyte diversity and composition in the Upper Mississippi River
- 2) Future forest conditions under alternate management and hydrological scenarios in the Upper Mississippi River floodplain

LTRM has also published data from the Pool 13 HREP Associated Research Project (HARP) on Science Base.

Houser reported that the LTRM element was able to successfully complete sampling for the 2025 calendar year, despite the federal government shutdown, thanks to the hard work of the field stations and state partners.

### USACE Update

Davi Michl reported that the draft FY 2026 program workplan, based off a \$52 million total budget, would include \$13.8 million for LTRM. The preliminary results of the topobathy pilot in Pools 4 and 8 were presented at the summer Analysis Team meeting and the program is working on applying lessons learned from this pilot to the larger topobathy acquisition effort that is still ongoing in the Illinois Waterway.

Liz Scherber shared a state's perspective on LTRM. Scherber noted that, during the federal government shutdown, all five states focused on preserving staff and maintaining data continuity. The six field stations put in extra effort to successfully finish the field season. Now that the shutdown is over, Scherber reiterated that the Coordinating Committee is undergoing a longer-term planning effort regarding programmatic funding.

Jim Fischer acknowledged the concern of a full-year CR and the impact this would have on LTRM. Fischer stated that USGS is working to evaluate alternative scenarios while also maintaining cost saving measures throughout FY 2026.

## **Communications and Outreach**

### *Programmatic Brochures*

Laura Talbert presented a hydrology snapshot summary that was developed in collaboration with Molly Van Appledorn of USGS. Talbert also presented brochures detailing the Department of Interior's involvement in UMRR, a brochure describing the value of LTRM, and last year's program capability brochure which will be updated to reflect the program's anticipated implementation in FY 2026. The primary audience for these brochures is the Administration and Congress and have already been used by UMRBA in its engagements with new political appointees in DOI, USGS, and USFWS.

In response to a question from Sabrina Chandler, Talbert clarified that she will be asking the Coordinating Committee to vote on endorsing the DOI brochure and LTRM brochure via email, as well as providing feedback on the hydrology summary and implementation brochure.

## **Showcases**

### *Forest Regeneration Results at the Capoli Slough and Conway Lakes HREPs, Pool 9*

Andy Meier presented forest regeneration results at Capoli Slough HREP, which completed construction in 2013, and Conway Lake HREP, which completed construction in in 2021. The elevation of the islands significantly impacted the tree survival rate at each site: the worst survival rates were found at Capoli Slough sites with high elevation and little topsoil and Conway Lake sites with the deepest topsoil and medium elevation. Thin topsoil seems to lead to better survival at lower elevations. Meier noted that there is likely a tradeoff between natural regeneration and planted seedlings.

In response to a question from Andrew Strassman, Meier stated that soil analysis will be conducted at these sites in order to assess for any macro- and micro biotic influences on tree regeneration.

In response to a question from Ryan Hupfeld, Meier explained that Conway Lake islands had bare soil in the spring, while Capoli Slough's islands were enclosed in forests, which might improve their regeneration rates as it prevents seeds from blowing away.

## **Other Business**

### *Future Meeting Schedule*

- February 2026 to be held virtually
  - UMRBA quarterly meeting – February 24
  - UMRB Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – February 25
- May 2026 to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota
  - UMRBA quarterly meeting – May 18
  - UMRB Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – May 19
- August 2026 to be held in St. Louis, Missouri
  - UMRBA quarterly meeting – August 4
  - UMRB Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – August 5

## **Attendance List**

### UMRR Coordinating Committee Members

Kelly Keefe	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
Sabrina Chandler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, UMR Refuges
Jon Amberg	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Chad Craycraft	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Kirk Hansen	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Liz Scherber	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Matt Vitello	Missouri Department of Conservation
Vanessa Perry	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

### Others In Attendance

Brian Chewning	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
Jim Cole	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
Brad Houzenga	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
Kat McCain	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
Thatch Shepard	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
John Henderson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Andy Meier	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Jessie Dunton	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Davi Michl	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Marshall Plumley	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Jasen Brown	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Greg Kohler	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Shane Simmons	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Travis Black	U.S. Department of Transportation
Jared Schmalstieg	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Lauren Larson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services
Kraig McPeck	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services
Sara Schmuecker	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services
Stephanie Edeler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Steve Winter	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kristen Bouska	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Nate De Jager	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Jenny Hanson	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Jeff Houser	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Kathi Jo Jankowski	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Jim Fischer	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Danelle Larson	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
JC Nelson	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Molly Van Appledorn	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Andrew Strassman	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
John Seitz	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Ryan Hupfeld	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Nicole Ward	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Sam Clary	Missouri Department of Conservation

Molly Sobotka	Missouri Department of Conservation
Dru Buntin	Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Noah Cadwell	Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Chris Wieberg	Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Sammi Boyd	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Alicia Carhart	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Patrick Kelly	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Brent Newman	Audubon
Alicia Vasto	Audubon
Anshu Singh	Corn Belt Ports
Christine Favilla	Sierra Club
Andrew Stephenson	The Nature Conservancy
Nicole Kach	Waterways Council
Ken Lubinski	Illinois Water Resources Center
Kirsten Wallace	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Brian Stenquist	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Mark Ellis	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Henry Hansen	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Natalie Lenzen	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Laura Talbert	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Josh Wolf	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

# Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program Quarterly Meetings

## Attachment B

### Reflections on LTRM Scenario Planning

<b>Page Number</b>	<b>Document Title</b>
B-1	Discussion Questions

## Reflections on LTRM Scenario Planning

### Discussion Questions

1. What are two or three insights that emerged for you from the recent LTRM budget scenario planning process?
2. How can the program prepare for similar LTRM budget management challenges in the future?
3. How can we make long term resource monitoring more resilient to budget uncertainty?

# Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program Quarterly Meetings

## Attachment C

### Additional Items

<b>Page Number</b>	<b>Document Title</b>
C-1	Future Meeting Schedule
C-2 to C-8	Frequently Used Acronyms (4-29-2022)
C-9 to C-13	UMRR Authorization and Operating Approach (12-23-2022)

# Upper Mississippi River Quarterly Meetings

## Future Meeting Schedule

### **May 2026 — Minneapolis St. Paul**

May 19	UMRBA Quarterly Meeting
May 20	UMRR Coordinating Committee Quarterly Meeting

### **August 2026 — St. Louis**

August 4	UMRBA Quarterly Meeting
August 5	UMRR Coordinating Committee Quarterly Meeting

## Acronyms Frequently Used on the Upper Mississippi River System

AAR	After Action Report
A&E	Architecture and Engineering
ACRCC	Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee
AFB	Alternative Formulation Briefing
AHAG	Aquatic Habitat Appraisal Guide
AHRI	American Heritage Rivers Initiative
AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species
ALC	American Lands Conservancy
ALDU	Aquatic Life Designated Use(s)
AM	Adaptive Management
ANS	Aquatic Nuisance Species
AP	Advisory Panel
APE	Additional Program Element
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
ASA(CW)	Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
A-Team	Analysis Team
ATR	Agency Technical Review
AWI	America's Watershed Initiative
AWO	American Waterways Operators
AWQMN	Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Network
BA	Biological Assessment
BATIC	Build America Transportation Investment Center
BCOES	Bid-ability, Constructability, Operability, Environmental, Sustainability
BCR	Benefit-Cost Ratio
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BO	Biological Opinion
CAP	Continuing Authorities Program
CAWS	Chicago Area Waterways System
CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation
CCP	Comprehensive Conservation Plan
CEICA	Cost Effectiveness Incremental Cost Analysis
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFS	Cubic Feet Per Second
CG	Construction General
CIA	Computerized Inventory and Analysis
CMMP	Channel Maintenance Management Plan
COE	Corps of Engineers
COPT	Captain of the Port
CPUE	Catch Per Unit Effort
CRA	Continuing Resolution Authority
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program

CSP	Conservation Security Program
CUA	Cooperative Use Agreement
CWA	Clean Water Act
CY	Cubic Yards
DALS	Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
DED	Department of Economic Development
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DET	District Ecological Team
DEWS	Drought Early Warning System
DMMP	Dredged Material Management Plan
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DOA	Department of Agriculture
DOC	Department of Conservation
DOER	Dredging Operations and Environmental Research
DOT	Department of Transportation
DPR	Definite Project Report
DQC	District Quality Control/Quality Assurance
DSS	Decision Support System
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECC	Economics Coordinating Committee
EEC	Essential Ecosystem Characteristic
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMAP	Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program
EMAP-GRE	Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program-Great Rivers Ecosystem
EMP	Environmental Management Program [Note: Former name of Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program.]
EMP-CC	Environmental Management Program Coordinating Committee
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPM	Environmental Pool Management
EPR	External Peer Review
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
ER	Engineering Regulation
ERDC	Engineering Research & Development Center
ESA	Endangered Species Act
EWMN	Early Warning Monitoring Network
EWP	Emergency Watershed Protection Program
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FDR	Flood Damage Reduction
FFS	Flow Frequency Study
FMG	Forest Management Geodatabase
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FRM	Flood Risk Management

FRST	Floodplain Restoration System Team
FSA	Farm Services Agency
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
FWCA	Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act
FWIC	Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
FWWG	Fish and Wildlife Work Group
FY	Fiscal Year
GAO	Government Accountability Office
GEIS	Generic Environmental Impact Statement
GI	General Investigations
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLC	Governors Liaison Committee
GLC	Great Lakes Commission
GLMRIS	Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study
GPS	Global Positioning System
GREAT	Great River Environmental Action Team
GRP	Geographic Response Plan
H&H	Hydrology and Hydraulics
HAB	Harmful Algal Bloom
HEC-EFM	Hydrologic Engineering Center Ecosystems Function Model
HEC-RAS	Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System
HEL	Highly Erodible Land
HEP	Habitat Evaluation Procedure
HNA	Habitat Needs Assessment
HPSF	HREP Planning and Sequencing Framework
HQUSACE	Headquarters, USACE
H.R.	House of Representatives
HREP	Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
HU	Habitat Unit
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
IBA	Important Bird Area
IBI	Index of Biological (Biotic) Integrity
IC	Incident Commander
ICS	Incident Command System
ICWP	Interstate Council on Water Policy
IDIQ	Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity
IEPR	Independent External Peer Review
IGE	Independent Government Estimate
IIA	Implementation Issues Assessment
IIFO	Illinois-Iowa Field Office (formerly RIFO - Rock Island Field Office)
ILP	Integrated License Process
IMTS	Inland Marine Transportation System
IPR	In-Progress Review
IRCC	Illinois River Coordinating Council

IRPT	Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals
IRTC	Implementation Report to Congress
IRWG	Illinois River Work Group
ISA	Inland Sensitivity Atlas
IWR	Institute for Water Resources
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
IWS	Integrated Water Science
IWTF	Inland Waterways Trust Fund
IWUB	Inland Waterways Users Board
IWW	Illinois Waterway
L&D	Lock(s) and Dam
LC/LU	Land Cover/Land Use
LDB	Left Descending Bank
LERRD	Lands, Easements, Rights-of-Way, Relocation of Utilities or Other Existing Structures, and Disposal Areas
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LMR	Lower Mississippi River
LMRCC	Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee
LOI	Letter of Intent
LTRM	Long Term Resource Monitoring
M-35	Marine Highway 35
MAFC	Mid-America Freight Coalition
MARAD	U.S. Maritime Administration
MARC 2000	Midwest Area River Coalition 2000
MCAT	Mussel Community Assessment Tool
MICRA	Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association
MDM	Major subordinate command Decision Milestone
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
MMR	Middle Mississippi River
MMRP	Middle Mississippi River Partnership
MNRG	Midwest Natural Resources Group
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MoRAST	Missouri River Association of States and Tribes
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRAPS	Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study
MRBI	Mississippi River Basin (Healthy Watersheds) Initiative
MRC	Mississippi River Commission
MRCC	Mississippi River Connections Collaborative
MRCTI	Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative
MRRC	Mississippi River Research Consortium
MR&T	Mississippi River and Tributaries (project)
MSP	Minimum Sustainable Program
MVD	Mississippi Valley Division
MVP	St. Paul District
MVR	Rock Island District
MVS	St. Louis District

NAS	National Academies of Science
NAWQA	National Water Quality Assessment
NCP	National Contingency Plan
NIDIS	National Integrated Drought Information System (NOAA)
NEBA	Net Environmental Benefit Analysis
NECC	Navigation Environmental Coordination Committee
NED	National Economic Development
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESP	Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program
NETS	Navigation Economic Technologies Program
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGRREC	National Great Rivers Research and Education Center
NGWOS	Next Generation Water Observing System
NICC	Navigation Interests Coordinating Committee
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NPS	Non-Point Source
NPS	National Park Service
NRC	National Research Council
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRDAR	Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration
NRT	National Response Team
NSIP	National Streamflow Information Program
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OHWM	Ordinary High Water Mark
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OMRR&R	Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitation, and Replacement
OPA	Oil Pollution Act of 1990
ORSANCO	Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
OSE	Other Social Effects
OSIT	On Site Inspection Team
P3	Public-Private Partnerships
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PAS	Planning Assistance to States
P&G	Principles and Guidelines
P&R	Principles and Requirements
P&S	Plans and Specifications
P&S	Principles and Standards
PCA	Pollution Control Agency
PCA	Project Cooperation Agreement
PCX	Planning Center of Expertise
PDT	Project Delivery Team
PED	Preconstruction Engineering and Design
PgMP	Program Management Plan

PILT	Payments In Lieu of Taxes
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PL	Public Law
PMP	Project Management Plan
PORT	Public Outreach Team
PPA	Project Partnership Agreement
PPT	Program Planning Team
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RCP	Regional Contingency Plan
RCPP	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
RDB	Right Descending Bank
RED	Regional Economic Development
RIFO	Rock Island Field Office (now IIFO - Illinois-Iowa Field Office)
RM	River Mile
RP	Responsible Party
RPEDN	Regional Planning and Environment Division North
RPT	Reach Planning Team
RRAT	River Resources Action Team
RRCT	River Resources Coordinating Team
RRF	River Resources Forum
RRT	Regional Response Team
RST	Regional Support Team
RTC	Report to Congress
S.	Senate
SAV	Submersed Aquatic Vegetation
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SEMA	State Emergency Management Agency
SET	System Ecological Team
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Risk Informed, Timely
SONS	Spill of National Significance
SOW	Scope of Work
SRF	State Revolving Fund
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
TEUs	twenty-foot equivalent units
TIGER	Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery
TLP	Traditional License Process
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TSP	Tentatively selected plan
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority
TWG	Technical Work Group
UMESC	Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center

UMIMRA	Upper Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri Rivers Association
UMR	Upper Mississippi River
UMRBA	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
UMRBC	Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission
UMRCC	Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee
UMRCP	Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan
UMR-IWW	Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway
UMRNWFR	Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
UMRR	Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program [Note: Formerly known as Environmental Management Program.]
UMRR CC	Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program Coordinating Committee
UMRS	Upper Mississippi River System
UMWA	Upper Mississippi Waterway Association
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VTC	Video Teleconference
WCI	Waterways Council, Inc.
WES	Waterways Experiment Station (replaced by ERDC)
WHAG	Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
WIIN	Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act
WLM	Water Level Management
WLMTF	Water Level Management Task Force
WQ	Water Quality
WQEC	Water Quality Executive Committee
WQTF	Water Quality Task Force
WQS	Water Quality Standard
WRDA	Water Resources Development Act
WRP	Wetlands Reserve Program
WRRDA	Water Resources Reform and Development Act

## **Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program Authorization**

**Section 1103** of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-662) as amended by Section 405 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-640), Section 107 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-580), Section 509 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-53), Section 2 of the Water Resources Development Technical Corrections of 1999 (P.L. 106-109), Section 3177 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-114), Section 307 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-260), and Section 8345 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-263).

## **Additional Cost Sharing Provisions**

**Section 906(e)** of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-662) as amended by Section 221 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-53).

### **SEC. 1103. UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER PLAN.**

(a)(1) This section may be cited as the "Upper Mississippi River Management Act of 1986".

(2) To ensure the coordinated development and enhancement of the Upper Mississippi River system, it is hereby declared to be the intent of Congress to recognize that system as a nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system. Congress further recognizes that the system provides a diversity of opportunities and experiences. The system shall be administered and regulated in recognition of its several purposes.

(b) For purposes of this section --

(1) the terms "Upper Mississippi River system" and "system" mean those river reaches having commercial navigation channels on the Mississippi River main stem north of Cairo, Illinois; the Minnesota River, Minnesota; Black River, Wisconsin; Saint Croix River, Minnesota and Wisconsin; Illinois River and Waterway, Illinois; and Kaskaskia River, Illinois;

(2) the term "Master Plan" means the comprehensive master plan for the management of the Upper Mississippi River system, dated January 1, 1982, prepared by the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission and submitted to Congress pursuant to Public Law 95-502;

(3) the term "GREAT I, GREAT II, and GRRM studies" means the studies entitled "GREAT Environmental Action Team--GREAT I--A Study of the Upper Mississippi River", dated September 1980, "GREAT River Environmental Action Team--GREAT II--A Study of the Upper Mississippi River", dated December 1980, and "GREAT River Resource Management Study", dated September 1982; and

(4) the term "Upper Mississippi River Basin Association" means an association of the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, formed for the purposes of cooperative effort and united assistance in the comprehensive planning for the use, protection, growth, and development of the Upper Mississippi River System.

(c)(1) Congress hereby approves the Master Plan as a guide for future water policy on the Upper Mississippi River system. Such approval shall not constitute authorization of any recommendation contained in the Master Plan.

(2) Section 101 of Public Law 95-502 is amended by striking out the last two sentences of subsection (b), striking out subsection (i), striking out the final sentence of subsection (j), and redesignating subsection "(j)" as subsection "(i)".

(d)(1) The consent of the Congress is hereby given to the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, or any two or more of such States, to enter into negotiations for agreements, not in conflict with any law of the United States, for cooperative effort and mutual assistance in the comprehensive planning for the use, protection, growth, and development of the Upper Mississippi River system, and to establish such agencies, joint or otherwise, or designate an existing multi-State entity, as they may deem desirable for making effective such

agreements. To the extent required by Article I, section 10 of the Constitution, such agreements shall become final only after ratification by an Act of Congress.

(2) The Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association or any other agency established under paragraph (1) of this subsection to promote and facilitate active State government participation in the river system management, development, and protection.

(3) For the purpose of ensuring the coordinated planning and implementation of programs authorized in subsections (e) and (h)(2) of this section, the Secretary shall enter into an interagency agreement with the Secretary of the Interior to provide for the direct participation of, and transfer of funds to, the Fish and Wildlife Service and any other agency or bureau of the Department of the Interior for the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of such programs.

(4) The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association or any other agency established under paragraph (1) of this subsection is hereby designated by Congress as the caretaker of the master plan. Any changes to the master plan recommended by the Secretary shall be submitted to such association or agency for review. Such association or agency may make such comments with respect to such recommendations and offer other recommended changes to the master plan as such association or agency deems appropriate and shall transmit such comments and other recommended changes to the Secretary. The Secretary shall transmit such recommendations along with the comments and other recommended changes of such association or agency to the Congress for approval within 90 days of the receipt of such comments or recommended changes.

(e) Program Authority

(1) Authority

(A) In general. The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, may undertake, as identified in the master plan

(i) a program for the planning, construction, and evaluation of measures for fish and wildlife habitat rehabilitation and enhancement; and

(ii) implementation of a long-term resource monitoring, computerized data inventory and analysis, and applied research program, including research on water quality issues affecting the Mississippi River (including elevated nutrient levels) and the development of remediation strategies.

(B) Advisory committee. In carrying out subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary shall establish an independent technical advisory committee to review projects, monitoring plans, and habitat and natural resource needs assessments.

(2) REPORTS. — Not later than December 31, 2004, and not later than December 31 of every sixth year thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, shall submit to Congress a report that —

(A) contains an evaluation of the programs described in paragraph (1);

(B) describes the accomplishments of each of the programs;

(C) provides updates of a systemic habitat needs assessment; and

(D) identifies any needed adjustments in the authorization of the programs.

(3) For purposes of carrying out paragraph (1)(A)(i) of this subsection, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(4) For purposes of carrying out paragraph (1)(A)(ii) of this subsection, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(5) Authorization of appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out paragraph (1)(B) \$350,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2009.

(6) Transfer of amounts.—For fiscal year 1999 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, may transfer not to exceed 20 percent of the amounts appropriated to carry out clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(A) to the amounts appropriated to carry out the other of those clauses.

(7)(A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(2) of this section, the costs of each project carried out pursuant to paragraph (1)(A)(i) of this subsection shall be allocated between the Secretary and the appropriate non-Federal sponsor in accordance with the provisions of section 906(e) of this Act; except that the costs of operation and maintenance of projects located on Federal lands or lands owned or operated by a State or local government shall be borne by the Federal, State, or local agency that is responsible for management activities for fish and wildlife on such lands and, in the case of any project requiring non-Federal cost sharing, the non-Federal share of the cost of the project shall be 35 percent.

(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(2) of this section, the cost of implementing the activities authorized by paragraph (1)(A)(ii) of this subsection shall be allocated in accordance with the provisions of section 906 of this Act, as if such activity was required to mitigate losses to fish and wildlife.

(8) None of the funds appropriated pursuant to any authorization contained in this subsection shall be considered to be chargeable to navigation.

(f) (1) The Secretary, in consultation with any agency established under subsection (d)(1) of this section, is authorized to implement a program of recreational projects for the system substantially in accordance with the recommendations of the GREAT I, GREAT II, and GRRM studies and the master plan reports. In addition, the Secretary, in consultation with any such agency, shall, at Federal expense, conduct an assessment of the economic benefits generated by recreational activities in the system. The cost of each such project shall be allocated between the Secretary and the appropriate non-Federal sponsor in accordance with title I of this Act.

(2) For purposes of carrying out the program of recreational projects authorized in paragraph (1) of this subsection, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary not to exceed \$500,000 per fiscal year for each of the first 15 fiscal years beginning after the effective date of this section.

(g) The Secretary shall, in his budget request, identify those measures developed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and any agency established under subsection (d)(1) of this section, to be undertaken to increase the capacity of specific locks throughout the system by employing nonstructural measures and making minor structural improvements.

(h)(1) The Secretary, in consultation with any agency established under subsection (d)(1) of this section, shall monitor traffic movements on the system for the purpose of verifying lock capacity, updating traffic projections, and refining the economic evaluation so as to verify the need for future capacity expansion of the system.

(2) Determination.

(A) In general. The Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, shall determine the need for river rehabilitation and environmental enhancement and protection based on the condition of the environment, project developments, and projected environmental impacts from implementing any proposals resulting from recommendations made under subsection (g) and paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(B) Requirements. The Secretary shall

(i) complete the ongoing habitat needs assessment conducted under this paragraph not later than September 30, 2000; and

(ii) include in each report under subsection (e)(2) the most recent habitat needs assessment conducted under this paragraph.

(3) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

(i) (1) The Secretary shall, as he determines feasible, dispose of dredged material from the system pursuant to the recommendations of the GREAT I, GREAT II, and GRRM studies.

(2) The Secretary shall establish and request appropriate Federal funding for a program to facilitate productive uses of dredged material. The Secretary shall work with the States which have, within their boundaries, any part of the system to identify potential users of dredged material.

(j) The Secretary is authorized to provide for the engineering, design, and construction of a second lock at locks and dam 26, Mississippi River, Alton, Illinois and Missouri, at a total cost of \$220,000,000, with a first Federal cost of \$220,000,000. Such second lock shall be constructed at or in the vicinity of the location of the replacement lock authorized by section 102 of Public Law 95-502. Section 102 of this Act shall apply to the project authorized by this subsection.

### **SEC. 906(e). COST SHARING.**

(e) In those cases when the Secretary, as part of any report to Congress, recommends activities to enhance fish and wildlife resources, the first costs of such enhancement shall be a Federal cost when--

(1) such enhancement provides benefits that are determined to be national, including benefits to species that are identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service as of national economic importance, species that are subject to treaties or international convention to which the United States is a party, and anadromous fish;

(2) such enhancement is designed to benefit species that have been listed as threatened or endangered by the Secretary of the Interior under the terms of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.), or

(3) such activities are located on lands managed as a national wildlife refuge.

When benefits of enhancement do not qualify under the preceding sentence, 25 percent of such first costs of enhancement shall be provided by non-Federal interests under a schedule of reimbursement determined by the Secretary. Not more than 80 percent of the non-Federal share of such first costs may be satisfied through in-kind contributions, including facilities, supplies, and services that are necessary to carry out the enhancement project. The non-Federal share of operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of activities to enhance fish and wildlife resources shall be 25 percent.

## EMP OPERATING APPROACH

2006 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Environmental Management Program (EMP). During that time, the Program pioneered many new ideas to help deliver efficient and effective natural resource programs to the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS). These included the creation of an effective partnership of five states, five federal agencies, and numerous NGOs; a network of six field stations monitoring the natural resources of the UMRS; and the administrative structure to encourage river managers to use both new and proven environmental restoration techniques.

EMP has a history of identifying and dealing with both natural resource and administrative challenges. The next several years represent new opportunities and challenges as Congress considers authorization of the Navigation and Environmental Sustainability Program (NESP), possible integration or merger of EMP with NESP, and changing standards for program management and execution.

We will continue to learn from both the history of EMP and experience of other programs. Charting a course for EMP over the next several years is important to the continued success of the Program. EMP will focus on the key elements of partnership, regional administration and coordination, LTRMP, and HREPs.

The fundamental focus of EMP will not change, however the way we deliver our services must change and adapt. This will include:

- further refinements in regional coordination and management,
- refinement of program goals and objectives,
- increased public outreach efforts,
- development and use of tools such as the regional HREP database and HREP Handbook,
- exploring new delivery mechanisms for contracting,
- continued refinement of the interface between LTRMP and the HREP program components, and
- scientific and management application of LTRMP information and data.

The focus of these efforts must benefit the resources of the UMRS through efficient and effective management.