



Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program Coordinating Committee Quarterly Meeting

**Agenda with
Background and Supporting Materials**

**May 20, 2026
Edina, Minnesota**



Agenda
May 20, 2026

Time	Topic	Page	Presenter
8:30 a.m.	Call to Order and Introductions		Sabrina Chandler, <i>USFWS, Chair</i>
8:35	Approval of Minutes of February 25, 2026 Meeting	A1-7	
8:40	Regional Management and Partnership Collaboration		Marshall Plumley, <i>USACE</i>
	— Fiscal Report for FY 2026		
	— Outlook for FY 2026		
	— FY 2027 Presidents Budget Request		
	— Strategic Plan Update		
	— LTRM After Action Report Update		
	— LTRM Future Discussion Topics		
9:25	Break		
9:40	Program Reports		
	— Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects		John Henderson, Julie Millholin, and Shane Simmons, <i>USACE</i>
	• District Reports		
	— Long Term Resource Monitoring and Science		
	• USACE Update		Marshall Plumley, <i>USACE</i>
	• FY 2026 Second Quarter Highlights		Jim Fischer, <i>USGS</i>
	• Implementation Planning Update		
	• A-Team Report		Shawn Giblin, <i>WI DNR</i>

Agenda, continued

Time	Topic	Page	Presenter
11:00	HREP Showcase: Soil Research and Vegetation Response		Aaron McFarlane, <i>USACE</i>
11:20	LTRM Showcase: Towards an Integrated Framework for Floodplain Vegetation Monitoring and Research in the Upper Mississippi River System		Matt Trumper, <i>USGS</i>
11:45	Other Business — Future Meeting Schedule	B1-13	Sabrina Chandler, <i>USFWS, Chair</i>
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn		

Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program Quarterly Meetings

Attachment A

UMRR Coordinating Committee Draft Minutes

Page Number	Document Title
A-1 to A-7	Draft Minutes of the February 25, 2026 UMRR Quarterly Meeting

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

**February 25, 2026
Quarterly Meeting**

Virtual

Kelly Keefe of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on February 25, 2026. Other UMRR Coordinating Committee representatives present were Sabrina Chandler (USFWS), 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 November 19, 2025, Meeting

Kirk Hansen moved, and Vanessa Perry seconded a motion to approve the draft minutes of the November 19, 2025, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Regional Management and Partnership Collaboration

Marshall Plumley noted that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the program. UMRR has completed 63 projects benefiting over 120,000 acres across the system.

Fiscal Report

The program's FY 2025 budget of \$13.5 million was a significant reduction from prior years. Because FY 2026 started under a Continuing Resolution Authority (CR), the initial money available to the program for first quarter operations was based off the prior year budget of \$13.5 million, despite the President's Budget and House and Senate budgets listing the program at a \$52 million budget for the year. Now that the Energy and Water Development appropriations act has been signed, the program will operate under a \$52 million budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. Plumley stated his hope of receiving the full FY 2026 appropriation soon, at which point the program can resume normal activities. In response to a question from Kirk Hansen, Plumley reiterated that the program has not been able to access the new appropriations yet, and this is an issue that all Army Corps programs are facing.

Outlook for FY 2026 and Schedule Changes

Plumley stated that the program has a lot of work ready to go. In FY 2025, the program was able to reach numerous milestones despite the funding challenges. However, several project timelines were impacted due to the pause in activities in FY 2025. Despite this, Plumley is hopeful that that program might complete construction on one or more projects this year.

In terms of the FY 2026 workplan for LTRM, the topobathy acquisition that was funded with prior year funds are wrapping up. Analysis is being conducted on the Lower Pool 13 HREP-Associated Research Project (HARP) deliverables. LTRM folks are working on a "restart" strategy for the efforts that were put on hold due to funding and more will be shared on this in coming months.

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 when they meet again in March or April. Then, the Coordinating Committee will review the document, which will be included as a read ahead for the May quarterly meeting. Then, a public review will follow. Plumley noted that this public review will entail publishing the document on the program website along with a comment portal. Plumley acknowledged the value of having the strategic plan as a guide during the uncertainty of the past year.

In response to a question from Molly Sobotka, Davi Michl explained that LTRM is currently reviewing science proposals for inclusion in the FY 2026 workplan.

In response to a question from Sadie Neuman, Plumley shared that he anticipated the strategic plan public review to occur over a thirty-day period. Plumley expressed interest in the idea of having a webinar detailing the public review process.

USACE Planning Process Updates

Kelly Keefe reported to the group on updates the Army Corps is making to their planning process. Keefe noted that the Assistant Secretary to the Army Civil Works, Adam Telle, is emphasizing work execution and efficiency. In testimony to Congress, General Graham identified ecosystem restoration as a core mission area of the Army Corps, which Keefe took as a positive sign for UMRR. In response to a question from Kirk Hansen, Keefe stated that she believes the new planning guidance document will be released soon.

Keefe also shared an acronym for this updated planning process: RAPID, or Risk-informed, Aligned, Proportional, Iterative, and Decisive. Kat McCain encouraged the program to lean into the principles of RAPID. Keefe agreed and emphasized the importance of consistent messaging and storytelling for the program.

Reflections on LTRM Scenario Planning

Plumley explained that the partnership has been having conversations since September about the impacts of the funding uncertainties on implementing LTRM. While the program was able to maintain base monitoring in FY 2025, it was limited in the carryover dollars that are normally used to ensure there is no pause in operations between fiscal years. The federal government shutdown then limited USGS's ability to participate in these conversations. Jim Fischer noted that the situation was a perfect storm, but it demonstrated the strength of the partnership as well as the value of science in the program. Fischer pointed to knowledge transfer and cross training as areas of importance going forward. Kirk Hansen agreed and thanked the NGO partners for their support throughout the uncertainty. Plumley acknowledged the value in increasing broader awareness of LTRM operations.

There will be an After-Action Review conducted on the LTRM Scenario Planning process including the Coordinating Committee and LTRM field station leads.

Showcase

More Water, More of the Time: Changing Flood Patterns of the Upper Mississippi River

Molly Van Appledorn presented work that had been conducted in collaboration with the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (UMESC), the Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC), and the University of Minnesota. The work analyzed the changing hydrology of the Upper Mississippi River and the impact that it has on the floodplain. The data showed that, from 1940-2022, flooding is more extensive, and the floodplain is underwater for longer during the growing season than it was in decades prior. The flood events are getting longer and deeper, but these changes vary among and within pools.

In response to a question from Kirk Hansen, Van Appledorn explained that the upper part of Pool 10 was impacted more than the lower in terms of inundation likely because of the distribution of elevation. Van Appledorn noted that there was no association between the hinge point and dam point controls.

In response to a question from Molly Sobotka, Van Appledorn noted that the study was only conducted from April 1-September 30 each year, so the winter period was not analyzed.

Program Reports

Long Term Resource Monitoring, Research, and Other Science

USACE Update

Davi Michl reported that, based on a \$52 million program budget, \$13.8 million is planned for LTRM. This would finance both base monitoring as well as science in support of restoration efforts. Some money was sent in Q1 already, and Michl is working with USGS to develop scopes of work.

Topobathy acquisition efforts continue, and all acquisition for the Illinois Waterway is complete and moving through the quality control process. The Pools 4 & 8 pilot study data will be published to ScienceBase and be available to the partnership this year.

Quarterly Progress Report

Jeff Houser reported that the accomplishments of the first quarter of FY 2026 include the publication of the following five manuscripts that were supported by UMRR funding and the partnership infrastructure:

- 1) "Big River Bluegill: Combining Vital Rates and Long-Term Monitoring to Understand Population Dynamics in Large Rivers"
- 2) "Upper Mississippi River Restoration Future Hydrology Meeting Series" USGS Open File Report
- 3) "Evaluating Hydrologic Data Products for Scientific and Management Applications Related to Potential Future Streamflow Conditions in the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers" USGS Scientific Investigations Report
- 4) "Quantifying Floodplain Forest Community Changes Following Large-Scale Flood Events in the Upper Mississippi River System"

5) “LTRM Monitoring Procedures: Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring Procedures Manual, Version 2.0”

LTRM has also published data from the Pool 13 HREP Associated Research Project (HARP) on Science Base. Additional data releases have been submitted to the USGS review process.

Analysis Team Update

Shawn Giblin reported on the Analysis Team’s January 29 meeting. The next meeting will occur virtually on April 22.

HREP Planning and Construction

John Henderson, Marshall Plumley, and Abigail Hoyt reported on the progress in implementing UMRR HREPs, including the following milestones:

- The St. Paul District has kicked off planning for the Bankline Stabilization HREP.
- The St. Paul District is wrapping up construction on McGregor Lake HREP Stage 2.
- The Rock Island District is addressing comments on the Steamboat Island HREP Stage 3 as the project has reached the 60% design milestone.
- The St. Louis District held highly attended public meetings for Gilead Slough and Red’s Landing HREPs.

Communications and Outreach

Audubon Reach Planning Workshops

Brent Newman presented on the workshops that Audubon hosted to engage the public in the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP)’s reach planning process. The workshops were qualitative and focused on the values people hold in the river currently and what they hope to see from the river in the future. Newman noted that both NESP and UMRR are programs that could benefit from more public engagement.

Common concerns from workshop attendees included flooding and protecting fish and wildlife habitat. Newman concluded on the importance of bridging the gap between those who are concerned about river management and those who are conducting the management.

Other Business

Future Meeting Schedule

- May 2026 to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota

- UMRBA quarterly meeting – May 19
 - UMRB Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – May 20
- 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
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

Jim Cole	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
Samantha Thompson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
Kacie Grupa	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
John Henderson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Nathan Wallerstedt	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Jessie Dunton	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Abigail Hoyt	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Davi Michl	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Rachel Perrine	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
Brian Johnson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Travis Black	U.S. Department of Transportation
Stephanie Edeler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kristen Bouska	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Nicole Buckley	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Nate De Jager	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Jennifer Dieck	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Jeff Houser	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Jim Fischer	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Danelle Larson	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Molly Van Appledorn	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Jennie Sauer	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC (former)
Neil Rude	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Nicole Ward	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Sam Clary	Missouri Department of Conservation
Molly Sobotka	Missouri Department of Conservation
Sammi Boyd	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Shawn Giblin	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Brent Newman	Audubon
Alicia Vasto	Audubon
Doug Daigle	Lower Mississippi River Basin Sub-Committee
Andrew Stephenson	The Nature Conservancy

Steve Kientzy	Magruder Construction
Olivia Dorothy	One Mississippi
Ken Lubinski	One Mississippi
Mark Hoague	Tetra Tech
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
Sadie Neuman	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

Additional Items

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

Upper Mississippi River Quarterly Meetings

Future Meeting Schedule

August 2026 — St. Louis

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

October 2026 — Quad Cities

October 13	UMRBA Quarterly Meeting
October 14	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 20th 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.