**Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program**

**Coordinating Committee**

**August 6, 2025**

**Quarterly Meeting**

**Highlights and Action Items**

**Programmatic Highlights**

* On March 15, Congress passed a full-year continuing resolution authority (CRA) funding federal agencies through the remainder of FY 2025. The CRA limited the Corps’ FY 2025 construction general budget to $1.8 billion. Additionally, Congress completely delegated to the Administration the allocations of those funds among programs and projects. The Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) program receives its funding through the Corps’ construction general account.
* On May 15, the Administration published the FY 2025 spending allocations in “Work Plans,” allocating $13,516,395 to UMRR. Prior to the enactment of the FY 2025 full year CRA, the Corps operating under a series of FY 25 continuing resolutions (CR) that were based on the inclusion of $55 million for UMRR in the FY 2025 President’s budget and House and Senate appropriations measures. As a result, for the remainder of the fiscal year, the program is halting most programmatic work and prioritizing active HREP construction contracts and LTRM base monitoring.
* UMRR has continued to execute the highest priority work utilizing prior year carry in funding and limited FY 2025 funding. It is assumed that FY 26 will begin with a CR, and that the Program will carryover very limited funds into the beginning of the next Fiscal Year. Funding at the beginning of FY 2026 will likely be limited until a full year appropriations measure is passed. The UMRR Coordinating Committee has initiated planning for program implementation at various funding scenarios.
* The FY 2026 President’s Budget included $52 million for UMRR. The House Energy and Water Subcommittee’s draft appropriations bill concurred with this amount. The Senate is still deliberating.
* The *ad hoc* team has completed a daft UMRR strategic plan for the years 2025-2035. The team is prepared to conduct a review by the broader partnership. The next step is to obtain input from the Communications and Outreach Team (COT) and Analysis Team (A-Team), followed by the coordinating agencies who participated in the strategic planning process. The strategic planning process will resume in the coming months.

**Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects (HREPs) Highlights**

* A few highlights of progress in implementing HREPs include:
  + The St. Paul District has completed McGregor Lake HREP Stage I and is wrapping up Stage II.
  + The St. Paul District expects a Tentatively Selected Plan for the Bank Stabilization HREP in early 2026.
  + The Rock Island District has remobilized a team to work on the design of Steamboat Island HREP Stage III.
  + The St. Louis District expects to complete pump station construction for Clarence Cannon HREP in the next fiscal year.
  + The St. Louis District River Resources Action Team fall 2025 partner river trip will be a one-day event.

**Long Term Resource Monitoring (LTRM) Highlights**

* Eight publications and scientific documents were published in the last quarter (since May 2025) that were supported by UMRR funding and the programmatic infrastructure.
* Topobathy acquisition of the Illinois River was initiated in the fall of 2024. Preliminary results for Pools 4 and 8 pilot studies have been received and are undergoing Quality Assurance/Quality Control review.
* The final field season for the HREP Associated Research Project in Pool 13 has been completed.
* The UMRR science and planning projects that were prioritized through the UMRR LTRM implementation planning process and that had been expected to be funded in FY 2025, including aquatic plant distribution and learning from restoration, are postponed indefinitely to cover base monitoring costs in this current fiscal year.
* The next A-Team meeting will be held virtually in mid-October.

**Communications and Outreach**

* The Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) piloted the use of cell phone data to determine visitor use of Pools 4, 13, and 26. The raw data can be found on their website.
* The partnership has developed brochures that detail both the involvement of the Department of the Interior in UMRR and the broader value of LTRM. The brochures will be used in Congressional advocacy.

**Future Meeting Schedule**

* November 2025 in St. Louis, Missouri
  + UMRBA quarterly meeting – November 18
  + UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – November 19
* February 2026 to be held virtually
  + UMRBA quarterly meeting – February 24
  + UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – February 25
* May 2026 to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota
  + UMRBA quarterly meeting – May 18
  + UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – May 19