Minutes of the 166th Quarterly Meeting
of the
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

May 23, 2023
St. Paul, Minnesota

Tim Hall called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Participants were as follows:

UMRBA Representatives and Alternates

Rick Pohlman	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Chad Craycraft	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Tim Hall	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Jake Hansen	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Grant Wilson	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Patrick Phenow	Minnesota Department of Transportation
Matt Vitello	Missouri Department of Conservation
Jim Fischer	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Federal UMRBA Liaisons

Brian Chewning	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mark Gaikowski	U.S. Geological Survey
Sabrina Chandler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Virtual)

Others in Attendance

Kirk Hansen	Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Virtual)
Randy Schultz	Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Virtual)
Jess Althoff	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Vanessa Perry	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Ken Henderson	Missouri Department of Agriculture
Bob Bacon	Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Brenda Kelly	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Virtual)
Jayson Schrank	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Virtual)
Mike Halsted	Wisconsin Department of Transportation (Virtual)
Anne Prestwood	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
Thatch Shepard	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
Jim Cole	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
Jeff Varisco	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
LeeAnn Riggs	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD (Virtual)
Ann Banitt	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Angela Deen	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Nathan Wallerstedt	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Col. Jesse Curry	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Ken Barr	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR (Virtual)
Andrew Goodall	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR (Virtual)

Kim Thomas	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR (Virtual)
Daniel Meden	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Karen Hagerty	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Rachel Hawes	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR (Virtual)
Marshall Plumley	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Julie Millhollin	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Davi Michl	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Greg Kohler	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS (Virtual)
Brian Markert	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Brian Johnson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Planning Division North
Richard Vaughn	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS (Virtual)
Jason Daniels	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 (Virtual)
Amy Shields	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 (Virtual)
Aleshia Kenney	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Virtual)
Lauren Larson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Virtual)
Kraig McPeek	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Virtual)
Laura Muzal	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Virtual)
Sara Schmuecker	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Virtual)
JC Nelson	U.S. Geological Survey (Virtual)
Olivia LeDee	U.S. Geological Survey, Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (Virtual)
Jennifer Dieck	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC (Virtual)
Steve Buan	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NWS
Craig Schmidt	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NWS
Maren Stoflet	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NWS (Virtual)
Zac McEachran	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NWS
Olivia Dorothy	American Rivers (Virtual)
Kim Lutz	America's Watershed Initiative (Virtual)
Lindsay Brice	Audubon (Virtual)
Brent Newman	Audubon
Anshu Singh	Corn Belt Ports (Virtual)
Paul Dierking	HDR Engineering
Gary Loss	HNTB
Fritz Funk	Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District
Haley Gambill	Louisiana Sea Grant (Virtual)
Doug Daigle	Lower Mississippi River Sub-Basin Committee (Hypoxia Task Force) (Virtual)
Rick Stoff	Our Mississippi (Virtual)
Lisa Hiebert	City of St. Paul, Public Works
Rick Schute	St. Paul Emergency Management
Bryan Hopkins	The Nature Conservancy
Ashley Peters	University of Minnesota, IonE
Melissa Kenney	University of Minnesota, IonE
Rachel Curry	University of Illinois
Witold Krajewski	University of Iowa
Tom Boland	Unaffiliated
Paul Rhode	Waterways Council, Inc.
Kirsten Wallace	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Mark Ellis	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Natalie Lenzen	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

Lauren Salvato	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Erin Spry	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Andrew Stephenson	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Brian Stenquist	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Samuel Hund	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

Minutes

Jim Fischer moved and Patrick Phenow seconded a motion to approve the draft minutes of the February 28, 2023 UMRBA quarterly meeting as provided in the agenda packet. The motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Kirsten Wallace announced that U.S. Geological Survey recently named Mark Gaikowski to serve as its federal liaison to UMRBA. Wallace acknowledged Gaikowski's longstanding partnership with UMRBA and extended a welcome on behalf of the UMRBA Board.

Wallace pointed to the Executive Director's report in the agenda packet for a summary of the Association's work efforts since the February 2023 meeting. Wallace elaborated on the following highlights and action items:

- The regional partnership was acknowledged and celebrated through the ASA(CW) Michael Connor's tour of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program's Beaver Island habitat project and ground breakings of the Upper Pool 4 habitat restoration project, and the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program's groundbreaking ceremonies for the Lock 14 mooring cells, L&D 22 fish passage, and L&D 25 second, 1,200-foot lock modernization.
    - The Upper Pool 4 project was one of ten projects selected across the nation under a pilot program for exploring beneficial use of dredged material authorized in Section 1122 of the Water Infrastructure Investment for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016.
- UMRBA submitted requests for funding of UMRR, NESP, flow frequency studies, and the Gulf Hypoxia Program. This included briefings with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and Congressional offices as well as submitting formal requests through online portals available through Congressional delegation within the Upper Mississippi River basin states. Wallace pointed to the agenda packet as well as UMRBA's website to view the appropriations request letters.
- On March 2, 2023, UMRBA and Waterways Council co-hosted a bicameral, non-partisan briefing among Congressional staff for the purposes of informing new members about NESP and getting all staff to coalesce around a FY 2024 appropriation request of $120 million for NESP. UMRBA presented on the overall program history, dual purpose authorization, the FY 2023 planned program, and the FY 2024 appropriation request. Waterways Council and The Nature Conservancy provided specific information about the navigation and ecosystem investments, respectively.
- On April 7, 2023, the UMRBA Water Quality Executive Committee submitted a letter to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) providing suggestions for improving NRCS's Mississippi River Basin Health Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) and the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). Wallace pointed to the agenda packet as well as UMRBA's website to view the comment letter.

- On March 21-23, 2023, USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (UMESC) hosted at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. The purpose was to inform and inspire collaborative project opportunities centered on nature-based solutions to reduce impacts from extreme precipitation events in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The workshop was funded by the Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center. UMRBA staff served as a workshop project advisor and participated in the workshop.
- UMRBA attended several forums held by governmental and nongovernmental entities, including the following:
  - Rep. Betty McCollum's March 16, 2023 "State of our River: Mississippi River Dialogue" forum.
  - Inland Waterways Users Board (IWUB)'s April 13, 2023 quarterly meeting.
  - USACE's Beneficial Use Work Group May 5, 2023 meeting.
  - National Integrated Drought Information System's (NIDIS's) Executive Council April 27, 2023 meeting.
  - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's March 1, 2023 Ag-Urban Partnership Forum.
  - USEPA's March 9, 2023 National Fish Forum.
  - MRCTI's March 2, 2023 reception.
  - Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) co-hosted with the National Water Supply Alliance the Annual Roundtable on April 4-5, 2023 and Water Policy Summit on April 5, 2023.

Wallace recognized the contributions of the USACE UMRS Districts for their work in hosting the several high-profile events. Col. Jesse Curry noted that the ASA(CW) Connor's remarks at the two NESP groundbreaking ceremonies underscored the strength of the Upper Mississippi River System partnership.

Wallace pointed to UMRBA's January 2023 to March 2023 financial statements provided on pages B-23 to B-27 of the agenda packet. Tim Hall moved and Jim Fischer seconded the motion to accept the Association's budget report and balance sheet as included in the agenda packet. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rick Pohlman provided a brief summary of the Association's estimates for income and expenses in FY 2024 as well as major assumptions. The proposed FY 2024 budget for the Association projects a net income of $5,400. Matt Vitello moved and Grant Wilson seconded a motion to approve the Association's FY 2024 budget as provided to the UMRBA Board on May 9, 2023.

Wallace provided an overview of the planning support from Meeting Challenges to UMRBA. Meeting Challenges is owned by Brian Stenquist, who has a long history of serving in the Upper Mississippi River Partnership. Stenquist recently retired from Minnesota DNR, which had volunteered Stenquist's personnel time to various river-related initiatives. Meeting Challenges will assist UMRBA in advancing its strategic initiatives. Tim Hall moved and Jim Fischer seconded a motion to approve Kirsten Wallace to enter into a contract with Meeting Challenges for up to $100,000 over the FY 2024 fiscal year.

Wallace explained the opportunity provided by USGS Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center to provide entities with funding to advance an important element that would help to advance nature-based solutions to extreme precipitation. In response, Grant Wilson moved and Matt Vitello seconded a motion

to authorize Kirsten Wallace to execute a cooperative agreement with USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center for up to $50,000 to a) develop objectives, prioritization criteria, evaluation metrics, and learning questions related to floodplain reconnection and b) act as the fiscal agent and transfer funds for projects of $15,000 each implemented by America's Watershed Initiative and American Farmland Trust. The Board understands that acting as the fiscal agent to those two organizations does not involve project oversight or any type of variance power or control.

April 2023 Train Derailment in Wisconsin

Jayson Schrank provided a detailed report of the interagency response to the April 27, 2023 BNSF train derailment and spill located in the backwaters of the Mississippi River south of Desoto, Wisconsin. Shrank said photo images indicate that the track bed was washed out, and was likely the cause of the derailment. He pointed out that several videos posted on social media showed trains running through water in areas along the river before the derailment. According to Shrank, the videos provide evidence that measures could have taken to prevent the derailment.

By May 1, 2023, the recovery efforts were mostly complete. A barge was used to help remove materials from the river, including two containers that had previously floated downriver.

Schrank explained the response challenges to this specific derailment as follows:

- Shipping documents were incomplete and not necessarily indicative of the materials contained in the railcars. Recovery teams learned that the cars contained lithium-ion batteries, paint, and freight of all kinds (FAK), including cat food, sushi, powdered coffee creamer, and other consumer goods. Diesel fuel was likely to leak from the refrigerated cars as they sat overturned. Schrank shared photos of the site that included microplastics, floating debris, and strips of plastic.
- Floodwaters created unique dynamics. High water conditions filled the ditch on the eastern side of the rail, creating difficult conditions for crews to reach the spill site and lengthening response time.

Shrank noted that the backwater areas in this stretch of the river are important for fish and wildlife. On April 28, 2023, Wisconsin DNR and USEPA were able to employed a skirt boom in the backwater area and relocated fish, which were observed as being harmed by the polluted materials.

Ann Banitt said railroad embankments are not constructed to levee standards. According to Banitt, railroad companies should inspect the railroad If and when the Mississippi River is forecasted to exceed a certain discharge. Banitt also suggested that there be consideration to designating a threshold for when to stop railroad traffic due to high water levels or discharge, noting that the Mississippi River closes to navigation at certain high flow rates.

Wallace noted that UMRBA has invited Canadian Pacific to provide a report during UMRBA's August 8, 2023 quarterly meeting. Of particular interest is the projected traffic increases nearby the Mississippi River as a result of the Canadian Pacific and Kansas City railroads. In addition, UMRBA Mapping and Spills Program Director Mark Ellis will be provide a report on interagency spills response planning.

Upper Mississippi River 2023 Flooding Conditions Management Responses

Conditions

Craig Schmidt presented conditions of the 2023 spring flood of the Upper Mississippi River Basin. A large snowpack, a delayed thaw, and rapidly increasing temperatures in late spring were the primary factors that shaped the 2023 flood.

Long range outlooks changed dramatically as the snowpack expanded over the winter, with snow accumulating into April as temperatures increased. As the flooding began, NWS published ten-day probabilistic forecasts of river conditions on their webpage. Schmidt explained that the NWS North Central River Forecast Center (NCRFC) works with the Hydrologic Ensemble Forecasting System (HEFS) to forecast upcoming conditions. Their primary focus was placed on major flooding downstream of St. Paul, Minnesota.

The flood was most severe at forecast locations from St. Paul through Rock Island. Schmidt explained that dry conditions leading into winter reduced the severity of the spring flood as well as the timing of certain rainfalls and thaw events. Early and frequent communication also helped to initiate mitigation measures early in the season.

Management Responses

Rick Pholman observed that advanced warning was critical to the 2023 flood response. The state of Illinois was able to deploy a few teams with drones in the field prior to flooding. The drones provided the ability to continuously update inundation maps to a GIS viewer, which was shared with emergency response personnel. High water marks were recorded and shared with the Corps and also uploaded to the GIS viewer.

Col. Jesse Curry said the predictability of the 2023 flood event granted the Rock Island District with a unique opportunity to deploy over 100 employees in flood mitigation. The District is addressing vulnerabilities throughout the system learned from this flood event.

Jim Fischer stated that one of the impacts of more frequent high water events is rail safety. A small, localized rain event washed out a bridge and caused the derailment in Wisconsin. Insights gained from these events should be incorporated into planning for future resilience approaches. Sabrina Chandler stated there are too many instances of derailments during flood events. Chandler asserted that these incidents can be avoided by having a protocol to inspect track conditions or halt traffic during these events.

Case Studies: Local Planning

<u>City of St. Paul</u>

Rick Schute underscored that collaboration, communication, and coordination are all important for the success of emergency management. The citywide objectives for flooding are to maintain safety for city staff and citizens, restore the city to pre-flood design, function, and capacity, and to identify mitigation activities to ensure economic recovery at large. Communication of the river's condition is widespread during a flood event; the city uses media, city social media channels, navigation apps, emails to property owners, and a flood alert banner on all pages of the city website.

In response to a question from Lauren Salvato, Schute explained that city parks along the river are designed to be flooded to accommodate the river as much as possible.

Fort Snelling State Park

Fort Snelling State Park spans three Minnesota counties at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. Jess Althoff said the flood response team is made up of park managers, Hennepin County Emergency Management, Metropolitan Airports Commission, NWS, and the Hennepin Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The Fort Snelling State Park flood response plan relies on gage heights in the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers as "decision points" at which pre-determined actions are taken to protect the park infrastructure. Closing the park requires a commissioner's order and notification of partner organizations and agencies, press releases, and notification of the Governor's office. After action reviews provide the intergovernmental team to evaluate the flood management process, wherein the partnership evaluates the effectives of actions, identifies and assesses unforeseen challenges, updates the flood response plan, and updates materials and equipment for the next flood event.

Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology (CIROH)

Overview

Melissa Kenney explained that NOAA cooperative institutes are academic and not-for-profit research institutions that collectively work to advance NOAA's mission and goals. CIROH's research themes include water prediction and workflows, water data science and hydro informatics, community resilience and community water modeling. CIROH's research portfolio includes 98 projects with over $87.9 million in funding. Kenney said some of CIROH's planned work may not be fully deployed in the coming year because of limited funding available.

CIROH Members and Partners in the Upper Mississippi River Basin

University of Iowa

Witold Krajewski announced that the Iowa Institute for Hydraulic Research (IIHR) recently launched the new Center for Hydrologic Development, which, in part, will be supported through CIROH. The Center for Hydrologic Development's planned projects through its CIROH program include novel physically-based streamflow monitoring methodology, artificial intelligence augmented immersive visual analytics frameworks, assessment of the National Water Model (NWM) channel routing models for streamflow data assimilation, examination of the value of the NOAA Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts for streamflow processing, and assimilating USGS Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS) hydrologic measurements for streamflow prediction.

University of Minnesota

Kenney reported that the University of Minnesota's CIROH program is being housed in its Institute on the Environment (IonE). Kenney provided an update on IonE's pilot project with NOAA and UMRBA, which includes a social science component and a hard sciences component focused on downscale climate modeling for the Upper Mississippi River basin.

Zac McEachran explained that the downscale climate model is being built to generate a 90-year projection of climate for the region. The goal of this dataset is to inform future basin flow conditions that are used to inform community-based decision making with respect to their resilience. McEachran explained the new analysis that might generate better knowledge of the relative contribution of land use change and climate change divers across the basin.

Kenney explained that the community engagement team is identifying unique stakeholder populations in the region, focusing on identifying low income, marginalized, and indigenous communities. This work will inform expansion of a new decision support system and will help in improving hydrologic decision support visualizations.

Federal Fiscal Reports

UMRBA federal agency partners reported on their respective federal FYs 2023 and 2024 budgets, including how the Administration's priorities for climate resilience and environmental justice are being applied. Key highlights are listed below, accompanied by links to their respective budget documents.

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Anna Prestwood explained the various ongoing and planned workload for Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), which has increased tremendously as a result of supplemental funding from Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (2022) and disaster supplemental measures in (2019, 2022, and 2023) in addition to regular appropriations. As an example, MVD received $1.3 billion in FY 2024 alone.

Prestwood detailed the budget impact from the low water event of 2022, which required funding from multiple sources to address dredging, new dike construction, and river channel stabilization. In response to a question from Jim Fischer, Prestwood said increasing costs of dredging material management and placement are being incorporated into out-year budget estimates.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Jason Daniels reported that the annual appropriations, and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and Inflation Reduction Act have substantially increased resources to USEPA's programs and projects. USEPA's hiring ceiling allowing for more personnel capability to implement the funding.

The President's FY 2024 Budget proposes increases in funding for the Section 319 (nonpoint source) and Section 109 (pollution control) grant programs as well as the clean water and drinking water state revolving funds. Daniels cautioned that the clean water state revolving fund involves highly complex requirements and advised state agencies to consult with their respective USEPA contacts when applying for funding. USEPA has water technical assistance services that are available to provide technical support for the application process to assist communities applying for federal funding,

The FY 2024 USEPA budget proposal is available at: https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/cj. Annual allotment of federal funds for states, tribes, and territories is available at: https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/annual-allotment-federal-funds-states-tribes-and-territories

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Sabrina Chandler explained USFWS's eight principles for implementing its responsibilities through the America the Beautiful initiative, as follows:

a) Pursuing a collaborative and inclusive approach to conservation
b) Conserving America's Lands and Waters for the Benefit of All People
c) Supporting locally-led and locally-designed conservation efforts
d) Honoring tribal sovereignty and supporting the priorities of tribal nations
e) Pursuing conservation and restoration approaches that create jobs and support healthy communities
f) Honoring private property rights and supporting the voluntary stewardship efforts of private landowners and fishers
g) Using science as a guide
h) Building on existing tools and strategies with an emphasis on flexibility and adaptive approaches

The President's FY 2024 budget proposes $2.0 billion in nondiscretionary authorities and $4.1 billion in the discretionary spending. Chandler clarified that the implications to regional budgets are unknown at this time.

Chandler reported that USFWS has allocated funding from the Inflation Reduction Act to three priorities in the Midwest, one of which allocates $10 million for nature-based solutions in the Upper Mississippi River System floodplain.

The FY 2024 USFWS budget proposal is available at: https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fy2024-fws-greenbook.pdf-508.pdf

U.S. Geological Survey

Mark Gaikowski announced that USGS appointed Jennifer Lacey as the Midcontinent Regional Director. The President's FY 2024 budget of $1.8 billion for USGS prioritizes the agency's work related to climate resilience for communities and ecosystems, key conservation and management issues, drought resilience in the west, and other opportunities for management. Of the $1.8 billion, allocations to its main mission areas are $4.95 million for ecosystems, $313.4 million for water, and $316.8 million for core science.

The FY 2024 USGS budget proposal is available at: https://www.usgs.gov/bpi/usgs-fy2024-budget.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Steve Buan said NOAA is currently investing $97 million in upgrading and servicing weather radars over federal FYs 2023 and 2024. NOAA's Office of Water Prediction will release a new generation of flood inundation mapping information showing flooding extents at street level starting in the fall of 2023. Data will be first available on the coasts, but the tool will become available to Missouri and Illinois in 2024.

The President's FY 2024 budget proposal requests $6.8 billion for NOAA, of which $1.38 billion is proposed to be allocated to the National Weather Service. The funding to the National Weather Service would advance the Administration's priorities related to delivery of weather-related forecasts and warnings.

The FY 2024 NOAA budget proposal is available at: https://www.noaa.gov/organization/budget-finance-performance/budget-and-reports.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS

Richard Vaughn said the Inflation Reduction Act provided unprecedented funding levels that will supplement annual appropriations for several of NRCS's existing programs for over a five-year timeframe starting in FY 2023. The Administration's priority for improving soil carbon, reducing nitrogen losses, and the reducing, capturing, avoiding, or sequestering carbon dioxide, methane or nitrous oxide emissions associated with agricultural production.

The FY 2024 USDA budget is available at: https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/budget.

Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP)

Andrew Goodall reported that the NESP Coordinating Committee (NESP CC) meeting is scheduled to convene its next quarterly meeting on June 28, 2023 in East Moline.

On May 18, 2023, NESP celebrated two groundbreaking events for the L&D 22 fish passage project and the second, 1,200-foot chamber at L&D 25. Goodall extended appreciation to Corps staff and the partnership for the success of those events.

Goodall announced that the Corps received $18.379 million for the ecosystems program in the FY 2023 work plan. This funding will support $5 million for additional project development (including partner funding), $4.379 million for L&D 22 fish passage construction and monitoring, and $4.5 million in project implementation report data collection. In response to a question from Kirsten Wallace, Goodall said strategic planning for NESP would be among the work supported through the FY 2023 work plan allocation. In response to a question from Wallace, Goodall confirmed that MVD has not yet delegated authority of the partner funding agreements to the Rock Island District. Goodall anticipates that delegated authority soon.

Goodall reported that the Corps is advancing design and pre-solicitation activities for the second, 1,200-foot lock chamber at L&D 25. In March 2024, the Corps plans to award early contractor involvement-integrated design and construction (ECI-IDaC) award. It is currently anticipated that the lock construction would be complete in October 2034. Goodall explain that there is a scour hole located in the construction area that is 60- to 80-foot-deep that needs to be addressed prior to construction.

Physical modeling is ongoing at ERDC to test lock configurations for the new 1,200-foot chamber at the La Grange L&D. Design work is planned to be complete by the end of the fiscal year. The first construction contractor industry day is planned for July 2023.

Priorities for NESP in FY 2024 include construction of seven new mooring cells and the initial construction contract for La Grange L&D. Ecosystem priorities include completion of the L&D 22 fish passage project, continued project planning and design on several projects, partner funding, and programmatic activities. Jim Fischer asked when the NESP Coordinating Committee might initiate strategic planning with state partners. Goodall stated that strategic planning will a topic raised to the NESP Coordinating Committee during its June 28 meeting.

Other Business

Partner Recognition

On behalf of the UMRBA Board, Kirsten Wallace recognized and thanked Karen Hagerty for her tremendous contributions to the Upper Mississippi River Basin through her work on the Upper Mississippi River Restoration program's long term resource monitoring. Hagerty is scheduled to retire in July 2023 after more than 20 years of service in the basin.

Future Meeting Schedule

August 2023 – La Crosse, Wisconsin

- UMRBA Quarterly Meeting – August 8
- UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – August 9

October 2023 – St. Louis, Missouri

- UMRBA Quarterly Meeting – October 24
- UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – October 25

February 2024 – Virtual

- UMRBA Quarterly Meeting – February 24
- UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – February 25

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.