

# UMR Hazardous Spills Coordination Group

Spring Meeting: April 4, 2023

*National Great Rivers Museum, 2 Lock and Dam Way, East Alton, IL*

Mark Ellis welcomed the group and began introductions, noting that the group would talk about how to proceed with filling the Chair role at the end of the meeting. The group then approved the minutes from the November 2022 meeting.

## UMR Spill Response Plan update:

Ellis provided background and context for the plan update. The group first developed a strategic plan, then began work with its top priority activity, updating the plan. Prior to the November 2022 meeting, members began the signatory process. As of April 4, 2023, all five states, USFWS, and USACE have signed the Spill Response Plan Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Joe Davis said that USEPA Region 7 Regional Administrator was reviewing the plan for approval. He expects approval soon. Barbi Lee said USEPA Region 5's legal department was reviewing the plan, but approval is delayed because staff have been busy with the derailment in East Palestine, OH. However, she expects the plan will be signed soon. Andy Maguire added that he spoke to the USEPA Region 5 attorney, who said she is not accustomed to the process because most plans are signed by the On-Scene Coordinators (OSC). Mike Sams of USCG had notified Ellis by email that the plan was in its final step and would be delivered soon. *(Note: the signed MOU was received from USCG on April 6.)*

## Agency and Partner Updates:

*Illinois:* Tony Falconio reported that Illinois EPA is also seeing staff turnover due to retirements. One new OSC started just yesterday at the Des Plaines office and Falconio has received notice that another will be leaving his position soon. The most tenured OSC covering the Chicago area will have a mere one year of experience.

Falconio said that there was an explosion in January 2023 at the Carus Chemical Company that left purple residue and particles over a wide area. This incident will be presented in detail at the April 5 Joint RRT 5/7 meeting in St. Charles, MO.

*Minnesota:* Mike Rose of MPCA said there were three train derailments over the past week, one of which involved a hazmat release. The state Duty Officer got a call early on Thursday about a derailment of ethanol tanker cars and a fire in Raymond. David Morrison of USEPA was the first regulator at the scene. Notification of MPCA was inexplicably overlooked by the Duty Officer. An agency administrator saw a report of the BNSF derailment on the news and notified staff. Two OSCs mobilized that morning.

David Morrison added that the cars were still on fire when he arrived at the scene. The fire chief did not want to draw too much from the municipal water supply, so mutual aid was activated from 26 different fire departments in the area. An evacuation order was made to move residents away from the scene. Morrison suggested that opening a Unified Command (UC) would take a lot of responsibility off the chief's shoulders. Due to the high-profile derailment in East Palestine OH, this event was watched very closely. Not only was media reporting on the scene, but members of congress, the National

Transportation Safety Board Chairman, and Federal Railroad Administration and Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration representatives came to the site. Responders separated burning rail cars away from the remaining derailed cars to prevent the fire from spreading. The fire burned for two days. The evacuation order was lifted the next day. Overall, response efforts were well coordinated. Morrison said that once UC was set up, communications ran well.

Reena Bowman was surprised that she did not get any notification about the derailment. This highlighted further the need to improve notification processes. Ellis said there were past incidents during which the Refuges were not notified, but never the Field Offices. Morrison said that may have been his oversight. BNSF had gathered information about sensitive species in the area; he said he'd not questioned if they had actually spoken to USFWS staff. Andy Maguire checked the NRC report and said there was nobody from the Department of the Interior on the recipient list.

Rick Gann asked if the state's legislation ([Minnesota Statute 115E](#)) regarding pre-planning and preparedness was helpful? Morrison confirmed that it was. Rose agreed, particularly within the language requiring railroads to provide specific timetables for work and having representatives on site. That played a big part, as well as the Homeland Security Emergency Management training for local responders going on around the state. Rose said that there is currently a bill being considered in the Minnesota legislature with language to bridge gaps left by the original legislation. He added that the derailed tanker cars were double-lined modern cars as required by statute.

Matt Stokes asked if the National Response Center is supposed to contact all federal stakeholders? Joe Davis said no, notification is dependent on the type of response and what each agency has requested for notifications. If one wants to be notified, they must contact the NRC to clarify in what geography they would like to receive notification. Stokes asked if the legal requirements for notification are the affected state(s) and the NRC? Morrison confirmed that this is true for industry; however, regulatory agencies will have further requirements.

*Missouri:* Rick Gann reported that Missouri has not had any large incidents and none that have impacted the Mississippi River substantially. He said the Missouri DNR recently hired three new state OSCs.

Illinois EPA will be holding a TRIPR training on April 20, 2023, at the Conoco-Phillips refinery in Roxana, IL. Falconio has been working with USEPA staff to develop a training scenario involving the Mississippi River. A link to the registration can be found on the [TransCAER website](#).

*Wisconsin:* Jayson Schrank said that Wisconsin DNR does not have any significant updates to report.

*USEPA Region 5:* David Morrison said USEPA Region 5 has been very busy with the East Palestine train derailment. All regions have rotated OSCs in to support the response. Norfolk Southern Railway has dug up and replaced the south track and will do the same with the north track. This incident will be presented in detail at the April 5 Joint RRT 5/7 meeting in St. Charles, MO. Barbi Lee added that there are some rule changes regarding Facility Response Plans (FRP) in the works, but the agency is heavily focused on this response right now. Andy Maguire noted that waste disposal has been problematic because some handlers were not accepting waste due to the politicized situation. He thinks cleanup would be much further along without this problem. Ellis said that the UMRBA states have asked for a rail representative to talk to them about safety issues that have been highlighted by the recent spate of derailments, noting how this illustrates how quickly this situation moved up the political chain.

Barbi Lee said the regional Biological Evaluation has been completed. The document has been added to the rrt5.org library at <https://rrt5.org/Tools/BiologicalEvaluation.aspx>. Sarah Bowman said she believes USFWS is waiting for the formal request for consultation on the document, after which the agency will review the document and respond.

*USEPA Region 7:* Joe Davis said the Keystone Pipeline failure in Kansas was a big incident USEPA Region 7 handled over the winter. On December 9, 2022, there was a failure in the TC Energy pipeline that released 688,000 gallons of Canadian tar sands into Mill Creek. Fortunately, it was cold, which prevented the oil from spreading far; oil spread about four miles downstream. Washington County workers were able to build an underflow dam in the early hours of response to contain its spread. Traditional methods of using vac trucks and skimmers to collect the oil were ineffectual because the oil was too thick and hardened. Instead, long-stick excavators were brought in to dig the oil out of the creek. To reduce flow, the creek was diverted with pumps through a 36-inch pipe to below the underflow dam. Muddy site conditions were made drivable by use of thousands of wooden mats across the response site. Davis said the cleanup phase has been completed and the response has moved to restoration. He feels this would be a good case study to use in Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) training.

Davis said that the agency has had several train derailments, but none with large releases. With the IJJA funding that came in, Region 7 has hired new staff including OSCs, managers, and a planner within the oil program. Joe Krauska added that the recent SCAT training helped the new OSCs during the Keystone Pipeline incident. New staff have also taken Incident Command System (ICS) and other training courses to get up to speed.

*USCG:* MSTC Allie Lee reported that the USCG Sector UMR has not had any significant releases since the last meeting. A potential release involved two barges carrying anhydrous ammonia that were pinned against Lock & Dam 25 on the Mississippi River. A tug was brought in and was able to pull the barges clear without releasing any material.

Lee said Sector UMR will hold a Government-Initiated Unannounced Exercise (GIUE) in May at a facility in the Saint Louis area. The facility will be on the Missouri side of the river but has not been chosen yet. Joe Davis noted that USEPA is interested in holding joint GIUEs with USCG. Barbi Lee said USEPA Region 5 holds them with USCG District 9 on the Great Lakes and would be keen to partner with USCG along the Mississippi River when a facility in Illinois is chosen.

MSTC Ryan Erpelding reported that USCG MSD St. Paul will hold a GIUE on May 15 with USEPA Region 5. He invited Minnesota responders to contact him if they are interested in also taking part.

Staff will rotate to other locations in June, including Lee and Erpelding. Mark Ellis thanked them for their contributions to the UMR Spills Group.

*USFWS:* Sarah Bowman said USFWS had no updates to report.

*USACE:* Jeff McCrery said the Corps has no major updates. There were some small incidents including a sunken snowmobile at Coralville Lake. The snowmobile is still at the bottom of the lake and Corps staff monitor daily for any fuel leaks. The driver estimates around 5 gallons of fuel were in the tank at the time of the sinking. So far there has been no sheen observed. Once all the ice is thawed, staff will remove the snowmobile from the water. The second incident involved a contracted semi pulling

concrete mats used for shoreline protection that overturned, spilling approximately 5 gallons of diesel. The operator took action to clean up the spill and none of the fuel reached the river.

*Industry:* Matt Stokes said that CP Railway recently held a response contractor symposium in Bloomington, MN. Contractors from across the country attended the event. In addition to talking about how to properly handle necessary paperwork, attendees evaluated past response events to determine what went well and how they could have been improved. CP has an agreement for acquisition of Kansas City Southern Railroad that will result in a combined railroad. As a result, rail traffic is expected to increase significantly along the UMR.

Stokes also provided an update for Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER) groups along the river. Wakota CAER, located in Minnesota, held an ice response training that included rescue training during icy conditions. USEPA Region 5 and USCG MSD St. Paul took part in the event.

Red Wing CAER (Hastings, MN to Prairie du Chien, WI) will work to set up a Mutual Aid Agreement with a new CAER group taking form in La Crosse, WI. Stokes expressed approval of the wider group of first responders who will be better prepared in the area because of the CAER group activities. He noted that Red Wing CAER has struggled to deal with the pressure on industry during Covid-19 while still working to meet group goals. CAER leadership has shifted from Brian Schmidt of Xcel Energy to Mike Wilson, Mayor of Red Wing. The mayor and staff met with Red Wing CAER last month to develop meeting strategies. The group decided to hold quarterly meetings that include an exercise or deployment. There was decent participation from members in the recent online SCAT training. Stokes has been working to involve County Emergency Managers, as well.

Dubuque CAER and Quad Cities CAER hold back-to-back meetings to reduce the cost of mobilizing contractors for training events held with the meetings. A marine transfer facility in Dubuque will hold a worst-case discharge functional exercise this year. Joe Davis of USEPA Region 7 gave an online SCAT training on January 19, 2023; the group would like to organize a SCAT training on the river. Stokes will keep the UMR Spills Group informed as plans are made. Ellis reminded attendees that the UMR Spills Group's strategic plan includes supporting industry-led exercises. He will connect with Stokes about how the UMR Spills Group can support this event. Stokes added that he would also like to make newer CAER group members aware of existing plans and supporting materials that are available.

#### NRC Reports:

Mark Ellis distributed a list of NRC reports for incidents that potentially impacted the Mississippi River. Allie Lee said that in the fueling tug incident on February 10, most of the fuel was spilled inside the vessel with only a small amount reaching the river.

#### Strategic Plan:

Mark Ellis started by summarizing activities the group has completed in the past year. The primary goal (Objective 1.A) of the spill response plan is to update the UMR Spill Response Plan and Resource Manual, which was completed in August 2022. The signatory process is almost finished as noted above. As a part of the plan update, the group formalized notification processes (Objective 2.A). Hearing earlier about MPCA not being notified of the train derailment in Minnesota and USFWS not hearing about the incident at all, Ellis suggested the topic could be explored again in 2023, to determine if further improvements could be made to the notification system. Joe Davis said that at a recent USEPA Region 7 meeting, a

representative of the National Response Center presented. The group agreed that having such a presentation would be very helpful. Davis will find a contact at NRC who could present the NRC system.

Ellis said that reviewing existing agreements was also a part of the plan update and that no new agreement needs were identified. The group will formalize agreements (Objective 2.B) should the need arise. He said to keep this in mind as members go about their work.

Last year we supported BP Pipeline's internal exercise in Niota, IL. We also helped spread the word about the Quad Cities-focused January 19 virtual SCAT training mentioned above.

Looking ahead to 2023, Ellis listed the applicable goals from the strategic plan that members can consider for this year's activities. The highest priority, last discussed in the fall, is to maintain existing UMR Pool Spill Response Plans (SRP, Objective 1.B). Ellis can update all contact information for all SRPs.

We could also decide to revisit site-specific response strategies on the water. Ellis talked to Brenda Kelly of Wisconsin DNR, who took the idea to the river teams who work on habitat restoration projects along the river. The river teams could provide input on any areas where projects have been completed. Though it was not a consideration when choosing Pools to develop SRPs, almost all have been chosen after a habitat project has been completed. The SRP for Pool 9 requires an update, due to completion of the island building within the pool. The area needing revisiting is one mile of river length near the split into Harper's Slough, where the river bends. Flooding later washed out the islands, which are now being rebuilt by USACE. Ellis thinks this is the only area that would need to be revisited to verify or create new response strategies. He will reach out to Iowa DNR, Wisconsin DNR, and USFWS to talk about this.

Ellis said another priority goal is to develop new SRPs where none exist (Objective 1.C). The group can talk later about where there is interest and staff are available to fill plan gaps. His priority for 2023 is to complete the field reconnaissance of sites in Pools 25 and 26, which has been delayed several times.

Other possible activities include creating a standardized after-action report (Objective 2.D). This was requested by Illinois EPA because the state did not have a standard report template. At least two of the states have their own templates, but we could still develop one as a resource for use by anyone in the group. Tony Falconio plans to discuss this during the Joint RRT 5/7 meeting. Illinois EPA had no such document, so Falconio developed one on his own. He suggested adding the document to the Mississippi River Viewer so that users could click on a point to open a report. Nick Goeke said this would be possible. Ellis suggested the group start looking at design ideas for a template. Matt Stokes said he has used metrics associated with HSEEP Core Capabilities, which could be a good base for starting a template.

Ellis noted that finding new funding sources should always be in the back of members' minds to further the initiatives of the group (Objective 4A).

The goal to support a Mississippi River Data Viewer is now possible (Objective 5.A). Nick Goeke announced the viewer is now live. The viewer has extensive data, tools, and reporting functions that can be used in planning and response situations. Members expressed interest in holding an online training in the future to learn about the viewer's functionality.

Joe Davis agreed that holding training on the Mississippi River Viewer would be helpful to the group. It is currently linked through [www.epaossc.org](http://www.epaossc.org) on the relevant sub-area pages under Region 7. After some

discussion, Barbi Lee suggested also adding links to the Region 5 pages with a similar process for granting access. Matt Stokes said the viewer would be of interest to the CAER groups.

Another goal to review is adopting climate change policies (Objective 5.B). This was added as a lower-priority goal so that we have a stated aim to ensure this group works consistently with its members as they develop climate change policies or targets.

Mike Rose reminded the group to consider strategic plan priorities for the different objectives. This can help with our goals and planning for this year; we can choose activities and see if we have resources to meet those goals. Ellis will share the list of goals and their priorities with the group.

#### Response Strategy Development:

Mark Ellis presented an outline of the process followed to develop response strategies along the UMR. Once a UMR Pool is chosen, Ellis begins with stakeholder outreach. County Emergency Managers, state and federal resource trustees, tribal responders and trustees, regulatory agencies, and responders are invited to meet. Trustees identify areas in the Pool that need to be protected and responders suggest actions that could protect the resources. Ellis then uses the meeting feedback to update maps of the Pool with sensitive resources and draft response strategies. These are then used to organize field reconnaissance. During recon, field crews visit each strategy site to verify the suggested actions or to modify them based on conditions at the site. Once the field work is done, Ellis completes the Incident Action Plan (IAP), which includes Incident Command System (ICS) forms used in the first phase of response. The IAP is designed to reduce the time needed to get the response underway.

Ellis then shared a map showing progress of plan development along the UMR to date. Pools 5 through 13 cover the UMR National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. There are simple, generalized strategies for the Quad Cities. SRPs were also made for Pools 19-21 and 24. Strategies were recently revisited in the Greater St. Louis Sub-area. The red points shown on the map depict Pool 25 and part of Pool 26. Gaps include Pools 3-4, Pool 16-18, Pool 22, and the Great River Sub-area downstream of Saint Louis. This sub-area has plans in development.

It generally takes about four months from initial outreach to completing an SRP. For Pools 24-26, the work began in 2019 and is still not complete. Draft strategies were made, but flooding prevented any field recon that year. Then the pandemic broke out, which prevented people from gathering. In 2022 we were able to get folks from USEPA, USFWS, Missouri DNR, and Illinois DNR, together to complete Pool 24. In October 2022 we organized recon for Pools 25 and 26, but very high winds prevented us from launching boats. Participants were able to visit strategy sites along the banks of Pool 26 but the sites in the river remain unverified.

Ellis said he would like to organize another field recon this year to complete Pools 25 and 26. He will reach out to participants to identify dates in the summer to get on the river and complete the work. Joe Krauska asked if low water left any gaps in the recon done within the Greater St. Louis Sub-area last October. Ellis answered that there were two sites that were missed but the rest of the sites were visited. He added that Missouri DOC staff were unaware of the pallid sturgeon identified in those sites around 2009. He found some old correspondence showing that USFWS and Western Illinois University had been doing pallid sturgeon research, which may be why the Missouri and Illinois Fisheries staff were not aware

of the areas identified. Reena Bowman offered to take any specific pallid sturgeon questions to USFWS fisheries staff for clarification.

Nick Goeke shared details about the October 2022 recon planning in the Greater St. Louis and Great Rivers Sub-areas. Planning began in July with USCG and USEPA Regions 4, 5, and 7. In August, Tetra Tech reached out to state, local, and federal partners. This included a survey of staff and equipment availability. Tetra Tech then developed a recon trip scheduling website that Goeke showed attendees. Users can log in and see what recon events are on the calendar and what roles need to be filled. Roles include boat pilot, resource trustee, responder, and data collector. Each has a brief description to clarify what to expect in that role. Each event has a page listing the boat, roles, schedule, and participant contact information; other documents such as maps, safety messages, etc. can be added as downloadable attachments.

Once the organizer sets up an event, he can send invitations to participants requesting them to fill a role. Users can log in to browse upcoming events and may request a role as well. Ellis added that this can be very helpful when organizing a recon trip; several potential trips can be set up and users can then respond based on their availability. Once an event has its roles filled, a schedule reminder can be sent to the crew to set the date. Answering a question about mobile access, Goeke said that the scheduling site can be accessed through any web browser.

Goeke described the results of the 2022 recon trips. Three trips were completed within the Greater St. Louis Sub-area, covering 62 river miles from Melvin Price Lock & Dam to the southern boundary of Jefferson County. He thanked USCG for providing a boat and staff for all three trips.

Two recon trips, in Pools 25 and 26, were aborted due to high winds. Seven trips scheduled for the Great Rivers Sub-area were postponed due to very low water in the Mississippi River. Ellis noted that bank sites in Pool 26 were completed on land, but there are still some island sites to visit in the future.

During the recon trips, crews identified 32 sensitive environments, 12 pipeline crossings, eight water intakes, four facilities, and two outfalls. Response strategies were verified for 47 locations, including 19 exclusion sites, seven diversion sites, and 21 collection sites. Additionally, ten boat ramps or staging areas were identified. Crews took 133 photos of the sites. Tetra Tech GIS staff are currently working to compile the data and make sure it will display properly in the online data viewers.

Goeke shared details about an example recon location, National Maintenance and Repair at river mile 197 Left Descending Bank (LDB) in Hartford, IL. It is a natural collection area along the river, as shown in the woody debris along the bank. There is ample room for staging and good access to the bank for collection. The manager was very helpful and let the boat crew break for lunch at the facility. Landside the facility gate is next to two others, so photos were taken to clarify where responders would need to go in an incident.

Goeke talked about next steps to complete the work. This includes editing and quality control of data entered into the Survey123 forms by data collectors, verifying sensitive locations with trustees, and reviewing suggested booming strategies. Tetra Tech and USEPA will need to determine how to display the data in shared web viewers, as well.

Joe Davis commented that having boat access information is very helpful during a response. Low water can render some ramps unusable, leaving responders scrambling to find another place to put boats in

the water. Ellis noted that a recent change in the Inland Sensitivity Atlas (ISA) was to add data fields to the boat access layer to account for river stages at which the ramp becomes unusable. Users can note the lowest or highest stage and the gauge to check. UMRBA can only add data as users submit it; if you have data about a ramp, send it to Ellis for inclusion in the ISA. Currently this information has been collected for part of the Saint Louis area, southwest Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

#### Mapping and Planning Updates:

*USEPA Region 5:* Barbi Lee said USEPA Region 5 has not gone through the area contingency plan recently. A new oil response tactics query tool is now live on the rrt5.org website at <https://rrt5.org/Tools/OilResponseTactics.aspx>. The tool uses the contents of the Inland Response Tactics Manual and Submerged Oil Recovery Tactics documents and allows users to query specific techniques, media, or situations. Previously, these documents were in \*.pdf format and then moved to an \*.html version that linked to the Habitat Fact Sheets. This will be discussed more at the Joint RRT 5/7 meeting. A similar air monitoring tool is almost finished but must still be reviewed before making it available. Users will be able to query based on facility type, equipment type, or other categories.

Mark Ellis said the ISA update for Minnesota is complete except for hazardous materials facilities and aboveground storage tanks. Hazardous materials facilities are about 2/3 done. Illinois updates are underway, but Ellis does not expect them to be done before the end of 2023.

*Greater St. Louis Sub-area:* Joe Krauska introduced himself and said he is the new OSC for the sub-area. He recently transferred duties from Jessica Evans, who took a new position within USEPA Region 7. He has been busy studying and looks forward to being involved in the community. He added that the data Nick Goeke presented earlier is being integrated into data viewers now. Krauska will take part in the river reconnaissance presentation at the Joint RRT 5/7 meeting on April 6.

*Great Rivers Sub-area:* Sharon Kennedy said the sub-area plans have been updated this year. There will be a sub-area meeting soon, to which Nick Goeke will share an invitation once the date is set. The group will also be planning the river recon over the next few weeks.

*UMR Sub-area:* Mark Ellis said the group has been working on the river recon discussed earlier and outreach to industry about training and exercises. He will work to get the recon for Pools 25 and 26 complete this year. Andy Maguire added only that he is still working to get the plan signed.

*Quad Cities Sub-area:* Joe Davis said the sub-area is due for a plan update. It was last updated in 2020. The Mississippi River viewer and other items could be incorporated into the new version. The sub-area committee was historically made up of representatives of the federal and county government, but its role has largely shifted to the Quad Cities CAER group and Bettendorf Spill Cooperative. Davis has worked with Matt Stokes and Tony Houdyshell (of CP Railway) to hold training and exercises. He recommended bringing members of the sub-committee into the sub-area planning group.

*Minneapolis/St. Paul Sub-area:* David Morrison said there will tentatively be a sub-area meeting on May 8, but all details have yet to be decided. There will be an exercise in July with USCG that focuses on a cyber-attack on a Facility Response Plan (FRP) facility that resulted in a chemical release. Morrison said the sub-area is considering open water oil recovery in Pool 3. This area has sensitive wetlands with poor or no access on the Minnesota side and bluffs and railroad tracks on the Wisconsin side with no viable



collection sites. Existing plans instruct responders only to deflect spilled oil for downstream collection. Morrison would like to practice a collection strategy on the river.

### Other Business

Mark Ellis asked the group to consider the state chair role within the UMR Spills Group. He noted that he will still organize and run the group, but that having a state chair can help the group effectively meet members' needs. He asked Mike Rose to share his perspective on how having someone other than UMRBA chair the group is valuable and useful. Rose reminded the group about the strategic plan development; we sought a way to make meetings more meaningful to members. By doing so, we'd have an increased sense of engagement. We want to be able to execute the strategic plan, which identifies objectives we can achieve. Going forward, we want to make sure our work correlates with our objectives. Rose said that having a state chair is important because it relates closely to engagement. A state chair can coordinate work tasks to help us meet our objectives between meetings. Identifying resources available and what we can achieve can be done among the states and the federal partners. The chair can play a key role in following up and supporting the coordination process of UMRBA. The individual chairperson would necessarily be more engaged and act as a point person who could help the group choose and work toward our goals.

Ellis added that he is happy to keep the wheels turning and make sure the chair does not take on a heavy load. He noted that it is his job to coordinate the UMR Spills Group and recognized that everyone else takes part by extending their regular work to this forum.

Answering a question about the chair rotation, Ellis shared that the group's last rotations through Illinois and Wisconsin led to individuals who were new both to their jobs and to this group. We were faced with members who did not feel comfortable with chairing a group unknown to them. Reena Bowman asked if the chair has always been a state representative. Ellis confirmed that it has been, but we could consider a federal chair. Because UMRBA is an organization set up to support the states, this forum has always had a state chair. Joe Davis added that he thought the state level was right for the role. Ellis concurred, noting that a federal agency leading the group could potentially be seen as having control of the group. Rick Gann asked how other UMRBA-coordinated groups handle this? Ellis said staff typically fill a similar coordinator role, organizing meetings for established programs. The Water Quality committee is very similar to this group, with the states partnering with federal agencies. That group rotates through a state chair every two years. Gann said having a state chair is good because it encourages state involvement, which is a core purpose of the UMR Spills Group. Rose suggested looking at how the group historically handled the chair position as our starting point and why it was done that way. Ellis will read early meeting notes to find out what discussions took place and bring that back to the group to prompt discussion about how to move forward. Barbi Lee suggested setting up a call for the state members so that the past chairs could share their experience and insight with the newer members. Reena Bowman agrees with the comments about the importance of state involvement; there has been a lot of staff turnover at member agencies, so she likes the idea of bringing people into a conversation to clarify the importance of the chair role. Ellis agreed to set up a discussion with the state members as the next step after looking at the historical reasons for how the group was first set up.

Ellis will follow up with the group to set up a next meeting time and set up a schedule poll. We will look at early November for a virtual meeting.

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Attendees (in-person):

Rick Gann	Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources
Tony Falconio	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
MSTC Allie Lee	USCG Sector Upper Mississippi River
Barbi Lee	USEPA Region 5
David Morrison	USEPA Region 5
Joe Davis	USEPA Region 7
Anna Dismang	USEPA Region 7
Joe Krauska	USEPA Region 7
Nick Goeke	Tetra Tech
Mark Ellis	UMRBA

(online):

Mike Rose	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Jayson Schrank	Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Jeff McCrery	USACE Rock Island District
MSTC Ryan Erpelding	USCG MSD St. Paul
Andy Maguire	USEPA Region 5
Carol Ropski	USEPA Region 5
Sharon Kennedy	USEPA Region 7
Reena Bowman	USFWS
Sarah Bowman	USFWS
Aleshia Kenney	USFWS
Jeremy Bonikowski	Juneau Co. (WI) Emergency Mgmt.
Matt Stokes	Safety Training and Response Strategies