

Upper Mississippi River Hazardous Spills Coordination Group

**November 18, 2020
Virtual Meeting Summary**

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Mike Rose. Introductions of participants followed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Summary

The summary of the November 13, 2019 Upper Mississippi River (UMR) Spills Group meeting was approved without modification.

Midland, Michigan Flood Response and Virtual Incident Management Team

Jay Eikholt of Michigan EGLE presented a case study about the Midland, Michigan flood response. Over a 48-hour period, the Saginaw River at the Edenville Dam received six to eight inches of rain, creating a flood situation. A state of emergency was declared on May 18, 2020. EGLE was made aware of the situation and began monitoring privately-owned dams along the river. On May 19, the Edenville Dam breached, sending floodwaters through Edenville to Sanford Lake. The Sanford Lake dam held for a few hours but then failed at 8:00 p.m on May 19. Residents had been evacuated to higher ground earlier in the day. Dow Chemical, the main industrial facility in the area, had held an exercise in 2019 about just such an event, so locals were prepared to respond.

The Michigan Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated for Covid-19 and was set up virtually beginning in April 2020. Eikholt was summoned to go in-person to the scene. The state of emergency declaration allowed Michigan EGLE responders to tap into Stafford Act funding by May 21. Counties downstream of the breached dam were included.

The dam breaches led to a 500-year flood event and created a new channel at the dam. The City of Midland was projected to be under 19 feet of water, but fortunately the water rose slowly over 12 hours, keeping the volume within the floodplain footprint. Dow Chemical settling and brine ponds were overtopped. The ponds are the end of the treatment process, so high-hazard material did not runoff into the watersheds. USEPA Region 5 monitored air and water quality in the area. The Tobacco River water levels are currently being drawn down so that part of the dam structure can be rebuilt. The old dam structure will be removed to get water to flow back in the old channel.

Around 10,000 residents were evacuated, which was a challenge to provide mass shelter during a pandemic. The state was able to add extra buildings for spacing, provide more PPE, and take temperatures. Midland County was a great partner with these activities. Many residents brought pets and livestock while evacuating, which added some complications. Fortunately, many people in the area have alternate housing options, which eased the strain on response. Most were able to return later to recover personal items from their properties.

Eikholt shared pictures of the debris (e.g., fallen trees) left behind by the floodwaters. The state leveraged resources to contract wood grinders to reduce the mass of debris. Cleanup is ongoing at this time. In addition to using wood chips locally, many stumps were pulled from reservoirs and taken by residents to use for landscaping. FEMA assistance has been secured to have new wells dug for residents. Vegetative

management issues have arisen within the floodplain, as cottonwood trees are already establishing in the lake bed. Officials are now looking at long-term solutions for structures, namely to address concerns about potential future erosion impacts.

Betsy Nightingale of USEPA Region 5 outlined the agency's main tasks to assist with household hazardous waste (HHW) and orphan containers in the Midland flood response. Tasks included mobilizing a virtual Incident Management Team (IMT), facility outreach, coordination with industry and agencies, pre-deployment planning, and conducting an after-action review. A virtual IMT was set up to fill staff and leadership positions. It used an Incident Command System (ICS) structure with public information, robust planning, and later, finance and logistics. Incident objectives were coordinated with the state and tribes. IMT roles included document preservation, data management, and protecting health during Covid-19. ICS was used for two weeks, completing four virtual cycles and Incident Action Plans (IAP) and ten situation reports (SitReps).

The IMT was set up in USEPA's Microsoft Teams account to manage resources and deploy virtually. Within Teams, a channel was set up for each ICS Section. Channels were used to host meetings, develop the IAP, and the manage documents. The IMT completed threat assessments to evaluate impacts to downstream resources at risk and to determine where flooding affected facilities.

Staff spent time evaluating what facilities may have been affected and tracked communications within Teams. USEPA set up a Survey123 form to assess individual facilities' rapid needs. On-scene Coordinators (OSC) reached out to facilities to find needs and determined that of 105 facilities that were potentially impacted, only three were actually impacted. A data dashboard was used to analyze data and track progress. Nightingale shared slides of the Survey123 form used to survey facilities and determine the need for follow-up work.

The State of Michigan requested assistance with HHW and orphan containers and debris management, and on May 20 USEPA staff prepared to deploy to the field. The agency sent safety, logistics, and operations staff and followed a Covid-19 safety plan. Field deployment objectives included safety and control of Covid-19 exposure, assessment of hazardous substance impacts, containment and recovery of releases, HHW collection and disposal, air and water monitoring, NRDA trustee consultation, public information, and evaluation of impacts to historical or archaeological sites. The Operations Section was set up with three groups. A Response group was set up to collect containers, an Assessment group to locate sites for the Response group and evaluate impacts, and a Disposal group to dispose of collected containers.

Work was coordinated in Teams and staff met regularly to coordinate actions and share updates. Within Teams, a site for external partners was set up for use in the response. USEPA expected early on to get an ESF-10 mission assignment, but in the end FEMA couldn't support it because most debris had collected on private land in non-dense residential areas or underwater. By early June the agency still had no assignment, so it stood down on June 5 but maintained readiness to reactivate. Staff conducted an After-Action Review and lessons learned to develop the virtual IMT further.

Nightingale said there is room for further funding negotiation with FEMA; if others seek USEPA assistance, the agency has a policy agreement with FEMA to fund work performed in flood events. Examples of tasks that have been received through the mission assignment process include collection of orphan containers, disposal of HHW, public information support, deploying community involvement coordinators, and conducting field operations.

Nightingale is now virtually deployed as a section chief for the Oregon wildfires. Operations and Safety staff are in the field while most other roles are filled virtually. Field deployments are going well. In the

past, there was uncertainty when working with unfamiliar staff in other states; virtual sessions with cameras have helped people connect. Nightingale said OSCs are hopeful that virtual meeting platforms will allow greater assistance to staff in the field in response to a question from Mike Rose. Responding to a question from Rose about enhancing ICS forms with graphics and maps, Nightingale agreed that there is a need to use maps and graphs to create a big-picture view and help track progress and allocate resources.

Jason Sewell of USEPA Region 5 said the agency has only been using Teams for the last year. It has proven to be a good tool, and presents a new paradigm for file management while conducting business. Teams serves as a hub for other applications that can be embedded. Sewell is on an annual exercise design team that discussed the idea of using Teams for virtual response before the pandemic. Their focus was how to mobilize an IMT in an environment with risk and burden of exposure, difficulties of logistics, or the like. When the pandemic hit, the agency was looking into how to accommodate external partners.

An agency framework document explains how USEPA will use Teams. A new team will be set up for each incident to keep documents together and record conversations. The agency identified twelve Key Leadership Positions (KLP) and created job aids to define responsibilities in the virtual environment. SOPs were generated for creating, routing, and approving documents, including Incident Action Plans and SitReps.

Sewell shared an overview of the USEPA Region 5 IMT framework. Within a team, a channel is set up for each KLP. Channels have three features: posts, files, and a wiki. Users can add tabs to channels, such as directly to a tracking document or a web viewer. One can leave Teams to move directly into other applications. ICS runs on forms; Teams is used to augment a functional process. The system uses a Sharepoint file management system and instant messaging for group text. Alerts can be sent to specific members, such as to team members responsible for updating report sections. The platform also allows a user to call people or schedule meetings. It can accommodate people outside the organization, but a link is needed for them to join. Teams also has a mobile app for field use, for example an Operations briefing. This could also be useful after Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, as section chiefs would not have to drive to the briefing. Each agency has numerous platforms, Teams bridges agency users to external partners (e.g., private industry). Unified Command (UC) partners can all access Teams through a guest account if they do not have one. UC can use it to communicate high-level objectives, to share documents, as a Joint Information Center, and to share final reports. Information leaves USEPA GIS via Teams and goes to private users, maintaining data integrity. For example, a simulated air monitoring model could be shared with exercise partners and used by a potential responsible party in their own systems.

Sewell noted that regarding potential FOIA requests, all files go into Sharepoint. Hard copy files would be sent to agency records systems for sharing. Private conversations would have to go through IT administrators.

Beyond the pandemic, USEPA Region 5 does not expect to have as many large disasters and usually send OSCs to wrap up work. The agency is talking about using virtual IMT moving forward, to use resources more efficiently, as opposed to spending considerable amounts to have OSCs on-site.

Responding to a question about channel persistence after a project is completed, Sewell said that Sharepoint is in the cloud and Teams is a view of databases and files in a team-specific folder. Records Management would move files to the permanent repository in another computer system, such as Superfund files moving to the national repository. Teams then accesses the cloud-based files; archived files can be kept read-only once complete.

Faith Fitzpatrick said the USGS Interagency Flood Risk Management map service was used for the Midland flood and for recent hurricane response, which creates forecasts in stages, and pulls satellite

imagery of water-covered areas into viewers. Sewell said he was looking forward to working out the bugs to integrate data and imagery within Teams. USEPA intends to work more closely with GIS and the RRT5 science team. Fitzpatrick said there could be some UMR-specific apps, too and she acknowledged that complicated mapping is coming together more quickly than in the past. Sewell noted that the flood viewer is still up, and the 2019 exercise of a Midland dam failure created the opportunity to develop a shapefile to ground truth during the real event. Andy Maguire thanked the presenters and asked the Spills Group members to consider if we want to use Teams or similar tools in a tabletop exercise next year.

Agency and Partner Updates

Iowa

Joe Sanfilippo of Iowa DNR said that field offices are working remotely. State staff are still in the field investigating, responding, and doing inspections. However, Linn County has shut down inspections because of Covid-19. County staff still respond to calls just like when stationed in the office. On June 18, a major spill of 280,000 gallons of liquid nitrogen occurred in Dubuque at Gavilon on Kerper Boulevard. The material flowed into Bee Branch pond next to the Piasa Channel of the Mississippi River. The pond has a water control structure at Kerper Blvd., so most of the spill was kept out of the river. Iowa DNR are working with Gavilon to repopulate the area with freshwater mussels. On June 17, liquid nitrogen was pumped from a two-million-gallon tank to a one-million-gallon tank, and due to operator error, the pump was left on overnight. Responders used air sparge through a manifold to increase dissolved oxygen in the water.

Illinois

Bobby Elzie of Illinois EPA shared that 1,500 gallons of denatured ethanol was spilled from an overturned truck in a remote area, and no river tributaries were impacted. Due to Covid-19, emergency response staff are working remotely, with just one person in the office at a time. Otherwise they are using Microsoft Teams for meetings and chats, but would like to use the platform more broadly. Before doing so, Illinois has to resolve its FOIA concerns.

Minnesota

Mike Rose reported that Minnesota PCA is in the process of hiring another full-time responder to be based in Saint Paul. The agency will now have seven responders: three in Saint Paul, and one staff each based in Duluth, Brainerd, Marshall, and Rochester. The agency has renewed response contracts with full-service contractors and is working with limited-service contractors, intending to wrap up arrangements in the next 90 days.

Minnesota responded to an incident involving an over-the-road chemical spill at the east end of Saint Paul on I-94. N-propyl acetate spilled on the road and into a storm sewer. There was little impact to the Mississippi River, but much more to soil. Minnesota PCA is working with the Minnesota DOT to mitigate the damages to vegetation and wildlife. Response teams conducted extensive evaluations with DOT foresters to find viable time frames and limits on digging, which slowed removal of contaminated soil.

Ryan Stafne of Minnesota PCA reported an increase in mercury releases. The increase is related to the pandemic and broken thermometers releasing mercury. The state usually sees three or four annually, but saw sixteen in two months, with another uptick this fall. Minnesota PCA posted information on its website. One large incident involved a flooded basement of a residential home. Mercury was found in the drain, and has yet to be cleaned up due to the complicated situation. Mercury beads were found on boxes stacked floor to ceiling. The home's prior owner poured mercury into the drain, and costs to the

state have run to over \$200,000 to clean up, remove and replace plumbing in the sub-slab suppression system. Responders have removed over fifty pounds of mercury. The early March 2020 spill was not reported until over a month later on April 23.

Missouri

Rick Gann reported an October 7, 2020 event that threatened the Mississippi River at river mile 223, near a marina inlet. A major fire started at the dry-stack boat storage and destroyed 200 boats, melted plastic and also resulted in oil and fuel discharged into the Mississippi River. Responders worked to contain, as many boats still on the water were also impacted. A contractor removed discharged material, using an air boat to corral it until a vacuum truck arrived to clean up. Missouri DNR sent regional office staff to supervise the cleanup. The event was an expensive insurance loss, resulting in the marina filing for bankruptcy. Unfortunately for the boat owners, many insurance policies are only valid during boating season, which had just passed. Responders did keep material from reaching the main channel of the river. Jessica Evans of USEPA Region 7 responded to the fire. Gann said it was helpful to have a federal partner supporting the response.

Missouri has experienced similar Covid-19 impacts as the other states. State OSCs work from home, but make trips to the office to maintain equipment and continue to conduct inspections. Missouri DNR hopes to fill an OSC vacancy in Saint Louis soon. Interviews will be held in early December.

Wisconsin

Jayson Schrank of Wisconsin DNR reported via email that staff are not permitted to work on-site at reported complaints or spills due to Covid-19 restrictions. Agency rules require that staff have permission to work on-site. Schrank said this could be quite challenging if a large response is ever needed. Aside from the pandemic restrictions, there are no significant releases or events to report.

USEPA, Region 5

Andy Maguire of USEPA Region 5 shared that agency buildings are officially in phase 2 status, which allows more people in the office. Many still work at home, including most OSCs and field staff. Response staff are still busy with removal actions. There have been no large responses, but several small ones, including an abandoned drum on the Lac du Flambeau reservation and a power plant demolition. An ongoing lead and arsenic cleanup in Milwaukee has run up costs of \$4.5 million. Staff are supporting wildfire response in California and Oregon. Maguire is scheduled to deploy soon but may not because the work is wrapping up. The agency hired three new OSCs in the Chicago office. Traditional training is done in the field, so staff have had to come up with new ways to train under pandemic restrictions.

David Morrison added that the agency wants to retain readiness in all facets of response. He noted that USEPA has risk assessors to help set up cleaning thresholds for unusual chemicals such as in the Minnesota release involving n-propyl acetate. Mike Rose added that it was also helpful to get USEPA support for state hydrologists when planning cleanup actions.

USEPA, Region 7

Joe Davis shared via email that a 10,000-gallon steel diesel tank was removed from the banks of the Missouri River. It had probably been lost during the 2019 flood and was found in March 2020. A week later, Davis returned to find the tank was gone. In July 2020, Davis found the tank nearly 50 miles downstream while on a vacation boat trip. He lashed it to a tree and then returned with contractors to remove it. Workers used a boat to tow the tank five miles down the Missouri River and 3 miles up the Grand River to the nearest boat ramp. Rick Gann added that the next Missouri River ramp was around 20 miles farther than the one on the Grand River used to remove the tank.

USCG

Lieutenant Angel Kwok of USCG MSD St. Paul reported that civil unrest in late May with fires and protests led to sheens on the Mississippi River, but no sources were identified. There have been no large maritime spills this year. Staff are still successfully inspecting towing vessels while working within Covid-19 restrictions. Mike Rose added that MPCA received a request for support for contractors to contain fire residue and firefighting foam at outfalls. The City of Minneapolis requested outfalls be watched especially because auto part stores were among the burned buildings, presenting a risk of oils and other hazardous materials being released. The civil unrest created concerns for responder safety as well.

Responding to a question about MSD Quad Cities changes, LT Kwok said the detachment was losing its small boat station and its capacity to carry out search and rescue. However, a federal OSC-qualified person and pollution investigator remain on site to support response and conduct inspections.

USACE Rock Island

Leo Keller of USACE Rock Island reported that staff have not responded to spills this year. Most of the group's water quality response has involved harmful algal blooms. Covid-19 policy in the District approves a maximum of 50% occupancy, so staff must coordinate and stagger workdays while wearing masks and maintaining distance. The overnight travel ban was recently lifted to allow for field work. There have been employee to employee transmissions, so the District is shifting to more precautions, although staff will continue working in the field and responding.

USFWS

Reena Bowman of USFWS Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office introduced herself to the group. She reported that most USFWS staff are working from home, but they are able to carry out field work.

CP Railway

Tony Houdyshell of CP reported that the only incident of note was a January 2020 derailment in Le Claire, Iowa. One hazmat car derailed and lost several hundred gallons to the soils around the rail bed. CP deployed containment boom on the nearby Mississippi River just in case. Covid-19 has changed much of what CP does. On-site training has been adapted from traditional hands-on methods to virtual learning. On-site, responders work to alleviate exposure and utilize field guides provided. The Site Safety Officer position has been split, one for normal responsibilities and one for Covid-19 preparation. In a November 17, 2020 meeting, CP discussed pandemic response on job sites, including adoption of using virtual ICS. There are a number of ways to keep responders safe including to split up staff into teams and keep them siloed, and increase restrooms and supplies to prevent the virus spread. CP and other railroads are challenged because they are critical infrastructure and must keep operating. There are a limited number of people who can do critical work, such as train engineers, so they are isolated to ensure they stay healthy.

STARS

Matt Stokes of STARS reported that Wakota CAER is holding monthly meetings virtually. The group has acquired a new double-axle trailer to increase mobility for response. John Giebenhain of WCEC helped order 1,000 feet of boom to replace a set of worn training boom. Wakota CAER may start cycling new boom into equipment boxes. Stokes thanked Mark Ellis for his recent presentation of regional online response resources to Wakota CAER.

Stokes shared that Red Wing CAER is holding monthly virtual meetings, but will take a few months off due to low activity. At a September 2020 outdoor meeting, members put 1,100 feet of boom in the water. All were masked and practiced social distancing. Stokes thanked Pinnacle Engineering for the trainers and boats used in the event, and Wilson Oil, Xcel Energy, CP and BNSF for planning support. The group is planning a December 2020 virtual exercise. Emergency managers along the Mississippi River will learn how to stand up Emergency Operations Centers (EOC), their capabilities, and how to interact.

Dubuque CAER held a deployment on the Mississippi River. The scenario was a fuel barge striking a bridge. Participants put out 700 feet of boom. Dubuque Fire Department and ARTCO provided subject matter experts to guide participants. Stokes thanked Pinnacle Engineering, CP, and Dubuque Fire for supporting the event. In October, members met at Lock and Dam 11. USACE staff gave a tour of the lock and dam, and shared observations on where nearby currents would take oil from upstream. Participants then simulated a spill in the lock chamber.

Stokes added that he is working with Tony Houdyshell to develop further mission statements for Quad Cities CAER. They are planning to hold a 2021 training exercise and have meetings coincide with meetings of the Dubuque and Quad Cities CAER groups.

Quad Cities CAER

Bill Skinner of Molo Petroleum shared via email that the Quad Cities CAER group had a successful year, holding three events with local fire departments, private industry, the Quad Cities Water coalition and spill response companies. The events were:

- January 29, 2020 presentation by UMRBA of planning and response resources at the Moline Water Department
- March 4, 2020 Ethanol Safety and Steel Drum Seminar provided by the Renewable Fuels Association and TRANSCAER
- June 11, 2020 Bettendorf Co-op and Quad City CAER spill drill at the Moline Water Department

Skinner is working with Brian Payne, Deputy Emergency Management Director of Scott County (IA), on a Quad Cities CAER leadership transition and plan for 2021. They are also working with Tony Houdyshell of CP and Joe Davis of USEPA Region 7 on upcoming training events.

Notification Thresholds

Mark Ellis asked the group to consider formalizing quantity thresholds to guide notifications via the UMR Spills Group. The benefit of formalizing this is to not only will this inform decisions, but to provide information to responders to answer questions from leadership within their organization. In light of a small release on the Saint Croix River, the spills group has never discussed such thresholds on tributaries. The group previously agreed to notify one another of releases of any quantity to the Mississippi River itself, allowing downstream responders decide if and when to act. After some discussion, the group decided to move forward with reporting any quantity on any tributary up to one county inland from the UMR.

Strategic Planning / UMR Spill Plan Update

Mark Ellis reminded the group that the UMR Spill Plan is due for an update. He suggested a timeline of updating the plan over the winter, aiming to have a final draft by the spring meeting, typically held in April. In fall 2021, the spills group could get together to hold an exercise of the new plan. Ellis initiated the plan update and will have assignments for members to update sections of the plan relevant to their agency. Ellis added that those involved in the update should consider if the current format of the plan

meets the needs of the group. Ellis and Mike Rose suggested that the group consider strategic planning to answer this question.

Mike Rose suggested looking at the UMR spills group's mission and vision statements. The mission clarifies where we are today and the vision addresses what can be improved. Rose suggested identifying a project sponsor and a team responsible for updating the plan. This includes setting up a charter and holding a kickoff meeting. Team members can then take the charter to leadership for approval. Rose suggested Mark Ellis, as Director of the Spills Group, be the sponsor.

Rose continued, pointing out that although developing a strategic plan and updating the spill plan will not be very time consuming, having a project charter gives us the ability to tap into resources with management approval. Andy Maguire concurred, noting that management audits the work we do, so having an approved process justifies any work being done. Rick Gann agreed, adding that members have put in time and used different approaches over the years. The plan should have accurate and relevant information. Maguire shared that the UMR Spills Group is the gold standard for planning, people around Region 5 look to us to see what we are doing. Billy Elzie and Joe Sanfilippo both agreed. Rose said it is critical that we support this process. Regardless of what value we think we have, we fail if we do not meet the needs of our stakeholders. Part of the process should involve marketing and positioning the idea to engage them and get feedback. Rose and Ellis will talk in the coming weeks to start the process and then reach out to the group for participation.

UMR Spill Response Equipment Viewer

Mark Ellis reviewed the UMR Spill Response Equipment Viewer. The viewer is a user-maintained map of spill response equipment caches along the Mississippi River. It can be found at:

<http://umrba.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=29fef162bae44e929d55031a125a92a5>

Login: UMRspills

Password: Response_2019

Ellis demonstrated how to find site information, edit existing points, or adds new points. He encouraged members to use the viewer to coordinate resources along the river.

Mapping and Planning Updates

Regional Response Team 5

Barbi Lee said that RRT5 met virtually in October 2020. Next steps include scheduling a PFAS webinar to be held in January or February 2021, focusing on USEPA's work on PFAS. There were two case studies in Michigan and Wisconsin, which Lee can pass along to Mark Ellis to share with this group. The RRT5 talked about a virtual IMT webinar for an in-depth look at the development of the tool and how it was implemented. The webinar is currently being planned. The updated Regional Contingency Plan/Area Contingency Plan is expected to be finalized in the coming weeks. USEPA Region 5 introduced templates for sub-area plans. These were originally developed for new plans being made for USCG District 9 sub-areas, which now need to have separate USEPA plans. Other inland zones are using the template, but it is not required.

Greater St. Louis Sub-area

Jessica Evans reported by email that the sub-area has conducted virtual meetings over the past several months. An administrative review of current response strategies was completed in June 2020, which occurred over the course of several meetings. This was conducted in preparation for a river reconnaissance which was originally scheduled for fall 2020, but has been temporarily suspended. The

group plans to hold host virtual meetings in 2021 to prepare for reconnaissance operations once scheduled. Additionally, the sub-area group developed an ESRI Survey123 data collection form to be utilized during recon operations to allow reconnaissance participants to enter information onto a mobile device application, accelerating data entry while in the field. This will also allow the draft response strategies to be uploaded into the Great Rivers/Greater St. Louis Sub-Area's web dashboard which will house response strategies for both groups.

An administrative review is ongoing to update the sub-area's plan format to reflect the Great Rivers' plan layout and to revise any information as needed.

Minneapolis/St. Paul Sub-area

David Morrison of USEPA Region 5 said the planning group rewrote the sub-area plan and expanded the geography to include Wisconsin townships adjacent to the Saint Croix River. The review process is complete, and Morrison is sending the plan to leadership for approval. Next step is to consolidate response strategies from the Inland Sensitivity Atlas, NPS, and industry. The strategies will be put into a Survey123 format to include in the USEPA map viewers. Morrison estimated completion by February 2021.

Quad Cities Sub-area

Barbi Lee said that Kevin Turner is the new sub-area OSC for USEPA Region 5. Like in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Sub-area, the Quad Cities is planning to digitize response strategies from 2007 before updating them. There is now some funding available for sub-area planning in the Quad Cities. The next meeting with USEPA Region 7 and Tetra Tech will take place in the coming weeks. They have also updated the sub-area plan, mostly contact information.

Matt Stokes added that Adam Schmidt of Environmental Management Services will step up to chair the committee in the place of Bill Skinner.

Great Rivers Sub-area

Barbi Lee said that USEPA Region 7 OSC staff Heath Smith completed the latest sub-area plan section without the template, but Tetra Tech compared the plan to the template to ensure it is consistent. The Great Rivers plan is posted on the USEPA OSC website.

Training and Exercises

Wakota CAER

Matt Stokes reported that Wakota CAER is buying a significant amount of boom for their response equipment caches. New Conex boxes are being added to the group's inventory both as new caches and to replace old containers.

CP Railway

Tony Houdyshell said CP is scheduling four training dates in 2021. A virtual meeting will be held in January 2021. Plans are being made for three live training events. In response to a question about changes following last year's discussions about a barge-rail near-miss, Houdyshell said that additional notifications have been added. USCG investigated and issued a safety bulletin, and last week a call was made to river users to reaffirm safe practices and remind people of the collision risk. CP raised the issue to put up barriers or guides to keep barges away from shore or give them places to moor in the river. CP will continue to work on this with USCG.

Action Items

Mike Rose reminded all that for the strategic plan, we will reach out to ask for members' participation. Rose and Mark Ellis will work out next steps and connect with people who have the time, ability, and interest in planning. The first work will be to set up a charter to take to agencies for approval to put time into the plan update. This will give us checks and balances to move toward our objectives with the plan update. We will use the spring meeting to update the broader group on progress.

[With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. on November 18, 2020]

Participants

Joe Sanfilippo	Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
Bobby Elzie	Illinois Environmental Pollution Agency
Mike Rose	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Ryan Stafne	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Rick Gann	Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources
Brenda Kelly	Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Jay Eikholt	Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy
LT Angel Kwok	USCG MSD Saint Paul
Barbi Lee	USEPA, Region 5
Andy Maguire	USEPA, Region 5
David Morrison	USEPA, Region 5
Betsy Nightingale	USEPA, Region 5
Jason Sewell	USEPA, Region 5
Reena Bowman	USFWS
Aleshia Kenney	USFWS
Leo Keller	USACE Rock Island District
Faith Fitzpatrick	USGS
Valincia Darby	DOI
Kevin Rindy	La Crosse County (WI) EM
Dave Donovan	Scott County (IA) EMA
Tony Houdyshell	CP Rail
Cory Teff	Pinnacle Engineering
Matt Witzel	Pinnacle Engineering
Matt Stokes	STARS
Mark Ellis	UMRBA
Kirsten Wallace	UMRBA