

**UMRBA-USACE PAS Report  
Drought Chapter Team**

**9/30/2019**

Attendees: Paul St. Louis (USACE), Craig Schmidt (NWS), Jennifer Hoggatt (MODNR), David Busse (USACE), Time Hall (IADNR), Lauren Salvato (UMRBA), Molly Woloszyn (NIDIS, via Phone)

1. Introductions were made.

2. A discussion of drought and how it relates to our PAS project was provided. The PAS will focus on what existing resources are currently available to us and how we can implement them. We also want to identify additional elements of drought that are worth studying as part of a future 729 study. The Drought planning should focus on long term drought, such as if another dust bowl were to happen.

3. Interests of the team were discussed. Topics included the following:

a. NIDIS is currently partnering with Miss Rivers and Towns Initiative to address how drought currently affects towns. The study will look at impacts of drought and how we understand drought. Molly will the brief that has been developed as part of the study.

b. How does drought affect hard infrastructure, such as locks and dams, wingdams, water intakes, discharges, etc? How do we address those and what engineering assumptions are we using?

c. What triggers can we identify to provide warning and who do we provide that information to?

4. Clarification was made that in Iowa there is a focus on agricultural drought and productions. Which is not what this issue area is focusing. The issue area is focusing on climatic and hydrological drought.

5. Additional interest of the team were discussed. Topic included the following:

a. Minnesota has a good low flow plan and Craig can provide this information to the team. Also, there is a web based chat feature between the NWS and USACE which may be worth referencing in the report and a valuable real time tool.

b. In the 1980's drought required a rewrite of some of the Corps' master plans. These took 15-years to rewrite. It has been the Corps' experience that when drought occurs people want to use the water in the reservoirs for various purposes, but many of these purposes are not currently in the reservoirs master plan. Instead of looking at reallocation of reservoir water during the middle of a drought, we should focus on these activities now.

c. The River Industry Action Committee (RICA) has a current low water action plan that is performed in coordination with USCG. The group should consider reviewing this plan.

d. A Beta version of an extended low flow forecast is currently being implemented and may be worth referencing in the report.

e. The team may want to look into water quality issues that may result from starving off backwater areas, or the potential for flash flooding as a result of drought.

f. There may be implications by time of year the drought occurs.

g. Economics (e.g loss of tourism) of small cities may be impacted by prolonged drought due to losing their connectivity to the river.

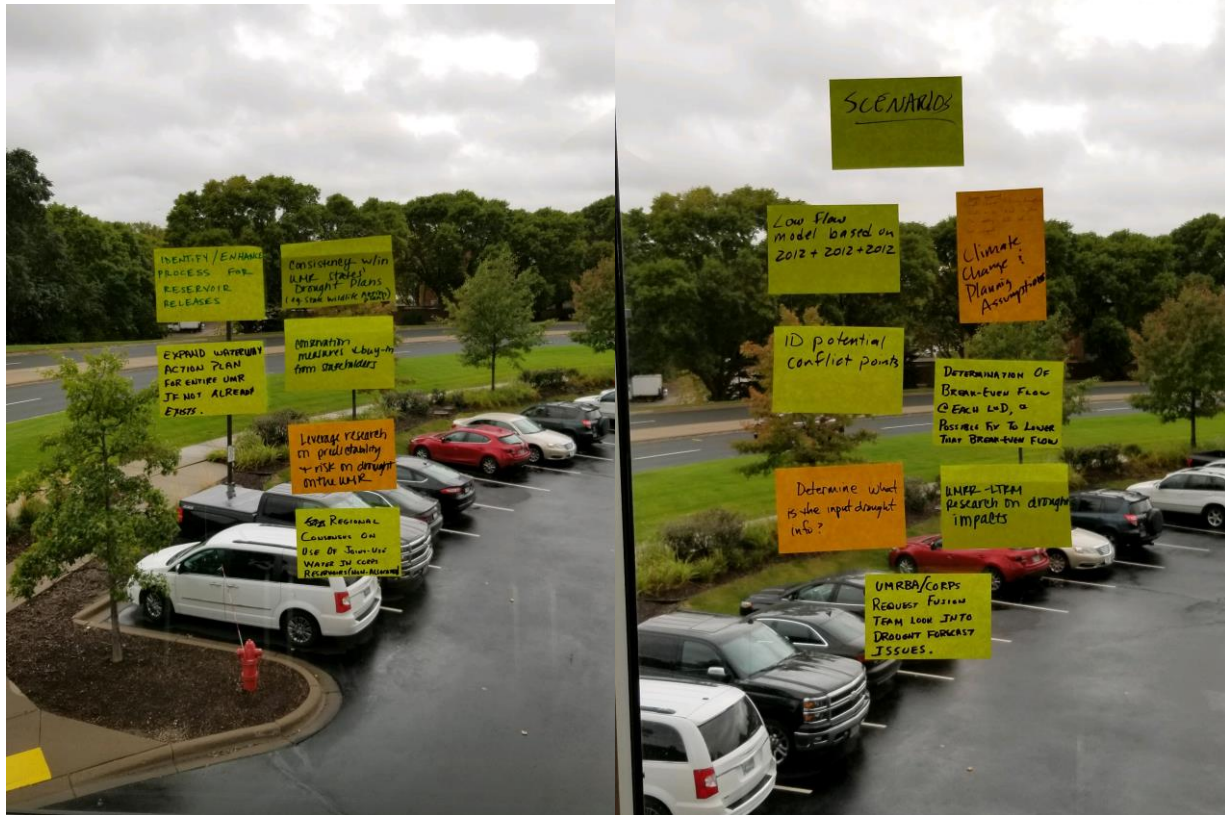
h. Missouri and NWK are currently working a Planning Assistance to States Study on drought in MO. Topics being considered are:

- 1) General description of different types of drought
- 2) Regional Vulnerabilities and Prioritization
- 3) Assessment of current water use and inventories (water connectivity)
- 4) Assessing drought related damages
- 5) Developing mitigation goals

6. The team needs to now start thinking about how we scale current activities, perhaps on smaller watersheds, to the Mississippi River? What can states do that will be a value to other states? For example, a springboard for Iowa to communicate better with an adjacent state could be a good outcome.

7. Meeting adjourned.





3. The group agreed that formal processes, consistent terms, and agreed upon conditions need to exist in order for everyone to communicate effectively. Ultimately, a drought toolbox would be beneficial for all. The toolbox could be based on series of scenarios and models that identify triggers/impacts and then addresses who is the responsible party for communicating what.

4. Possible 729 actions may include Allocation of Resources and long-term solutions that result on resiliency.

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