UMRBA/USACE Flood, Sediment, Drought Management Summit
Section 729 Team Notes

September 30, 2019 – October 1, 2019
Bloomington, Minnesota

Planning

— How do we facilitate systemic thinking?
— What do we prioritize first? Establish order of importance
— Establish vision
— Planning – information to use (modeling)
— Common vision/purpose of watershed plan
— How do we get overarching governing body – do we need overarching governing body?
— Is 729 the only acceptable course of action? Other course of action?
— Vision

a) What does success look like?
b) Patience
c) Obstacles
d) Priorities
e) Focus
f) Compartmentalization
g) Define the problem

Action

— Dredge implementation
— Minimizing damages
— Development of implementable actions as part of the bigger picture
— Solution Pathways

a) Action oriented
b) Questions need to be addressed
c) Not endless planning
d) Near term wins build momentum
e) Understand limits and opportunities of various authorities
f) Provide tangible/meaningful change

Strategies

— How do we consider the entirety of the UMRS?
— How do we work with Department of Agriculture to incentivize holding water in the watershed?
— Integrating channel management with other efforts (e.g., HREP)
— Coordination with existing programs

Problems

— Clearly define the issue areas, the relationships between them, and trade-offs

— Scale, spatial, and temporal bounds for problems

Communication Strategy

— Outreach

Policy - Process

— Developing one common set of rules for the UMRS

— Listen to the experts (DNR, Corps)

— Governance body

— Can we change real estate rules for UMR – different from other parts of country?

— Should there be a team leader at the sub watersheds?

— Governance

a) What authority for decisions?
b) Points of convergence/consensus
c) Representation (governor appointed?)
d) Voting?
e) Advisory (FACA?)
f) What is penalty for noncompliance?
g) "How do we work like ants?"
h) Where are nexus points
i) Like a triangle to tip the balance of opposing views

— Ground rules

a) Set foundation
b) Willingness to work with diversity
c) Gets off to right start
d) Productive engagements
e) Respect/trust/integrity

Technical

— Systemic modeling

— Existing model exploration and convergence

— Existing data compilation

— Scaling up existing efforts for drought or flood planning

— Identify watershed storage capacities

— Review of existing information and summarize

— How do we integrate smaller scale models into single model?
— Understanding of all tools and resources available – i.e., technical, institutional, procedural
— Tools and data
  - Don't get lost chasing ends
  - Move forward with what you have
  - Risk informed decision-making
  - Budget restraints?
  - Limit to existing and historical information

Planning

— **Vision statement (3)
— Systemic thinking
— Objectives (4)

Actions (solutions) (7)

— Issue areas
— Key questions

Strategies (5/6)

— Storage
— Sub-watershed
— Integration opportunities
— Minimize damages

Evaluation (5)

— Success?
— Metrics

IEPR (concurrent)

— Science
— Social

Process – Policy

— *Governing body (concurrent) (MRC, UMRBA and USACE)
— Team leads
— Institutional? Consensus
— Budgets
— Clear rules

Technical (ants)

(1) — *Existing information
— Scale-up existing tools/models
— Systemic models

(2) **Problems**

— Clear definition
— Understand relationships
— Trade-offs
— Scale, space, and time

Communication Strategy (concurrent)