

**Minutes of the 149th Quarterly Meeting
of the
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association**

**February 26, 2019
Dubuque, Iowa**

Rick Pohlman called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m. Participants were as follows:

UMRBA Representatives and Alternates:

Loren Wobig	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Rick Pohlman	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Tim Hall	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Patrick Phenow	Minnesota Department of Transportation (via phone)
Dru Buntin	Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Bryan Hopkins	Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Chris Klenklen	Missouri Department of Agriculture
Matt Vitello	Missouri Department of Conservation
Steve Galarneau	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Jim Fischer	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Federal UMRBA Liaisons:

Dennis Hamilton	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Marty Adkins	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
Branden Criman	U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD
Ken Westlake	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (via phone)
Sabrina Chandler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (via phone)
Mark Gaikowski	U.S. Geological Survey

Others in Attendance:

Megan Moore	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Glenn Skuta	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Jessica Brooks	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NWS
Terry Birkenstock	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Lt. Col. Rachel Honderd	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Andy Barnes	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Roger Perk	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Scott Whitney	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Jodi Creswell	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Andrew Leichty	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Marshall Plumley	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Karen Hagerty	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Steve Price	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Erica Stephens	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Brian Johnson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Chuck Theiling	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ERDC
Tim Yager	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, UMRS Refuges
Neal Jackson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency, UMRCC

Tom Boland	Amec Foster Wheeler
Eric Anderson	Cardno
Maisah Kahn	Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Nancy Guyton	Neighbors of the Mississippi
Bertha Mae Taylor	Neighbors of the Mississippi
Brad Walker	Nicollet Island Coalition
Steve Ellis	Taxpayers for Common Sense
Gretchen Benjamin	The Nature Conservancy
Mike Klingner	Upper Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri Rivers Association
Kirsten Wallace	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Mark Ellis	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Lauren Salvato	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Andrew Stephenson	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

Minutes

Tim Hall moved and Dru Buntin seconded a motion to approve the draft minutes of the October 30, 2018 UMRBA quarterly meeting as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Kirsten Wallace expanded on her written Executive Director's report as follows:

- The meetings with ASA(CW) R.D. James, OMB, and various Congressional members offices on November 7-8, 2018 were productive. UMRBA Board members requested FY 2019 and FY 2020 funding for NESP, UMRR, and the Section 729 UMRS floodplain resilience plan.
- UMRBA met with Charlie Wooley and Mike Celata regarding the planned DOI reorganization on November 19, 2018. Wooley seemed to ease many of the UMRBA Board members' concerns. Several questions of interest to UMRBA are also shared by members of the Interstate Council on Water Policy, which sent a January 22, 2019 letter to DOI requesting that non-western states be consulted regarding the Department-wide regional boundaries and that MOUs be created for interstate programs and projects.
- MVD sent a January 11, 2019 letter to UMRBA, responding to the Association's requests for deviations from water control plans in five UMR pools and the Illinois Waterway to implement water level management. UMRBA sent its requests to MVD following an earlier request that the Association submit its priority pools for water level management directly to the Division. However, in the January 2019 letter, MVD reverses its direction and stated that deviation requests must go through the respective district. Wallace said the Corps back-and-forth with the Association has been frustrating.
- UMRBA continues to facilitate the federal-state consultation and implementation of UMRR, focusing the next few months on selecting habitat project for the next five years and planning for the May 6-8, 2019 UMRR HREP Planning and Design Workshop.
- USEPA and the states are working to make the spills response and planning work more industry-led. In one effort to do so, UMRBA staff met with Upper River Services on January 9, 2019 to discuss the USEPA OPA spill response planning and mapping work, UMRBA's roles, and how navigation industry might be more involved.
- Additionally, UMRBA is hosting two tabletop exercises utilizing the newly published the St. Croix National Scenic River Spill Response Plan. The first exercise was held on January 15, 2019 in Siren, Wisconsin and the second is planned for March 8, 2019 in Stillwater, Minnesota. The first

exercise had very positive feedback with over 40 participants representing tribal, state, county, and municipal entities.

- USACE hosted UMRBA on November 29, 2018 for a signing ceremony in executing the planning assistance to the states (PAS) agreement for advancing the UMRS floodplain resilience plan. Initially, the work will focus on communications and engagement per the systematic development of informed consent framework.
- Due to the lapse in FY 2019 funding from December 22, 2018 to January 25, 2019, USEPA issued a stop work order to UMRBA on December 31, 2018. The UMRBA Board held a conference call on January 14, 2019 to talk about the implications to the Association. UMRBA Board members recognized that a primary purpose of the Association's two-year operating reserve policy is to provide for staffing needs should a loss of state or federal revenue occur. Chris Klenklen moved and Jim Fischer seconded a motion to pay down the Association's reserves to retain staff and revisit the issue at the Board's February 26, 2019 quarterly meeting should the agency's lapse in funding continue until then. The motion passed unanimously. Wallace said she would report to the Board regarding the financial implication of reduced USEPA funding in future correspondence.

Wallace reported that AWI will no longer be hosting a "Mississippi River Summit" in Washington D.C. in spring 2019 as indicated in the written ED report in the agenda packet.

Dru Buntin said Missouri DNR is working with Missouri DoC to submit a joint letter to DOI regarding their concerns with the planned reorganization.

Wallace pointed to the Association's financial report on pages B-16 to B-20 of the agenda packet, including UMRBA Treasurer Jason Tidemann's review of the financial statement from October 2018 to January 2019. Dru Buntin moved and Steve Galarneau seconded a motion to approve the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet dated February 12, 2019. The Board unanimously approved the motion by voice vote.

Interbasin Diversion Charter Annual Consultation

Kirsten Wallace explained that the five UMRBA states are party to the 1989 Upper Mississippi River Basin Charter, which sets forth a notification and consultation process for any new or increased water diversion out of the basin that will exceed an average of 5 million gallons per day during any 30-day period. The Charter requires the signatory states to report on their involvement in qualifying diversion requests at UMRBA's annual meeting. The states reported as follows:

Missouri — Dru Buntin reported no diversion requests in Missouri. Buntin explained that Missouri is actively involved in litigation against North Dakota's Northwest Area Water Supply project, claiming that the withdrawal amount would have significant implications to the Missouri River. Buntin said the project will also affect the middle Mississippi River. Missouri is also preparing to file a lawsuit to challenge the Central North Dakota Water Supply Project.

Illinois — Loren Wobig reported no diversion requests in Illinois.

Iowa — Tim Hall reported no diversion requests in Iowa.

Minnesota — Glenn Skuta reported no diversion requests in Minnesota.

Wisconsin — Steve Galarneau reported no diversion requests in Wisconsin.

Wallace said UMRBA will send letters to the Governors reporting on the results of the annual consultation required under the 1989 Charter.

2019 UMRBA Priorities

Kirsten Wallace provided highlights of UMRBA’s 2019 work plan priorities, including the following:

- Developing and implementing strategic communications (launching a new website)
- Participating in collaborative engagements (serving in Board capacities and attending meetings of partner associations)
- Advancing the states’ water level management priorities (hosting an in-person workshop, defining regional priorities)
- Advocating UMRBA priorities to Congress and the Administration
- Publishing the M-35 UMRS navigation assets inventory
- Executing OPA-related spill response planning and mapping efforts, including for the Twin Cities sub-area, Western Lake Superior sub-area, Minnesota sub-area, and Great Rivers USFWS National Wildlife Refuge
- Planning for a pilot of the Interstate WQ Monitoring Plan in Reaches 8-9 in 2020

UMRS Floodplain Resilience Plan

Kirsten Wallace explained that UMRBA and USACE are planning for six citizen-led workshops this summer as a means of both seeking input into a longer term UMRS floodplain resilience plan and building trust, transparency, and ultimately buy-in into the objectives. The structure and facilitation method is built from what is called “open space events,” where participants bring forward conversation ideas of interest to them that they would facilitate. The discussion topics would center around the question of “how can all of us do a better job addressing three key issues on the Upper Mississippi River: sediment/channel maintenance, flood risk reduction, and preparation for extended droughts?”

Brian Stenquist will be the event facilitator and will work with participants to organize the “marketplace” of conversation sessions. Each of the six workshops would have up to fifteen different conversations, with five conversations occurring concurrently for an hour. Participants can pick which conversations to attend and can decide to leave and move to another conversation as desired. The conversation lead will be asked to take notes, which meeting organizers will collect, copy, and distribute to all meeting participants at the end of the workshop. Wallace explained that this approach advances UMRBA’s goal of utilizing the method of systemically developing informed consent (SDIC), so that the process, outcomes, and key actors are well understood and enjoy regional agreement.

The schedule of the citizen-led workshops are as follows:

- June 8 — Cape Girardeau
- June 15 — Godfrey
- July 13 — Muscatine
- July 27 — Dubuque
- August 3 — Winona

Wallace said the Mississippi River Commission is planning its low-water inspection tour on the UMRS in August 2019. This could be an opportunity to communicate results of the workshops and continue dialogue with local communities and levee districts.

Jim Fischer suggested that the invitation and workshop introduction explain that these sessions are a continuation of ongoing work and build from previous stakeholder workshops and summits. Wallace agreed, and explained that participants will be supplied with basic contextual information for reference.

Steve Price explained his role as project manager for the PAS work. Price explained that, following the citizen-led sessions, problem solving groups will be formed to identify already agreed-upon actions and solutions as well as the scope of a longer term floodplain resilience plan. Price said the PAS is a two-term agreement with a cap of \$200,000 in equal contributions from the Corps and UMRBA, including the five UMRS states.

Gretchen Benjamin said it may be a heavy lift to task members of the public with leading conversations, asking whether they will have information prior to the workshops. Wallace said she understands Benjamin's concerns, but that the assumption is that residents and businesses in the floodplain are aware of what they experience. While the conversations may be raw, we are asking them to express their concerns and share their ideas for desired future condition in their own words. That will allow us to have a back-and-forth dialogue that starts with them, not with government agencies inadvertently coming across as though they know more than the people and business that are directly impacted.

Mike Klingner and Nancy Guyton suggested adding a workshop in the Quincey/Hannibal area. Dru Buntin agreed and acknowledged the importance of having a convenient location for all those who want to have a voice in the process and outcomes. [Note: Subsequent to the meeting, a workshop in Quincey was scheduled for July 13 and the workshop in Muscatine was moved to July 20.]

Branden Criman suggested referencing the Hurricane Katrina assessment report for lessons learned. Jim Fischer agreed with remarks by Benjamin and Buntin, and observed that an online tool may seek broader engagement and more comprehensive input. Buntin suggested that the goals and intent of the UMRS floodplain resilience plan and the citizen-led workshops are clearly articulated as well as UMRBA's role.

Neal Jackson observed that today's discussion so far are contradicting the intent of the citizen-led meetings and cautioned that the goals of utilizing the SDIC method are not lost, noting that the notion of needing to "educate" the public deemphasizes the intent to listen and learn. Buntin agreed and said enough context needs to be provided to draw input from municipalities and water suppliers who are not typically actively engaged with UMRBA or these types of planning efforts. Guyton suggested that the Corps offer a web presence devoted to the UMRS floodplain resilience plan, with agendas and meeting summaries.

Wallace added that the UMRBA Board agreed that this planning effort needs to be transparent from the onset and that communication and engagement needs to be done differently; not just more public meetings but more strategic outreach and engagement to those directly and indirectly affected by the existing situation and the outcomes. Buntin acknowledged that some conversations will be hard and that some people will want to air grievances, but the emphasis needs to be placed on how we move forward and how we develop solutions that have regional agreement. In response to a question from Karen Hagerty, Wallace explained that ecological factors will be considered when evaluating impacts of floods, droughts, and sedimentation as well as the implications of any solutions. UMRBA can request input from UMRR as well as the Association's water quality committees.

Wallace said UMRBA will request that Board members, federal liaisons, and partners serve as a network and help to disseminate workshop announcements and subsequent products and news.

UMRBA UMRS WQ Improvement Act Framework

Kirsten Wallace explained that the UMRBA Board approved a recommended legislative framework from the Association's WQ Executive Committee for a UMR WQ Improvement Act. The intent of today's discussion is to share the goals and intent of the proposed legislation and seek initial feedback.

The purpose of the legislation is to both 1) better manage and understand sediment and nutrient flow from its sources throughout the UMRS watershed and 2) improve and sustain the availability of clean water on the river main stem and in the watershed. The objectives are to establish and implement a state-federal collaborative, minimize the effects of excess sediment and nutrients by building on, and leveraging, existing state and federal programs and initiatives, and improving knowledge of water quality status and trends. Wallace said the legislation calls for a Mississippi River National Program Office jointly administered by NRCS and USEPA. Three main provisions in the legislative framework are as follows:

- Achieve sediment and nutrient runoff reduction goals and targets established in the states' respective nutrient reduction strategies
- Authorize federal-state water quality and flow monitoring network and a coordinated research and modeling program
- Provide federal funding to support UMRBA's *Upper Mississippi River Interstate Water Quality Monitoring Strategy* as well as the Association's work in developing and implementing a communications strategy

Marty Adkins said he will send Wallace points of contact in NRCS that should be made aware of the legislative proposal.

Minnesota Sediment Reduction Strategy

Glenn Skuta provided an overview of Minnesota PCA's strategy for reducing sediment on the Minnesota River Basin and South Metro Mississippi River. A TMDL on the South Metro Mississippi River is mostly attributed to the Minnesota River basin – i.e., 75 percent of the load. Therefore, Minnesota PCA's strategy focuses on reducing flow to the Minnesota River in an effort to reduce streambank and bluff erosion. Erosion from ravines and banks/bluff accounts for two-thirds of the sediment load into the Minnesota River. Additionally, the strategy emphasizes work to reduce upland erosion, which accounts for one-third of the sediment source. Skuta also noted that the majority of sedimentation occurs during the highest 25 percent of flows.

Ongoing monitoring and research will be used to determine sub-watershed priorities, including work to:

- Model how much sediment can be reduced by minimizing high river flows and how BMPs can reduce both flow and sedimentation
- Develop flow reduction targets for HUC-8 outlets in the Minnesota River basin
- Use literature reviews and model results to recommend updates to the sediment reduction strategy

Skuta said a technical team is working with Tetra Tech to complete the analyses. The team involves experts from Minnesota state agencies, the Corps, USGS, University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Science Museum, and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District. The results will be described in an appendix to the strategy and used to revise the strategy, develop guidance, and identify and fill

remaining science gaps. Minnesota PCA is anticipating that the modeling and research will be complete by July 2019 and any necessary revisions are made to the sediment reduction strategy by December 2020. In response to a question from Dru Buntin, Skuta explained that a restoration option could include armoring ravines.

GLMRIS Brandon Road Tentatively Selected Plan

Andrew Leichty reported that the Corp published the GLMRIS Brandon Road Feasibility Study and EIS on November 20, 2018 and requested stakeholder review by December 24, 2018. The review period for nongovernmental organizations was extended to January 7, 2019. Leichty explained that recommended plan includes nonstructural measures, an electric barrier, acoustic fish deterrent, air bubble curtain, and a flushing lock. Changes made the tentatively selected plan include cost increases, changing water jets to a bubble curtain, removing mooring cells, adding a phased implementation strategy, and including complex noise as an acoustic fish deterrent.

Leichty said major milestones in the anticipated schedule include completing the Chief's report by April 2019, beginning the feasibility study in October 2019, seeking Congressional authorizing in the potential WRDA 2020, beginning construction in 2022, and completing construction in 2028, and employing the feasibility study. Key factors affecting the schedule include securing a non-federal sponsor, cost share agreement, and necessary funds as well as risk associated with the innovative designs and real estate acquisition. Additionally, Leichty explained that maintaining navigation during construction extends project duration. Leichty provided an overview of the planned three increments for constructing the various nonstructural and structural measures, including associated cost and construction duration.

Loren Wobig acknowledged the Governor change in Illinois and said the new Administration has not yet provided its position on Brandon Road.

In response to a question from Neal Jackson, Leichty said the Corps is still consulting with the state of Illinois and USFWS regarding mitigation needs. Several issues still remain such as connectivity of native species between basins. In response to a question from Steve Galarneau, Leichty said the Corps extended state comments by 60 days to accommodate changes in state administrations. Additionally, the Corps is working with the Great Lakes states.

Navigation

Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program

Scott Whitney provided an update on the Corps NESP economic update. Whitney said the Corps is adapting the navigation investment model (NIM) model to estimate NESP benefit-cost ratio (BCR). The NIM model was used to estimate the BCR of the Upper Ohio Navigation Study. The Corps has also contracted to determine short-term and long-term traffic rates, assuming a flat line grain forecast after 10 years. While the economic update is focused on providing greater certainty around a central scenario (of high and low traffic), the Corps is waiting for guidance from ASA(CW) R.D. James regarding whether and how much sensitivity to bracket around that central scenario. Other considerations also include lock performance, consequences of a failure, and rehabilitation cycle assuming a 50-year project life. Whitney said cost estimates of the navigation features based on the navigation authorization (including mitigation) were indexed to \$3.2 billion with risk assumption increasing costs to \$3.6 billion.

Brad Walker said the Nicollet Island Coalition sent a letter to ASA(CW) R.D. James articulating its concerns with the NESP costs. In response to a question from Steve Ellis regarding the optimistic

scenario, Whitney explained that the forecasts do account for international trade agreements with the understanding that the future is uncertain in the near- and long-term. The Corps relied on the expertise of the contractor and Tennessee University. In response to a question from Steve Galarneau, Whitney said the Corps is assuming construction “in-the-wet” to avoid shutdown of the navigation system. Whitney noted that there is much more experience in performing construction “in-the-wet.”

In response to a question from Dru Buntin, Whitney explained that the transition from PED to construction depends on the desired construction strategy. About \$22 million to \$25 million was invested to complete about 60 percent design work done on L&Ds 22 and 25 and La Grange. One option could be to finalizing the design of the L&D 22 guidewall within one year. Or, a three-year investment could be made in advancing designs of all three locks with a major construction start ready in three years.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

John Doyle provided an overview of the 2018 report, “How project selection in the Corps of Engineers is affected by benefit-cost ratio (BCR) analysis.” The report analysis was completed by Texas A&M Transportation Institute with funding provided by The National Waterways Foundation.

Doyle explained that the study examined BCR guidance issued by the USEPA, DOI/Bureau of Land Management, and USDOT. However, Doyle said the study did not explore how DOT uses BCR guidelines in project selection and prioritization. The study found that the Corps does not allow for estimating externalities associated with infrastructure projects that are commonly included in non-Corps benefits estimates. Accounting for those positive externalities could substantially increase the Corps’ BCR calculations. Rather, the Corps narrowly focuses on transportation cost savings.

The Corps’ practice of using both real and nominal discount rates tends to underestimate discounted present values, negatively affecting BCRs since the benefits are typically realized for a longer time and costs are realized immediately. Additionally, the Corps typically adjusts costs to reflect the risks of uncertain funding but does not do so for benefits.

Doyle listed the study’s recommendations to the Corps are as follows:

- Consider using other agencies’ best practices for incorporating broader impacts beyond just transportation savings into BCR calculations
- Consider the reality of unpredictable and unreliable funding for Corps projects when making project authorization decisions
- Consider revisiting the process discussed in the Corps’ policy memo 12-001 re methodology for updating BCRs in budget development
- Consider incorporating remaining benefits/remaining costs metrics into project prioritization, especially for projects that tend to be at a relative disadvantage using the current BCR methodology

Spring Flood Forecast

Jessica Brooks summarized the NWS’s forecasts for potential flood risk on the Upper Mississippi River in spring 2019. Fall moisture was very high going into the winter and, therefore, there will be little groundwater absorption capacity. As a result, the potential exists for high amounts of runoff into the river system. While December 2018 and January 2019 were mostly dry, there was substantial, constant snowfall and rainfall throughout the UMRS basin. This has resulted in a much different spring flood forecast since early February 2019. Brooks illustrated on a map that a majority of the watershed had

snowfall in excess of 20 inches above normal, with some areas with 40 inches above normal or 300 percent above the mean.

Brooks also warned about potential ice jams due to excess runoff from snowmelt and rainfall causing the river to rise. This results in ice rapidly pushed up, causing it to break and flow downstream. Brooks provided precipitation forecasts at two to four weeks and three months. In conclusion, NWS models are showing high confidence of widespread floods at near or above flood stage on nearly all rivers. There is low confidence on the peak severity of eventual flooding. The potential does exist for high impact flooding. Brooks said the rate of snowmelt will be essential to the eventual severity of flooding in spring 2019.

Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative

Colin Wellenkamp said MRCTI is preparing for its March 5-7, 2019 Annual Capitol Meeting in Washington, D.C., where mayors will meet with members of Congress and the Administration to discuss policy and FY 2020 funding priorities. According to Wellenkamp, FY 2019 was a banner year for Mississippi River-related federal appropriations. Among other things, this includes Corps Mississippi River programs and projects (e.g., O&M and UMRR) and pre-disaster mitigation funds.

Wellenkamp outlined highlights of MRCTI's 2019 policy platform as follows:

- \$157 million to the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- \$1 billion to the Corps Mississippi River O&M accounts
- \$1.033 billion to NESP and UMRR
- \$250 million to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program
- \$200 million to USEPA Section 319 Water Pollution Control Grants

Wellenkamp explained that the 2018 Disaster Recovery Reform Act gave the Administration new authority to set aside an equivalent of up to 6 percent of certain types of assistance for pre-disaster mitigation projects. While Congressional intent was to supplement existing federal programs and projects, the Administration interpreted the policy to remove all Congressional authority for pre-disaster mitigation and replace annual appropriations for pre-disaster mitigation with the new authority. MRCTI is advocating that Congress clarify its intent in establishing the new authority and seek to restore regular appropriations.

Additionally, MRCTI is seeking a new community resilience revolving loan fund for floods and additional hazards to compliment the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program. MRCTI is also calling on Congress to include in any infrastructure-related infrastructure legislative measure a provision to build recycling infrastructure; to include resilience, mitigation, adaptation, and sustainability capacities; and to incentivize natural infrastructure enhancement, restoration, or augmentation.

Federal Agency Fiscal Updates

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Brian Chewning reported that the FY 2019 USACE work plan includes the following Mississippi River-related programs and projects:

- \$150,000 for GLMRIS
- \$57.5 million for LaGrange lock major rehabilitation

- \$33.17 million for UMRR
- \$95.198 million for East St. Louis flood risk reduction project
- \$254.359 million for O&M of the 9-foot navigation channel on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers
- \$2.5 million to reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflow from the Illinois Madison and St. Clair Counties into the Mississippi River

Additionally, per the FY 2018 disaster supplemental appropriations, \$117.5 million is allocated to the Cedar Rapids flood risk management project and \$11.3 million to the Bois Brule levee deficiency correction.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ken Westlake reported that the USEPA was shutdown on December 28, 2018 when funding lapsed following expiration of the FY 2019 continuing resolution authority. FY 2019 funding for USEPA was restored on January 25, 2019 with the enactment of the 2019 Appropriations Act. However, the Administration has yet to publish final detailed program allocations. Westlake said he anticipates that agency-wide FY 2019 allocations will be similar to FYs 2017 and 2018.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Tim Yager explained that USFWS was similarly affected as USEPA by the lapse in federal FY 2019 funding.

U.S. Geological Survey

Mark Gaikowski announced that former Midwest Regional Director Leon Carl retired at the end of December 2018. Scott Morlock is now serving in an acting capacity. Gaikowski said planning for the DOI reorganization was put on hold when the FY 2019 federal funding lapsed, but there has not yet been indication that the reorganization will be delayed.

Gaikowski reported that USGS received a \$20 million increase in its FY 2019 appropriation above its FY 2018 appropriation, with a decrease of \$900,000 to the ecosystem mission area. Increases in the water mission area are mostly directed to USGS's work related to hypoxic algal blooms and next generation streamgaging.

Gaikowski explained that the USGS shutdown disrupted its UMRR long term resource monitoring work. About mid-way through the shutdown, UMESC staff were able to restart UMRR-related work even though employees remained furloughed. USGS was actively involved in the UMRR Habitat Needs Assessment II development and report publication. Staff are also working collaboratively with other federal and state agencies to enhance Asian carp monitoring on the Illinois Waterway during the planned closure.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Marty Adkins said FY 2019 funding for NRCS is essential level from the previous fiscal year. Adkins noted that the 2018 Farm Bill includes a Congressional directive to encourage partnerships at the watershed scale.

Administrative Issues

Election of Officers

Kirsten Wallace and UMRBA Board members thanked Dave Frederickson for his service as Board Chair over the past year. Dru Buntin moved and Tim Hall seconded a motion to nominate Rick Pohlman to serve as UMRBA Chair, Steve Galarneau to serve as UMRBA Vice Chair, and Jason Tidemann to serve as UMRBA Treasurer. All three motions carried unanimously by voice vote.

Future Meeting Schedule

May 2019 — St. Louis

- UMRBA quarterly meeting — May 21
- UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting — May 22

August 2019 — La Crosse

- UMRBA quarterly meeting — August 20
- UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting — August 21

October 2019 — St. Paul

- UMRBA quarterly meeting — October 29
- UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting — October 30

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.