Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program Coordinating Committee Quarterly Meeting

November 17, 2021

Highlights and Action Items

Program Management

- November 17, 2021, marks the 35th anniversary of UMRR. Plumley applauded the partnership for this significant milestone and thanked all those involved in program implementation past and present.
- UMRR achieved an execution rate of 98.77 percent in FY 21. This is the fourth consecutive year the program has achieved an execution rate above 97 percent and the seventh of the last eighth to receive near full funding.
- On September 30, 2021, Congress passed a continuing resolution authority (CRA) extending current funding levels for the federal government until December 3, 2021. District staff are authorized to execute the program at \$33.17 million. The President's FY 22 budget includes \$33.17 million for UMRR. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have both acted on appropriations bills for FY 22 and concurred with the President's recommended amount for UMRR of \$33.17 million. The final FY 22 appropriation is not yet known.
- The draft plan of work for UMRR in FY 22 at a \$33.17 million funding scenario is anticipated to be as follows:
 - Regional Administration and Program Efforts \$1,450,000
 - o Regional management \$1,180,000
 - o Program database \$100,000
 - o Program Support Contract \$120,000
 - Public Outreach \$50,000
 - Regional Science and Monitoring \$10,250,000
 - Long term resource monitoring \$5,000,000
 - Regional science in support of restoration \$3,800,000
 - o Regional science staff support \$200,000
 - O Habitat evaluation (split across three districts) \$1,125,000
 - o Report to Congress \$125,000
 - Habitat Restoration \$21,470,000
 - o Rock Island District \$6,718,000
 - o St. Louis District \$7,502,000
 - o St. Paul District \$7,150,000
 - o Model certification \$100.000

- On November 15, 2021, the President signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. UMRR capabilities above a \$33.17 million annual execution capacity were submitted for the Corps' potential work plan authorized by that bill. Project names and funding amounts are anticipated to be released in 30 to 60 days.
- The UMRR 10-year implementation plan was updated to reflect changes to project timelines. Project timelines that were moved later include Conway Lake, Lower Pool 10, Reno Bottoms, Lower Pool 13, Green Island, and Pool 12 Forestry. Physical construction was completed at Conway Lake, but some tree planting will extend into FY 22. Anticipated construction completion for Huron Island Stage II and III was moved forward. Eight of the sixteen next generation HREPs recently identified are now included in the 10-year schedule. If UMRR begins to receive additional funds over \$33.17 million in future annual appropriations, another HREP selection process may be needed to ensure a healthy pipeline of projects.
- UMRR has identified 76,110 acres for restoration between FY 21 and FY 31. This estimate assumes continued funding levels of \$33.17 million annually. Decreased funding levels would extend the end date for completing projects and increased appropriations could accelerate these restoration activities. The figure is an important communication tool for multiple audiences.
- From FY 12 to FY 20, UMRR accounted for nearly ten percent of all acres restored under the Corps' aquatic ecosystem restoration mission area.
- Construction on three projects, totaling 5,590 acres, was completed in calendar year 2021, increasing UMRR's total acres restored to approximately 112,000 acres through 59 completed projects. These projects include Conway Lake, Pool 12 Overwintering, and Ted Shanks. Another four projects are anticipated to be completed in 2022 that will collectively add 9,810 acres to UMRR's total restored or improved habitat.
- On September 20, 2021, a survey was distributed to the UMRR partnership at-large. The distribution list included 200 program partners and the purpose of the survey was to seek input regarding progress achieved since 2015, priorities for the next five years, and the issue areas to include in the 2022 Report to Congress. Fifty-eight responses were received for a 29 percent response rate. Analysis is underway and a complete report will be distributed in early 2022.
- The first progress update meeting for the UMRR 2022 Report to Congress was held on August 23, 2021. Lead authors provided details regarding their chapter and section content. Chapters will be assembled into a draft report document in December 2021 and shared with partners for initial review in January 2022. Partner comments will be consolidated into one document and shared to ensure transparency in report development. The first in-progress review (IPR) with MVD and USACE HQ is anticipated for late-January 2022. This will provide an opportunity to engage with Headquarters reviewers early in the process and allow adequate time to make any necessary modifications. Partners will be asked to coordinate a more in-depth review by their agencies in March-April. A call to discuss implementation issues was rescheduled from November 10, 2021 to November 17, 2021, following conclusion of the quarterly meeting. The next progress update meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2021.
- On September 10, 2021, the Joint Charter of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Coordinating Committee, Analysis Team, and Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects Selection Process Teams was routed to UMRR Coordinating Committee members for electronic signatures. On November 3, 2021, the Coordinating Committee completed electronic signatures of the Joint Charter.

Communications

- FY 21 accomplishments of the UMRR Communications and Outreach Team (COT) include:
 - Established team goal
 - Created an updated UMRR program flyer
 - Supported UMRR Coordinating Committee on the development of a storyline
 - Initiated development of a communication and outreach materials inventory
 - Created and executed an Earth Day social media campaign "Restore Our Earth"
 - Created and distributed materials for UMRR 35th Anniversary program flyer, video series, key messages
- The UMRR Communications and Outreach Team has three ongoing initiatives to recognize and celebrate UMRR's 35th anniversary including finalizing the program flyer, developing a pull-down banner for public and groundbreaking events, and a video series. The team finalized the flyer design and content in October 2021. The flyer is geared toward a general audience with limited knowledge of UMRR and will highlight the value of the UMRS and benefits of UMRR in the context of water, wildlife, and way of life. The final version includes state department logos instead of state seals. The INHS logo will be added, and an electronic version of the flyer will be distributed to the partnership. The pull-down banner is anticipated to be completed in late 2021. The team completed a draft of the first video highlighting UMRR history and partnership. The themes of the first four videos are:
 - 1. What is UMRR: history and partnership
 - 2. Success of UMRR
 - 3. Science on the river
 - 4. Future of UMRR
- The Communications and Outreach Team is considering options for supporting the strategic rollout of the third UMRR Status and Trends Report in the coming months.

UMRR Showcase Presentations

- Jennie Sauer overviewed FY 21 LTRM accomplishments. Sauer said that Attachment D of the meeting agenda packet includes a chart of LTRM milestones. She expressed appreciation to all the technicians, field station leaders, and others who have contributed to data collection and analysis. **Base monitoring** accomplishments include:
 - Fisheries component: Most extensive fisheries dataset for a great river in the world. Includes 28 years of standardized scientific data capturing fish community. Abundance and diversity of fisheries is high despite invasion of bigheaded carp species. There are multiple publications underway. Upcoming work includes QA/QC, net mending, fish sorting, and report writing. Additional fisheries projects include vital rates, smallmouth buffalo recruitment, vegetation and fish response to environmental pool management, and large wood debris occurrence.
 - Aquatic vegetation component: LTRM has the largest aquatic vegetation dataset in the world. Includes 22 years of data, capturing plant community changes and recovery of aquatic vegetation in the Upper Impounded Reach. Multiple publications are underway. In 2021, abundance and diversity of aquatic vegetation is high despite new and concerning invasion of flowering rush. The first alert of flowering rush, an invasive species, came from the LTRM Field Stations in 2020. Detections from LTRM observations in Pools 4, 8, and 13 are being

- submitted to EddMapS. A predictive model of SAV presence is being developed and preliminary findings suggest eighty-eight percent prediction accuracy with 9 variables, including water quality data, demonstrating integration of LTRM components data.
- Water quality component: Includes 28 years of data to capture spatially and temporally dynamic water quality changes in response to watershed changes. Multiple publications are underway. In 2021, continued chloride monitoring and phytoplankton research. The LTRM water quality lab at UMESC conducts over 50,000 analyses per year, maintaining high standards demonstrated through voluntary participation in standards comparison tests with other USGS labs.
- Other: Activities under base monitoring also include the UMRR LTRM all-hands meeting that was held March 30-31, 2021, expansion of LTRM fisheries sampling designs, methods, and procedures to all UMR navigation pools bordering the state of Illinois, efficient and effective data management and uploading, maintenance of graphical browsers for easy access of summarized data, and involvement in HREP PDTs.

Science in support of restoration and management research activities included:

- Understanding constraints on submerged aquatic vegetation distribution in the UMRS
- Interpretation of 2020 systemic land cover/land use data
- Refining Upper Mississippi River's ecosystem states framework
- Midwest climate change vulnerability assessment
- UMRS resilience assessment
- Ecohydrology projects
- Improving our understanding of historic, contemporary, and future UMRS hydrology
- Developing a better understanding of geomorphic changes
- Systemic analysis of hydrogeomorphic influences on native freshwater mussels
- Combining genetics, otolith microchemistry, and vital rate estimation to inform restoration and management of fish populations in the UMRS
- Understanding physical and ecological differences among side channels of the UMRS
- Development of a standardized monitoring program for vegetation and fish response to environmental pool management practices in the UMRS
- IWW lock closure fisheries and vegetation monitoring
- Wild celery winter bud dynamics in Pools 4, 8, and 13 of the UMR
- Reforesting UMRS forest canopy openings occupied by invasive species
- Forest response to multiple large-scale inundation events
- Using dendrochronology to understand historical forest growth, stand development, and gap dynamics
- HREP District Managers summarized FY 21 HREP accomplishments in their respective districts.
 - MVP awarded two construction contracts for Harpers Slough repairs and McGregor Lake. Repair of three flood-damaged islands at Harpers Slough was a new challenge for the program. The district coordinated closely with MVD on the best approach and drafted a letter report and plans and specs for the repair. The Reno Bottoms HREP team developed two feasibility tools to help data-driven decision making, the USGS forest succession model and floodplain forest HEP

model. The forest succession model generated maps incorporating climate change, invasive species, and land-use change that were used to formulate alternatives and the floodplain forest HEP model will be used to calculate ecosystem benefits. Reno Bottoms is the first project in district with a forest focus, but the district has additional forest-focused projects in the queue and will utilize these models again. A successful drawdown at Bass Ponds resulted in excellent vegetation establishment, including wild rice. All five of the districts next generation fact sheets have been approved and the district has initiated feasibility for the first of these projects, Lower Pool 4 Big Lake.

- MVR advanced feasibility for three projects, including Lower Pool 13, Green Island, and Pool 12 forestry. A design contract was awarded for Keithsburg phase 2A. Construction began at Keithsburg Division Stage 1, continues as Beaver Island Stage 1B, and was completed at Pool 12 Overwintering. ERDC planted aquatic plants at Huron Island and monitoring is ongoing. Blanket Purchase Agreements with the US Forest Service facilitated forest plantings at Pool 12 Overwintering and Huron Island and two contracts were awarded for future work at Beaver Island. Three separate contracts were completed for timber inventory activities.
- MVS completed construction at Ted Shanks HREP. Ted Shanks was one of the first projects to incorporate hydrogeomorphic analysis. Construction is ongoing at Crains Island, Clarence Cannon, and Piasa and Eagles Nest. The sediment deflection berm was completed at Crains Island. Design contracts are ready to advertise for Piasa and Eagles Nest Stage 2, Crains Island Stage 2, and Harlow Island Stage 1. Four plans and specs packages are being prepared for Oakwood Bottoms. Feasibility is being advanced for Yorkinut Slough and West Alton Islands. Four of the districts six next generation fact sheets have been approved. All three districts employed new methods to engage with stakeholders including increased signage at HREPs during construction, online videos for public comment, answering questions at a groundbreaking via Facebook Live, and participating in the UMRR Earth Day social media campaign "Restore our Earth."

Long Term Resource Monitoring and Science

- Accomplishments of the third quarter of FY 21 include publication of the following manuscripts and completion report:
 - The ecology of river ice
 - Warmer winters increase the biomass of phytoplankton in a large floodplain river
 - Spatial and temporal dynamics of phytoplankton assemblages in the Upper Mississippi River
 - Evaluation of a "trace" plant density score in LTRM vegetation monitoring
- The Status and Trends Report 3rd Edition is being reviewed by USGS' Science Publishing Network (SPN) to produce a final version of the report in calendar year 2022. A small group is planning for a strategic rollout for the UMRR Status and Trends Report.
- Planning for the 2022 LTRM Science Meeting is underway. The meeting is anticipated to be held virtually in February 2022.
- Land Cover Land Use processing is underway. Mapping has been completed for Pools 4, 8, 13, 26, and half of open river south and is underway for La Grange Pool. An unexpected retirement has reduced mapping capacity. Andrew Strassman is expected to complete La Grange Pool in December and begin the second half of open river south in FY 22. Field work has been completed for Pools 9, 10, 11, 12, and Alton Pools. The A-Team was asked to provide feedback regarding

which of those pools should be prioritized for mapping in FY 22. USGS is moving forward with recruitment to hire another mapper.

- Two webinars describing ongoing research within the Upper Mississippi River Restoration program (UMRR) and its long term resource monitoring (LTRM) element will be held on December 2 and December 7, 2021. These webinars will provide updates on research projects supported by UMRR science in support of restoration funds. Each webinar will consist of a series of five-minute presentations, with time afterwards for questions to all speakers and discussion.
- UMRR's LTRM FY 22 budget allocation will follow FY 21 allocations if the program receives \$33.17 million in funding. That is, \$6.3 million (\$5.0 million for base monitoring and \$1.3 million for analysis under base) with an additional \$2.5 million available for "science in support of restoration and management." Under the continuing resolution, base monitoring has only been partially funded. The bulk of science in support of restoration and management funds, approximately \$1.7 million, will go to proposals from 2022 science meeting. Existing funding commitments for three projects total \$740,000. Funds may also be used to support LCU processing.
- The *ad hoc* LTRM implementation planning team has held recurring bi-weekly meetings with the selected facilitators, Max Post van der Burg and Dave Smith from USGS. *Ad hoc* team members include:

Jim Fischer	Mark Gaikowksi	Marshall Plumley	Kirsten Wallace
Matt Vitello	Jeff Houser	Karen Hagerty	Andrew Stephenson
Nick Schlesser	Jennie Sauer		-

The team is currently working to refine the problem statement and identify twenty potential participants representing the diverse partnership for workshop involvement. If held virtually, it is anticipated that implementation planning workshops would consist of a series of two to three hour calls over six to seven weeks.

• The A-Team met via webinar on November 3, 2021. Topics discussed include UMRR updates, recent LTRM science publications, detection and management of flowering rush, reinstating macroinvertebrate monitoring, continued impacts of COVID-19 on agency policies and practices, and an introduction to staff at the Open River Field Station. [Note: The A-Team's next meeting is anticipated to be held in conjunction with the 2022 Science Meeting.]

Habitat Restoration

• MVP's planning priorities include Lower Pool 4, Reno Bottoms, and Lower Pool 10. A kickoff meeting for Lower Pool 4 was held virtually. Reno Bottoms is continuing in feasibility with formulation of alternatives. District quality control was completed for Lower Pool 10 and a final report is anticipated to be submitted to MVD in early 2022. MVP has four projects in construction totaling 5,000 acres. McGregor Lake is sixty-five percent complete. The next task at McGregor Lake is to divide Option 2 into smaller pieces, re-advertise by summer, and award at the end of FY 22. Harpers Slough, Bass Ponds, and Conway Lake are all over eighty-five percent complete. Low water is needed at Harpers Slough for final grading and seeding in the spring. Bass Ponds is nearly complete, a pre-final inspection was held on November 16, 2021, and a ribbon cutting ceremony is anticipated for May or June 2022. A tree planting contract was awarded for Conway Lake and may be scheduled to coincide with Earth Day celebrations. The district is also wrapping up three project evaluation reports.

- MVR's planning priorities include Lower Pool 13, Green Island, Pool 12 Forestry, and Quincy Bay. The Lower Pool 13 PDT has identified alternatives for the western area. The Green Island PDT hopes to finalize alternatives in the coming months. The Pool 12 Forestry PDT held a measures workshop in September and is addressing public comments on chapters one to three. An in-person kickoff meeting and site visit for Quincy Bay was held in October 2021. MVR's design priorities are Keithsburg Division Stage II and Steamboat Island Stage I. The 100 percent review for Steamboat Island started on November 2, 2021. MVR has four projects in construction. Pool 12 Overwintering Stage II is complete and the contract is being closed out. The contractor at Keithsburg Division Stage 1 started working on the spillway. ERDC completed aquatic vegetation monitoring at Huron Island Stage III in September 2021. The contractor at Beaver Island continues to work on shaping the placement sites. MVR is addressing sponsor comments on the Upper Pool 13 and Multi Pool Habitat Protection fact sheets prior to submitting to MVD. MVD is reviewing the Geneva and Hershey Island fact sheet.
- MVS's planning priorities include West Alton Islands and Yorkinut Slough. Several site visits were conducted at West Alton Islands and feasibility planning continues. Measures and alternatives development is progressing well for Yorkinut Slough and an IPR is being scheduled with MVD. MVS's design priorities include Piasa & Eagles Nest, Harlow Island, and Oakwood Bottoms. Design for Piasa and Eagles Nest Islands is complete, and the plan is to award Stage II. Harlow Island Stage 2 plans and specs are anticipated to be completed and ready to advertise in late FY 22, pending funding and priorities. Oakwood Bottoms has four plans and specs packages in development and the project is anticipated to be ready for advertising in the third quarter of FY 22. Construction at Crains Island is ahead of schedule and one of two modifications has been completed. Construction of a rock structure at Piasa & Eagles Nest has begun and Stage II dredging will follow. The pump station and berm setback are ongoing at Clarence Cannon. Other MVS activities include a flood damage assessment on Swan Lake HREP and summarizing lessons learned from past and current HREP construction efforts.

Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) Update

• The focus for NESP during FY 21 has been to advance projects to construction readiness. Navigation and ecosystem projects that will be construction ready for FY 22 include:

Navigation (Total \$12.5M)

- Lock 25 Lockwall Modifications
- Lock 14 Mooring Cell
- Moore's Towhead Systemic Mitigation

Ecosystem (Total \$10M)

- Pool 2 Wingdam Notching
- Twin Islands Island Protection
- Alton Pool Side Channel and Island Protection
- Starved Rock Habitat Restoration and Enhancement
- A map of construction ready projects under NESP can be found on the website at: https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NESP/.
- NESP projects were submitted for inclusion in the Corps' potential work plan associated with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Project names and funding amounts are anticipated to be released in 30 to 60 days.

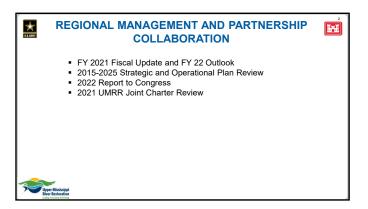
- The District-based River Teams were asked to identify additional ecosystem projects for implementation under NESP. Twenty-nine projects across three districts were identified as priority projects. Twelve "Group 1" projects were selected for fact sheet development and have been sent to MVD for approval. A map of these projects is being developed and will be posted to the USACE NESP webpage once complete.
- The Lock and Dam 22 Fish Passage Improvement Project Implementation Report is being transmitted to USACE Headquarters for approval.
- The Fish Passage Science Panel will hold a virtual design charette on December 15, 2021 to determine necessary pre-project monitoring to inform an adaptive management plan for the project.

Other Business

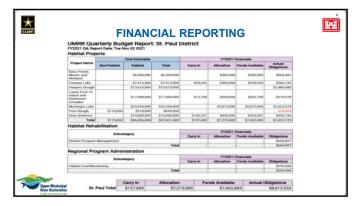
Upcoming quarterly meetings are as follows:

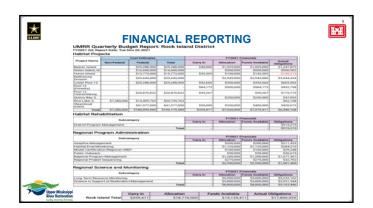
- February 2022 TBD
 - UMRBA quarterly meeting February 22
 - UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting February 23
- May 2022 TBD
 - UMRBA quarterly meeting May 24
 - UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting May 25
- August 2022 TBD
 - UMRBA quarterly meeting August 9
 - UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting August 10

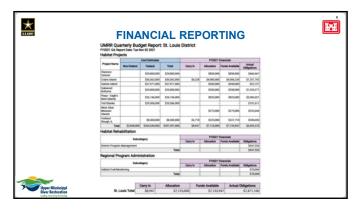




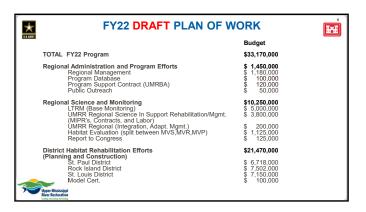


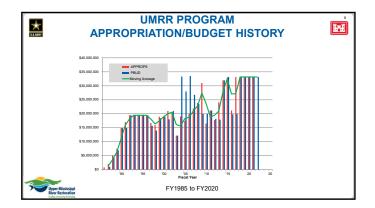


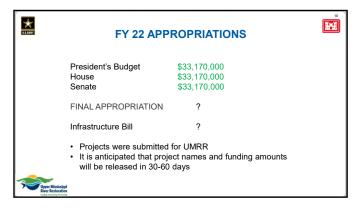


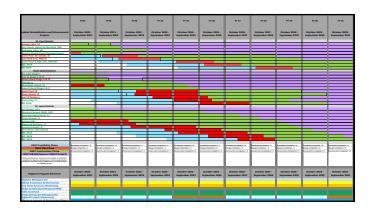


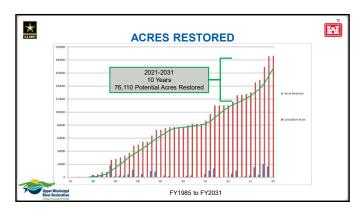
	FY21 PLAN OF WORK			
(S.S.AMY)	Budget	Obligations 4th Qrt.		
TOTAL FY21 Program	\$33,697,040	\$33,283,975		
Regional Administration and Program Efforts Regional Management Program Database Program Support Contract (UMRBA) Public Outreach	\$ 1,250,000 \$ 1,000,000 \$ 100,000 \$ 100,000 \$ 50,000	\$1,113,916		
Regional Science and Monitoring LTRM (Base Monitoring) UMRR Regional Science In Support Rehabilitation/Mgmt. (MIPR's, Contracts, and Labor)	\$10,400,000 \$ 5,000,000 \$ 3,800,000	\$ 10,061,299		
(MIFR'S, Combats, and Laboua, Mgmt.) UMRR Regional (Integration, Adapt. Mgmt.) Habitat Evaluation (split between MVS,MVR,MVP) Report to Congress	\$ 200,000 \$ 1,125,000 \$ 275,000			
District Habitat Rehabilitation Efforts (Planning and Construction)	\$21,520,000	\$ 22,108,759		
Rock Island District St. Louis District St. Paul District	\$ 7,020,000 \$ 7,125,000 \$ 7,275,000 \$ 100,000	98.77%		

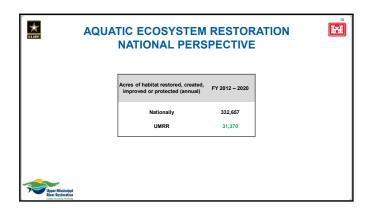


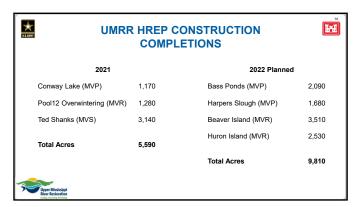


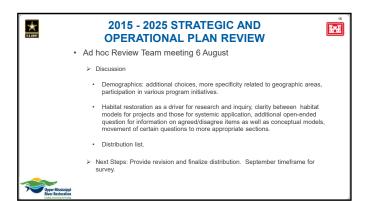


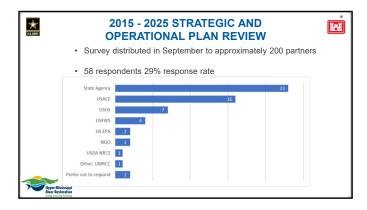


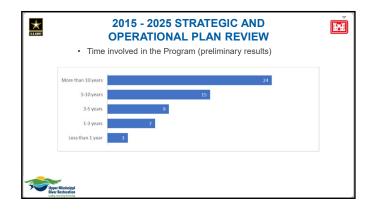


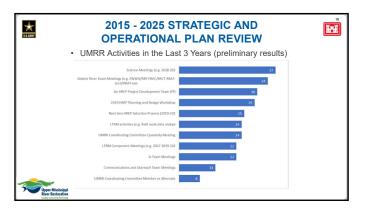


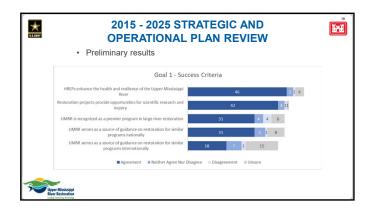


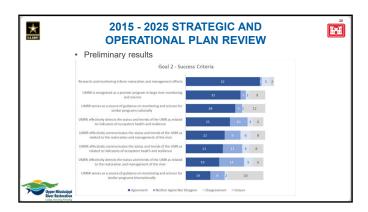


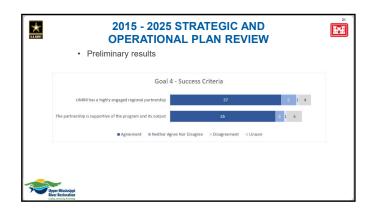




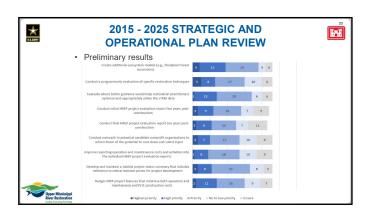


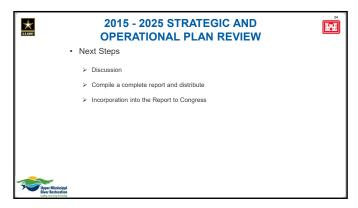


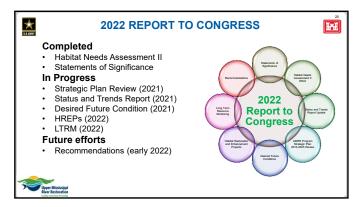


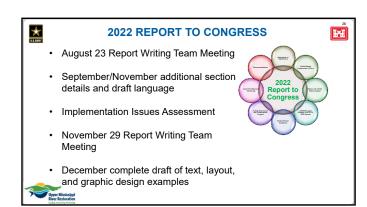




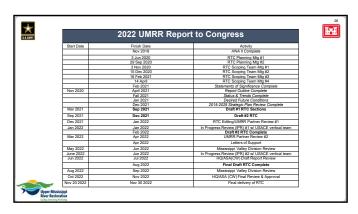


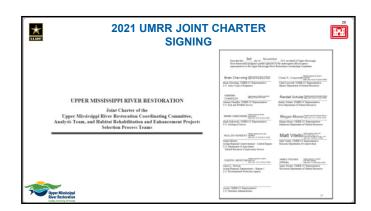






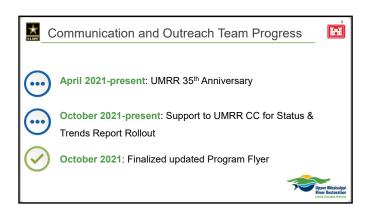








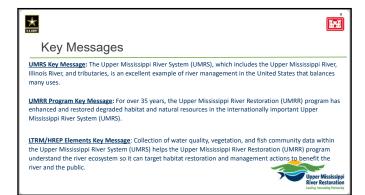


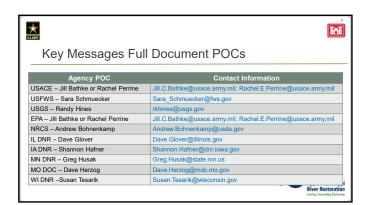




















Base Monitoring

Aquatic Vegetation Component

Fisheries Component

Water Quality Component

Spatial Data Component

Data Management

UMRR LTRM Virtual All-Hands Component Meeting

Eric Lund (Acting Megan Moore (MDNR)), Jim Fischer (WDNR), Dave Bierman (IDNR), John Chick (INHS), Dave Herzog (MDC), and Jim Lamer (INHS)



LTRM Base Monitoring: Fisheries

- Fisheries Component: Steve DeLain and Chris DaWald (MDNR), Andy Bartels and Kraig Hoff (WDNR), Travis Kueter (IDNR), Eric Gittinger and Eric Hine, Levi Solomon, Kris Maxson (INHS) and John West, Brian Ickes (USGS)
- 28 years of standardized scientific data capturing fish community and single species changes across nearly 2000km
- Most extensive fisheries dataset for a great river in the world!
- In 2021, abundance and diversity is high despite invasion of bigheaded carp species
- Multiple Publications

Fall/Winter Work









Fisheries Additional Projects



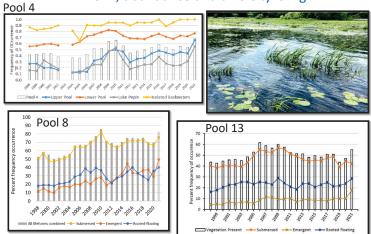
- Vital Rates; All field stations—more to come
- Smallmouth buffalo recruitment in the UMR; Kris Maxson, Levi Solomon, and many others!
 - Catostomidae reproduction occurs in all reaches in all years.
 - Recruitment more variable, with few year classes evident post-2000 in Pools 4 and 8, stronger year classes evident every 5-10 years in the other 4 RTA pools.
- Vegetation and fish response to Environmental Pool Management practices?
 Steve DeLain and Chris Dawald (MDNR) and John Chick plus graduate student!!—More to come
- The when and where of large wood in the UMRS: lessons from a 25-year dataset; Molly Van Appledorn, Kathi Jo Jankowski, field station staff
 - Large Wood (LW) occurrence varied significantly across study reaches (greatest in P4, least in Open River)
 - Site-scale variables more important than reach-scale variables



LTRM Base Monitoring: Aquatic Vegetation

- Vegetation Component: Eric Lund (MDNR), Alicia Carhart (WDNR), Seth Fopma (IDNR), & Danelle Larson (USGS)—plus others!
- 22 years of data, capturing plant community changes and recovery of aquatic vegetation in the Upper Impounded Reach
- Largest aquatic vegetation dataset in the world!
- In 2021, abundance and diversity is high despite new & concerning invasion of flowering rush
- Multiple publications

In 2021, abundance and diversity is high



Expansion of Flowering rush (Butomus umbellatus)

First alert of this invasive species came from the LTRM Field Stations in 2020. In 2021, continued monitoring with all LTRM observations of this invasive species in Pools 4, 8 and 13 are being submitted to EddMapS (https://www.eddmaps.org/)

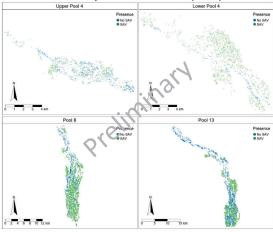
Information being used by USFWS as they work on management solutions





Building a predictive model of submersed plant presence

John Delaney and Danelle Larson (USGS)





LTRM Base Monitoring: Water Quality

- Water Quality Component: Rob Burdis (MDNR), John Kalas (WDNR), Ashley Johnson (IDNR), Lori Soeken-Gittinger (INHS), Molly Sobotka (MDC), and Doyn Kellerhals (INHS), & Kathi Jo Jankowski (USGS)
- 28 years of data to capture spatially and temporally dynamic water quality changes in response to watershed changes
- In 2021, continued chloride monitoring and phytoplankton research
- Multiple publications

Low waterClear water (in

some areas)





• If someone would have told me that I could ever see the anchor resting on the bottom in just over 6 feet of water in Pool 13 in my career, I would have called them crazy. Dave Bierman

LTRM WQ Laboratory

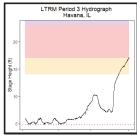
Xiaoli Yuan, John Manier, Derek Craig (USGS), and UW-L Students



10 parameters More than 50,000 analyses run Maintaining high standards









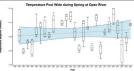


Not always fun sampling!!



LTRM Base Monitoring: Data Management

- Data Management: Ben Schlifer plus many others at FS and UMESC
- Update field apps, deliver barcodes to field stations
- Maintain and upload thousands of data records
- Maintain graphical browsers for easy access of summarized data



 Assist with data management on special projects

Expanding LTRM fisheries sampling designs, methods, and procedures

Brian Ickes and Ben Schlifer (USGS)

- Expansion in 2021 to all UMR nav pools bordering the state of Illinois
 - Long term efforts (>10 years)
 - Compatible with LTRM data (stratified random design; poolwide data) and data capture capabilities
 - Funded with non-program \$
 - Will provide
 - expanded monitoring coverage in the
 - improved abilities to detect and model species distribution and habitat use,
 - capabilities to empirically inform HREP planning, implementation, and evaluation.



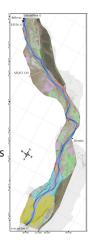
Specific HREP Involvement

Pool 13 HREPs



Jeff Houser, Kristen Bouska (USGS), Dave Bierman (IDNR), plus others

Objectives: Reducing wind fetch and wave energy to support SAV especially wild celery plus emergents along with timber stand improvement

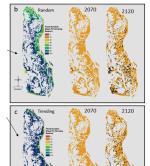


Specific HREP Involvement

Flood Inundation and Forest Simulation Modeling to support the Reno Bottoms HREP

Nathan De Jager, Molly Van Appledorn, Enrika Hlavacek, Jason Rohweder (USGS)

Examining effects of different hydrologic scenarios, topographic modifications, closing structures, and forest management actions on forest succession.

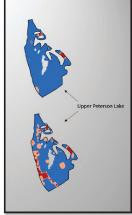


Specific HREP Involvement

Peterson Lake HREP Assessment

Rob Burdis (MDNR) plus others

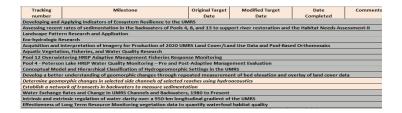
- > Pre- and Post-Adaptive Management Evaluation
- ➤ Winter habitat suitability for limnophilic fishes
- Preliminary information indicates the modifications made in 2019 and the reduction in flow had a favorable impact on habitat conditions in areas that would have otherwise been unsuitable under the high discharge that occurred 2019-2020 winter.



UMRR LTRM All-Hands Meeting (Virtual) March 30 - 31



Science in Support of Restoration and Management Research



Et cetera!!

Understanding constraints on submersed vegetation distribution in the UMRS: the role of water level fluctuations and clarity

Alicia Carhart, John Kalas, Deanne Drake (WDNR) Jim Rogala, Jason Rohweder, and Jeff Houser (USGS)

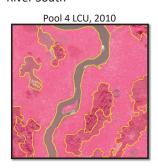
- In areas that <u>meet the suitable criteria</u>, but do not currently support vegetation: Management actions may succeed if other limiting factors can be addressed (velocity, wind fetch, herbivory, bioturbation, etc.)
- Tool within the spatial data viewer on the LTRM website for viewing the mapped estimates of suitable area for the entire UMRS
 - https://umesc.usgs.gov/management/dss/
 umrs land cover viewer.html

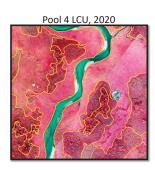


Interpretation of 2020 Systemic Land Cover/Land Use Data

Jennifer Dieck, Andrew Strassman, Erin Hoy, Janis Ruhser (USGS)

- 4th Decadal systemic mapping of land use and land cover
- Imagery processed for Pools 4, 8, 13, 26, La Grange, and Open River South



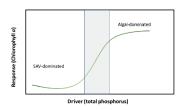


Refining Upper Mississippi River's ecosystem states framework

Danelle Larson, John Delaney, Jason Rohweder (USGS), Alicia Carhart (WDNR), Wako Bungula (UW-La Crosse)

Objectives

- $\hbox{\bf •What are the various ecosystem states/community types?}$
- •What are the indicator species and environmental drivers?
- •Are some places more vulnerable or resilient to state changes?
- •Which places are opportunities for restoration and management?



Midwest Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

John Delaney and Kristen Bouska (USGS)

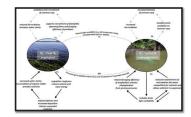
- Developed an online climate vulnerability assessment dashboard
- To come under Stable States Research: Vulnerability maps and online assessment tool to allow managers to manipulate the drivers of change to help determine and prioritize restoration location and action.



https://www.usgs.gov/apps/CC Vulnerability/

UMRS Resilience Assessment Kristen Bouska, Jeff Houser (USGS) and Working Group

 LTRM fish community data exhibit signals of regime shifts associated with biomass thresholds of Common Carp & bigheaded carps

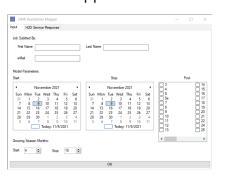


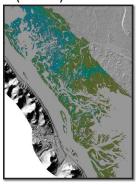
- Stability and diversity of vegetation in Lower Pool 4 & 8 indicates high resilience whereas greater variability in assemblage change and diversity indicate low resilience in Pool 13
- Developed guidance for using resilience assessment findings to navigate the Resist-Accept-Direct decision framework & applied to alternate regimes of the UMRS

Ecohydrology Projects

Molly Van Appledorn (USGS)

UMRS Floodplain Inundation Tool: Molly Van Appledorn and Tim Fox (USGS)



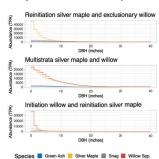


Ecohydrology Projects

Are UMRS floodplains sensitive to shifting river hydrology?

Compositional and Structural Diversity of UMRS Floodplain





Improving our understanding of historic, contemporary, and future UMRS hydrology Molly Van Appledorn (USGS) & Lucie Sawyer (USACE MVR)

 Historic Data Acquisition, Contemporary Data Acquisition, Compilation and Data Serving

2.				
Event	Purpose	Outcomes		
Meeting #1	Identify UMRR priorities for understanding climate changed hydrology	Prioritized list of program needs (Geomorphology, HREP/Management, Ecology themes)		
Meeting #2	Identify potential datasets and approaches to addressing UMRR priorities; Identify ideal outcomes of modeling effort	Description of ideal quantitative future hydrology dataset; ID Meeting #3 participants		
Meeting #3	Develop a proposal for achieving priority needs	Proposal		

Develop a better understanding of geomorphic changes

Determine geomorphic changes in selected side channels of selected reaches using hydroacoustics; Jayme Strange and Jim Rogala (USGS)

 Pools 4, 26, and La Grange showed an increase in depth whereas a decrease in depth was detected in Pools 8, 13, 18, and Open River.



Mapping potential sensitivity to

Hydrogeomorphic change and Development of
Supporting GIS Database and Query tool; Jayme
Strange and Faith Fitzpatrick (USGS)

- The Geomorphic Unit Tool (GUT)-- best for developing the hydrogeomorphic unit
- SPARROW model can be integrated to show suspended sediment loads moving through the system and how they have related to planform changes.

Systemic analysis of hydrogeomorphic influences on native freshwater mussels

Teresa Newton, Robert Francis, Danielle Schultz, and Jason Rohweder (USGS)

- > Quantifying associations between geomorphology and mussels can lead to informed HREP planning at the system, reach, and pool scales
 - Dense, species rich, and reproducing assemblages of mussels in the UMR
 - Assemblages varied among pools
 - Preliminary data indicates across pools, juveniles appear more responsive to geomorphic variation than adults



6		Р3	P5	P6	P8	P13	P18
	No. species	18	16	16	19	23	23
	Den, no/m²	3.2	4.3	2.9	3.2	5.4	4.5
	PE, millions	67	190	61	279	592	212
	% juveniles	44	28	20	14	57	38

Combining genetics, otolith microchemistry, and vital rate estimation to inform restoration and management of fish populations in the UMRS

Kristen Bouska (USGS), Andy Bartels (WDNR) and many others!

Vital Rates

- > Will improve understanding of age, growth, mortality, and recruitment for a suite of fish species
 - Staff from all 6 field stations & Missouri State University: Quentin
 Phelps and Hae Kim
 - Collect/process structures from over 20.000 fish
 - Several publications



Combining genetics, otolith microchemistry, and vital rate estimation to inform restoration and management of fish populations in the UMRS

Genetics – Drs Yue Shi and Wes Larson; Drs Mark Davis, Milton Tan, & Joel Corush

- Findings from our six systemic species support hypothesis that population structure reflects differences in life histories among species
- Fish specialists collected fin clips in field season 2021 for regional species analyses

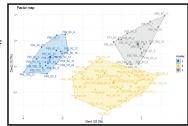
Microchemistry – Dr. Greg Whitledge and Shaley Valentine

- Analyses completed for a subset of 12 species; some delays due to equipment issues
- Value-added: outside funding is supporting concurrent diet & stable isotope analyses of these same fish

Understanding physical and ecological differences among side channels of the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS)

Molly Sobotka, Kristen Bouska, Heather Theele, Todd Slack, and Ross VanderVorste (UW-La Crosse)

- Used aquatic area classification data, LTRM water quality and fish data site data, and recent sonar data sets to understand grouping of side channels based on physical characteristics using hierarchical classification techniques.
- Initiated and completed collection of invertebrate community in a subset of side channels from each LTRM reach.



Development of a standardized monitoring program for vegetation and fish response to Environmental Pool Management practices in the UMRS

John Chick (INHS), Ben McGuire (USACE),
Steve DeLain, Chris DaWald (MDNR) plus others!

Use of emergent vegetation by juvenile silver carp has not been described before. . . Why were they using this habitat?

Relatively few fish species overall (depth? veg density? time of year?)

Recommend repeating this in more years, hopefully with differing conditions

A Unique Opportunity IWW Lock Closure Fisheries

Brandon Harris, Levi Solomon, Kris Maxson, and Jim Lamer (INHS)plus many others!

- Using LTRM Fisheries Methods
- Turbidity
- Vessel traffic
- Wave sensors
- Sedimentation sampling
- Chlorophyll a
- Zooplankton (INHS partnership)

 Still working up 2021 turbidity data, but it seems lower turbidity during Lock Closure period with reduced vessel traffic



IWW Lock Closures: Vegetation

Eric Lund (MDNR), Deanne Drake (Previously WDNR), Kyle Bales (Previously IDNR)
Benjamin Finley, Janis Ruhser, Andrew Strassman (USGS)-Processing

- > One year of SAV sampling
- > Land Cover processing -- Vegetation response before, during, and after







Wild celery winter bud dynamics in Pools 4, 8, and 13 of the UMR

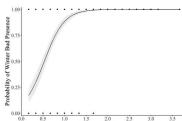
Kirsten Schmidt (UW-SP), Jacob Straub (Univ. New York), Benjamin Sedinger (UW-SP), Stephen Winter (USFWS)



Managers can use a more affordable and time saving sampling method to monitor wild celery buds more often

LTRM Rake sampling compared to coring Raking saves time and money

- core samples took 2.75 hours per site
- rake sites took 15 minutes



Forestry Projects

- Reforesting Upper Mississippi River System forest canopy openings occupied by invasive species. Dr. Lyle Guyon
 - Initial results indicate that large diameter cuttings do have potential to control invasive species
 - Another year of sampling to identify: Tree survivorship, Tree growth, Change in invasive species cover
- ➤ Forest Response to Multiple Large-Scale Inundation Events. Robert Cosgriff plus many others!
 - 2019 flood event caused high mortality. The impact was much lower than
 expected in the lower reaches, whereas it was higher than anticipated in
 the middle reaches.
 - Ambitious goal of modeling flood and forest features between the two large scale flood events with a goal of predicting impacts
- Using dendrochronology to understand historical forest growth, stand development, and gap dynamics. Benjamin J. Vandermyde, Robert J. Cosgriff
 - Conclude that the continued persistence of pecan trees in much of the UMR floodplain will require direct forest restoration

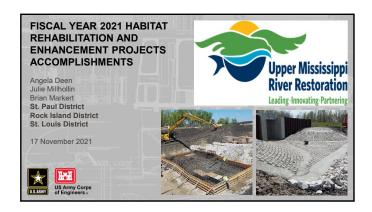


Questions??

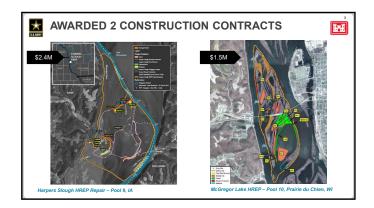
LTRM Management Team
Marshall Plumley and Karen
Hagerty, USACE
Mark Gaikowski, Jeff Houser,
and Jennifer Sauer, USGS

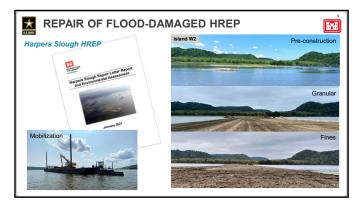
Thanks does not begin to cover our appreciation to all who contribute to making LTRM successful!!!

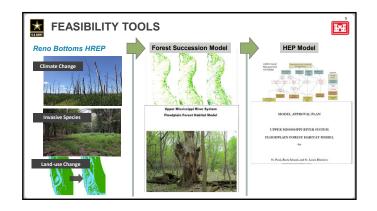


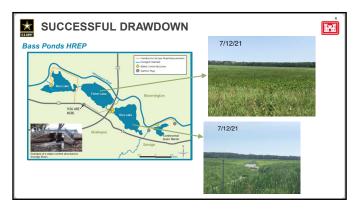


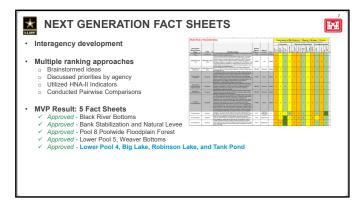


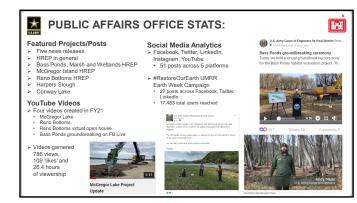


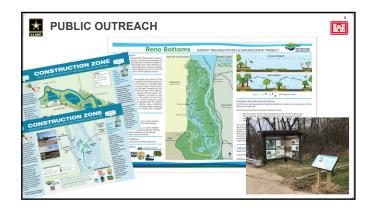




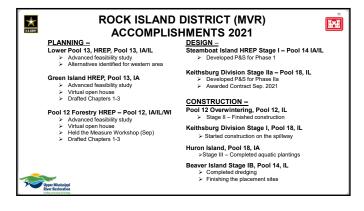








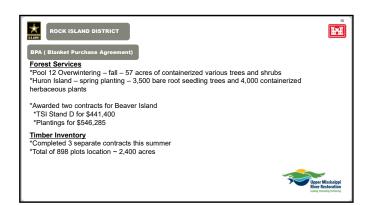


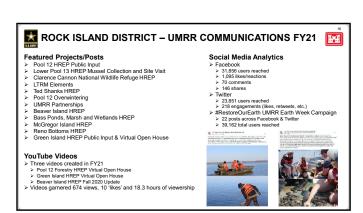




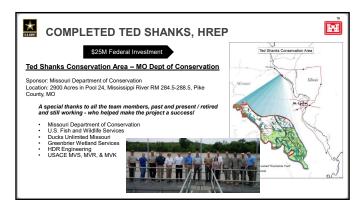










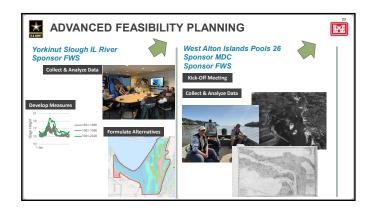


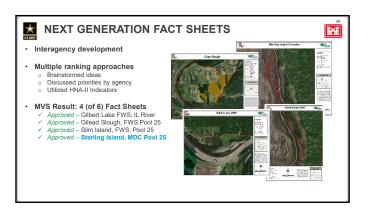






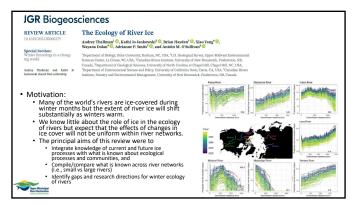




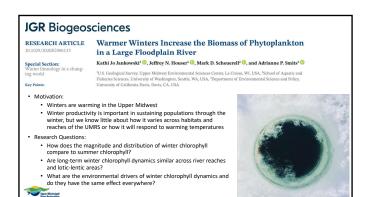


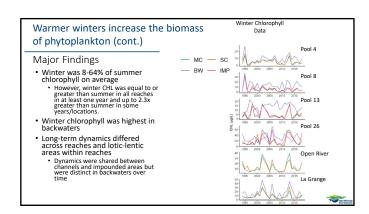


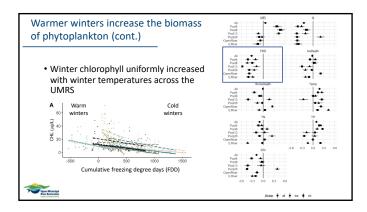




Ice, its ecological effects, and our knowledge of either of them are not uniform across river networks More study of ice dynamics in larger rivers (economic importance, visible from satellites) but more ecology research in small streams (easier to work in over winter). There are many gaps to fill. Ice formation, breakup, and duration differ with river size and geomorphology, and impact ecological processes different across river networks | International continues of the continue





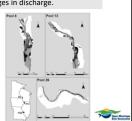


Spatial and temporal dynamics of phytoplankton assemblages in the upper Mississippi River

River Research and Applications 2021:1-2

Purpose: Examine lateral and longitudinal variation of phytoplankton communities in the UMR. Determine the effect of interannual changes in discharge.

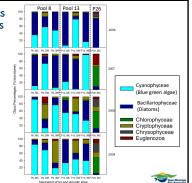
- Phytoplankton samples from the UMRR-LTRM archive (2006 -2009).
- Pools 8 and 13 (main channel, backwater and impounded sites), Pool 26 (main channel sites only).
- Phytoplankton samples were enumerated at UW-La Crosse and the data was correlated with WQ variables.

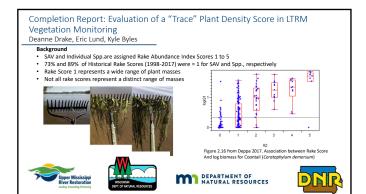


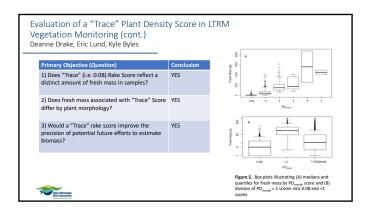
Spatial and temporal dynamics of phytoplankton assemblages in the upper Mississippi River

- Three most common genera
 (Aulacaseira, Aphanizomenon, and
 Microcystis) are all indicators of
 eutrophication.
 Lateral variation:
 Main channel dominated by cyanobacteria

- Main channel dominated by cyanobacteria or diatons.
 Backwaters were similar, but typified by flagellated species, such as cytomomads. These species are important to larval fish. Longitudinal transition: cyanobacteria/diatoms to diatoms/green algae. Nutrient limitation was not common, but physical factors were important. Prominence of cyanobacteria: 10% of the samples could be classified as a moderate-to-severe cyanobacteria bloom.



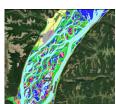




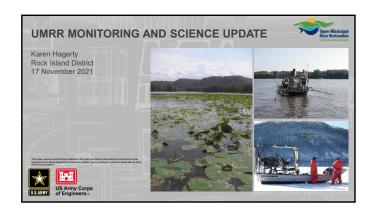
UMRR Status and Trends Report Update

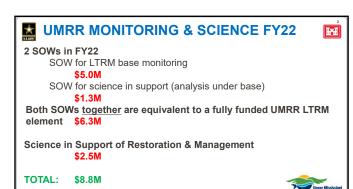
- · Content is complete
- Report continues to progress through publication process
- Publication date is uncertain sometime (hopefully early) in CY 22

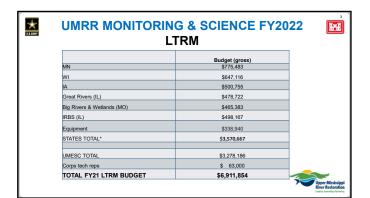
2020 Land cover update

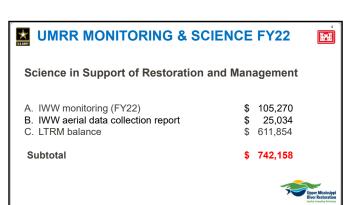


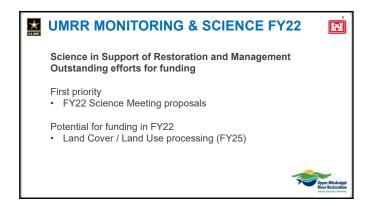


















LTRM IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING



- Current tasks:
 Participant list Goal of about 20 (in draft)
 Representative of partnership organizations
 Spanning geographic extent
 Representing various types of roles and expertise
- · Problem statement
- Upcoming tasks:
 Finalize scope, schedule, meeting format





UMRR Analysis Team Agenda November 3rd, 2021

Date: Wednesday November 3rd, 2021 Time: 8:00 pm – 12:00 pm Chair: Scott Gritters, Iowa Department of

8:00-8:10 - Introduction and Roll Call- Scott

8:10-8:15 – Time, place, and type of next meeting and approval of July A-team meeting

8:15-8:30 - UMRR update- Marshall Plumley (Karen subbing in here)

8:30-8:45 -LTRM implementation planning update- Karen Hagerty, Jennie Sauer and Jeff

8:45-9:00 – continued COVID update from each agency has anything changed with the agencies? UMRBRA, USGS, COE, USFWS, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota.. others?

9:00-9:40 – Flowering Rush impacts up and down the Mississippi River- Danelle Larson

9:40-9:45 - LTRM Science Highlights- Jeff

Houser 9:45-10:00 – Status and Trends Report update Jeff Houser

10:00-10:15 – Break 10:15-10:30 – Science Meeting update- Jeff

10:30-10:45 -Climate changed hydrology in the UMRS- Molly Van Appledorn and Lucie

10:45-11:00 – Invertebrate Component update- Jim Lamer

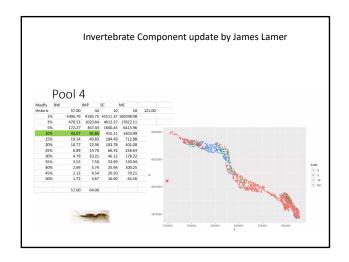
11:00-11:15 – Field Station in Focus, The people that make up the "Open" River Field Station –Dave Herzog

11:15-11:55 –Agency Updates- UMRBRA, USGS, COE, USFWS, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota... others?

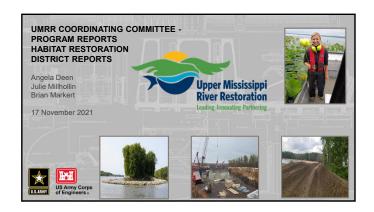
12:00 - Adjourn

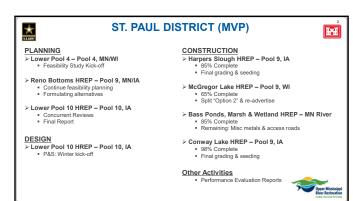


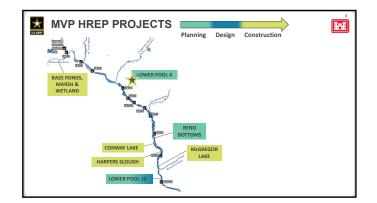




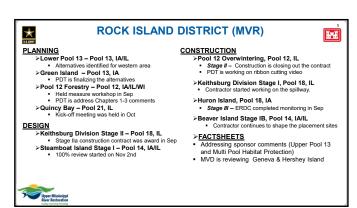


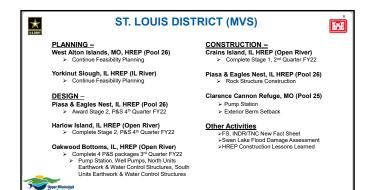




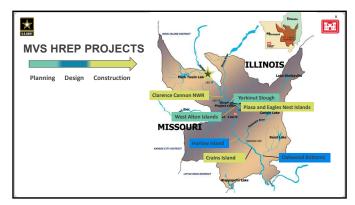
















NESP CONSTRUCTION READINESS



➤ Navigation (Total \$12.5M)

- Lock 25 Lockwall Modifications
 Lock 14 Mooring Cell
 Moore's Towhead Systemic Mitigation

> Ecosystem (Total \$10M)

- Pool 2 Wingdam Notching
- Twin Islands and Alton Pool Island Protection
- Starved Rock Habitat Restoration and Enhancement
- · Moore's Towhead Systemic Mitigation
- > See Map on the website for construction-ready project locations: https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NESP/



ADDITIONAL NESP ITEMS



> Infrastructure Bill

- Projects were submitted for NESP as part of USACE data calls.
- · It is anticipated that project names and funding amounts will be released in 30-60 days.

➤ Lock 22 Fish Passage

· Final report currently being transmitted to HQUSACE for approval.

> Ecosystem Project Coordination

- 29 total projects were recommended by the river teams.
 12 total projects were sent to MVD for approval as part of "group 1" a map is being developed and will be posted to the USACE NESP webpage once complete.



LOCK 22 FISH PASSAGE FISH SCIENCE PANEL



- Currently scheduled meetings

 29 November 2021, 1300-1400 Initial science panel meeting. Goal: develop charrette meeting agenda
 15 December 2021, 0800-1200 Virtual design charrette

- Potential Future Schedule

 December 2021 charrette

 January 2022 updated monitoring and adaptive management plan

 February 2022 initiation of monitoring activities

 March-September 2022 implementation of monitoring activities

USACE	Kara Mitvalsky	kara.n.mitvalsky@usace.army.mil
USACE	Tara Gambon	tara.m.gambon@usace.army.mil
Minnesota DNR	Grace Loppnow	Grace.Loppnow@state.mn.us
Minnesota DNR	Ben Larson	ben.j.larson@state.mn.us
MDC	Travis Moore	travis.moore@mdc.mo.gov
MDC	Annie Hentschke	Annie.Hentschke@mdc.mo.gov
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