

**Minutes of the  
Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program  
Coordinating Committee**

**October 25, 2023  
Quarterly Meeting**

Thatch Shepard (on behalf of Brian Chewning) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on October 25, 2023. UMRR Coordinating Committee representatives in attendance in-person were Sabrina Chandler (USFWS), Kirk Hansen (IA DNR), Chad Craycraft (IL DNR), Vanessa Perry (MN DNR), Matt Vitello (MO DoC), and Wade Strickland (WI DNR). Brian Chewning (USACE) and Jeff Houser (USGS) attended virtually. A complete list of attendees follows these minutes.

**Minutes of the August 9, 2023 Meeting**

Wade Strickland moved and Chad Craycraft seconded a motion to approve the draft minutes of the August 9, 2023 UMRR Coordinating Committee meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

**Regional Management and Partnership Collaboration**

*FY 2023 Fiscal Update*

Marshall Plumley reported that UMRR achieved an execution rate of 98.2 percent, obligating \$54.65 million of its \$55 million FY 2023 funds. This was the first year UMRR received a \$55 million appropriation.

*FY 2024 Fiscal Update*

Plumley reported that, on October 2, 2023, Congress enacted a continuing resolution extending current funding levels of the federal government to November 17, 2023. [Note: Subsequent Congressional action extended the continuing resolution to March 1, 2024.] The President's FY 2024 Budget and House and Senate Appropriations Committees' energy and water spending measures include \$55 million for UMRR. The final appropriation is not yet known. Marshall Plumley said that he and USGS UMESC LTRM managers met with state field station leaders regarding impacts to field stations in the event of a shutdown.

The draft FY 2024 plan of work for UMRR at \$55 million is listed below. It is largely consistent with the FY 2023 plan of work with the addition of regional project sequencing.

- Regional Administration and Program Efforts – \$1,675,000
  - Regional management – \$1,260,000
  - Program database – \$100,000
  - Program Support Contract – \$140,000
  - Public Outreach – \$50,000
  - Regional Project Sequencing – \$125,000
- Regional Science and Monitoring – \$15,325,000
  - Long term resource monitoring – \$5,500,000
  - Regional science in support of restoration – \$8,350,000
  - Regional science staff support – \$200,000
  - Habitat evaluation (split across three districts) – \$1,275,000

- Habitat Restoration – \$38,000,000
  - Rock Island District – \$11,150,000
  - St. Louis District – \$13,700,000
  - St. Paul District – \$13,050,000
  - Model certification – \$100,000

### *UMRR Ten-Year Plan*

Plumley said the UMRR 10-year implementation plan includes 11 projects in feasibility and 12 projects in design or construction. A new project is scheduled to start feasibility at the end of FY 2024 in both MVR and MVS.

### *Environmental Justice*

Plumley introduced a matrix to illuminate expectations for environmental justice processes in UMRR habitat projects specific to the timeframe between fact sheet development through feasibility. Plumley said the activities outlined in the matrix are the Corps' responsibility and put forward that the Corps would appreciate the ability to leverage existing relationships of UMRR's partners with community leaders. UMRR Coordinating Committee members recommended engaging communities earlier in the process, maintaining a connection between communities and resource managers, sharing LTRM information with communities, and ensuring environmental justice efforts are embedded in projects and not developed in parallel to be implemented later. Sabrina Chandler emphasized the need to communicate the Corps' project-related environmental justice expectations to river teams in advance of the next HREP selection process. Plumley said he will distribute the draft matrix following the meeting with a request for feedback.

### *HREP Selection Process*

Plumley said UMRR issued guidance to the river teams regarding the next HREP selection process. River teams are starting to hold discussions. Upcoming river team meetings are as follows:

- The St. Paul District's FWWG is planning to meet in December or January.
- The Rock Island District's FWIC is scheduled to meet October 25, 2023 virtually followed by an in-person workshop on November 13, 2023.
- The St. Louis District's RRAT-Tech is planning to convene a kick-off meeting in early 2024.

Existing support for the river teams includes recorded webinars on HNA-II and the LTRM status and trends report. Under the current schedule, the UMRR Coordinating Committee would be presented with a set of new projects at the May 2025 quarterly meeting. Plumley said the UMRR Program Planning Team (PPT) will meet following the river teams' initial meetings to address any questions or concerns.

### *Strategic Plan*

Plumley reported that the UMRR Coordinating Committee is scoping a process to develop the next strategic plan for UMRR. A draft one-page overview of a proposed process is included as item B1 in the meeting agenda packet. The strategic planning process is expected to take place over the next 18 months.

### *Implementation Issues*

Plumley reported that, on August 9, 2023, the UMRR Coordinating Committee met to discuss recommended actions to address UMRR implementation issues. The following updates for each issue paper were provided:

- Federal Easement Lands: Sabrina Chandler is meeting with Illinois NRCS staff on October 26, 2023 to discuss options for restoration on easement lands owned in fee by the Service. Chandler will report back to the Coordinating Committee after the meeting. [Note: Following the meeting, Chandler reported that NRCS staff were very willing to work with USFWS and consider options for restoration on these lands and were receptive to potential UMRR Projects on similar lands as well.]
- Water Level Management: The issue of water level management has fundamentally changed since the implementation issue paper was drafted – i.e., the construction new start and ongoing implementation of NESP and new authorization language in WRDA 2022. UMRR can still consider HREPs that incorporate WLM on a case-by-case basis.
- Project Partnership Agreements: The issue was discussed in depth by the UMRBA Board during its August 8, 2023 quarterly meeting. UMRBA is working with multiple partners to seek PPA reform at a national level. UMRBA confirmed it will advocate for PPA reform through WRDA 2024.
- Watershed Inputs and Climate Change: A webinar or meeting will be held in the future for a discussion on how climate change is currently considered in HREP planning and design. The session would be a useful lead into the 2024 UMRR workshop. The Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Centers or USACE Climate Community of Practice should be invited to lend additional expertise in discussions. USFWS is developing a national policy regarding using the resist-accept-direct (RAD) framework. The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) is developing a RAD training for state staff in the next year. Stephenson said he will distribute the recently published RAD paper to UMRR Coordinating Committee members.
- Engaging Non-Traditional Sponsors: Simple communication tools for explaining potential projects and pertinent information regarding O&M requirements are needed for distribution to counties, cities, and potential NGO sponsors ahead of the next HREP selection process.
- External Communications: The UMRR Communications and Outreach Team is identifying priorities for 2024.
- Floodplain Regulations: No updates at this time.

### *UMRR Workshop*

Plumley announced that UMRR scheduled a programmatic workshop for May 7-9, 2024. The location has not yet been determined. Potential workshop topics include monitoring and adaptive management, HREP/LTRM integration, the HREP Design Handbook, and HREP lessons learned, among others.

A planning team of the following program partners is planning the agenda and logistics, as follows:

Kara Mitvalsky	Davi Michl	Vanessa Perry
Brian Markert	Sara Schmuecker	Nicole Ward
Lane Richter	Sharonne Baylor	Matt Vitello
Elisa Royce	Jeff Houser	Molly Sobotka
Angela Deen	Jim Fischer	Jeff Janvrin
Kacie Opat	Kirk Hansen	Brenda Kelly
Julie Millhollin	Ryan Hupfeld	Andrew Stephenson
Rachel Perrine		

### *MEGA-ECO Symposium*

Plumley reported that, on October 5, 2023, he presented on UMRR at the MEGA-ECO symposium on large-scale landscape projects at the University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design. The symposium featured government and non-government projects dealing with similar issues. Plumley highlighted projects from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Yellowstone to Yukon, Pakistan, and the Amazon that emphasized

the cultural memory of a landscape, importance of corridors and connectivity for wildlife, and restoring degraded lands with basic principles and practices. Plumley said there was great interest in LTRM methods and how the work is jointly implemented across federal and state agencies. Plumley said there was also interest from multiple symposia presenters in exploring how to formalize a partnership in the future to continue learning from each other's experiences and expertise.

### *Report to Congress*

Plumley reported that the 2022 UMRR Report to Congress is still in review at the ASA(CW)'s office. The report represents an important communication tool. Coordinating Committee members requested release of the draft final report to allow sharing within their agencies to leadership and in discussions with Congressional offices.

### **Strategic Planning**

Andrew Stephenson put forward a proposed process (outline provided in B1 of the agenda packet) to the UMRR Coordinating Committee for developing the next UMRR strategic plan. A strategic planning leadership team will work with a facilitator(s) to lead the planning process over the next 18 months. A strategic planning team, comprised of approximately 20 individuals representing the various agencies and elements of UMRR, as well as some individuals external to UMRR, will be convened to actively engage in design, discussion, and development of the plan. The process will provide for robust public participation including by using UMRR quarterly meetings for exploration, discussion, review, and feedback on emerging ideas. Coordinating Committee members discussed the merits of a 5-year or 10-year timeframe for the next strategic plan as well as the degree to which the current strategic plan should inform development of the next strategic plan. Houser recalled that, in 2015, explicitly stating aspects that were set in stone made it possible to talk about new ideas. In response to questions from Coordinating Committee members, Brian Stenquist said that, to date, UMRR's strategic plans have focused on budget constraints and integrating HREP and LTRM, respectively. Stenquist offered that climate change, environmental justice, and NESP may be important considerations in developing the next strategic plan. The UMRR Coordinating Committee largely agreed to the proposed process with the following modifications:

- Extend the process across an 18-month schedule using major touch points such as quarterly meetings and the UMRR workshop to get directed input.
- Refine teams' roles and responsibilities and draft a list of potential participants.

The Coordinating Committee will convene meetings virtually on November 27, 2023 and December 11, 2023 to discuss the revised document. Coordinating Committee members were asked to provide names of potential facilitators to Stephenson and Marshall Plumley prior to the November meeting.

### **Communications**

#### *Communication and Outreach Team Update*

Rachel Perrine reported that the UMRR Communications and Outreach Team (COT) finalized a framework for the team's operations in August 2023. It is considered a living document and will be revisited during the next strategic planning effort. Perrine reflected that the COT has supported communications for the LTRM status and trends report snapshot summaries, resulting in over 1000 views and nearly 300 likes across 10 posts and four social media outlets. On August 2, 2023, Matt Jones, USACE, presented on environmental justice. At the September 6, 2023 meeting, Greg Husak, Minnesota DNR, presented Minnesota DNR communication initiatives, success stories, and lessons learned. Brian Stenquist expressed appreciation for the COT's discussion on environmental justice and suggested that the matrix Plumley presented today may help guide future COT efforts.

Perrine said that, on October 18, 2023, she sent a poll to COT members to help prioritize activities for calendar year 2024. Results of the poll will be discussed at the November 1, 2023, meeting. The COT anticipates providing support for the release of the 2022 UMRB Report to Congress, continuing to share lessons learned from partner agency communications efforts, and additional environmental justice discussions. Kirsten Wallace suggested identifying opportunities in the year ahead, such as ribbon cuttings or science products, that the partnership can collectively support through communications actions.

### *External Communications and Outreach*

Communication and outreach activities in the fourth quarter of FY 2023 include the following:

- Vanessa Perry said MN DNR staff responded to media inquiries about water level impacts to habitat and navigation. MN DNR is strengthening the relationship between LTRM staff and the rest of the agency, including by sharing the recent RAD publication via an internal newsletter.
- Wade Strickland said he is working with WI DNR magazine on an LTRM-focused article to raise awareness about work on the river as well.
- Sabrina Chandler said she presented information on Pool 13 to staff from Senator Grassley's and Senator Ernst's offices. Chandler noted that the ability to quickly respond to questions with robust fisheries data from the online query tools and excerpts of the Status and Trends helps demonstrate the value of the program.
- Kirsten Wallace reported that UMRBA is advocating for three changes in the 2024 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that will affect UMRB:
  - 1) Allowing projects on General Plan lands to utilize MOAs instead of PPAs;
  - 2) Allowing for the direct transfer of funds to states and improving the efficiency for transferring funds to UMRBA;
  - 3) Increasing the annual authorized appropriation for LTRM to \$25 million. Wallace noted that The Nature Conservancy submitted a request for LTRM to be increased to \$40 million and that UMRBA is vocalizing support for that funding amount.
- Andrew Stephenson said that, on August 20-24, 2023, he presented on the history and success of UMRB and the UMRS partnership in bringing resources to the region at a MICRA Symposium at the American Fisheries Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### **Habitat Restoration**

Brian Markert reported that MVS executed its largest UMRB funding amount ever in FY 2023. MVS's FY 2023 accomplishments include completing the pump station and nearly completing the berm setback at Clarence Cannon Refuge, initiating stage II construction at Piasa and Eagles nest, completing design work at Oakwood Bottoms, initiating stage II design work at Harlow Island, completing a feasibility report for Yorkinut Slough, and completing the tentatively selected plan at West Alton Islands. Gilead Slough and Reds Landing HREPs were selected to start feasibility in the first quarter of FY 2024 and MVS continues drafting the Spunky Bottoms and Cape Slough fact sheets with partners. The Meredosia Island fact sheet was approved by MVD. In FY 2023, the District completed a site visit to Batchtown HREP to document construction and operations lessons learned and the Swan Lake flood damage assessment letter report was approved. MVS completed aerial lidar, digital orthophotography, and bathymetry to support multiple projects. A public outreach initiative with schools was conducted to name new islands in the Piasa and Eagles Nest HREP. MVS's FY 2024 planning priorities include West Alton Islands, Gilead Slough, and Reds Landing. MVS's design priorities include Yorkinut Slough, Swan Lake, Harlow Island, Clarence Cannon, and Crains Island HREPs. In FY 2024, MVS will have three projects in construction: Crains Island Stage I, Piasa and Eagles Nest Stage II, and Clarence Cannon.

Julie Millhollin reported that MVR's FY 2023 accomplishments include submitting the Lower Pool 13 Phase I feasibility report to MVD for approval and starting feasibility on Lower Pool 13 Phase II, as well as reaching TSP milestones for Pool 12 Forestry, Green Island, and Quincy Bay HREPs. Construction highlights include completing dredging, grading, and seeding at Beaver Island, tree clearing at Steamboat Island, and aquatic plantings at Huron Island. MVR continued spillway construction at Keithsburg HREP and awarded the forestry services MATOC totaling \$9.5million over 5 years. MVR had many interactions on its social media posts on Facebook and Twitter/X, as well as videos on YouTube. MVR's planning priorities include Pool 12 Forestry, Green Island, Lower Pool 13 Phases I and II, Pool 18 Forestry, and Quincy Bay HREPs. Designs of Steamboat Island Stage II are nearly complete. MVR has four projects in construction: Beaver Island, Steamboat Island Stage I, Keithsburg Division Stages I and II, and Huron Island Stage III. In response to questions from Brian Stenquist and Andrew Stephenson, Millhollin said the focus of most forestry work is to open canopy and plant diverse species to facilitate growth and new age classes to improve resilience. Felled trees at Beaver Island were placed in the dredge channel and may be mulched on site at Steamboat, pending cost analysis and logistics. Marshall Plumley noted that Beaver Island will restore nearly 1700 acres. Kirsten Wallace suggested a coordinated communication effort around Beaver Island as it nears completion. In response to a question from Wade Strickland, Plumley said USACE has done its due diligence in planning to date but is working to broaden the environmental justice process and noted that Quincy Bay HREP is the first project with explicit environmental justice components in the tentatively selected plan.

Angela Deen reported that MVP's FY 2023 accomplishments include turning over and completing O&M manuals for three projects sponsored by the USFWS. Refuge managers provided positive feedback on the updated O&M manual template that better describes the change between feasibility and as-built project specifications. Deen said that MVP selected a TSP for Big Lake Pool 4 HREP, fully awarded construction contracts for McGregor Lake, and developed two web viewers for Robinson and Big Lake HREPs to aid in planning. Refuge staff were able to use water control structures designed to take water off the Bass Ponds HREP to instead bring water onto the area from the Minnesota River during drought conditions. Sabrina Chandler said the last drought released lead into the lakes and that now being able to keep water levels high during drought will protect birds from toxicity. Deen said MVP celebrated the first drone flight of its small unmanned aerial systems program which can collect high resolution video and imagery that will aid planning, monitoring, and public affairs efforts around projects. The District created two videos on the McGregor Lake and Robinson Lake HREPs that reached 1,685 people and organized a tour of three HREPs for new Corps personnel. MVP's planning priorities include Big Lake – Pool 4 and Robinson Lake. MVP's design priorities are Reno Bottoms and Lower Pool 10 HREPs. McGregor Lake HREP Stage I construction is 97 percent complete, and Stage II is 45 percent complete. The project uses innovative techniques and beneficial use of dredge material. Chandler said McGregor Lake has significant public access and that she has heard many public comments regarding the project's benefits. Chandler expressed appreciation for the Corps' efforts to update the O&M manual template noting the ease of using it and how it will improve management of the area.

## **Long Term Resource Monitoring and Science**

### *FY 2023 4th Quarter Report*

Jeff Houser reported that accomplishments of the fourth quarter of FY 2023 include publication of the following manuscripts and completion report:

- *River Geomorphology Affects Biogeochemical Responses to Hydrologic Events in a Large River Ecosystem*
- *Long-Term Changes in Concentration and Yield of Riverine Dissolved Silicon from the Poles to the Tropics*
- *Reimagining large river management using the Resist–Accept–Direct (RAD) framework in the Upper Mississippi River*

Houser reported that UMRR LTRM field station FY 2023 highlights included monitoring activities, novel analyses, presentations by LTRM staff or featuring LTRM data, lab improvements component meetings, outreach efforts, involvement in HREP project development teams, and onboarding new staff. Pool-specific highlights are as follows:

- Pool 4
  - Incorporation of LTRM data into Pool 4 HREP database.
  - Monitoring in Pool 4 detected a major increase in water stargrass from extended low water.
  - LTRM staff contributed to Minnesota’s updated invasive carp action plan.
- Pool 8
  - Monitoring detected abundant wild rice in Pool 8.
- Pool 13
  - LTRM staff in Pool 13 collected their one millionth fish, a channel catfish in a hoop net.
  - The third highest crest in history at lock and dam 12 with a slow and steady decline created excellent spawning conditions for many species.
  - Monitoring detected large year classes for both game and non-game fish species.
  - LTRM staff are participating in the planning of the Lower Pool 13 HREP.
- Pool 26
  - Eric Hine served as President of the Mississippi River Research Consortium.
  - Multiple outreach events focused on teaching fish identification skills.
- La Grange
  - Sara Sawicki joined IRBS as a water quality specialist.
  - Lab improvements
  - Continuing drought and low water led to increased airboat usage but still resulted in more than thirty SRS sites being too shallow to sample. Only 1 young-of-the year silver carp was detected, potentially indicating a low spawning year. Low water conditions led to increased capture of some rare native species. The Chain/Stewart backwater lakes remained mostly dry for the second sampling season in a row.
  - Completion of a summary report for the 2020 Illinois Waterway consolidated lock closure that documented reduced vessel traffic led to reduced turbidity and increase CPUE for sound-sensitive taxa.
  - Leading analysis of macroinvertebrate sample contaminants.
  - Analysis of burrowing mayfly samples indicate lower than historic means for most sites.
  - Vital rates inventory updates including imaging otoliths and developing image database.
- Open River
  - On September 16, 2023 the field station hosted a day on the river event with over 800 attendees.
  - Missouri Department of Conservation magazine featured the field station staff.
- An LTRM all hands meeting was held on April 11-13, 2023 in Muscatine.
- An LTRM fisheries field meeting was held on May 8-11, 2023 in Pool 19.
- A vital rates, microchemistry & genetics synthesis meeting was held on August 3-4, 2023 in Pool 19.

Houser presented other FY 2023 UMRR LTRM accomplishments including:

- Welcoming Jim Fischer as the new USGS LTRM branch chief. Fischer was a Water Quality specialist at the La Crosse field station for 13 years, co-authored the Water Quality procedures manual and was a member of the A-team and UMRR Coordinating Committee.
- LTRM implementation planning process resulted in nine projects addressing information needs being proposed for funding from FY 2023 – FY 2026.
- Advancing the Lower Pool 13 HREP-Associated Research Project (HARP).
- Multiple presentations from LTRM staff on Viking Cruises
- Presentations at the MRRC and other regional conferences by LTRM staff or featuring LTRM data.
- Distribution of the LTRM Status and Trends Snapshot Summaries.
- Hosting two science webinars on September 25, 2023, and October 5, 2023. Recordings of the webinars are available at <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Stewardship/Upper-Mississippi-River-Restoration/Key-Initiatives/Workshops/>
- Completing the Water Quality Lab remodel. The upgraded facility enhances the region’s research capabilities and is also expected to contribute to national efforts in understanding and addressing ecological challenges. USGS leadership, Congressional representatives, and community leaders attended the ribbon cutting ceremony.
- Uploading all 2022 LTRM data online and on graphical browsers.

Brian Stenquist asked what resources are available to help assess the 50-year timeframe for analysis in the Resist-Accept-Direct Framework. Houser said the last science meeting identified a need for hydrologic changes to be forecast 50-100 years in the future and efforts are underway to downscale climate forecasts to help identify the suite of scenarios that may be likely to occur. Vanessa Perry expressed appreciation for LTRM staff involvement in updating Minnesota DNR’s Invasive Carp Action Plan. Perry said she will share the updated plan when it is complete. In response to a question from Andrew Stephenson, Houser said the 2019 floodplain forest assessment analysis is still underway.

#### *USACE LTRM Report*

Davi Michl reported that LTRM obligated \$13.7 million of its \$13.85 million FY 2023 funds, or 99.2 percent. FY 2023 funds advanced two information needs identified through LTRM implementation planning and topobathy pilot study contracts were awarded in September. Michl said low water may be advantageous for topobathy lidar acquisition this fall. UMRR’s LTRM FY 2024 budget allocation is \$7 million (\$5.5 million for base monitoring and \$1.5 million for analysis under base) with an additional \$6.85 million available for “science in support of restoration and management.”

#### *A-Team Report*

Matt Vitello presented the A-Team updated on behalf of Matt O’Hara. Vitello reported that the A-Team met on October 18, 2023. The A-Team welcomed Jim Fischer and Davi Michl to the A-Team in their new roles as USGS LTRM Branch Chief and USACE LTRM Project Manager, respectively. Vitello reported that Marshall Plumley provided HREP and LTRM programmatic updates and Andrew Stephenson summarized results of the social media rollout of the two-page snapshot summaries communicating the major findings from the 2022 UMRR LTRM status and trends report. The A-team discussed potential additional communication needs including a flyer on water level fluctuation, press release regarding new hydrology database that is close to completion, and utilizing the Corps’ existing podcast capabilities.

Vitello reported that Houser led a discussion on planning for the 2024 UMRR LTRM science meeting including a review of focal areas and initial work groups. A-Team members suggested additional topics



including emerging contaminants, lentic fish assemblages, refuge and backwater overwintering habitat, turtle bycatch, and floodplain forestry.

Vitello said that Shawn Giblin presented on burrowing mayfly trends and Mike Miller, WI DNR inland streams biologist, presented on emerging contaminants. Both presentations are relevant to ongoing macroinvertebrates monitoring. Vitello said Scott Gritters and Seth Fopma presented on the history of telemetry in Pool 12.

Wade Strickland noted that Miller has also been working on neonicotinoids and could present that research to the UMRR Coordinating Committee or others if there was interest. Lauren Salvato noted that UMRBA's water quality monitoring data could be analyzed for neonicotinoids as well.

Matt Vitello said the next A-Team meeting will be held in conjunction with the January 16-18, 2024 science meeting. The A-Team may hold a special meeting in November or December 2023 to finalize focal areas for the science meeting. [Note: The A-Team scheduled a meeting on November 30, 2023 to finalize focal areas ahead of the science meeting.]

#### *LTRM implementation planning*

Houser said that he will provide a progress update on implementation plans for the information needs not partially funded with FY 2023 funds at the February 28, 2024 UMRR Coordinating Committee meeting.

#### **Other Business**

Upcoming quarterly meetings are as follows:

- February 2024 – Virtual
  - UMRBA quarterly meeting – February 27
  - UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – February 28
- May 2024 – Quad Cities
  - UMRBA quarterly meeting – May 21
  - UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – May 22
- August 2024 – St. Paul
  - UMRBA quarterly meeting – August 6
  - UMRR Coordinating Committee quarterly meeting – August 7

With no further business, Matt Vitello moved and Kirk Hansen seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

**UMRR Coordinating Committee Attendance List  
October 25, 2023**

**UMRR Coordinating Committee Members**

Thatch Shepard (on behalf of Brian Chewning)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Sabrina Chandler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jeff Houser	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Chad Craycraft	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Kirk Hansen	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Vanessa Perry	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Matt Vitello	Missouri Department of Conservation
Wade Strickland	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

**Others In Attendance**

LeeAnn Riggs	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
Jim Lewis	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVD
Nathan Wallerstedt	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Angela Deen	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVP
Marshall Plumley	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Davi Michl	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Julie Millhollin	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Rachel Perrine	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Kyle Bales	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Leo Keller	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVR
Brian Markert	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Brian Johnson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Greg Kohler	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MVS
Sara Schmuecker	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IIFO
Lauren Larson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IIFO
Matt Mangan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IIFO
Jon Amberg	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Jennifer Dieck	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Jim Fischer	U.S. Geological Survey, UMESC
Travis Black	Maritime Administration
Sammi Boyd	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Lindsay Brice	Audubon
Brian Taylor	The Waterways Journal
Anshu Singh	Corn Belt Ports
John O'Donnell	Heartlands Conservancy
Rob Levinthal	University of Pennsylvania
Kirsten Wallace	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Brian Stenquist	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Andrew Stephenson	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Mark Ellis	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Lauren Salvato	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Erin Spry	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Sam Hund	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

[Note: This includes in-person and virtual attendees]