

UMRCC 2010 Annual Meeting  
Outreach, Recreation, Environmental Education and Interpretation Technical Section Meeting  
(OREIT)

Grand River Center - Dubuque, Iowa  
Tuesday, March 16, 2010  
1:00 to 5:00 pm  
Meeting Room 6

**Meeting Minutes**

**Introductions**

We had a great turn out for the first ever OREIT Section meeting. A list of participants follows the meeting minutes. I've added all participants to the OREIT email roster.

**Background information on formation of the OREIT Section**

Scot Johnson, Chair, presented a short PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Recreation and Water Use Technical Section and the Fisheries Educational Ad Hoc Committee. We also reviewed the Executive Board approved recommendations to form the OREIT Section from these two committees. For more information see the UMRCC web page:

<http://www.mississippi-river.com/umrcc>

**Happenings at the Dubuque River Museum**

Mark Wagner, National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, provided a wonderful overview of the projects, displays and programs supported by the Museum. The Museum is planning to double its size and expand its scope to include all the great rivers of the world. For more information: <http://www.mississippirivermuseum.com>

**NESP Mississippi River Education Guidelines**

Kimberly Rea, Corps of Engineers - St. Louis District, presented an update on the status and purpose of the guidelines. Highlights of her presentation included background on the NESP Systemic Mitigation and Heritage Preservation Act requirements that will be partially fulfilled by the guideline development. The guidelines are similar to Flying Wild and Project WET in concept, will be easy to use and targets 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. A section in the guidelines will relate the activities to State and Federal curriculum requirements. It will be a community product and not a Corps document. This work product is on the fast track. The first draft is scheduled to be out soon. Review and comment will be done by email by April 7, 2010. A second draft should be out in May. Pilot testing by those interested could occur as early as June with a final product by July, 2010.

**Old Business**

- Project Wet Watershed Poster – in final review stage and should be available soon.
- Youth Outdoor Fest – July 24<sup>th</sup> at Pettibone Park near LaCrosse. All interested members are encouraged to contact Heidi Keuler, USFWS.
- Fish Plan Outreach – The Fish Plan was just finalized and our Technical Section needs to review Chapter 5 for how we can support the Fisheries Technical Section.

- Newsletter Articles – Please continue to submit articles of interest to Scott Yess.
- UMRCC Web Page – With the formation of the OREIT, the web page will need to be updated. See draft work plan for more details.

## **Updates**

Iowa DNR - Kevin Szcodronski made a good case for reaching out to the State Park managers as a way to increase participation in the OREIT. Based on our discussions, I've added some ideas to the draft work plan. Wayne Bucholtz announced that the E.B. Lyons Nature Center will be expanding with new exhibits from a firm out of Boston.

Minnesota DNR – Scot Johnson mentioned an interest in the St. Paul District in developing more water trail maps. Others mentioned that the Rock Island and St. Louis District are also working on more water trails. Make sure you send a link to Heidi Keuler so she can post it on the UMRCC web page if you develop any new water trails

Wisconsin DNR – Ruth Nissen mentioned that the Tid Bits articles are now posted on the WDNR web page. People find these really useful for getting useful information quickly. There will be no WDNR/UMRCC sponsored teachers workshop this year.

USFWS Refuge – Cindy Samples brought in an example of the fishing line recycling tube posted at Refuge boat landings. She also had a picture of a shotgun shell recycling container they make available during hunting season at the landings. The Refuge will be building a new Headquarters which will also feature a new interpretive center. The Upper Mississippi River is now officially designated as a RAMSAR wetland of international significance. A celebration is tentatively planned for October 2010. Friends of the Refuge are developing an electronic Educational Tool Kit which will be made available through their web page.

St. Paul District – Kevin Berg gave us a run down on all that is happening in the District including beach planning, display plantings at kiosks, the visitor center at St. Anthony Falls, and the draft Land Use Allocation Plan.

USGS – Ken Lubinski updated participants on the status of the Fishers and Farmers program. Martin Konrad provided some additional background.

## **Review, revise and finalize 2010 Work Plan**

We had a lot of good discussion regarding the work plan and who could do what tasks. I've tried to capture the discussion and commitments in a revised 2010 Work Plan. Please take a look at the revised Work Plan and provide any suggested changes by May 1, 2010.

## **Future meetings**

I plan to send out a survey to OREIT membership in the near future asking folks for input on how our new group should work together to keep our momentum moving forward. The UMRCC bylaws indicate we should strive to hold one or more meetings in addition to the Annual Meeting. Meetings, conference calls, workshops, webinars are all possibilities.

The UMRCC Exec Board is looking for a State member to fully commit to taking over the chairmanship at the 2011 Annual Meeting. The Executive Board has suggested that we use 2010 as a transition year to bring the next chair up to speed on the workings of the UMRCC and the OREIT. **Any volunteers?**

## OREIT Section Participants

March 16, 2010

## Technical Section Meeting

Cindy Samples	USFWS - Refuge
Sharonne Baylor	USFWS - Refuge
Wayne Bucholtz	IDNR - Parks
Mark Wagner	National Mississippi Museum and Aquarium
Kevin Szcudronski	IDNR – Parks
Kimberly Rea	USACE – St. Louis
Erin Hilligoss	USACE – St. Louis
Janet Mifflin	USACE
Paula Ogden-Muse	USFWS - Refuge
Ann Blankenship	USFWS - Refuge
Heidi Keuler	USFWS – LaCrosse
Kevin Berg	USACE – St. Paul
Eric Hammer	USACE – St. Paul
Ruth Nissen	WDNR
John Maehl	IDNR – Parks
Martin Konrad	IDNR
Ken Lubinski	USGS
Bret Streckwald	USACE – Rock Island
Jeff Nelson	USACE – Rock Island
Ron Deiss	USACE – Rock Island
Brant Dollman	USACE – Rock Island
Ken Barr	USACE – Rock Island
Wendy Frohlich	USACE – Rock Island
Holly Schulte	IDNR
Jenny Bailey	USFWS – Genoa
Scot Johnson	MDNR