

**UMRCC Recreation Technical Section Meeting Fall 2007
Meeting Minutes**

Kibbe Life Sciences Field Station

Tuesday - September 18, 2007

Joint Meeting with Wildlife and Fisheries Technical Sections – During our joint meeting we heard from Jeff Janvrin regarding HREP Islands, Tim Schlagenhaft on the UMRCC draft Global Climate Change Position Statement, Ken Lubinski on the National Fish Habitat Action Plans and Scott Yess gave his UMRCC Coordinators Report.

Recreation Technical Section – Following the break, we reconvened in the Old Lab starting out with introductions and a general discussion of our current work on the river. Present were:

Scot Johnson, MDNR, Lake City
Cindy Samples, USFWS, UMR HQ, Winona
Pam Steinhaus, USFWS, UMR, Savanna
Sarah Miller, USACE, St. Louis

One thing we discovered is that all three districts have designated water trails managed by various agencies. The idea of posting these water trails on the Upper Mississippi River Recreational Boating web page was discussed. See the following web address:

<http://maps.geospatialservices.org/MissBoatServer/index.html>

Action: If interested in having your water trail map/info linked to the Recreational Boating web page, send Scot the links and he will coordinate with St. Mary's University and the St. Paul District's Recreation Work Group to get it posted.

We followed this up with agency updates and reports:

Cindy Samples, Upper Miss Refuge, gave us an update on the progress the USFWS was making on implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) with new buoys, signs and maps.

As a follow up to the earlier presentation on the UMRCC Global Climate Change Position Statement, Cindy also led our discussion on how UMRCC meetings could be "greener" in the future through better recycling, car pooling, and reduced energy consumption.

Action: Cindy will send additional "green meeting" information to Scott Yess for assistance in planning next years Annual Meeting.

Please note that the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will soon release an updated 4th assessment titled, "Climate Change 2007". Here is the link:

<http://www.ipcc.ch/>

Action: Review the IPCC Climate Change 2007 report prior to Spring 2008 UMRCC Annual Meeting.

The "Leave No Trace" effort led by the USFWS and the Friends of Pool 9 accomplished a lot this past year. They installed 17 new kiosks at landings, 2 garbage bag dispensers and fire rings. In

addition, they also trained high school students and businesses on the Leave No Trace approach. The Leave No Trace effort is gaining momentum and support up and down along the river with a number of other groups interested in promoting the approach.

Connecting Children to Nature is a USFWS Refuge initiative that UMRCC may be asked to support in the future.

To close the day, Scot Johnson gave his "Flash Floods in Southeast Minnesota" presentation detailing the August 18 – 20, 2007 floods.

Action: Scot will write an article on the flooding for the Fall Newsletter.

Wednesday - September 19, 2007

The day started out as a joint meeting with Wildlife and Fisheries. Marvin Hubbel provided an update on the Systemic Ecological Team (SET) ideas to evaluate habitat project proposals for their potential to provide systemic benefits.

The Recreation Technical Section members participated in the following activities:

- Field Trip tour of Lock and Dam 19 with the Wildlife Technical Section.
- Field Trip to Navuoo, Illinois for an interpretive and historical tour.
- Geode collecting and interpretation.

Action: Scot will write a interpretive piece for the Fall Newsletter on geodes.

Thursday - September 20, 2007

On the third day, the following members were present:

Jim Hill, USACE, St. Louis
Scott Yess, UMRCC Coordinator, LaCrosse
Mark Cornish, USACE, Rock Island
Cindy Samples, USFWS, UMR HQ, Winona
Pam Steinhaus, USFWS, UMR, Savanna
Scot Johnson, MDNR, Lake City

To begin the morning, Scot Johnson updated the Technical Section on the status of the draft River Resources Forum - Fish and Wildlife Work Group's White Paper on Recreational Boating Impacts. Each partnering agency ran the draft paper up the flagpole to see if there was support for the documents findings and recommendations. All agencies agreed there is a resource problem and accepted the papers findings. However, no agency offered additional staff or resources to address the problem and therefore the paper's recommendations were not endorsed. The paper remains in draft while a couple possible data collection/analysis efforts are scoped further for cost. The agencies agreed to continue an educational effort with existing staff and resources. This led to a long discussion amongst the Technical Section participants on how we might best influence behavior and educate the public through "social marketing".

Action: A kiosk poster first developed by MDNR and Goodhue County for posting at water accesses will be critiqued by Cindy Samples and her fellow interpreters at the next National Association of Interpreters (NAI) meeting. They will make recommendations on how to better deliver the educational message.

Action: It was noted that some of the best recreational boating impacts information was buried in Appendix J of the Navigation Feasibility Study Main Report. Scot agreed to find the link and make it available. Here is the link:

[http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/UMRS/NESP/Documents/Appendix%20J%20\(Boat%20Traffic\)_Final.pdf](http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/UMRS/NESP/Documents/Appendix%20J%20(Boat%20Traffic)_Final.pdf)

UMRCC Global Climate Change Position Statement – There was general support for the position statement. We brought in Jeff Janvrin from the ad hoc Education Committee to discuss the potential for a climate change activity in the UMRCC activity guide. No consensus or clear avenue for action. Jeff will make available the UMRCC education activity guide to members.

NESP - What's in it for managing recreational use of the Mississippi River? The Recreation Technical Section asked Mark Cornish to come and talk with us about this topic. He thought that the NESP Systemic Environmental Mitigation and Bankline Protection could offer opportunities for managing recreational use. He suggested we contact our NECC representative to make sure recreational issues are included in their future discussions.

UMRCC Web Page - What do we want to post/link? The current web page has not been updated for a long time. Scott Yess is looking to update it soon. He will be getting some web page assistance so he is looking for ideas.

Action: Send Scot Johnson your suggestions for what the Recreation Technical Section should emphasize and any really good links we may want to post.

It was apparent from all our discussions that we need to better define the future role the Recreation Technical Section should play on the Mississippi River management scene. We appear to be moving towards a more interpretive, educational, outreach, and dissemination of information role. We need to make sure our future plans include coordination activities that interest/serve river managers up and down the entire length of the Upper Mississippi River.

Action: Scot Johnson will ask Scott Yess to help him research the origins of the Recreation Technical Section to better define/ground our future trajectory.

The next UMRCC Annual Meeting will be a joint meeting with the Lower Mississippi River Coordinating Committee in Collinsville, Illinois on March 18 – 20, 2008.

Ideas for next Spring's Recreation Technical Section agenda, based on discussions at this Fall's meeting, include:

- Cultural Resources – How can we help to interpret and protect these resources?
- Asian Carp – how can we best make river users aware of how these fish may affect their activities?
- Global Warming – discuss the IPCC Climate Change 2007 report and make specific recommendations to the Executive Board.
- Leave No Trace – is there a future role for UMRCC in promoting this effort?
- Connecting Children to Nature – is there a future role for UMRCC in promoting this effort?
- Recreation Technical Section's - past activities/direction and future course of action.
- UMRCC Web Page – specific recommendation of what to emphasize, highlight, promote or link.
- Social Marketing strategies and techniques.
- River Friendly Boat criteria