

UMRCC Recreation and Water Use Technical Section
2008 Spring Annual Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2008
Holiday Inn - Collinsville, IL

Recreation and Water Use Technical Section Historic Review - The first topic for discussion was a review of the "History of the UMRCC Recreation and Water Use Technical Section 1963 to 2008" written by Scot Johnson and based on a review of UMRCC Annual Meeting proceedings.

Take home messages:

- Our charge is to deal with recreation and water use management issues that go beyond traditional fish and wildlife technical issues.
- Activities should be of interest in all 5 UMR States.
- We should be proactive.
- We must recognize our limitations and work within them.
- We need committed members and good leadership to be successful.

Future Direction and Focus - The Technical Section then went on to discuss its future direction and focus. The discussion centered on three questions:

What activities do we want to ***promote?***

What activities do we want to ***discourage?***

What activities do we want to ***monitor?***

Participants were largely in agreement on the direction and focus for the next few years. Most members were interested in recreation information dissemination, data interpretation, environmental education and the coordination of activities. A number of discussion points are highlighted below as action items.

Action Item – Scot Johnson will draft up a straw dog Action Plan for the Recreation and Water Use Technical Section for the next few years. The draft Action Plan will be sent out to members for review and comment.

Action Item – As an item under new business, the Chair brought up to the Executive Board the need to have all States participate in the Technical Section. The Chair suggested that he draft a letter, for the Executive Board to approve and sign, to be sent to the appropriate agency supervisors requesting additional

staff participation. While the Executive Board took no action, they recognized the need and will discuss further at their next conference call.

Action Item – As an informational point, the Chair suggested to the Executive Board that they consider reformatting the Annual Meeting so members could participate in more than one Technical Section meeting.

Action Item – The Technical Section identified a number of ways that the new NESP program might be tapped to support recreational use management. The Technical Section decided to defer action on pursuing this possibility until NESP matures and the timing seems better.

Action Item – The Technical Section identified the need to learn more about the Education ad hoc Technical Committees recent activities and to explore the potential for a direct and stronger relationship with it. At the Education ad hoc Technical Committee meeting, which followed the next day, there was a lot of interest in increasing the level of activity by the Educational ad hoc Technical Committee. At the Business Meeting on Thursday, Cindy Samples was nominated and selected as the next Chair of the Education ad hoc Technical Committee.

Green UMRCC Meetings – It was good to see the recycling containers at the Annual Meeting and to hear about all the members that made a point to car pool.

Action Item – Send the Chair one concrete action/step the UMRCC can take at the next Annual Meeting in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Scot Johnson will then bring the suggestions forward to WDNR for consideration.

UMRCC Web Page – The Technical Section is prepared to update its portion of the web site once some preliminary programming work has been completed.

Action Item – Cindy Samples will be the lead for the Technical Section. She will help with the web page design, post documents and provide appropriate links. If you have additional documents or links to post, please send them directly to Cindy.

Coordinators Report – Scott Yess gave his coordinators report.

Action Item – Technical Section members are encouraged to submit a recreational based article to Scott Yess for publication in the quarterly newsletter.

Agency Report Highlights

Corps of Engineers Rock Island – Gary Swenson is helping to organize a Workshop/Stakeholders conference to discuss natural resources, recreational uses and urban waterfront development to be held in the Quad Cities in August 2008. More information will be forwarded in the near future but we know a few nationally known speakers will be participating.

Action Item – Gary will forward information when it becomes available. We will try to schedule our fall Technical Section meeting to coincide with this workshop to boost participation and give folks an opportunity to hear the speakers.

Minnesota DNR – Scot Johnson presented information contained in the recently completed State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for Minnesota.

Action Item – Scot will forward an electronic copy to the Technical Section.

USFWS Refuge – Cindy Samples noted that the non-motorized, electric motor only and canoe areas called for in the CCP would go into effect in 2008.

Next Meeting

A conference call will be set up in the next few months to keep the Technical Section's momentum moving forward. We will discuss plans for the Fall Technical Section meeting and the straw dog Action Plan.

Technical Section Members present at the Annual Meeting

Scot Johnson, Chair, MDNR, Lake City
Cindy Samples, USFWS, UMR HQ, Winona
Gary Swenson, Corps, Rock Island
Suzanne Speer, Missouri DOC, Cape Girardeau
Bob Hrabik, Missouri DOC, Cape Girardeau
Steve Johnson, Corps, Rock Island
Jim Hill, Corps, St. Louis
Martin Konrad, IDNR, Des Moines