



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Mississippi Valley Division



SUMMARY REPORT

July 30, 2010

It is with great pleasure we provide this summary report from the first America's Inner Coast Summit (AICS) on June 22-24, 2010, in St. Louis, Missouri. The AICS brought together the leadership of non-governmental organizations, key federal agencies, large private landowners, industry, tribal nations, academia, and community organizations who are concerned with the ecological and economic sustainability of the Mississippi River Valley (MRV). Contained in this report are higher-level and broad common efforts and next steps to be considered in developing a sustainable Mississippi River watershed.

The AICS helped facilitate the exchange of information regarding progress, barriers, and constraints on current projects, programs, and activities among river partners. The AICS helped identify potential opportunities and outcomes to ensure greater collaboration and action. The conclusions and next steps incorporated the findings of a Mississippi River partner survey conducted by the Meridian Institute, as well as the hard work of meeting participants in six half-day work groups.

Together, as partners, sharing the work, vision, and responsibility, we can take advantage of this important first step to make our nation's largest watershed sustainable and ensure its rich diversity of goods and services.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Walsh
Major General, U.S. Army
Division Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division

Terry Mulcahy
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired
Director
Sand County Foundation

We recognize that there are no trivial occurrences in life if we get the right focus on them.

- Mark Twain's Autobiography

Executive Summary

One hundred and seventeen (117) people from a broad cross section of Mississippi River watershed partners and stakeholders, including non-government organizations, federal agencies, states, tribal nations, private landowners, private industry, academia, and community representatives converged on Union Station in St. Louis for the America's Inner Coast Summit (AICS) on June 22-24, 2010. The summit was co-facilitated by Sand County Foundation's Mr. John Laub and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division's Dr. David Vigh. The purpose was to discuss and help further develop a vision for this multiple-use inner coast. A Steering Team made up of representatives of: Monsanto Corporation, Diane Herndon; The Nature Conservancy, Michael Reuter; Gulf Engineers and Consultants, Inc., Cade Carter; the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, Richard Sparks; St. Paul District Corps of Engineers, Terry Birkenstock; and the University of Florida, Office of Conferences and Institutes, Beth Miller-Tipton; rounded out the leadership roles. The Summit was opened and closed by Major Generals Terry Mulcahy (R) of Sand County Foundation and Michael Walsh of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The attendees included representatives from 20 states and 76 organizations. Approximate breakdown by partner category was: Academic 4%; Business and Landowner 15%; Community, State, Local Government 11%; Federal Agencies 30%; Non-Government Organizations 35%; Political 4%; and Tribal 1%. The goal of the summit was to develop high-level recommendations to be considered in developing sustainable Mississippi River valley projects and initiatives and to help further the exchange of information regarding progress and barriers or constraints on current projects, programs, and activities to support sustainable watershed efforts.

A highlight of the summit was the participation of all attendees, on the first day, in six work groups, focused on communication, science needs, effective integration, multi-sector management, 200-year vision, and model programs and projects. Work group efforts and results were reported out the next day at the meeting. Below are brief bullet summaries of work group highlights. Detailed work group information is found in the Results section and the complete work group notes are in Appendix B of this summary report.

Work Group 1 – Communication and Outreach

- open, trusted, effective, need good plan

Work Group 2 – Integrating Stakeholders

- entire watershed, multilevel, state and local involvement

Work Group 3 – Building Integrated Science

- accurate, accessible data, networked, used to inform decision makers

Work Group 4 – Multi-Sector River Management

- coordinating organization, value assessment, active sharing

Work Group 5 – 200 Year Vision Process

- vision statement, volunteer groups efforts, dynamic and open

Work Group 6 – Guidelines for Model Projects and Programs

- inventory, devolve decision-making, improve analysis, conduct pilots

Unlike other conferences where the focus is often narrowed to one particular aspect such as navigation, development, flood control, cultural and social resources or the environment, this gathering's focus was on the strength obtained through combining these aspects and showing how they might be intertwined for a total positive purpose – a sustainable Mississippi River watershed.



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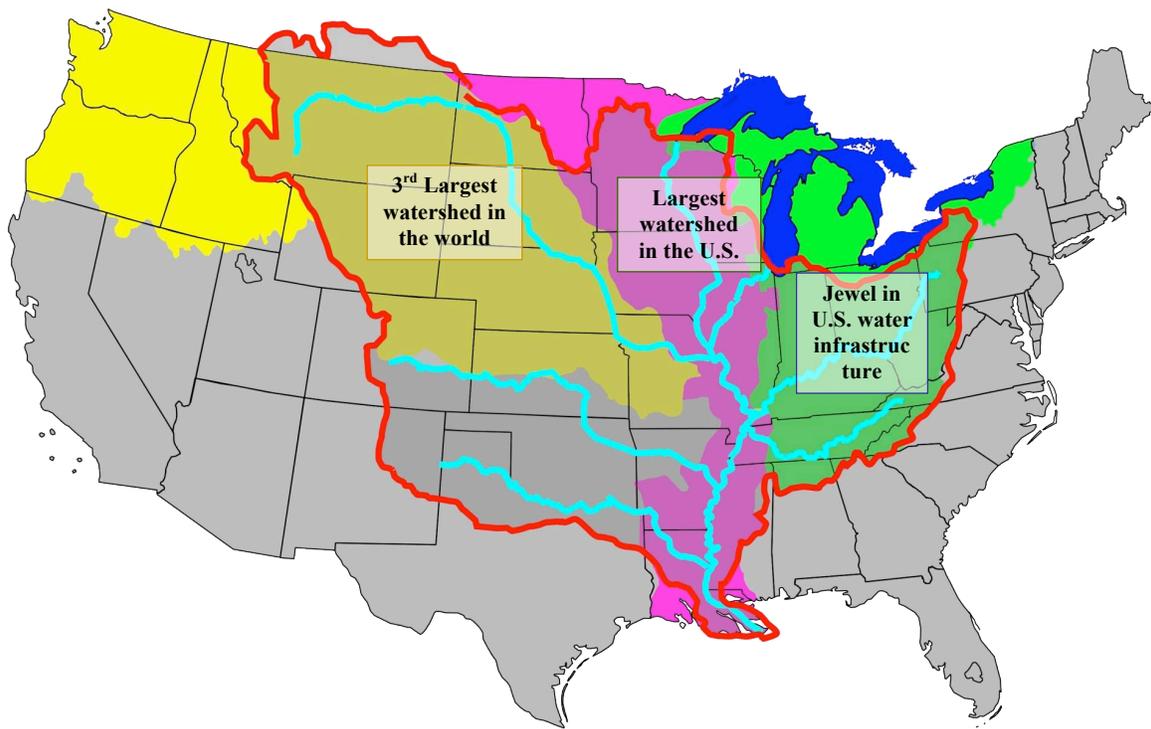
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Introduction

Bisecting the Continental United States, the Mississippi River provides a key route for transportation of agricultural products, bulk commodities, and manufactured goods. The river is a route and habitat for many migratory birds, fish, and other animals. The river transports soil, nutrients, and other materials from its massive watershed into the Gulf of Mexico and is an unmistakable jewel in the nation's water infrastructure

- The Mississippi River watershed is the 3rd largest watershed in the world with the Amazon and the Congo as first and second, respectively.
- The Mississippi River watershed is the largest watershed in the U.S., draining approximately 41 percent of the 48 contiguous states or an area of 1,250,000 square miles.
- Of the 1,250,000 square mile area of the Mississippi River watershed, 30 percent, or 337,000 square miles, is within the Mississippi Valley Division of the Corps of Engineers, including the main river channel and a portion of all tributaries and distributaries.

Much attention, resources, and money have been directed to America's outer coasts compared to America's Inner Coast, the Mississippi River. There is a need for a shared vision and long-term plan to protect and improve the resources of the river, its watershed, and the saltwater habitat into which it flows. The Mississippi River watershed demands our attention, vigilance, and dedicated action.



Background/Foundation Efforts

This summit was built on several cornerstone efforts. One such cornerstone is the recognition of the importance of the Mississippi River and watershed by the Midwest Natural Resources Group (MNRG). The fourteen federal agencies comprising MNRG unanimously adopted a statement in May 2009 recognizing this and made a call to action for sustainable efforts. This Summit also built on the recent Visions of a Sustainable River Conference hosted by the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center in August 2009. The efforts of The Nature Conservancy and the 2010 Meridian Institute survey, through the Great Rivers Partnership, to support a systems-level approach towards integrated management of the Mississippi River and other great rivers, internationally, has provided valuable information and support. The August 2009 Mississippi River Commission Vision Statement was released expressing general watershed wide principles, helping to unify the watershed. Lastly, sustainability efforts of private landowners – some led by the corporate sector, including the Monsanto Company, and others led by non-governmental organizations, such as Sand County Foundation, are all examples of recent efforts. This Summit is establishing the next foundation blocks for greater alignment of interests and actions in the Mississippi River Valley watershed.

All of these foundation efforts and documents and more, are found on the AICS web site at <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aics/intro.html>.

AICS Meeting

The meeting itself was a day and a half event that began on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at 8:30 am with a General Session and introductions by Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr., Colonel, and Commander, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District and Dr. Brent Haglund, President of Sand County Foundation. Then, there were opening comments by Major General (MG) Michael J. Walsh, Commander, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) and MG (R) Terry Mulcahy, Sand County Foundation (SCF) Director.

At 9:00 am, a series of four presentations led the attendees through watershed-related topics from the international scale to the regional and local scales, including lessons from the history of the Mississippi River. The first speaker was Ivan Zavadsky, Sr., Water Resources Management Specialist with the Global Environment Facility. He presented "The International Case for Integrated River Basin Management." Next was Mark E. Gorman, Policy Analyst, Northeast-Midwest Institute who talked about considerations from a national level in his presentation, "Of Maps and Men - 17th Century Mapmaking and 21st Century Sustainability."



John Anfinson, Historian, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, National Park Service provided a historical perspective with his talk, "Trapped by History: Will the Past Anchor the Mississippi River's Future?" Last for the morning was John Ehrmann, Founder and Senior Partner, The Meridian Institute with a talk entitled, "Vision for a Sustainable Mississippi River Watershed: Regional Interviews and Findings." This presentation brought everyone to the watershed level and emphasized what was considered crucial for discussion in the afternoon work groups.

At lunch time, in addition to steering team and contractor awards and recognition, the keynote speaker, Fred Stemme, Vice President of Marketing, National Corn Growers Association, presented, "Increasing Productivity and Resource Efficiency on America's Farms." Mr. Stemme discussed some positive and insightful facts on land productivity and agricultural trends in the river valley and related them to water quality.

The rest of the afternoon included six work groups, tackling focused topics to help move the MRV watershed effort forward. Work groups included communication and outreach, integrating stakeholders, building integrated science, multi-sector river management, MRV 200-year vision process, and guidelines for model programs and projects.

On Thursday, June 24, 2010, the summit resumed with a focus on two major tributary watersheds, namely the Ohio and Missouri Rivers. These talks reinforced the need to better understand the entire watershed. The morning started at 8:15 am with Alan Vicory, Executive Director and Chief Engineer, ORSANCO, who gave a presentation

entitled, “The Ohio River Experience with a Systemic Approach to Water Quality.” Then, David L. Pope, Executive Director, Missouri River Association of States and Tribes provided partnering insights in his presentation, “Sustaining the Missouri River: A Perspective from an Association of States and Tribes.”

Beginning at approximately 9:45 am, the previous day work groups made individual presentations and responded to questions. Detailed summary information is presented in the results section of this report from each of these groups as it was presented to the Summit. Questions and responses were allowed following each groups presentation. Appendix B provides the detailed notes from the work groups and their poster board notes.

The meeting wrapped up with concluding remarks from both MG Walsh and MG (R) Mulcahy by about 12:15 pm.



Work Group Results

The following are the information points presented by each work group to the Summit attendees. Work groups had a maximum of six major points they could present and had a word limit, as well.

Work Group #1: Communications & Outreach

1. Have intentional pre-information process and statement of purpose that leads to developing a session.
2. Look at existing communication models to determine best way to develop Mississippi River vision.
3. Use trusted facilitator who is present beyond organizational bias with a safe place and process.
4. Use an open process for participation.
5. Use a shared leadership structure that embodies the idea of “All leaders, all the time.”
6. Have fun!

Work Group #2: Integrating Stakeholders

1. The scope of integration efforts should encompass all MRB watersheds as well as the GOM NOTE – SPELL OUT WORDS FOR GOM AND THEN DO (GOM).
2. Short-term integration actions: identify major players, Governor’s caucus, need institutional structure, Cabinet-level invitation to States for listening sessions, take advantage of initiatives
3. Use the current GOM crises and other major events as educational opportunities to mobilize shareholders.
4. Address integration at multiple scales and across issues to create basin-wide commitment to MRB vision. Issues to be integrated include: water quality/quantity, sediment, recreation/tourism, transportation, fish and wildlife, agriculture, economic development, and cultural history.

Work Group #3: Building Integrated Science

1. Science will: define and identify sustainable and non-sustainable behavior to inform decision making.
2. Develop science information that is translatable, accessible, and useable.
3. Foster opportunities to leverage resources to formulate an entity, program and process for integrated watershed science.
4. Build an active, integrated, and inclusive science network for scientific issue.
5. Science will work within the existing education system to improve science literacy and understanding (need a reward system).



Work Group #4: Multi-sector River Management

1. Create a basin-wide coordinating organization –a collective authority that speaks for the entire system; perhaps call it the Mississippi Basin Congress (MBC); make it broadly inclusive: private sector, states, agencies, academics, etc.
2. Educate and engage the public in dialogue –“America Speaks” is an example of this type of broad-based advocacy, which allows the public to weigh in and influence change.
3. *[Message to the conference organizers]*
Keep communication open. Now that we have connected, attendees might establish a way (via email or a listserv) to keep in contact with each other to share ideas, forge partnerships, etc. You’ve set expectations and established momentum, don’t disappoint us.
4. Develop a science based Mississippi River watershed “health diagnostic” tool.
5. Use the Ohio River and other models to develop a “value statement” for the economic and other benefits derived from the Mississippi River and its watershed.

Work Group #5: MRV 200-Year Vision Process

1. Vision should be resilient and robust, address multiple uses, be specific, scalable, and flexible, inform decision making, address uncertainty, incorporate new information, and include monitoring and evaluation.
2. Form an “Ad-hoc” Design Group

3. TNC and USACE will convene, invite attendees and prepare background information in support of Ad-hoc Design Group process.
4. Ad-hoc Design Group establishes process for developing vision statement.
5. Ad-hoc Design Group outlines political outreach, relationship to existing efforts, relationship to science and research, data collection, and watershed coordination strategy.
6. Dynamic, open process that can evolve over time and continue to include new interests.

Work Group #6: Guidelines for Model Projects & Programs

1. Inventory, analyze, link, and implement highest priority existing opportunities to achieve vision.
2. Create expert exchange, flexible funding/authorities, devolved decision making, and incentivized results.
3. Improve analytical tools to access multiple values and externalities.
4. Conduct pilot multi-agency, watershed-based management involving Federal, State, Local entities.



Conclusions

The Summit was widely recognized by participants as successful and a good first step in the development of a Mississippi river watershed effort. Based on the work group results, the following are overall realizations or recognitions by AICS attendees as a whole:

Participation in this summit will not be an end but a beginning of important work that will help to generate the type of attention that a basin of this size deserves. However, every participant's engagement will be based on personal and organizational expertise, organizational capacity, and fiscal resources to participate.

Understand that some resources will need to be raised to support the process(es) and the science-based approach to data gathering, secretariat if needed

There is a wider, entire watershed approach that leads to higher priority, basin-wide goals that we can potentially agree upon. Each major sector should contribute issues, concerns, and opportunities for sustainability within their sector that can be brought to the table to determine common threads. With this common approach, there is an overall recognition that participants in the assessment of the system understand potential trade-offs, develop scenarios, and find synergies that promote sustainability and a balanced comprehensive approach.

Overall recognition that being invited to this summit signifies you are important to the success of creating an economically and environmentally sustainable watershed now and into the future

There will be key people, not included in this initial summit, whose involvement will be important in advancing this process/work. Any connections with/to and information on these people will be critical. Key sectors have been identified as navigation, flood control, environment, agriculture, recreation, hydropower (energy), and water supply and are represented by academia, federal and state agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and the private for profit industry.

AICS proposes a balanced multi-engagement, multi-sector approach, not a federal led program. Existing forums, groups, and associations already in place should be plugged in whenever appropriate to do so.

There was no predetermined outcome for this Summit. The process and next steps will be allowed to unfold to accommodate the collective goals of the group(s) as they work through the Summit. The Summit identified some vital next steps but also produced a query of issues that need additional attention before actions can be initiated.



Next Steps

It is the desire of the Summit organizers and Steering Team that at the end of the day you may say: "I'm interested in officially representing my state, watershed, business, farming group, non-governmental organization, or agency, and working at the Mississippi River watershed level.

At the meeting, 3x5 cards were distributed during work group report out sessions and a slide with this info was presented during work Group 5's report out to encourage attendees to "volunteer" to work in one of several continuing effort areas. A team of Corps and non-government folks are now sorting through the cards, seeing who volunteered for what effort area, picking potential leads, and getting the volunteer groups to start meeting on regular conference calls and move work group actions forward.

Volunteer Groups are:

- a. Overall working group (process development)
- b. Governance group
- c. Specified basin or watershed team
- d. Congressional liaison team
- e. Science/technical team (academia, etc)
- f. Strategic communication team

In Appendix D is the volunteer matrix resulting from those that signed up at the AICS meeting in June 2010. Anyone that wishes to participate on a team, change teams, or sign-up for additional teams are welcome to sign up and/or communicate as appropriate. The emails of Michael Reuter and Stephen Gambrell, points of contact for the volunteer teams, are found in the table of Appendix D and more detailed contact information on them is found in the list of participants in Appendix C. Along with the efforts these volunteer work groups will be doing, planning has begun for the next AICS in about a year with a significant part of the focus on the results of these follow-up efforts. Spring 2011 in St. Louis is a possibility.

In addition to results from this first AICS, volunteer teams will want to weave into the fabric of watershed success, the results from the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center's Visions of a Sustainable Mississippi River conference from August 2009, as well as the detailed results of the March 2010 Meridian Report on a Vision for a Sustainable Mississippi River Watershed. Both are found on the AICS web site.

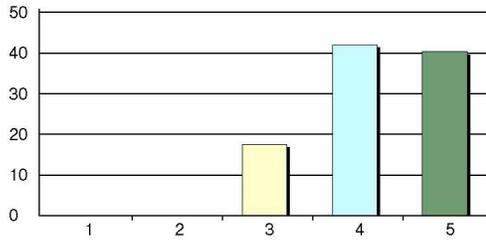
It will be very important to create a long-term vision and adaptive management strategy for the Mississippi River system, accounting for all user or sectors in the watershed. Process should be managed and facilitated by neutral parties and carefully manage expectations and build shared trust and leadership.

Appendix A – Conference Evaluation Data

America's Inner Coast Summit Evaluation Results June 22-24, 2010

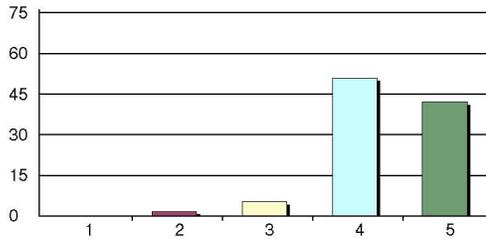
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Time Interval: 6/30/2010 to 6/30/2010
Total Respondents: 60

1. Website communication and information



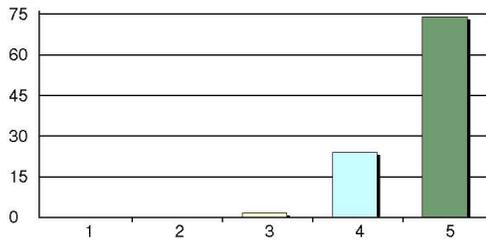
1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	10	18%
4. Satisfied	24	42%
5. Very Satisfied	23	40%
Total Responses:	57	
Mean: 4.23	Standard Deviation: 0.73	

2. Pre-summit registration communication and assistance



1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	1	2%
3. Neutral	3	5%
4. Satisfied	29	51%
5. Very Satisfied	24	42%
Total Responses:	57	
Mean: 4.33	Standard Deviation: 0.66	

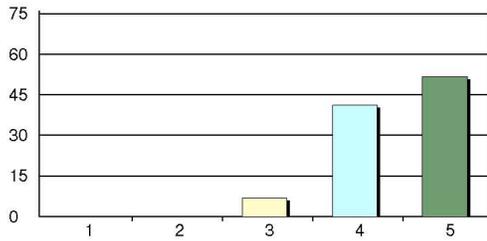
3. On-site staffing and registration assistance



1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	1	2%
4. Satisfied	14	24%
5. Very Satisfied	43	74%
Total Responses:	58	
Mean: 4.72	Standard Deviation: 0.49	

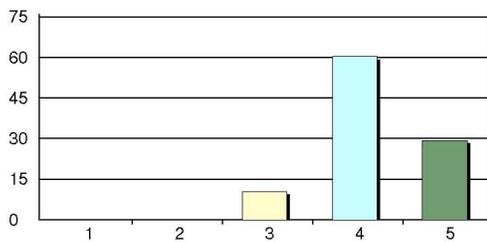
America's Inner Coast Summit Evaluation Results June 22-24, 2010

4. Quality of summit program book



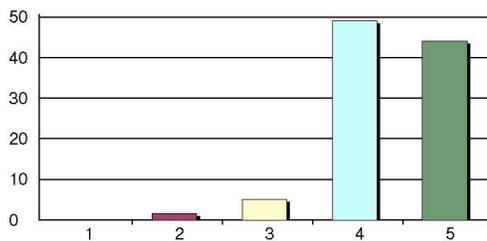
1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	4	7%
4. Satisfied	24	41%
5. Very Satisfied	30	52%
Total Responses:	58	
Mean: 4.45	Standard Deviation: 0.63	

5. The summit met my expectations for learning



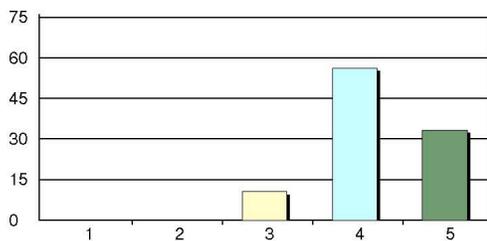
1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	6	10%
4. Satisfied	35	60%
5. Very Satisfied	17	29%
Total Responses:	58	
Mean: 4.19	Standard Deviation: 0.61	

6. Overall level of technical and programmatic quality in all summit presentations



1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	1	2%
3. Neutral	3	5%
4. Satisfied	29	49%
5. Very Satisfied	26	44%
Total Responses:	59	
Mean: 4.36	Standard Deviation: 0.66	

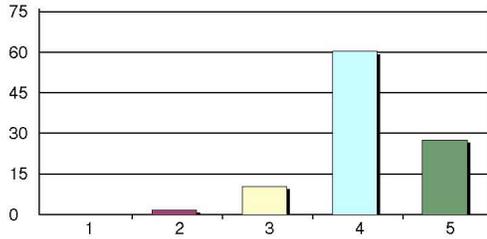
7. Opportunities for interaction with speakers



1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	6	11%
4. Satisfied	32	56%
5. Very Satisfied	19	33%
Total Responses:	57	
Mean: 4.23	Standard Deviation: 0.63	

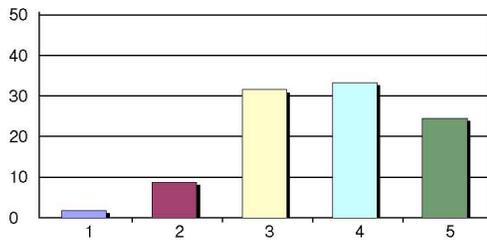
America's Inner Coast Summit Evaluation Results June 22-24, 2010

8. Format of summit sessions (presentations and work groups)



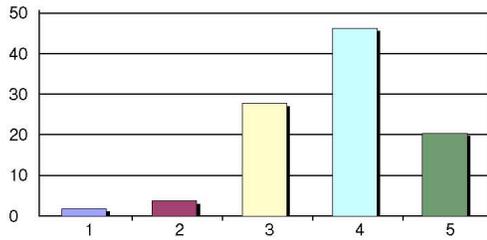
1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	1	2%
3. Neutral	6	10%
4. Satisfied	35	60%
5. Very Satisfied	16	28%
Total Responses:	58	
Mean: 4.14	Standard Deviation: 0.66	

9. Overall effectiveness of working group discussions



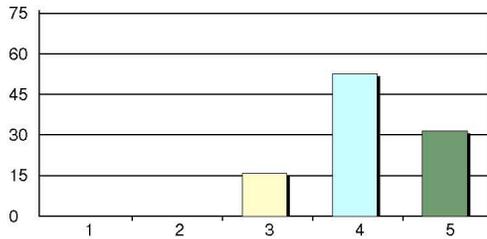
1. Very Dissatisfied	1	2%
2. Dissatisfied	5	9%
3. Neutral	18	32%
4. Satisfied	19	33%
5. Very Satisfied	14	25%
Total Responses:	57	
Mean: 3.70	Standard Deviation: 1.00	

10. Overall satisfaction and agreement with final recommendations generated by your group



1. Very Dissatisfied	1	2%
2. Dissatisfied	2	4%
3. Neutral	15	28%
4. Satisfied	25	46%
5. Very Satisfied	11	20%
Total Responses:	54	
Mean: 3.80	Standard Deviation: 0.88	

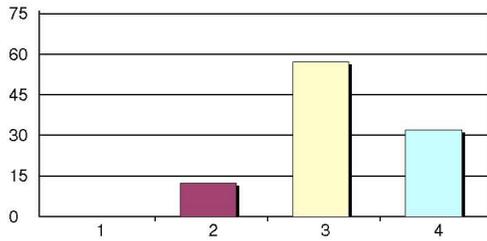
11. Overall time management of summit sessions



1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	9	16%
4. Satisfied	30	53%
5. Very Satisfied	18	32%
Total Responses:	57	
Mean: 4.16	Standard Deviation: 0.68	

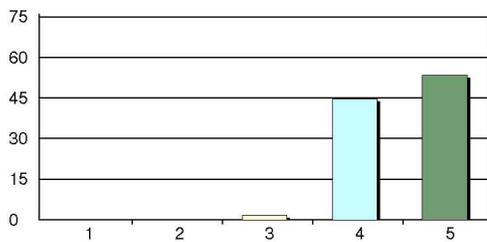
America's Inner Coast Summit Evaluation Results June 22-24, 2010

12. How much NEW information did you obtain about the Mississippi River watershed vision?



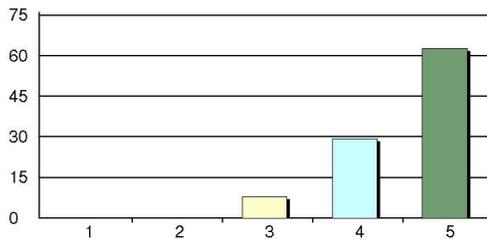
1. None	0	0%
2. Very Little	7	12%
3. Some	32	57%
4. A Significant Amount	18	32%
Total Responses:	56	

13. Refreshment breaks



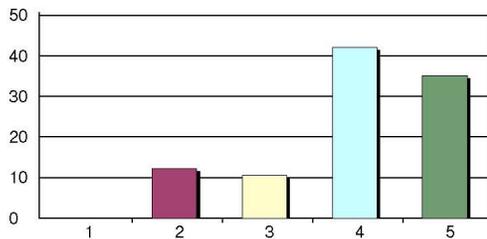
1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	1	2%
4. Satisfied	26	45%
5. Very Satisfied	31	53%
Total Responses:	58	
Mean: 4.52	Standard Deviation: 0.54	

14. Tuesday Evening Welcome Social



1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	4	8%
4. Satisfied	15	29%
5. Very Satisfied	32	63%
Total Responses:	51	
Mean: 4.55	Standard Deviation: 0.64	

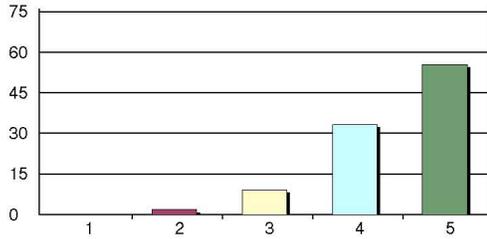
15. Wednesday Luncheon & Keynote Speaker



1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	7	12%
3. Neutral	6	11%
4. Satisfied	24	42%
5. Very Satisfied	20	35%
Total Responses:	57	
Mean: 4.00	Standard Deviation: 0.98	

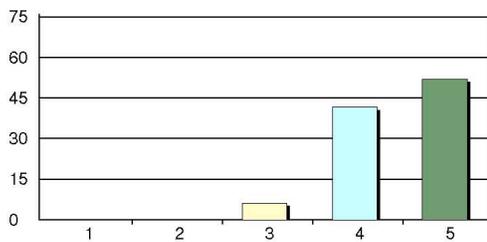
America's Inner Coast Summit Evaluation Results June 22-24, 2010

16. Wednesday Evening Reception and Dinner



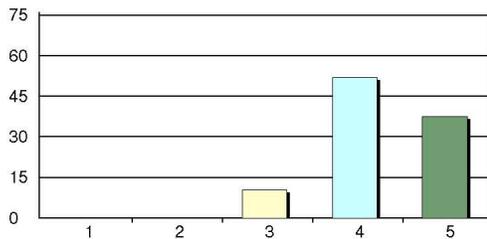
1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	1	2%
3. Neutral	5	9%
4. Satisfied	18	33%
5. Very Satisfied	30	56%
Total Responses:	54	
Mean: 4.43	Standard Deviation: 0.74	

17. Guest room reservation handling by hotel



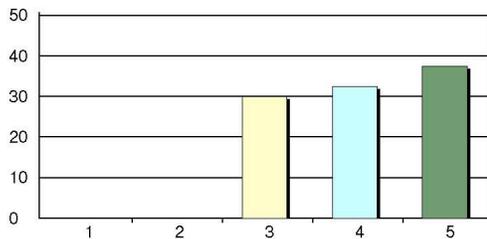
1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	3	6%
4. Satisfied	20	42%
5. Very Satisfied	25	52%
Total Responses:	48	
Mean: 4.46	Standard Deviation: 0.62	

18. Quality of guest room accommodations



1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	5	10%
4. Satisfied	25	52%
5. Very Satisfied	18	38%
Total Responses:	48	
Mean: 4.27	Standard Deviation: 0.64	

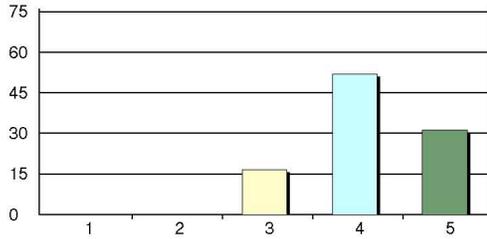
19. Hotel restaurant and lounge



1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	12	30%
4. Satisfied	13	32%
5. Very Satisfied	15	38%
Total Responses:	40	
Mean: 4.08	Standard Deviation: 0.83	

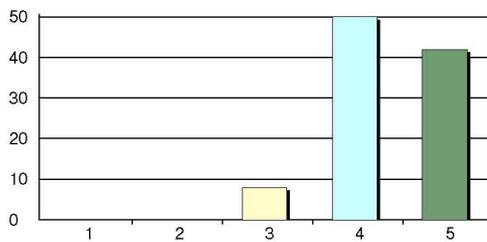
America's Inner Coast Summit Evaluation Results June 22-24, 2010

20. Affordability of guest room rate



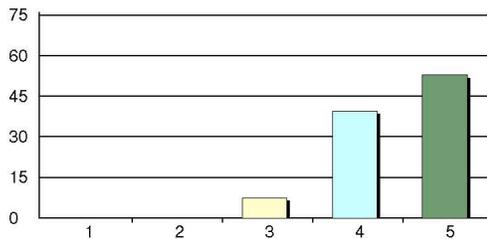
1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	8	17%
4. Satisfied	25	52%
5. Very Satisfied	15	31%
Total Responses:	48	
Mean: 4.15	Standard Deviation: 0.68	

21. Location of hotel



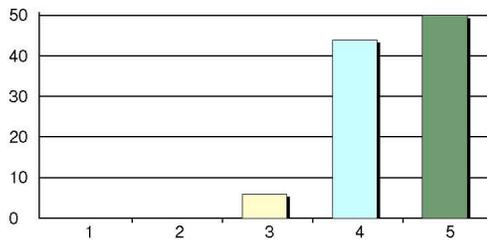
1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	4	8%
4. Satisfied	25	50%
5. Very Satisfied	21	42%
Total Responses:	50	
Mean: 4.34	Standard Deviation: 0.63	

22. Quality of meeting rooms



1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	4	8%
4. Satisfied	21	40%
5. Very Satisfied	28	53%
Total Responses:	53	
Mean: 4.45	Standard Deviation: 0.64	

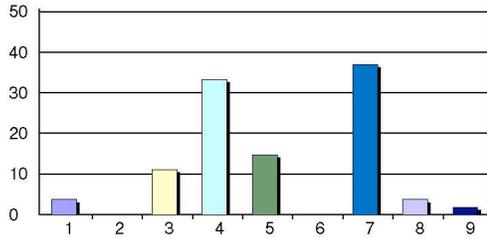
23. Overall hotel rating



1. Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
2. Dissatisfied	0	0%
3. Neutral	3	6%
4. Satisfied	22	44%
5. Very Satisfied	25	50%
Total Responses:	50	
Mean: 4.44	Standard Deviation: 0.61	

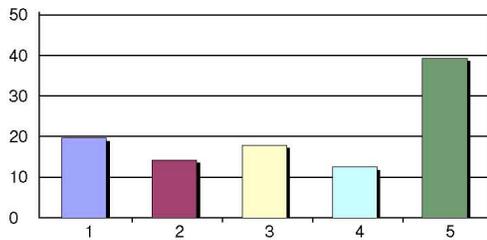
America's Inner Coast Summit Evaluation Results June 22-24, 2010

24. Please indicate your affiliation:



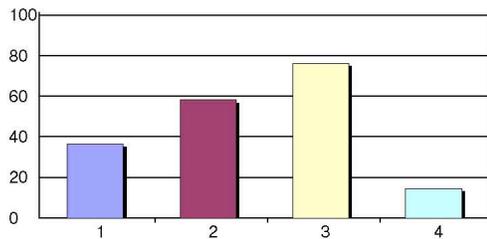
1. City government	2	4%
2. County government	0	0%
3. State government	6	11%
4. Federal government	18	33%
5. Private company/corporation	8	15%
6. Private Consultant	0	0%
7. Non-profit organization	20	37%
8. Private Citizen	2	4%
9. Indian Nation	1	2%
Total Responses:	54	

25. How many years have you been involved in watershed efforts?



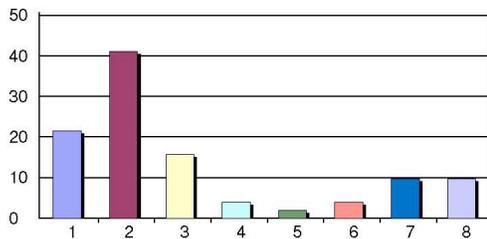
1. < 5	11	20%
2. 6-10	8	14%
3. 11-15	10	18%
4. 16-20	7	12%
5. > 21	22	39%
Total Responses:	56	

26. What role do you serve in watershed efforts? Fill-in all that apply.



1. Science	20	36%
2. Planning	32	58%
3. Policy	42	76%
4. Engineering/Design	8	15%
Total Responses:	55	

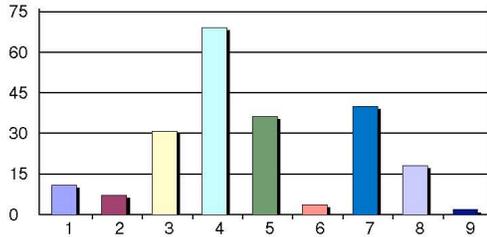
27. What is your total annual environmental/watershed budget?



1. None	11	22%
2. 0-2 million	21	41%
3. 3-5 million	8	16%
4. 6-10 million	2	4%
5. 11-20 million	1	2%
6. 21-40 million	2	4%
7. > 40 million	5	10%
8. Don't know	5	10%
Total Responses:	51	

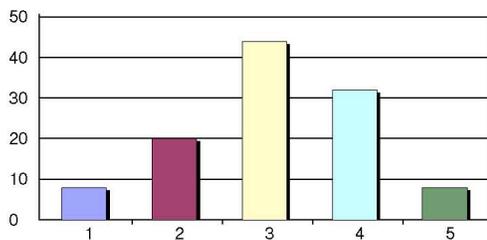
America's Inner Coast Summit Evaluation Results June 22-24, 2010

28. From what sources does your organization receive funding? Fill-in all that apply



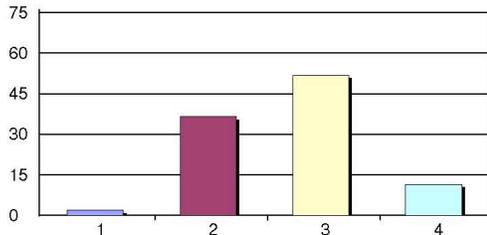
1. City government	6	11%
2. County government	4	7%
3. State government	17	31%
4. Federal government	38	69%
5. Private company/corporation	20	36%
6. Private Consultant	2	4%
7. Non-profit organization	22	40%
8. Other	10	18%
9. None	1	2%
Total Responses:	55	

29. How much input do you have when planning watershed projects?



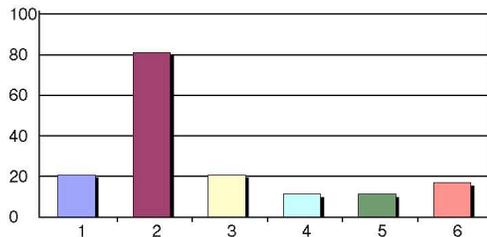
1. No input	4	8%
2. Very Little Input	10	20%
3. Some Input	22	44%
4. Significant Input	16	32%
5. Have primary control over final decisions	4	8%
Total Responses:	50	

30. Based on information gained at this summit, how likely is your organization to use information gained in its approach to watershed programs and projects?



1. Not likely at all	1	2%
2. Somewhat likely	19	37%
3. Very Likely	27	52%
4. Undecided	6	12%
Total Responses:	52	

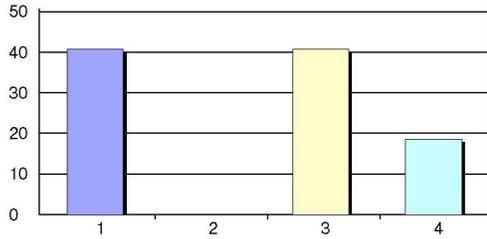
31. After attending this summit, what areas of watershed efforts within your organization are likely to be affected by knowledge you gained? Fill-in all that apply.



1. Increased Funding Opportunities	11	21%
2. Increased Collaboration Efforts	43	81%
3. Establishing New Restoration Priorities	11	21%
4. Revising Existing Restoration Priorities	6	11%
5. Adapting New Restoration Management Practices	6	11%
6. Undecided	9	17%
Total Responses:	53	

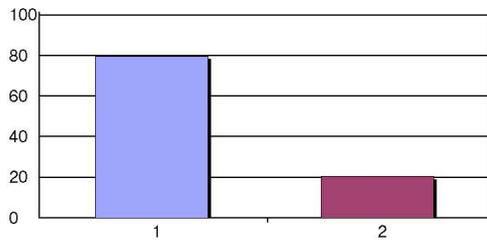
America's Inner Coast Summit Evaluation Results June 22-24, 2010

32. This summit should be



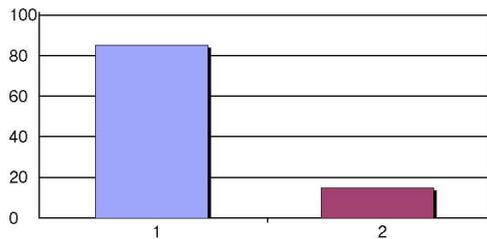
1. Continued as is	22	41%
2. Shortened	0	0%
3. Expanded	22	41%
4. Re-designed	10	19%
Total Responses:	54	

33. Do you think the fee paid to attend the summit was worth the knowledge gained?



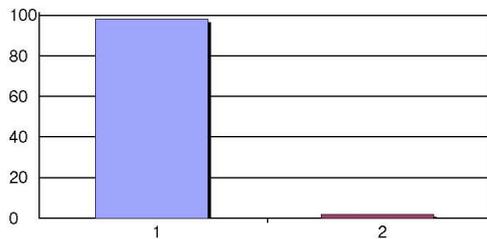
1. Yes	43	80%
2. No	11	20%
Total Responses:	54	
Mean:	1.20	Standard Deviation: 0.41

34. Do you think you obtained commensurate value for the fee your paid?



1. Yes	46	85%
2. No	8	15%
Total Responses:	54	
Mean:	1.15	Standard Deviation: 0.36

35. Do you plan to attend future AICS events?



1. Yes	50	98%
2. No	1	2%
Total Responses:	51	
Mean:	1.02	Standard Deviation: 0.14

AICS Workgroup One Recommendations

Cade (Eddy) Carter – Facilitator

Erin Marks – Recorder

Strategic Communication and Outreach

Common issues with all groups:

Shared Vision

Government Fragmentation

Specific Questions for WG1

Website-keep? maintain?

-Facebook page or blog

What else do we do to communicate the word?

What else can we do to outreach to stakeholders?

Ed: Number of participants and diverse representation shows that we have a shared vision, and people want to put forth an effort

-Maybe shared interest/regional issues came out in last presentation before lunch

-If this vision is going to move forward, must be a region

Must clarify the geography, talking about the whole watershed, or just the main stem?

-words mean things; we must decide what we are talking about before we begin, and what do we mean by sustainable? We need to concentrate on common vocabulary before we try to outreach

Focus on main stem: we can't impact the main stem without affecting the whole watershed, or if we are partnering with the corps to put projects in the main stem, have to partner with other people and back to whole watershed

Decided we have to look at it from the whole watershed, and need common vocabulary. This is one of the major questions so that we don't get into problems down the line in this process.

What are we talking about? Strategic Communication and Outreach, can't have communication without knowing who the audience is and what are we trying to communicate to people.->what is the vision? What do we recommend?->We have to identify who we want to speak to and what we want to say, and how do we talk about the river amongst ourselves, and how do we talk to the public? What are we trying to communicate?

Murray- Other groups use the word integrate, that word means something specific, he wants to have a discussion on what that word means and why it won't work (everyone laughed)...How do we engage the private sector, we don't have real people here (she

works with agriculture), tri county levees, we have to fix the levees, we have to start somewhere. Some people are not aware of the impact that the river has on their lives. What types of people do we consider in the private sector? Didn't know this organization existed since 2005. This is the results of the Visioning conference->conference proceedings. This is another stepping stone to creating a vision for the MR. Goal of visioning conference was to integrate vision in MR from Minnesota to Gulf of Mexico. 3 days with different topics, workshops, speakers, key elected officials, policy recommendations. Document is recommendation from conference. They were sitting outside.

This conference is a little different than at the Visioning conference. These groups were developed by two different people, Ed is not pro facilitator. The topics don't really align with the topics at that Visioning conference.

Start place for today, list of audiences, group them, decide what they mean, who should be involved, then decide how to get them involved. Audiences, vocabulary

Webpage: everyone talked at once.

There is a process for getting to a vision. Some recommendations about process are needed.

Last speaker: what are we trying to get at? Then what are some immediate steps (website) then what are you going to individually? Tactics for vision, not tactics for this group, process that go forward for the vision, but how do we communicate the results with the other groups tomorrow?

Communicate with all the participants within this conference and reach out to the stakeholders of this vision. Governors were invited from states in the main stem. We're trying to figure out the boundaries. Seed money came from USACE and the Sand County Foundation was also involved. Everyone is confused about what geography we are talking about? We use a lot of product and we use all the rivers to do that besides the Mississippi. America's Inner Coast Summit-"America" means tributaries. We need definitions to go forward. If we include the entire watershed, then this is a communication challenge because this includes a broader point of people. If we are talking about the Basin then the audience we are talking may include or uninclude different people. We are better off communicating with the public within the main stem.

Everyone they do in IN affects the people in OH and it affects the people in IL. Stakeholders split off into two groups, governments and organization, and private land owners, and a lot of them are not represented here. They care about levees systems, navigation interests, flood control interests, ecosystem restoration efforts. Other audiences include commercial, cultural, sociological, riverfront development are a function in reawakening and having access to water, recreational. Within three realms, gov't, ngo, private land owners, general public there are subsets within them them.

Realms

Gov't, ngo

Private land owners

general public

Interests

Commercial

Cultural

Ecological

Sociological

Recreation

Each sector needs different interests.

Words mean things and have to be careful not to put people off. Before you go out and plant trees, if we are going to be strategic, let's be strategic before we go out to the public.

Different folks want a cleaner river with diversity of fish, woods for wildlife, they care about what the habitat looks like because they care about what it looks like, internal and external communication looks very different. We have to be deliberately different how we communicate to different groups.

We might be able to get the public to do what we want, but maybe not for the reason we want. We have to be ok with that. Communication needs to be different and inclusive.

Audience

-insider information

-external

Where does agriculture go? How do we switch between the two

Intramural-groups that are not here yet. (farmers).

Intramural-insiders

Extramural-public

Two different types of communication-visioning process-once we determine what the vision is, then we decide how to carry out that vision. We are trying to go through a process to find a vision. Outreach must be trusted convener. ML is into implementation, but we must focus on visioning. You can't send anyone to NOLA to talk about visioning for the Mississippi.

**trusted messenger is very important. USACE is trusted convener for most of U.S., but not in NOLA.

-have to know who is trusted

-messenger not convener, but have to incorporate listening as well.

Politicians need to understand collected vision. Who is the messenger who the politicians is going to listen to? Need a collected voice, we hope the politicians are listening to the people, but they listen to business. Politicians want a unified vision. The last thing they want is twenty different MR initiatives knocking on the door.

We should focus on the main stem because there has been a lot of good work bringing a lot of groups together on the main stem and are ready to voice a unified vision. But if you bring in OH and MO we are not ready.

In terms of communications, we are trying to work with agencies in the main stem. General said basin, 3rd largest watershed. Have to take steps, so maybe incorporating MO and OH is the first step. It all comes down to local; New York will eventually flow into the MR. So, if everyone in the watershed focused on their local issues, then it will eventually flow into the MR

->against that because IL River has unified plan.

There is success in smaller management groups; there is no intent to exclude the MO and OH. Main stem includes IL River. Or does it?

We must involve the people who will communicate with the policy makers, ten states that are most affected, and those elected officials should be focused on for an audience.

Ac congressman in NY is not going to allocate \$ to MR because he doesn't think that his people won't care about it. But, it will. Strategy depends on level of audience.

Strategic-we want to avoid random acts of conservation. We want to have a strategic and intentional plan. We need to be intentional about it.

Process-if we are pursuing this large basin, any plan needs to include everyone and need to be broken down into regions. Regional plans need to come together to formulate a 200 year vision.

American waterways symposium has tech that allows interregional communication.

Discussion questions:

What strategic outcomes do we envision?

- process for input defined from various defined groups that has a trusted messenger that leads to pathways and listening-needs to be intentional and strategic
- unified and diverse, engaged constituency of visioning process
 - basin wide 35 states
- agenda for public action/call to action/priorities/action items
 - engaged constituency would carry this out

- Interagency coordinated and shared funding approach
- sustainable vision beyond tenure of current administration
- legislative, executive type order that creates a special designation for the whole river

What tools for communicating and growing partnerships are most effective?

- face to face would be good start/open house/ listening sessions/
 - websites
 - social media (fb, America Speaks)
 - advocacy software
 - public advocacy/social networking tools/
 - Americanwaterways.org/1-Mississippi/America Speaks
- model.

- Art can engage the public->Public Art
- Public Campaign->1-Mississippi model
- Community festivals
- large national event Hands Across Mississippi

What current tools can be kept?

- Central Info hub-database, one central place for info to reduce replication, and provide trusted source, central repository

Biggest barriers

- regional differences
- lack of a common vocabulary
- boundaries/geography
- cooperating with networks within networks/**silo mentality**
- people feeling they weren't included in the process to begin with
- cost and resources
-

How can we move past those barriers?

- Get the proper authority, or clearly define limits on authority. Research who has authority to do it, how can we get authority to do it? (keep asking until you get the answers you get)
- Have a celebrity/personality for the MR, maybe not always present, but can get the attention of the masses when it is needed.
- A musical symbol associated with the MR (non-Deliverance)-make auditory association
- mapping the vision statement (example-Ivan Vadavsky)
- Link to a big picture items/issues that are capturing national attention
- Don't place blame, talk about history of how you got where you are. **Historical to future continuum.**

- to battle silo mentality, call people together as communities rather than organizations. Invite individuals, invite passionate people, but those people have to follow through and carry it up to their superiors who have more authority
 - people have to feel safe about environment and rules of engagement, common ground, common effort, selectively invite people and get larger until you take it to public
- a land/river ethic will get you past agriculture/navigation/ecology wars.
- develop vision out of **shared values** instead of the issues
 - shared values recognize economic and ecological needs and try to satisfy both of them.
- more face to face communications, have more parties, see below
- this has got to be about individuals, not about institutions
 - got to enhance relationships between individuals/invite individuals, not institutions
- Have diversity at beginning of development in complex problem to get more creativity
- consensus decision making-skilled facilitators-use outside monitor
- have multiple sponsors so that it overcomes USACE being in charge.
- IRCC process for integrated management plan to be used as an example.

Network has to be developed with relationships, and relationships are built between individuals

Suggestion to walk through steps and develop objectives for 5 year plan, from who to include, asking for money, we have to set concrete objectives.

We're tasked with how do we present a vision, not coming up with a vision, must also discuss how we process that input that we get through all the audiences we have to consider

How do we get what comes out of this meeting in communicating and presenting outreach?

What are the communication tasks to get the organization to a vision? So if we take a five year segment, what are the tasks and steps involved in that process?

But we need to discuss specific questions need to be identified first

IL River, natural resource people had components on how to carry out plan, interagency budget, forum for people to work at how to get funding for work items so we are not duplicating items, more than one agency would provide funding. It would be bad if general Walsh left and this petered out, best would be for this to get traction and stay on for a while. This idea depends on agencies getting along.

We have to build one-on-one, face- to-face relationships and then can move to social networking

American Waterways.org-

-building a shared understanding of MR, online community for MR, national dialogue for future of waterways, utilizes strategy that can multi-scalar, multiple sites that use technology that interact with each other and have all stakeholders in room and have personal involvement with river and have silos that they represent. "America speaks"=huge scale dialogues, have root table conversations, come to common visions, but are happening in many different places about a common concern. Moving this model to the internet now that people know each other, when dialogue happens, great deal of national attention, and build constituency from dialogue. Use tools of social networking to come to vision. There is a lot of international interest. Have group in St. Louis, St. Paul, NOLA, from many different agencies and organizations are talking to each other in one room, having conversations with their friends and neighbors. Individuals talking to each other representing their agencies, huge lead up time, research documented, so that participants represent all sides and good science.

Cultural and Artistic considerations are a good way to get people to buy into a vision.

It seems that Anne's work is complimentary to these visioning steps. The process of American Waterways might be a good example to follow while we are trying to develop a vision and carry that vision out.

ML-We can't get past why they can't do it. We need to have gov't organizations explain why they can't do something, we need to know why so that we can work towards getting past that. Need gov't organizations to be right up front

Don't reinvent the wheel, build on it, need efficiency in the system.

Need something people can rally around, need to define how all our missions relate to that nugget.

If you bring in a value system, you have to talk about philosophical underpinnings, can we agree on basic philosophical meanings.

People do not always agree that we are here for the health of the river. We are not all here for the same things. If we bring everyone here who needs to be here, we have three rupture points and incompatible goals, reliable navigation, floodplain agriculture, ecological health. Circles back to what are we talking about? Are we talking about conserving what we have currently, or are we talking about breaking down dams, or are we talking about a land ethic?

We can't go back, but we have to do the best we can. But, we can't give up, have to work with what we have and come up with a solutions, need commitment for it to work, that level of commitment is not always there.

Vision process concerns itself with values and understanding, vision comes from shared values and shared understanding, and move on from there.

Discussions today include collaboration, process that builds everyone from the start brings more possibilities. A collaborative process can lead to more new ideas. Difference of opinion can lead to shared values.

Groupthink vs. independent thinking. Come to the table as an individual, leave your organization half behind, then you can think more creatively and independently, and then can go back to your organization and work towards the goals that were developed.

Different areas of expertise can address a complex issue and develop a shared value. We have more complex problems these days, so more people at the table at the beginning is helpful. The diversity sheds light on complex problems.

John touched on consensus on decision making.

Everyone is a leader even if you are not at the front of the room, meetings in NOLA have rodeo clowns, if it was easy it would have already been done.

USACE leading and guiding this process:

- how do we feel about this, does this impact this process?

- have multiple sponsors, not just one funder.

- no matter how big your state, each gets the same amount of votes

USACE shows up when anyone talks about watersheds, cause that is their jurisdiction

They are the biggest authority, they have a leadership role, but what is that role?

Example of how an agency did something with facilitators and consensus documents.

Difference between IRCC integrated management plan and IDNR and USACE comprehensive management plan. We could learn a lot from the IRCC facilitator model. We could use USACE's project management skills.

Recommendations: 3-4, 12 words each.

Limit our recommendations to page 1 paragraph 3? How can we go further than that? Have to go back to first things.

Wouldn't the organization have to come up with an agreed upon statement of purpose, what the role and what we are trying to accomplish. Maybe it is define the process, then get the statement of purpose, then

Even though we are coming up with a 200 year vision, we can still do things right now.

There is a conflict within this summit and the people who are here.

Whatever you do, if you take the time to intentionally address your glossary, geography, get the rules right, before you go out and start doing stuff. Can't just trust the process, have to do things intentionally.

We have ongoing initiatives through ongoing organizations that don't need reinventing and embrace that to bring them into the vision.

1 We came up with these desired outcomes for this vision and summit:

- process for input defined from various defined groups that has a trusted messenger that leads to pathways and listening-needs to be intentional and strategic
- unified and diverse, engaged constituency of visioning process
 - basin wide 35 states
- Interagency coordinated and shared funding approach
- sustainable vision beyond tenure of current administration
- legislative, executive type order that creates a special designation for the whole river
- clear and concise action plan comprised of action items-things that people can do on the ground-timeframe-
- engaged constituency would carry this out

->And as such, this is our first recommendation:

Have intentional preformation process and statement of purpose that leads to developing a vision.

2 Look at existing communication models to determine the best way to move forward with this MR vision.

- don't reinvent the wheel if we don't need to
- 1 Mississippi
- America's Waterways
- IL River integrative management and comprehensive plan (process used)
- other visioning models that can lead to a cohesive vision
- looked to everyone invited, facilitator run groups broken into objectives for the river, everyone had equal vote, facilitator built document that went out for review, and everyone was included.

3 Use trusted facilitator that is there beyond organizational bias with a safe place and process.

4 Use an open process for participation.

5 Use a shared leadership structure that embodies the idea of "All Leaders All The Time".

6 Have Fun!

We do not have trust in institutions, we have trust in individuals, and the problem is that when that individual changes, the trust is shaken. Have to have a large enough organization that always have an in and have independent thinking.

What are we going to do when we go back to our office:

Regional planning

See what happens

Take it to the national level

Continue to press for healthier rivers

Two messages-take what happened here back to LA set up coordination opportunities, and let northern areas fix the river so that LA has a stronger tool

Message will get to superiors

Think about becoming part of the community

Adding us all to her emails to find more supportive pathways, link with 1 Mississippi.

Participate more with the environmental structure

AICS Workgroup Two Recommendations

David Bornholdt – Facilitator

Gretchen Benjamin – Co-Facilitator

Kathryn Sharp – Recorder

Integrating Stakeholders

Discussion:

Considerations for private individuals and Indian waters

Executive Order for Mississippi River Basin option

Experience on Great Lakes Executive Order and Chesapeake Bay Executive Order

General rules:

Mutual respect for other's comments and listen – capture comments correctly

Forget about cell phones, blackberry, etc.

Highlights:

GLEC May 18 2004

Items highlighted that are interesting

Point 1: under previous administration, \$\$ that came with it, \$475M

Annually – 2010 475, 2011 less than 380M

Projects funded will need to be adjusted.

Policy introduction information: Federal government supports etc.

Federal government partner with Great Lake states and tribal and local and regional to address environmental issues involving the Great Lakes.

In the Chesapeake Bay, there are some differences in the Executive Orders.

Federal/state cooperative

Want measurable results

Great Lakes Restoration fund – deliverable reported out on every year.

Great Lakes Regional working group – federal partners – coordinating group

EPA chair of task force

Great Lakes National Program office

Chesapeake Bay EPA administrator took a different approach.

Allocations of \$475M

Work through two groups to see differences and similarities:

Chesapeake Bay Executive Order – Letter from Governor Caine to President where he suggested his thoughts for the Executive Order.

Details: asked and received different. Administration gave more than asked

Congress reauthorize and strengthen the Chesapeake Bay program.

Support funding of programs

Congress should provide federal funding for waste water treatment. Congress fully funds federal clean water act.

Enact legislation clean water trust fund

In both orders, not from federal partners, but people in different positions.

Wrote best Executive Order possible – difficult decision for people in federal government. Dollars in federal budgets – time in a federal facility doesn't count towards retirement – saying from friend.

Chesapeake Bay Executive Order – interesting to note it comes out on council for environmental quality.

Within the Chesapeake Bay watershed – emphasis on entire watershed – restoration of the health of Chesapeake Bay renewed commitment to controlling pollution from all sources and respecting habitat of all living sources, conserving lands, and managing natural resources – improve eco systems. The Federal Government led this effort. Great Lakes partnership –

Subsection of Executive Order – David involved with – Great Lakes general, Chesapeake Bay prescriptive.

Spells out what they want and when they want it and what to do.

Develop focus and coordinated habitat to improve Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

Each one is treated separately.

Federal leadership committee – May 2010 – have implementation plan and they did.

Water pollution control strategies
Ag practices
Reduce water pollution from federal facilities
Protect climate changes
Expand public access to Chesapeake Bay and improve landscapes and ecosystems
Ecosystem management
Living resources protection and restoration

Total daily maximum load regulatory framework

Focus on Executive Order – what does it do? Provides direction, provides clear assignments to federal agencies.

1997 Lake Tahoe order focused on inter-agency cooperation.
Lot of funding commitments made as a result not specified in Executive Order, but the Executive Order triggered environmental improvement plan.
Numerous agencies involved – EPA, Forest Service, Department of Transportation, Department of Commerce, Fishing and Wildlife, and Bureau of Indian Affairs. They all came up with deliverables tied to funding for Lake Tahoe.
Went directly to President Clinton and asked for Lake Tahoe Presidential Summit.

Mini summits related to MS River -- similar model for inter-agency collaboration. Great deal of group work – multi-state. Tribes were involved and geographic scope was smaller, but collaboration was there.

Ten river states in MS River, expand watershed and goes to 10-15 states.

Consider congressmen, senators, in all those states. Focus on top states and getting letters and endorsements to President. Has this been tried before?

Denise: Is Executive Order the answer here?
What results have been achieved?

Sean: Lake Tahoe
Primary motivators for summit were decreased visibility in the lake and hypoxia concerns. Thought that LT would not have unique color and might turn green. Water and air quality results, efficient transportation.

Denise: Original goals & objectives were they achieved?

Sean: Progress report where number of goals have been achieved. Some are long term.

Denise: Writing Executive Order with transition of administrations – what is long strength of an Executive Order?

F: Ecosystem coordinations. Which ecosystems are being looked at now? Puget Sound, Everglades, CB, Great Lakes, but MS not on radar.
Discussed additional Executive Orders – feedback wasn't that great.
Recognize that it is an uphill battle where we need champions.

Integrate tribes & States & Federal agencies. Mistake to key in on any one vehicle to achieve this.

At federal level, it will not be a priority until this group has everything pulled together.

Deliberate – use of Executive Order as vehicle to achieve goals. What are the success rates of Executive Orders when there was a change in administration? There are 3 examples. Orders outside of environmental – good guideline to research. Letter to executive – regardless of whom – order stays same, when executive changes.
Basin who agree what needs to be done keep asking executive to do it, no matter who the executive is.

Need one group to present that. A group representing all of the MS River Basin. It takes a lot of energy to get the backing from congress and agencies, and even asking President to sign Executive Order. Coalesce support for letter to executive rather than Executive Order, from Basin up – instead of down.

Need to decide objective and what you want to accomplish before deciding mechanism. Perceive from top down not bottom up. Integrate state, tribal, private interests is a very different approach. What do we want to accomplish and approach it.

Executive Order doesn't have to be big lift – friendly administration it could take only one action speaking up – they could make the case for an Executive Order which would be a lot easier than passing legislation. It helps to have them as champions. They would not be final decide if there was going to be an Executive Order.

List accomplishments, pieces could be accomplished in Executive Order and other pieces will create conflict. What is mechanism to deal with controversial pieces?

Looking at Executive Order or taking other steps – partnership working together – we haven't tried to integrate partners already – they are imperfect – we need to make sure we don't reinvent the wheel and build on what we've done. What have we done so far that is inadequate?

What are some of the major legislative views we would use to get funding – what sort of measures to achieve goals. Use legislative vehicles to achieve certain outcomes.

What outcomes do we want? Has to come from region – the vehicle is almost secondary. Those are key vehicles as far as policy and money. These need to be integrated to feed into that.

F: What are the current models working within the Basin?

If we move in direction of Executive Order – how do we do it? How do we engage state and local, Indian nations and private people?

Do we need to develop a governor's caucus for the MSRB? A congressional caucus?

What do we want to accomplish?

Great Lakes had certain outcome areas – should we consider that for the MS?

Maybe similar, but from there you need to look at local and state involvement. Water quality – local involvement focused on local watershed.

Another group working on 200 year vision. Is there mission to come up with what we want out of this group?

They will be looking at 200 year vision. Take their outcomes and concentrate here on how to do it.

Process depends on the outcome what we want. Under purview here as well as what are we to consider here. Things to consider as we look to integrate these outcomes.

We're supposed to focus more on mechanism and approaches to integrate all of the groups in the MSRWG. Also acknowledge what is currently going on and what is going right or not. Try to figure out where we are going within the Basin.

DT: Possibility of outcome –

Meeting with 3 or 4 diff agencies regarding 8 miles trail on Real foot Lake – created by earthquake in 1811 – very big lake – F&W and other federal agencies all had different ideas and we're talking to each other. If we could have dialogue from bottom up. Start with own agencies – state by state and integrate contacts into our own framework.

Various groups in coalition that need to be integrated.

F: others are doing in CB and USDA are useful. There are all kinds of things put out by other organizations that are useful. Publications that summarize science and all kinds of fact sheets. Are these kinds of products available for the Basin as a whole?

GB: Respect for Lower River, some unique models on Upper River. UMSRA – appointed by governor – doesn't just discuss environmental, but navigation and other water related issues – broad scope of issues brought before this group. DofA, DNR, DOT, state led group but federal partners are technical advisers to this governor's group.

On upper and lower, there is UMR conservation committee and LMRCC – state and federal. In Upper river districts, smaller groups that work on transportation issues and eco issues – in different districts. Some models have been around 30 years. Work through issues and get towards understanding multiple uses of the river. Summit is not only about environmental but creating a sustainable MS River, how do we get everyone

to work towards that? Watershed is large, they are not perfect, but a good model to start discussion on. They do muster some attn when we go to DC.

Effort on Upper River to have a shared vision. Need shared vision that involves not taking out dams or not turning into a ditch.

Association – five upper basin states – each state puts in 40 and 48,000 a year and they receive grants. Use as starting place – in Cedar Rapids -- \$5B infrastructure destroyed by flooding.

Need shared vision of entire team and realize you start at top and go all the way out to the Gulf.

The various constituents first time upper and lower have been together to discuss. Very important start, this is a tremendous opportunity. Public has very short attention span and federal government even shorter. Because of Gulf Disaster we have a real opportunity to capture attention.

Executive Order – top down. Starts with education and opportunity is there right now to sound the alarm. We have attention and we need to get people on board with respect to it. Start with each of the states.

From our perspective, the model with the Environmental Management Program has worked in some of the upper MS river states.

Navigation impact, broad watershed

Example of model that could work – draw downs.

Worked because industry was present and good connection with group working on draw downs. That person was trusted and made them more willing to listen to what we had to say.

St. Clair River Assn formed in 1911 work in watershed – created a new map which it is suggested that we do. The new map is shown everywhere.

Show entire basin or ten states?

Ten states along river and 31 within basin.

Integrate and be inclusive. Need to look at entire basin, if we don't we are excluding.

We should look at entire basin, to realize problem and bring people to the table. Would do disservice to those in basin if we did anything else.

Include all 31 states – this meeting has excluded MO, OH, IL

Scope – we do have a whole basin. Reality at this conference, whole basin is not represented.

Enormous difference between Montana and other areas of the MSRB. Think broad, but act a little more narrowly. If you go too far, too quick it will not work.

Suggest doing it in stages – start with first 10 states and expand. Break it down into components, even our areas of focus; it will be too much to get done.

200 year vision for the Basin, very difficult to get arms around. What are most important next steps, most pressing issues that will keep us from that 200 year vision? Otherwise it would get to be too big.

We can have discussions on certain issues that do not affect MSRB at all, such as navigation on Upper River. Don't discuss without those people present.

DAN: Basin map should be entire basin. Hypoxia problem. If map is too small, it is difficult to make larger. First effort focused on this –
Navigation system – not just main stem of MS – it is IL, OH, down to gulf waterway.
Lot of analogies between eco and navigation systems.

In Gulf of Mexico hypoxia task force, not every state is represented. Good model to use here.

Hypoxia issues relate to farmers, would like to see more sediment coming down.
List objectives and keep broad, but need to get to more detail to find potential conflicts.
Research over time and resolve issues to some degree from one party to another. Listing potential conflicts, there are navigation conflicts on both ends of MS R.

Consensus building – we need to know what we need and want from each other before we can build on that.

Must identify issues as well as groups that already exist. In Upper there are groups that don't talk to each other, let alone upper middle and lower.

Key component is synthesis – doesn't have to all be science issues, summarize what issues are and what we are doing on them.

Effort in past week and a half to gather lists of all different groups and action plans and strategies that exist so it can be understood at the federal levels. Create compendium of groups that exist. That should be available for this group to look at. There are a number of different groups that cannot be integrated without identification. In all ten states. If President's objective for Gulf, does it include MSR?

Compile information to feed effort to establish long term plan for restoration of Gulf of Mexico. When compiled, that is a resource we can use.

31 stakeholders funded by McKnight Foundation – ongoing efforts. There are 36.
Commonality – is it a good idea to have a healthy river – healthy water? Is a dead zone a bad idea?

Implications of that are enormous. Iowa is one of the biggest contributors to the dead zone because of the nutrients. There is a commonality that we could start moving forward with. All 31 states would say healthy river and water is good. Get everyone

enthusiastic and pulling together with respect to it. Body of enthusiasm, funding will come.

Great Lakes came up with everything done and put into compendium. It was originally rejected by DC so they went back to the table and brought together over 7,000 people and came up with new Great Lakes Restoration plan which carried weight in DC to get the \$475M.

Pieces will not be sustainable or gain traction. Fragmented – to point of look at whole watershed and find common values and those will emerge as we get together in an intentional facilitated manner to build. As a community, draw up the objectives and figure out how to get there. What are we considering when we are trying to get all these people together?

Is there a way to somehow integrate on a bigger basin scale? There has to be some change at the local level. How does this affect the farmer? We lose opportunities by not taking advantage of work other agencies are doing. If there is a way for this integration piece, focus on bigger basin, is there something we can do to figure out integration piece on basin scale. Create a process of integration into smaller scale groups.

Look at small watershed – Root River in MN – Midwest Resource Institute – EPA did research. Should come from local watershed level to improve water quality. We have organizations at basin level, but we need folks at local level to discuss specific watersheds.

A lot of apathy amongst local people because they don't think about water quality because they don't drink water out of the MS River. Ways of involvement – through recreation – kayaking, non profit organizations are more nimble to slip into various conferences and hold conferences and forums to get small people in to talk. A lot of time there is a duplication of services. If everyone present supplied a list to someone, we could compile a huge list. You would find that once that was started just convening those groups – this conference is a scratch on the surface. A lot is education and there is apathy in different things. Federal agencies are very unapproachable to a lot of nonprofit groups. Federal agencies have changed attitudes a little bit also.

Sean: Smaller watersheds working on multiple scales. Four corners of 200 year vision – any tributary in MS River, you should be able to drink water. That will appeal to people. It should be bottom up and states should be leading. Ideal to get initiatives going in all 31 states. Would there be opportunity cost if we did that? What happens when General Walsh rotates out of command and what happens when Federal Administration changes? Is 200 year approach really appropriate for what we want to do? What can be accomplished in next few years? From educational perspective and community involvement.

What is the commonality for whole basin? What are the issues that are common to the entire basin? Water quality issue – are there basin wide issues that are a commonality into the watershed? Fish and wildlife habitat, transportation, energy, agriculture.

If authority and order comes from region, could take 10-15 years before that authority is genuine and it becomes sustainable. Then we don't have to worry about who general or president is. Authority and power is within regions. We are tasked with facilitating and engaging that capacity. It will probably take 10-15 years to get there.

Sean: Point to education – encourage where we can. What powerful education vehicle if we could have PO devote 2 to 3 days to MS River. Not seen as mutually exclusive. Federal government can provide vision and enable that process. Have grassroots effort starting in 31 states and culminate in presidential summit. Education of value of river? What summit today is about? Education on sustainable MS River. Hopefully see our efforts today concrete in the future. Executive Orders do have lives beyond administrations and generals in command. If good Executive Order is in place, it won't matter who is in administration.

Gulf explosion provides good opportunity to capitalize on what we are trying to do now. We must focus on that. Go to Chief Executives of 31 states and seek their buy in for concept of doing something for water quality for the Basin.

Serious problem in Louisiana – referring to Dead Zone. People should know about this as much as they know about Gulf incident and Hurricane Katrina. People do not appreciate the DZ because I can still go to Hy-Vee and buy seafood.

Some people would like to see something happen in their lifetimes. There is education in the fact that crises are teachable moments. You should be getting something sustainable out of it. The attention span in DC is very short. They pour money into a problem, but do not address it sustainably. It took Great Lakes over half a century to get anything done – in bits and pieces. Trying to do something in 15 years is very optimistic.

Talking timeframes – not being constrained by current conditions. Currently dependent on foreign oil and won't be in 200 years, because it won't be there. No way to predict what will be 200 years from now.

Our messages on oil spills – not building on attention of oil spill, but the attention of the oil spill has afforded us to get our own messages across. It is an opportunity.

Identify basin wide issues – in short run, focus on things we are comfortable there is a common shared interest – water quality for example. Water quantity is a huge issue in and of itself. Important issue to basin. Transportation – being on waterway system is very important to the country. Most of these issues are out of sight, out of mind. Taking someone to a river cleanup would make them think twice about throwing out a Styrofoam cup.

Congressional tour of MS River Basin would really help educate those folks.

Dan: Matters who invites you to a meeting.

General Walsh invited us to this meeting. What if President invited us to next MS summit?

If we work together over next two years, to be more organized, think of people here, and what if we showed up with no preplanning – plan for a year or two – think what we could accomplish. One word: education.

Tipping points in history. This oil spill is a tipping point. President Obama has made it a priority to make the Gulf better place. Water quality improvement is in process. Other broader pieces are being done along the river at this time.

BREAK

A lot of ground covered in first half. Put some thoughts together:

Being proactive, put together some type of order from regions and to President. We could help the President meet his commitment to make the Gulf of Mexico better. We need to think about what we want to put in this letter.

We should do some things while we know we have some support. If we are going to get some of these things to work, it should come from the grassroots up.

We discussed size of basin and use entire basin, but do some sort of breakdown.

We discussed compilations on what we are already doing in terms of projects that are underway.

It would also help if we knew what was going on with the 200 year vision to promote our issues.

Are there any others we need to list? We need to get to a 12 word compilation.

John mentioned water quality – added to the list. Maybe Fish & Wildlife – protection for watershed. What about energy security? People need fossil fuel energy. Ways to look at other issues besides water quality. Water quantity and agriculture were mentioned.

Dan – suggest while writing out common denominators – frame as positive statements. We can get more buy-in if we discuss what we are for. We don't want to fragment our network.

Focus on multiple scales. There is importance about small watersheds and what is going on in subcontext of smaller versus larger watersheds.

F: We can really show some accomplishment if we focus on the small watersheds.

The smaller the scale, the greater the ownership.

Diane: One of the greatest tipping points we haven't discussed is economic dollars and the fact that we are in greatest recession since 1930s. We should tie our work into job and community development. If we don't it won't go too far. That is what recovery money is all about. Transportation provides jobs – everything that we are doing provides jobs. 150 years ago cotton was our oil. What is it going to be in 200 years from now? It is going to be energy and water. They are afraid water will dry up in rest of country and food will be produced in the MS River Basin. These are some of the issues we need to be involved in like biofuels, etc. The MS River will take on greater importance every year.

F: Is there another one that comes to anyone's mind that we need to capture?

Look at basin on smaller scale, but did we discuss ideas on how to do that? How do we do this?

F: It has been discussed but not in detail. Let's spend some time on it.

We need to at least conceptually identify who the players are. Some are obvious, but it seems like we should spend some time and think about that. There is local, state, and tribal governments and various agencies with presence around the basin. Point of contact within that broad reference? Where do we go beyond that? NGOs? Stakeholders, universities – what type of roles do they play in terms of education? Industry. There's that whole piece of private landowners – are there NGOs that actively represent that interest? NGO is a huge piece

In terms of integration (and that is what the charge is). Looking at a model, is it advisable to look at it or kick back to 31 stakeholders – those being the states – and let them come up with the constituencies and form whatever type of organization and send representatives. We have 109 here, if they each sent 3 that would be the same number that we have here – to a commission, forum of organization. Give them the opportunity to do that? Tell them it should be representative to the interests of their state. In Iowa, there would be an agricultural component. In MN, there may be a forest component. In IL, there would be a river navigation component. We might have a river navigation component in IA, but not as predominant as some of the big players.

F: Kick that idea around – goes back to governors caucus.

Get the nucleus of 10 governors to invite the other 20 governors to participate.

In the GL, there are a lot of similar groups. There's a lot of nations involved, tribal representatives, various business groups, and NGO groups. Groups that integrate amongst the groups. This can happen at a variety of levels.

In a broader sense, when I worked in state government, you don't necessarily achieve success in 31 states by going to the governor in your first shot. Identify a player in an agency and usually there are several. Start and process. There are various interests in the different states. You may have to go beyond that. There's the tribal piece. There are NGOs that span states.

F: Great Lakes Commission – in terms of economic focus. They look less at the science issues.

Need for organizations that came from the bottom up. In case of GL, it took decades and decades. The governors are not going to get together unless they have a mandate to do it.

We need some institutional structure that will take this integration, which we don't yet know what this is.

Gulf plan could be vehicle to launch these plans.

Invite governors to join listening sessions, hear from the locals what their concerns are.

How should this be approached? There are a number of organizations in the broader MS River Basin. Our part is counterpart to most of the MSRB. I don't know about IL or lower. If you reached a point where there was a message that was focused enough to be carried out – some emissary of this group could seek to appear at these meetings which often have high level representation of all the governors. There are multiple ways to approach this.

Mike(USDAP)

idea of listening sessions. The President announced several have happened. An opportunity to piggyback on.

Being passionate about upper river states. What is the burning motivation to do something from southern part of the river?

DT: One of our challenges is apathy. I've watched people along the bluffs in Memphis, yawning. The history was affected by slavery, strife; agriculture moved out, floods, etc. The upper MS – we did send you jazz, blues, eat good BBQ once in a while, but our culture is very different. We are a little more laid back.

People in the different states relate to the rivers in their state more than the entire basin.

Politically savvy – if we don't tie into the politics, we'll never go.

There may be other champions. The lower river people are more concerned with economic development. The lower counties have 15-20% unemployment. TN is an entirely different area of the country.

GB: If there was an EO, do you think there would be grass root stakeholders buy in? Do you think over time there would be some sort of buy in?

DT: Broke up project into different components. Each mayor put an expert in one of those counties. You can get a consortium of experts that are not just river people – academics. We've been very successful in this model. You meet a lot of different disciplines. If we involve it around just water quality, we won't get far.

We need representatives from cross functions. People have various questions related to their own economy – like buying medicine versus buying fuel. This is not their concern. We need grassroots attention.

DT: Trust is a big deal with river people.

F: Takes a long time to build trust.

Local supporting the locals and helping them achieve their objectives.

DT: We forget that I69 is coming smack through west TN and goes to MS. Interstate connecting Canada to Mexico, right along the MS River.

F: Send emissary where? What is the name of this group?

How to reach and integrate all these different entities? I don't think you get there by sending letters. You need a plan, a structure, a steering committee. Have a couple of people seek to get on the agenda. Key interested parties and we would like your input. Give an example of river basin association and presumably they would be interested in this. You need to get out a lot closer to the grassroots.

F: This is first meeting where upper and lower basins have been together. Discussion around Executive Order being included as option.

We have to put together 3-4 or 12 statements that sum up the outcomes we want to report on to the group.

US Rep Betty McCollum from MN pursuing river legislation. Upper MS River Protection Act. USGA monitoring of trips. Probably tie into MBI work. Is work we do in watershed actually making a difference? Another initiative to designate river as national trail. Not along the river, but the river.

Begin discussion of creating recommendations from our summarizations.

Definition – what basin is (Scope)

Scope should encompass the entire Mississippi River Basin and the Gulf of Mexico

Use teachable moments as educational opportunity to integrate and coordinate stakeholders for example the Gulf Oil spill – help President meet his commitment.

Develop educational initiatives.

Educate stakeholders

Use Gulf of Mexico commitment as platform to launch MS River Basin

Declaration of interdependence

Group of stakeholders, agency, NGO, individual that sign off on this declaration. Try to keep inclusive and let people sign on.

Conservation, cultural history, history is a big draw in bringing grass roots together.

Common denominators is whole list and we had a lot of discussion on how to integrate this. Do we want to put any emphasis on this?

Bringing people together from a wide variety to discuss their interests.

Provide an integrated forum to discuss issues.

Idea that in seven categories, there would be something that would interest everyone.

Centered around quality of life. We want to improve quality of life of the citizens that live around the MS River.

Residents of the basin have the best quality of life in the world.

The water is integral to your quality of life in all categories.

Discussing highest attainable use. Then you meet all of the different objectives.

Group 2- Integrating Stakeholders

Recommendation #1: The scope of integration efforts should encompass all MRB watersheds as well as the GOM.

Recommendation #2: Short-term integration actions: ID major players, Governor's caucus, need institutional structure, Cabinet-level invitation to States for listening sessions, take advantage of initiatives.

Recommendation #3: Use the current GOM crises and other major events as educational opportunities to mobilize shareholders.

Recommendation #4: Address integration at multiple scales and across issues to create basin-wide commitment to MRB vision.

Recommendation #4 cont'd: Issues to be integrated include: water quality/quantity, sediment, recreation/tourism, transportation, fish and wildlife, agriculture, economic development, cultural history.

AICS Workgroup Three Recommendations

Larry Weber – Facilitator

Todd Strole– Recorder

Integrated Science Strategies and Criteria

Final recommendations

1. Science will: define and identify sustainable and non-sustainable behavior to inform decision making.
2. Develop science information that is translatable, accessible and useable.
3. Build an active, integrated and inclusive science network for scientific issue.
4. Foster opportunities to leverage resources to formulate an entity, program and process for integrated watershed science.
5. Science will work within the existing education system to improve science literacy and understanding (need a reward system).

A resilient system is a goal that all agree to and science should lead us there.

Notes-

Consensus – goal is unanimous, but members can abstain and minority opinions will be noted.

Reviewed discussion points handout.

Larry and Richard described. Not a clear system to connect academic, agency and NGO science, more ad hoc

1. Pat - What do we mean by science?
 - 1.1. Richard – engineering, data, observable in nature.
 - 1.2. Mike - a way of learning and knowing
 - 1.3. Pat – Informs management and policy, including social management
 - 1.4. Trey – agrees will all, but ultimately it needs to apply to the resource concerns and issues
 - 1.5. Jared – ongoing (adaptive) not just science on the front and management on the back
 - 1.6. Trey – science needs to match a timeframe...are we looking at 200 years
 - 1.6.1. Larry – beyond our careers ...50 or 200 years does not matter.

- 1.6.2. Paul – climate crisis is at least this long
- 1.6.3. David – science needs to be flexible due to uncertainties of climate, etc, technology
 - 1.6.3.1. Pat – expect and plan for change
- 1.7. Pat M. due to all the above, need a resilient system, Ada and David agree
- 1.8. Barry – **A systematic method to develop an understanding of how a the Mississippi River system operates, naturally and socially so that we can predict what will happen when we introduce change and inform policy.**
- 1.9. Paul - Are we anticipating and collecting what we need?
 - 1.9.1. Ada – we need a visions first
- 2. Larry – How do we collection information from all sources and implement adaptive management across multiple agencies. We need the to framework to succeed.
 - 2.1. David – It (science) needs to be done to inform decision.

*****Science will: define and identify sustainable and non-sustainable behavior to inform decision making.**

- 3. Paul – Is our vision resilience?
 - 3.1. Mike – Resilience, yes, but do we know what it is? Not really.
- 4. George - Is it the role of feds to collect data...most say yes and may need it in their role of regulatory and to inform policy. Also, should include state
 - 4.1. Paul - **Coordination and sharing of data among all state and federal agencies (possible recommendation)**
- 5. Larry - Translational science is needed to expedite the process of research to application and implementation.
 - 5.1. Pat – We need to correct the disconnect
- 6. Trey - **Collection of data needs to be standardized. Need to recognize other work. Also, need access and oversight of data, and a clearing house for serving and processing data into a usable form.**

*****Develop science information that is translatable, accessible and useable.**

- 6.1. Barry – Models exist to deal with this and examples to follow.
- 7. David –

***** Build an active, integrated and inclusive science network for scientific issue.**

*****Foster opportunities to leverage resources to formulate an entity, program and process for integrated watershed science.**

- 8. Paul – need a society that is informed and understands recommendation, need to translate science and make it accessible and usable.
- 9. Pat M – 3 groups of 1 – Collect 2- translate it to understandable (by practitioners and public) 3- how do we use it
- 10. Jared – are we talking about the basin or the river corridor? Group agreed to basin and our recommendations should reflect that.

- 10.1. Pat M- However, agency missions might not align to full basin, so say basis in every recommendation.
- 10.2. Ada - Focus on processes, not projects and this can include all agencies.
- 11. Richard – **Develop an adaptive program to handle multi-discipline, multi-agency coordination for integrated resource management that is stakeholder driven.**
- 12. David – public is much more informed today
 - 12.1. Trey – but facts out of context may not lead to truth and this group’s recommendations should support the recommendations of the other groups working on education, outreach, and communication.
- 13. Pat - Challenge traditional understandings of agency’s authorities. Narrow interpretation of authorities may be wrong. Example – Does the Corps need buffer lands under easement.

Larry - What are the strategies needed to succeed?
- 14. Pat N - Find a way for NSF incentives to match needs of agencies and private sector and NGOs.
 - 14.1. Mike - How do we distinguish what we want from academia vs federal research?
 - 14.2. Use stakeholder, bottom up, to develop authority from Congress, but top down to ID the vision.
 - 14.3. George - National water resource council could be re-born or similar.
- 15. Pat M - **Develop an entity that promotes integrated work culture where sociologists, economists, ecologists are working together and gets its own appropriation beyond individual agencies, organized for partnerships and cost share.**
 - 15.1. CESUs are not doing this, but could be adjusted to work this way.

AICS Workgroup Four Recommendations

Dale Chapman – Facilitator

Divina Baratta – Recorder

Integrating Multi-Sector River Management Priorities

Recommendation #1:

Create a basin-wide coordinating organization – a collective authority that speaks for the entire system; perhaps call it the Mississippi Basin Congress (MBC); make it broadly inclusive — private sector, states, agencies, academics, etc.

- This group (“Congress”) could potentially be the one that leads the development of the vision.
- This is not a top down or bottom up process, it’s from all sides
- Concept of connecting people with the river is all important if we want to succeed
- Public engagement and research informs each other and can drive / influence policy

- The ad hoc groups proposed in one of the work group presentations may be precursors to develop / test the Congress concept
- This must be seen as a national priority
- The Congress / coalition needs to be independent of politics
- This group is needed to provide continuity towards realizing the vision as presidents, elected officials, and agency officials come and go (intergenerational)
- The CEQ should be included in any such coalition. Also the states and tribes in the watershed.

Recommendation #2:

Educate and engage the public in dialogue – “America Speaks” is an example of this type of broad-based advocacy, which allows the public to weigh in and influence change.

- We were really talking about the America’s Waterway initiative which is an excellent way to engage an informed public who can then spread the word.
- We’re not just talking about educating and engaging the general public. Many in high positions (e.g., even White House staffers) don’t really have a grasp of what’s at risk here.

Recommendation #3:

[Message to the conference organizers] Keep communication open – now that we have connected, attendees might establish a way (via email or a list serve) to keep in contact with each other to share ideas, forge partnerships, etc. You’ve set expectations and established momentum, don’t disappoint us.

Recommendation #4:

Develop a science based Mississippi River watershed “health diagnostic” tool.

- This could be described as a “state of the river” tool. This could be used to create a sense of urgency about the condition of the river.

Recommendation #5:

Use the Ohio River and other models to develop a “value statement” for the economic and other benefits derived from the Mississippi River and its watershed.

- Moving from the discussion phase to the action phase. NESP could be a call to action on Ecosystem Restoration on the upper.
- The Great Lakes Commission, Chesapeake Bay, and the Danube etc. can be models for putting together coalitions.

OTHER COMMENTS / COMMON THEMES

- Regarding the food / water / energy nexus: You have to talk about all of these issues (this seems to endorse the holistic, watershed approach to planning / management).
- The vision initiative has to be done in an entirely inclusive and neutral way so that any particular constituency isn’t seen having undue influence.
- Where is the vision? We seem just as far away from that today as we were a year ago.
- The book “nudge” illustrates that if the timing is right, sometimes major actions can come from a nudge in a certain direction. The previous events (NGRREC conference,

Meridian Study, Horinko Water Summit, Monsanto, etc.) are perhaps nudging us towards a time for action. The proposed MS Congress could be the nudge people are looking for. - There's a lot we can learn from other cultures / countries, but we have to be careful because that expertise isn't always across the board. They may not be as experienced in other areas of science or river management.

AICS Workgroup Five Recommendations

John Ehrmann – Facilitator

Justin Henceroth – Co-Facilitator

Alicia Jepsen – Recorder

200 Year Vision Process and Way Forward

Bullet Points in PowerPoint:

- Vision should be resilient and robust, address multiple uses, be specific, scalable and flexible, inform decision-making, address uncertainty, incorporate new information, and include capacity for monitoring and evaluation.
 - Form an “Ad-Hoc Design Group”
 - TNC and ACE will convene, invite attendees and prepare background information in support of Ad-Hoc Design Group process
 - Ad-Hoc Group establishes process for developing vision statement
 - Ad-Hoc Group outlines political outreach, relationship to existing efforts, data collection, relationship to science and research and watershed coordination strategy
 - Dynamic open process that can evolve over time and continue to include new interests
-

Talking Points for Presentation:

When we say vision, we are using it as shorthand for a long-term and strategic

I. Characteristics of the Vision

a. Resilient and Robust

- Robust and resilient enough to accommodate long-term change, uncertainty and non-predictable events

b. Addresses multiple uses and interests

- Ecological Concerns
- Economic Benefits
- Sustained ecosystem resources

- c. **Specific, Scalable and Flexible**
 - Be specific enough to serve as a guide
 - Be scalable to address macro, river and basin wide issues as well as local and community issues
 - Scalability and flexibility should be both spatial and temporal
- d. **The vision and collective knowledge developed should inform decision making**
 - Process needs to be able to affect decision making on policy, projects and on the ground efforts
- e. **Addresses uncertainty and incorporates new information**
 - It's hard to know what the river will look like in 50, 100, 200 years.
 - The scope of uncertainty is wider the further into the future you look
 - New information and new events can change the way we view and interact on the river
 - Vision should be able to use new information as it becomes available
- f. **Has a robust system of outcome-based monitoring and evaluation**
 - There needs to be a process to judge whether these efforts are resulting in positive changes in the river basin

II. Form an Ad-Hoc Design Group

- Involving, but not restricted to the people at this conference
- Needs to be transparent
- Needs to be open and inclusive
- Cannot be seen as a group that has been ordained or is self-ordaining
- Needs to allow people who want to participate to engage
- Will meet soon

III. TNC and ACE will convene invite attendees and prepare background information in support of Ad-Hoc design group process

- They are committing to one meeting beyond this one
- Their commitment to moving the process forward

IV. Ad-Hoc Group will establish a process for developing a vision statement

- The MRC 200-year vision is a good piece of information
- The group would have to talk with stakeholders and see if there could be buy-in to the statement
- Determine if MRC vision could be used as a starting point
- Develop process for suggesting and agreeing upon changes
- Develop process for finalizing a vision statement

V. Ad-Hoc group outlines:

a. Political outreach

- There needs to be an explicit strategy to engage the numerous political entities in the basin
- Governors, state legislatures, counties, towns and cities

- It will be important to reach out to and coordinate with each
 - Groups like National Governor's Association, NACO, Council of Mayors are good entities to engage with
- b. Relationship to existing efforts**
- This effort should build upon and help to eliminate the work of other groups.
 - There are already many groups working in the basin, how does this group and this process relate to others?
 - How does this process coordinate with others?
 - Does this process try and guide the way work is done in other efforts? And if so, how?
- c. Data Collection**
- Initial efforts should focus on assessing, compiling and analyzing information that already exists
 - Inventory watershed groups in the basin to engage in this process
- d. Relationship to Scientific Process**
- Engage universities, researchers and citizen scientists throughout the basin
 - Determine what has been studied
 - Set research agendas for what needs to be studied
 - Build collaborative research/study teams around issues
- e. An annual conference for the Mississippi River Science could become an ongoing and formal part of the process**
- Opportunity to meet, share ideas, and continue the conversation
- f. Watershed coordination strategy**
- Determine how participants from outside the main-stem need to be engaged.
 - What is the scope of this process
 - Recognize that there are regional cultures, politics and beliefs in each watershed
 - The Army Corps is already reaching out internally to its other divisions to engage them in the process
 - They signed off on the MRC 200-year vision

VI. Dynamic open process that can evolve over time

- This process needs to be designed to be able to grow and change to match the needs of the vision
- It needs to be open and accessible for people to engage in, even after it evolves, there is a risk that if it becomes a big and involved process, people feel there is no more opportunity to engage

VII. Ryan Aylesworth

- Ryan Aylesworth, was in the group, with Fish and Wildlife Service and PhD student at UNM is going to be looking at all of the groups and collaborative efforts as part of his PhD.

AICS Workgroup Six Recommendations

John Doyle – Facilitator

Melanie Robinson – Recorder

Guidelines for Model Projects & Programs

John Doyle- Where do we want to focus? Poetry vs. Practicality

Brent Haglund – If we look at the parts in our reach within the next 50 years can't immediately solve problems.

Dave Bornholdt – We spend hundreds of millions of dollars on the Mississippi River, if we all work together we can accomplish something bigger. Are we all behind the same effort? If we all work together it would work better.

Michael Klinger – It is up to the locals to make it work, yet there is a strong role for leadership. Navigation, Environmental and Flood Control – how do we address these 3 issues.

Rick Frietsche - Health and Wealth of Citizens - that is how we build their interest.

Vince Shay – Quality of life, clean water, give space for everybody.

John Doyle – 200 yrs ago, what did the country look like? I like the thought of focusing on a smaller horizon.

Pattie Hagen – what is vision, is it a mission? It seems like there is a great opportunity to share ideas with each other, this could lead to better spending around the river.

John Watkins – with vision we shouldn't be problem focused. Use technology to achieve our vision. He would argue for a broader vision.

Rainey Shorey – Maybe our vision is better quality of life, what do we want the river to be when it grows up. Once we have the vision we can determine what a model project is and what is the pathway.

Doug Schnoebelen – Founding principals that will be timeless, we need to define these things rather than addressing the problems.

Pattie Hagen – It seems to me that there are ways to do 2 things simultaneously. We need a practical side.

Phil Bass – There is a misconception on the water quality, the river is healthy. There are things we could do to utilize the budget we have. In Mississippi people are afraid of it and the misconception about pollution.

Chuck Spitzack – He worked on the “Our Mississippi” with the corp. It is a communication tool in place to speak to the public.

John Doyle – you need to know where you want to arrive; this is what vision will do.

Clifford Smith – 200 years ago the river was building the area where he lives (Houma, LA) this is not happening now. We have a resource mgmt. problem, in 200 yrs where he lives the Gulf of Mexico will be in Baton Rouge. Now we have an oil spill, 8 million

dollars a day is being spent. We have a compound disaster; we don't use our resources like we should. If you want to do something in 200 years then we need to change the system.

John Doyle – Let's describe our vision; guidance is how to figure out models to help the future. Our ultimate goal is managing the resource, the nature of the management in 200 years.

Michael Klinger – I am surprised by the list; I thought we were going to define the projects, the bigger picture.

Vince Shay – The model projects should be designed to solve problems. On some level we need to define what problems we want to solve.

John Doyle – **We need to focus on what is wrong now.**

- Integrated?
- Flexible/Dynamic?
- Analytical
- Incomplete
- Missing Knowledge
- Inefficient (plan, implement, permit, etc)
- Scenario Dependent?

Clifford Smith – No systemic resource management.

John Doyle – Is the problem really that we don't have resource management? Maybe it is because we have the wrong kind of management.

Eddie Belk – Most people accept their role and don't push beyond it.

Chuck Spitzack – It is a forum for collaboration.

Pattie Hagen – there are models of collaboration, we have a communication problem. We don't have any way of receiving that information.

John Watkins – We need a broader vision.

Eddie Belk – The challenge is knowing what will be needed in 200 years.

Clifford Smith – one of the problems in the past is the lack of vision. When you think about vision, you need to think about where the humans are going to be.

Dave Bornholdt – our problems are the consequences of someone else's vision.

John Doyle – Lets don't forget that we have made major progress, since the clean water act, we are not home but we have made remarkable progress. Our task is to take that and make it better for the future.

Pattie Hagen – Every system needs flexibility. Often people are constrained in decision making due to the infrastructure or a lack of flexibility. How can we bring them to the forum?

Chuck Spitzack – Adaptive management is a key concept. We need voices and communication in goals.

Michael Klingner - Identify the things we do have, list them out and define how they can work together.

John Doyle – **Let's describe with words our vision -**

- Maximum quality of life
- Holistic Resource Management
- Stewardship – making decisions to look out for the future and others

- Strong Economy (sustainable)
- Healthy Ecology/Social Well Being (sustainable)
- Public Support
- Proactive
- Adaptive Management for a Dynamic System
- Educated Public Communication (Info-Based)
- Science-based
- National priority

Key Elements (Six I's)

1. What care about? **Interests**
2. Bound the problem? **Issues**
3. Who involved? **Involvement**
4. What will motivate? **Incentives**
5. Information needed? **Information**
6. How assure implementation? **Implementation**

John Doyle – What exist right now, what has already been invented, that needs to be implemented? What needs to be created, what isn't there now?

What already exists? Mississippi River Basin Initiative (USDA), NESP/EMP, National Scenic Byway Program (?), TNC Great Rivers, Upper Mississippi Comprehensive Plan, UMRCC/LMRCC, MR&T, Louisiana Coastal Authority, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Danube River Program, NASA moon CPM, existing joint ventures, Audubon Mississippi River , Great Lakes Compact (these were examples of known projects – inventory needed)

***Let's look at these projects/models as a starting point or a benchmark.**

What needs to be created? An expert data information exchange (people, information, data), Incentives to implement the vision, Flexible funding and authorities, Devolve (Federal – State and Local), Decision making, Multi-agency watershed-based “Test Pilot” (An Idea - To align the state agency around a watershed to manage a watershed, to achieve the vision. We would be creating a Mississippi River MRT multi agency structure), Improve multi-value analytical methods, Improve ability to internalize externalities.

The Great Lakes Compact is a great benchmark; this creates a set of rules and leads it up to the players to carry the idea out. To go beyond that and create a multi agency watershed authority whose job it is to work together and manage the programs.

Dave Bornholdt - The missing link is getting together and get the implementation done. We want to establish an echo effect.

Phil Bass – It is imperative to put an economic value on restoration to the coast.

4 Strategic Recommendations;

1. Inventory, analyze, link and implement highest priority existing opportunities to achieve vision.

2. Create expert exchange, flexible funding/authorities, devolved decision making, and incentivized results.
3. Improve analytical tools to access multiple values and externalities.
4. Conduct pilot multi-agency, watershed-based management involving Federal, State, Local entities.

Appendix C – Final List of Participants

John Anfinson

National Park Service
111 East Kellogg Blvd Suite 105
Saint Paul, MN 55101
PH: 651-290-3030x285
Email: john_anfinson@nps.gov

Ryan Aylesworth

US Fish & Wildlife Service
1 Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN 55111
PH: 612-713-5311 | FX: 612-713-5280
Email: ryan_aylesworth@fws.gov

Jerad Bales

US Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 436
Reston, VA 20192
PH: 703-648-5044
Email: jdbales@usgs.gov

Divina Baratta

The Nature Conservancy
801 W Main St -- Peoria NEXT Bldg
Peoria, IL 61606
PH: 309-495-7897
Email: dbaratta@tnc.org

Charles Barton

US Army Corps of Engineers
1400 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180
PH: 601-634-5864 | FX: 601-634-7073
Email: charles.b.barton@usace.army.mil

Phil Bass

US EPA
Building 1100, Room 232
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529
PH: 228-688-2356 | FX: 228-688-2709
Email: bass.phil@epa.gov

Dan Baumann

WI Dept of Natural Resources
101 S Webster Ave
Madison, WI 53701
PH: 715-839-3722
Email: dan.baumann@wisconsin.gov

Eddie Belk

US Army Corps of Engineers
1400 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180
PH: 601-634-5794 | FX: 601-634-5796
Email: edward.e.belk@usace.army.mil

Ada Benavides

Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 22201
PH: 202-761-0415 | FX: 202-761-0824
Email: ada.benavides@usace.army.mil

Gretchen Benjamin

The Nature Conservancy
PO Box 9637
Peoria, IL 61612
PH: 608-397-1140
Email: gbenjamin@tnc.org

John Bickel

National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
PO Box 2107
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
PH: 319-365-9461 | FX: 319-365-8443
Email: jmb@shuttleworthlaw.com

Terry Birkenstock

US Army Corps of Engineers
180 Fifth St E
Saint Paul, MN 55101
PH: 651-290-5264 | FX: 651-290-5258
Email: terry.birkenstock@usace.army.mil

Vera Bojic

Lewis & Clark Community College
Natl Great Rivers Research & Education Center,
5800 Godfrey Road
Godfrey, IL 62035
PH: 618-468-4870 | FX: 618-468-7221
Email: vbojic@lc.edu

Michael Bolt

Eastern Cherokee/NTWC
PO Box 547
Cherokee, NC 28719
PH: 828-497-2715 | FX: 828-554-6779
Email: michbolt@nc-chokeee.com

Dave Bornholdt

US Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr
Reston, VA 20192
PH: 703-648-4352
Email: david_bornholdt@usgs.gov

Tom Bradley

National Park Service
11 North Fourth Street
Saint Louis, MO 63102
PH: 314-655-1611 | FX: 314-655-1639
Email: jeff_superintendent@nps.gov

David Brakhage

Ducks Unlimited Inc
1220 Eisenhower Place
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
PH: 734-623-2000 | FX: 734-623-2035
Email: dbrakhage@ducks.org

Ken Brazil

Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
101 East Capitol Avenue Suite 350
Little Rock, AR 72201
PH: 501-682-3980 | FX: 501-682-3991
Email: ken.brazil@arkansas.gov

Jennifer Browning

Mississippi River Network
4507 North Ravenswood Suite 106
Chicago, IL 60640
PH: 773-496-4020
Email: jrbrowning@biodiverse.org

Debbie Bruce

IL Depart of Natural Resources
One Natural Resource Way
Springfield, IL 62702
PH: 217-524-4111 | FX: 217-785-2438
Email: debbie.bruce@illinois.gov

Hal Cardwell

US Army Corps of Engineers
PH: 703-428-9071
Email: hal.e.cardwell@usace.army.mil

Eddy Carter

GEC Inc
9357 Interline Ave
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
PH: 225-612-3000 | FX: 225-612-4270
Email: ecarter@gecinc.com

Nick Chandler

Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board
140 Delta Avenue
Clarksdale, MS 38614
PH: 662-624-4397 | FX: 662-624-2450
Email: ymdlb@bellsouth.net

Dale Chapman

Lewis & Clark Community College
5800 Godfrey Road
Godfrey, IL 62035
PH: 618-468-2200 | FX: 618-466-4044
Email: dchapman@lc.edu

Mary Cole-Laub

Sand County Foundation
1340 Silver Beach Drive
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538
PH: 715-588-3721
Email: jwlaub@mac.com

Glynnis Collins

Prairie Rivers Network
1902 Fox Dr Ste G
Champaign, IL 61820
PH: 217-344-2371 | FX: 217-344-2381
Email: gcollins@prairierivers.org

Trey Cooke

Delta Wildlife Inc
PO Box 276
Stoneville, MS 38776
PH: 662-686-3370 | FX: 662-686-3382
Email: trey@deltawildlife.org

BG Robert Crear (R)

Free Flow Power Corporation
33 Commercial Street
Gloucester, MA 01930
PH: 601-631-4177 | FX: 978-283-2808
Email: rcrear@free-flow-power.com

Nancy DeLong

Pioneer Hi-Bred
7100 NW 62nd Ave
Johnston, IA 50131
PH: 515-334-6977 | FX: 515-334-6568
Email: nancy.delong@pioneer.com

Charles Derscheid

Saint Paul Port Authority
345 St Peter Street, #1900
Saint Paul, MN 55102
PH: 651-204-6243 | FX: 651-223-5198
Email: cfd@sppa.com

John Doyle

Jones Walker LLP/WCI
499 South Capitol Street SW
Washington, DC 20003
PH: 202-203-1000
Email: jdoyle@joneswalker.com

John Ehrmann

Meridian Institute
PO 1829
Dillon, CO 80210
PH: 970-390-7659 | FX: 970-513-8348
Email: jehrmann@merid.org

Max Ethridge

US Geological Survey
1700 East Pointe Dr Ste 202
Columbia, MO 65201
PH: 573-777-1661 | FX: 573-777-8251
Email: methridge@usgs.gov

Jenny Frazier

American Land Conservancy
Rt1 Box 600C
Marble Hill, MO 63764
PH: 573-866-9989
Email: jenny@alcnet.org

Angela Freyermuth

US Army Corps of Engineers
1400 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39181
PH: 309-912-0192
Email: angela.m.freyermuth@usace.army.mil

Rick Frietsche

US Fish & Wildlife Service
51 East 4th Street, Room 101
Winona, MN 55987
PH: 507-494-6219 | FX: 507-452-0851
Email: rick_frietsche@fws.gov

David Galat

University of Missouri
302 ABNR Building
Columbia, MO 65211
PH: 573-882-9426 | FX: 573-884-5070
Email: galatd@missouri.edu

Stephen Gambrell

Mississippi River Commission
PO Box 80
Vicksburg, MS 39181
PH: 601-634-5766
Email: timothy.gambrell@usace.army.mil

Mark Gorman

Northeast-Midwest Institute
50 F St NW; Suite 950
Washington, DC 20001
PH: 202-464-4015 | FX: 202-544-0043
Email: mgorman@nemw.org

Kelly Greenwood

Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board
140 Delta Avenue
Clarksdale, MS 38614
PH: 662-624-4397 | FX: 662-624-2450
Email: ymdlb@bellsouth.net

George Grugett

MS Valley Flood Control Association
1196 Poplar View Ln S Ste 3
Collierville, TN 38017
PH: 901-861-9918 | FX: 901-861-9919
Email: lmvfca@bellsouth.net

Patricia Hagen

National Audubon Society
3940 Connecticut Street
Saint Louis, MO 63116
PH: 314-223-1350
Email: phagen@audubon.org

Brent Haglund

Sand County Foundation
5999 Monona Drive
Monona, WI 53716
PH: 608-663-4605 | FX: 608-663-4617
Email: bhaglund@sandcounty.net

Dayle Haglund

Sand County Foundation
5999 Monona Drive
Monona, WI 53716
PH: 608-663-4605 | FX: 608-663-4617
Email: akopp@sandcounty.net

Leigh Ann Hale

Ingram Marine Group
4400 Harding Road
Nashville, TN 37069
PH: 615-298-8350 | FX: 615-695-3350
Email: leighann.hale@ingrambarge.com

Jim Hannon

Mississippi Valley Division
1400 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180
PH: 601-634-5903 | FX: 601-634-7880
Email: kathy.c.garrick@usace.army.mil

Paul Harrison

Environmental Defense Fund
1875 Connecticut Ave NW Suite 600
Washington, DC 20009
PH: 202-572-3376 | FX: 202-234-6049
Email: pharrison@edf.org

Teri Hawks Goodmann

National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
350 East Third Street
Dubuque, IA 52001
PH: 563-580-0690 | FX: 563-583-1241
Email: teri53@aol.com

Paul Heltne

The Chicago Academy of Sciences
4001 N Ravenswood #401
Chicago, IL 60613
PH: 773-404-8270 | FX: 773-404-8275
Email: heltne@chias.org

Justin Henceroth

Meridian Institute

PH: 970-513-8340
Email: jhenceroth@merid.org

Diane Herndon

Monsanto
800 N Lindbergh Blvd Mail Zone A2N
Saint Louis, MO 63167
PH: 314-694-2915 | FX: 314-694-6572
Email: diane.b.herndon@monsanto.com

Donald Hey

The Wetlands Initiative
53 W Jackson, Ste 1015
Chicago, IL 60604
PH: 312-922-0777
Email: dhey@wetlands-initiative.org

Teri Heyer

US Forest Service
1992 Folwell Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55108
PH: 651-649-5239
Email: theyer@fs.fed.us

Craig Hilburn

Ducks Unlimited Inc
1660 Amelia Dr
Conway, AR 72034
PH: 501-837-1524
Email: chilburn@ducks.org

Steve Hirsch

DNR
Box 25, 500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55117
PH: 651-259-5106 | FX: 651-296-1811
Email: steve.hirsch@state.mn.us

Daniel Irvin

Free Flow Power Corporation
34 Commercial Street
Gloucester, MA 01930
PH: 978-252-7361 | FX: 978-283-2808
Email: dirvin@free-flow-power.com

R D James

Mississippi River Commission
1400 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180
PH: 601-634-5768 | FX: 601-634-5666
Email: edie.whittington@usace.army.mil

Mike Jawson

US Geological Survey
2630 Fanta Reed Road
La Crosse, WI 54603
PH: 608-781-6221 | FX: 608-783-6066
Email: mjawson@usgs.gov

Alicia Jepsen

Sand County Foudation
5999 Monona Dr
Madison, WI 53716
PH: 608-663-4605x22 | FX: 608-663-4605
ext.22
Email: ajepsen@sandcounty.net

Barry Johnson

US Geological Survey
2630 Fanta Reed Road
La Crosse, WI 54603
PH: 608-781-6230 | FX: 608-783-6066
Email: bljohnson@usgs.gov

Dava Kaitala

BNSF Railway
5800 N Main Street
Fort Worth, TX 76179
PH: 817-352-2377
Email: dava.kaitala@bnsf.com

Denise Keehner

US EPA
1301 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460
PH: 202-566-1146 | FX: 202-566-1147
Email: keehner.denise@epa.gov

Michael Klingner

Klingner & Associates PC
616 N 24th Street
Quincy, IL 62301
PH: 217-223-3670
Email: rlh@mail.klingner.com

Paul Labovitz

National Park Service
111 Kellogg Boulevard E, Suite 105
Saint Paul, MN 55101
PH: 651-290-3030x222
Email: paul_labovitz@nps.gov

Amy Larson

National Waterways Conference
4650 Washington Blvd Suite 608
Arlington, VA 22201
PH: 703-243-4090 | FX: 866-371-1390
Email: amy@waterways.org

John Laub

Sand County Foundation
1340 Silver Beach Drive
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538
PH: 715-588-3721
Email: jwlaub@mac.com

Logan Lee

US Forest Service
626 E Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202
PH: 414-297-3646 | FX: 414-944-3973
Email: LLEE@FS.FED.US

Anne Lewis

America's Waterway
100 Harborview Drive
Baltimore, MD 21230
PH: 410-493-0362 | FX: 410-385-8646
Email: alewis@americaswaterway.org

Jack Libbey

Mississippi Explorer Cruises
1913 Old Mill Drive
Lansing, IA 52151
PH: 563-880-2179
Email: jlibbey@yahoo.com

Murray Lloyd

Black Bear Conservation Coalition
PO Box 52477
Shreveport, LA 71135
PH: 318-865-9165 | FX: 318-895-9165
Email: murrayll@bellsouth.net

CPT Todd Mainwaring

MVD
1400 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183
PH: 601-618-4434
Email: todd.a.mainwaring@usace.army.mil

Katy Manar

US Army Corps of Engineers
301 Riverlands Way
West Alton, MO 63386
PH: 636-899-2600
Email: katy.manar@usace.army.mil

Dean Maraldo

US EPA
77 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60604
PH: 312-353-2098 | FX: 312-385-5394
Email: maraldo.dean@epa.gov

Erin Marks

US Army Corps of Engineers
1222 Spruce St
Saint Louis, MO 63103
PH: 314-331-8283
Email: erin.f.marks@usace.army.mil

Cornel Martin

Waterways Council Inc
801 N Quincy Street #200
Arlington, VA 22203
PH: 703-373-2261 | FX: 703-373-2037
Email: cmartin@vesselalliance.com

Moira Mcdonald

Walton Family Foundation
919 18th Street
Washington, DC 20006
PH: 202-457-9015
Email: mmcdonald@wffmail.com

COL Shawn McGinley

US Army Corps of Engineers
1450 Rock Island Drive
Rock Island, IL 61201
PH: 309-794-5224 | FX: 309-794-5181
Email: Shawn.McGinley.COL@usace.army.mil

Patrick McGinnis

The Horinko Group
1216 Woodland Lane
Godfrey, IL 62035
PH: 618-520-7060 | FX: 202-955-6207
Email: patrick.mcginis@thehorinkogroup.org

Dan McGuinness

Audubon
2160 Ogden Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55119
PH: 651-260-6260
Email: dan@dmcguinness.com

Sean McMahon

The Nature Conservancy
303 Locust Street Suite 402
Des Moines, IA 50167
PH: 515-244-5044 | FX: 515-244-8890
Email: smcmahon@tnc.org

Lynn Muench

The American Waterways Operators
1113 Mississippi Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63109
PH: 314-446-6474 | FX: 314-446-6479
Email: lmuench@vesselalliance.com

MG(R) Terry Mulcahy

Sand County Foundation
1340 Silver Beach Drive
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538
PH: 715-588-3721
Email: jwlaub@mac.com

Barb Naramore

Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
415 Hamm Bldg, 408 Saint Peter Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102
PH: 651-224-2880 | FX: 651-223-5815
Email: bnaramore@umrba.org

Ron Nassar

LMRCC
2524 S Frontage Road Ste C
Vicksburg, MS 39180
PH: 601-629-6602 | FX: 606-636-9541
Email: ron_nassar@fws.gov

Nick Nichols

City of St Louis Port Authority
1015 Locust Street, Suite 1200
Saint Louis, MO 63101
PH: 314-259-3465 | FX: 314-231-2341
Email: nicholsn@stlouiscity.com

Pat Nunnally

University of Minnesota
1954 Buford Ave #325
Saint Paul, MN 55108
PH: 612-626-7014 | FX: 612-626-5555
Email: pdn@umn.edu

COL Thomas O'Hara Jr

US Army Corps of Engineers
1222 Spruce Street
Saint Louis, MO 63103
PH: 314-331-8010 | FX: 314-331-8770
Email: thomas.o'hara@usace.army.mil

Ronny Paille

US Fish & Wildlife Service
646 Cajundome Blvd Ste 400
Lafayette, LA 70506
PH: 337-291-3117 | FX: 337-291-3139
Email: ronald_paille@fws.gov

David Pope

Missouri River Association of States & Tribes
825 S Kansas Avenue, Suite 500
Topeka, KS 66612
PH: 785-235-3247 | FX: 785-233-3104
Email: david.pope@mo-rast.org

Richard Price

US Army Engineer Research & Development
Center
3909 Halls Ferry Road
Vicksburg, MS 39180
PH: 601-634-2667
Email: richard.e.price@usace.army.mil

Ernie Quintana

National Park Service
601 Riverfront Dr
Omaha, NE 68102
PH: 402-661-1520 | FX: 402-661-1737
Email: ernie_quintana@nps.gov

Michael Reuter

The Nature Conservancy
PO Box 9637
Peoria, IL 61612
PH: 309-253-7262 | FX: 888-688-3339
Email: mreuter@tnc.org

Stephen Ricks

US Fish & Wildlife Service
6758 Dogwood View Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213
PH: 601-321-1122 | FX: 601-965-4340
Email: stephen_ricks@fws.gov

George Riedel

ASFPM
2809 Fish Hatchery Rd Ste 204
Madison, WI 53713
PH: 608-274-0123 | FX: 608-274-0696
Email: george@floods.org

Melanie Robinson

GEC Inc
9357 Interline Ave
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
PH: 225-612-4269 | FX: 225-612-4270
Email: mrobinson@gecinc.com

Paul Rohde

Waterways Council Inc
225 South Meramec Ave Suite 305
Saint Louis, MO 63105
PH: 314-436-7303 | FX: 314-721-1129
Email: prohde@vesselalliance.com

Diane Rudin

The Nature Conservancy
Box 471
Roanoke, IL 61561
PH: 309-264-6785 | FX: 309-923-7088
Email: drudin@tnc.org

Doug Schnoebelen

University of Iowa
C Maxwell Stanley Hydraulics Lab
Iowa City, IA 52242
PH: 319-335-6061 | FX: 319-335-5238
Email: douglas-schnoebelen@uiowa.edu

John Sentell

The Wetlands Initiative
53 West Jackson Boulevard Suite 1015
Chicago, IL 60604
PH: 312-922-0777 | FX: 312-922-1823
Email: jsentell@wetlands-initiative.org

Vince Shay

The Nature Conservancy
318 South 51st Avenue
Omaha, NE 68132
PH: 402-216-3313
Email: vshay@tnc.org

Rainy Shorey

Caterpillar Inc
PO Box 600, MOS 480
Mossville, IL 61552
PH: 309-675-3204
Email: Shorey_Rainy@cat.com

COL Robert Sinkler

US Army Corps of Engineers
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
PH: 504-862-1310 | FX: 504-862-1557
Email: robert.sinkler@us.army.mil

Clifford Smith

T Baker Smith Inc
PO Box 2266
Houma, LA 70361
PH: 985-868-1050 | FX: 985-853-0109
Email: wcs@tbsmith.com

Julie Smith-Galvin

Brookfield Renewable Power
200 Donald Lynch Blvd Suite 300
Marlborough, MA 01752
PH: 508-251-7708 | FX: 508-485-5207
Email: julie.smithgalvin@brookfieldpower.com

Chuck Spitzack

US Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204
PH: 309-794-5297
Email: charles.p.spitzack@usace.army.mil

Fred Stemme

National Corn Growers Organization
632 Cepi Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63005
PH: 636-733-9004 | FX: 636-733-9005
Email: stemme@ncga.com

Todd Strole

The Nature Conservancy
2800 South Brentwood Blvd
Saint Louis, MO 63144
PH: 618-980-8624
Email: tstrole@tnc.org

Mike Sullivan

USDA
Room 3416, 700 W Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201
PH: 501-301-3100 | FX: 501-301-3194
Email: michael.sullivan@ar.usda.gov

Diana Threadgill

Mississippi River Corridor - Tennessee
291 Kenilworth Place
Memphis, TN 38112
PH: 901-278-8459 | FX: 901-725-5240
Email: dianathreadgill@comcast.net

Alan Vicory

ORSANCO
5735 Kellogg Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45230
PH: 513-624-3683x105 | FX: 513-231-7761
Email: avicory@orsanco.org

David Vigh

US Army Corps of Engineers
1400 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39181
PH: 601-634-5854 | FX: 601-634-5849
Email: david.a.vigh@usace.army.mil

Donn Waage

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
1 Federal Drive
Saint Paul, MN 55111
PH: 612-713-5173
Email: waage@nfwf.org

MG Michael Walsh

Mississippi Valley Division
1400 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180
PH: 601-634-5753 | FX: 601-634-5029
Email: patti.beard@usace.army.mil

Larry Weber

IIHR - Hydrosience and Engineering
300 S Riverside Dr
Iowa City, IA 52242
PH: 319-335-5597 | FX: 319-335-5238
Email: larry-weber@uiowa.edu

Mike Wells

MO Dept of Natural Resources
PO Box 176, 1101 Riverside Dr
Jefferson City, MO 65101
PH: 573-751-4732 | FX: 573-751-7627
Email: mike.wells@dnr.mo.gov

Marcia Willhite

IL EPA
1021 N Grand Ave, East
Springfield, IL 62702
PH: 217-782-1654 | FX: 217-782-5549
Email: Marcia.Willhite@illinois.gov

Tom Wunderle

Lewis & Clark Community College
5800 Godfrey Road
Godfrey, IL 62035
PH: 618-468-2004 | FX: 618-466-4044
Email: twunderle@lc.edu

Scott Yess

UMRCC
555 Lester Ave
Onalaska, WI 54650
PH: 608-783-8432 | FX: 608-783-8450
Email: scott_yess@fws.gov

Ivan Zavadsky

Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433
PH: 202-458-8004 | FX: 202-522-3240
Email: izavadsky@thegef.org

Appendix D – Volunteer Groups

America's Inner Coast Summit Role Request Signup Sheet - 200 year working vision process for America's Watershed as of 7/30/2010

Last	First	Agency	Ad Hoc	Governance	Heritage & Culture	Science /Tech/ Research	Watershed (specific)	Government Relations	Strategic Communication / Outreach	Education	* Initial Steering Group	other	Notes:
Anfinson	John	National Park Service	X		X								I would like to play a role in which I can use the Mississippi's iconic power and heritage to get people to care about the vision. I am not sure where that is is?
Ayleworth	Ryan	USFWS	X	X									Currently conducting applied research on interagency coordination and collaborative governance in the Mss River basin and this work is directly related. I believe the overall working group and governance group are tightly linked so participation on both groups would be appropriate.
Bales	Jerad	USGS				X							
Baratta	Dwina	TNC							X				
Barton	Charles	USACE	X	X									
Baumann	Don	WI DNR	X	X		X	X	X	X				Wisconsin is willing to participate and help lead whatever the needs are. The groups/teams may not be what is above, but we will help pull on the rope.
Belk	Eddie	USACE	X										
Benavides	Ada	USACE HQ	X	X									A vision has to be short and simple when you start adding too many words the intent gets lost in words. Creating a long tedious process to develop it may not be necessary.
Benjamin	Gretchen	TNC	X	X									
Bickel	Jim		X	X									
Bolt	Michael	National Tribal Water Council GOM Hypoxia Task Force		X									area of interest is tribal representation in MRB.
Bornholdt	Dave	USGS				X							
Brakehage	David	Ducks Unlimited	X										Ducks Unlimited supports the concept of the improved collaboration and development of a mechanism to achieve that for the Miss River basin and we'd like to help to the extent we can. I'd like to help with the overall working group to develop a process for this.
Chapman	Dave	National Great River Research Center				X			X	X			
Collins	G	Prarie Rivers Network	X										
Ehridge	Max	USGS	X			X							
Farmer	Laurie	USACE							X				
Frazier	Jenny	ALC	X	X			X						
Freyermuth	Angela	USACE	X						X				
Galat	David					X							Need mech. to cross pollinate across groups.
Gambrell	Stephen	Miss River Commission	x					x			x		* the initial steering group has been established to help set up the teams, help move the process along and to help keep people informed and engaged-- contacts for information: timothy.gambrell@usace.army.mil or mrauter@tnc.org
Goodmann	Teri	National River Museum and Aquarium	X	X				X			x		
Grugett	George	MVFECA	x	x				x			x		
Hagen	Patricia	Audubon		X		X				X			I put "science" first because I have 20 years of research administration and facilitation experience, so I think I can make a contribution here.
Hannon	Jim	USACE SWD	X										Federal USACE team to collaborate what is the collective role of the 4 regions that influence or are influenced by the watershed MVD/LRD/NWD/SWD
Heltna	Paul			X		X	X						
Henry	Donavan	USACE				X							
Herdon	Diane		X										
Heyer	Teri	US Forest Service					X						
Hilburn	Chris	Ducks Unlimited					X						
Jawson	Mike	USGS				X							
Johnson	Brian	USACE					X						
Klingner	Mike	UMIMRA		X								Flood Control and Hydropower	
Labovitz	Paul	NPS Mississippi National River and Recreation Area		X				X					
Larson	Amy	National Waterways Conference						X					
Lewis	Anne	America's Waterway	X										
Libbey	Jack	Mississippi River Explorer Cruises	X	X				X	X				
Maraldo	Dean	US EPA Region 5	X				X						
Martin	Cornel	Waterways Council	X	X				X					
Mathies	Steve	La Gov Ofc	x								x		

America's Inner Coast Summit
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as of 7/30/2010

McMahon	Sean		X				X	X					(Cedar River Watershed Team) Recommend expanding congressional liaison team to government relations to include fed/state/local/tribal
Mecklenborg	Dan	Ingram Barge	x									x	
Mooman	Tom	Ducks Unlimited				X							
Naramore	Barb	UMRBA	X									x	
Nunnely	Pat	Univrsity of Minnesota				X			X				Has idea about interim communicate that he will share in mid-july.
Palle	Ronny	USFWS				X							
Pope	David	Missouri River Association of States and Tribes	X	X									
Rea	Kim	USACE							X	X			
Reuter	Michael	TNC	X			X			X			x	Convene with USACE the ad hoc group and participate on this group. Support development of science network; support communicate strategy and help find resources for the facilitation of ad hoc group/process. Support process through international linkages. Support development of model projects in the basin. help establish a facebook page. mreuter@tnc.org
Rohde	Paul	Waterways Council	X					X					
Rubin	Diane	TNC	X	X									
Schnoebelen	Doug	University of Iowa				X							
Shay	Vince	TNC					X	X	X				
Shorey	Rainy	Caterpillar Inc	X			X							Water Quality Want to work on the developing action steps that implement the vision item related to restore/maintaining good water quality. Not sure what committee what will fall under, but I am willing be the lead on water quality issues.
Smith	Wm Clifford	Miss River Commission		x				x					
Spitzack	Chuck	USACE	X										
Strauser	Deanne	USACE	X										
Strole	Todd	TNC	X										
Threadgill	Diana	Mississippi River Corridor - TN					X						
Vicory	Allan	ORSANCO	X	X		X							Feel free to assign him to one or more groups
Vigh	David	USACE	X										
Wells	Mike	Missouri Department of Natural Resources		X									
Willhite	Marcia	Illinois EPA	X										
Wolf	Roger	Iowa Soybean Association	x									x	
Yess	Scott	USFWS				X	X		X				Most interested in communication team
Zino	Julie	USACE						X					
		University of Wisconsin											On the scientific end of things and in the relation to ag/nutrients the group might want to consider involving the university of wisconsin - discovery farms program