

Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC)

Recreation and Water Use Technical Section  
2009 Annual Technical Meeting  
March 24, 2009  
1:00 – 5:00

Wisconsin Room #3  
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Meeting Minutes

**Technical Section Members present at the Annual Meeting**

Scot Johnson, Chair, MDNR, Lake City  
Cindy Samples, USFWS, UMR HQ, Winona  
John Knoble, Corps, Rock Island  
Ann Blankenship, USFWS, McGregor District  
Sharonne Baylor, USFWS, UMR HQ, Winona  
Dan Cottrell, Corps, Fountain City

**Agenda Item 1.** Minutes from last fall's Technical Section meeting were distributed and highlights were discussed.

**Agenda Item 2.** **Leave No Trace** – UMRCC Executive Board Chairman Dan Sallee signed a letter that we can send to organizations along the river to encourage their participation in the Leave No Trace effort. The Technical Section began compiling a list of organizations to send the letter and Pool 9 brochures.

*Please send the names and addresses of appropriate organizations to Scot Johnson by May 1, 2009. Scot Johnson will work with Coordinator Scott Yess to send out the mailing.*

**Agenda Item 3.** **River Friendly Boating** – The River Friendly Boating brochure has been finalized. The Technical Section decided the brochure was appropriate for distribution at boat shows, with the sale of Navigation Charts, and at boating safety classes. A new version will be made that is ADA compliant. A new version will be developed that is simpler and more to the point (less verbage) for wider distribution. Scot Johnson will take the lead on development of these two new versions of the brochure.

*The River Friendly Boating brochure is posted on the UMRCC web site under the Recreation Technical Section. Please download and print as needed. If you have printing needs, please contact Coordinator Scott Yess.*

**Agenda Item 4.** **Water Trail Maps** –All available links to water trail maps (pdfs) are now posted on the UMRCC web site under the Recreation Technical Section. The web site will be updated as new water trails become available. The Technical Section will work on making our web page information more accessible to the public

**Agenda Item 5. Stronger and more Consistent Participation** – Participation in the Technical Section was poor. Only 1 State was represented and only 3 people from the previous Fall Technical meeting participated.

**Agenda Item 6. Standardize a Visitation Accounting Methodology** – Scot Johnson presented a summary of past recreation survey methods used on the Upper Mississippi River. The FWS counts visits or visitors but not visitor hours. The Corps has a standard way to measure visitation that is different than the FWS. The MDNR is satisfied with the mail-back survey method use in Pools 4 – 9 in 2003. MDNR will complete Pools 1, 2, 3 and the St. Croix in 2010.

*After considerable discussion, the Technical Section concluded they will not be able to standardize visitation accounting methods. Each agency will continue to use methods adopted by their institution. The PowerPoint summarizing past methods will be posted on the web page.*

**Agenda Item 7.** Update on the CCP – Sharonne Baylor reported that the Lower Pool 4 Big Lake closed area will be put into effect this year. The Nelson-Trevino Bottoms will be open for hunting. A few rule changes are making their way through the federal process with public review in April.

**Agenda Item 8.** New Action Items – The Technical Section wants to revisit the Greener Meeting actions and relook at the Asian Carp issue from a recreational perspective.

**Newsletter Articles** - Technical Section members are encouraged to submit a recreational based article to Scott Yess for publication in the quarterly newsletter.

**Future Meetings** – The Executive Board has requested that the Chair of the Recreation and Water Use Technical Section develop a recommendation on how the Technical Section can be reorganized and combined with the Education Ad Hoc Committee to better serve the UMRCC membership.

To assist the Recreation Technical Section Chair in these efforts, the Executive Board formed a new ad hoc committee at the business meeting. Scot Johnson will lead the new committee's efforts to develop a recommendation with the assistance of Jeff Janvrin and Cindy Samples. If you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to make, please contact one of the ad hoc committee members.

*Our next Technical Section meeting will likely be a Joint Meeting with Wildlife and Fisheries at Whitewater State Park in Southeast Minnesota this fall. More details will follow via email.*