

**2008 UMRCC Annual Meeting  
Wildlife Technical Section Meeting  
March 18, 2008**

23 attendees

Introductions

**Coordinators Report** – Scott Yess

**Veg Ad Hoc** – 13 attendees

1. NESP Update – Swenson; planning document going to edit. Project Emiquon W. FWS – tree planting, Reno Bottoms – Convert Reed Canary to Forest
2. LTRMP 2006 – Yao, Forest Survey, Handout; distinct differences in species between open river and backwater areas, discussion on results. HGM is generating a model that will help.
3. Lisa Reid – Pool 6 SAV, Bathymetric problem, 45/296 points too deep; 123/230 points had vegetation. APE is funded. John talked about Emap veg sampling, they targeted Pool 6 to calibrate against UMRCC results. Emap from St. Paul to L&D 11.
4. Grif – Pool 18, no veg, 14/290+ points; UMRCC will do Pools 3 and 12
5. Discussed the many SAV sampling methods used in data collection. The Committee recommends that, sometime in the future, there should be an analysis of the pros and cons of each of them.

**Eric Nelson** – Discussed Upper Miss Refuge CCP Closed Area Implementation, observations documented acceptable levels of compliance with new

**Ed Britton** – Described biology and extent of Trematode caused waterfowl mortality events.

**Dick Steinbach** – State Cooperative Agreements – proposing to not have an annual meeting this year, relative to annual reports but instead, concentrating on getting State Agreements updated. CCPs caused delays in this project, Lake Odessa issues now adding to discussion. Dick is proposing to start in Illinois, in April, Iowa in June. Set up a meeting with the States, in their central offices, to get the process started. Will launch emails to begin the process, at the end of this week. All involved need to consider their issues for input into the discussion.

**Bob Clevestine** – Strategic Habitat Conservation Initiative, A unified approach for defining and pursuing landscape and population sustainability. FWS used to be opportunistic in all of their management efforts whether they were land acquisition or management actions. Now, needs will be identified and opportunities to satisfy those needs will be pursued with outcomes measured.

**Chuck Theiling** – UMRS Reach Objective Setting Workshop – Heads Up. In an effort to manage for a more natural hydrologic regime, using process based objectives, Chuck will be conducting workshops with river managers in an effort to identify the factors most limiting to biota in a given river reach.

**Illinois** – Discussed Henderson Levee District #3 acquisition, WRP project, and management issues. Discussed Baynes property acquisition at Milan Bottoms.

**Wisconsin** – No report

**Minnesota** – No report

**Missouri** – Brian, Duck Blind issues on Corps Ground/River. Trying to stay ahead of these issues by working with the Corps to resolve before they get too controversial. One remaining EMP project. Tree planting project in Pools 25 and 26. Issue has come up with projects that involve opening up backwaters to the river to create scouring. Concern about washing of Ag Chemicals into river and potential to contribute to Gulf Hypoxia. Joint NAWCA grant w/DU on Clarence Cannon, enhancement of existing wetlands. New pumps, levee repair. DU has lead in engineering and preparation of development grant. Preparing NAWCA grant for summer submittal. Mike, EMP project at Shanks (center of Pool 24) is moving forward. Meeting in April to discuss analysis. Tree planting, wetland structure/pump station improvements.

**Iowa** – Grif, Sustainable funding for Natural Resources being voted on, began 2 years ago, trying to raise \$150 million/year and protect it from erosion. Based on Missouri model. 3/8ths of 1% of any new sales tax increase will begin the program. Has to pass two consecutive legislative sessions and will then go before the public in order for it to be constitutionally protected. Iowa is flying the whole State with LIDAR imaging. From Pool 9-22, the COE got involved and is paying and flying it. 1' resolution. Pool Slough project in Pool 9 is completed, looks good. Odessa is ongoing, working on Stage 2B, fisheries enhancement to allow fish to migrate between pools, fisheries enhancement, and no wake zone.

**Connectivity Paper** – We will add a few comments, mostly word smithing, which will not amend the intent of the document as it now stands. Recommended removing the word 'increased' from the last dot point on the summary page. Motion made to approve document as presented and authorized Mike Griffin to represent Wildlife Tech Section in the edit of this document to accommodate any changes to it that may be recommended by the fish tech section. Eric Nelson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Odessa Resolution – Motion:** The Wildlife Tech Section supports the Odessa Management Resolution as presented by Mike Griffin.