

**MONTHLY STATUS REPORT**  
**SEPTEMBER 2002**  
**UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER – ILLINOIS WATERWAY**  
**SYSTEM NAVIGATION STUDY**



**PURPOSE:** These monthly status reports are intended to provide team members, partners, stakeholders, and other interested parties with a brief overview of significant events and activities occurring within the major components of the UMR-IWW System Navigation Feasibility Study. We plan to provide these reports during the first week of each month through completion of the Feasibility Study in 2004. We welcome your comments and input on the status reports to ensure they provide timely and useful information.

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT (Lundberg and Whitney)**

- *Interim Report* –
  - Final Interim Report delivered to Lieutenant General Robert Flowers, 25 July 2002. Transmitted to office of the Secretary of the Army 28 Aug. 2002.
  - Response to stakeholder review comments will be published on the website in October.

**ENVIRONMENTAL (Barr)**

- *Sustainability Component* - As part of the environmental sustainability component of the Navigation Feasibility Study, stakeholders will participate in four regional two-day workshops in November, 2002 to aid in establishing environmental sustainability alternatives for the Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System (UMR-IWW). Workshops will be conducted in Peoria (Nov 6-7), St. Louis (Nov 13-14), La Crosse (Nov 18-19), and Moline (Nov 20-21). The workshops will be structured to achieve the following main objectives:
  - Seek consensus on UMR-IWW environmental goals and objectives
  - Identification of management actions to achieve goals and objectives
  - Identification of regional evaluation data and tools
  - Present and discuss UMR-IWW ecosystem conceptual model
- *Expert Review Panel* – As part of the environmental sustainability component, a Technical Expert Review Panel is being established with input from the stakeholders. This panel will assist in developing a process for defining, evaluating, and refining environmental objectives, management actions, and alternative plans for the river system. The panel will also review stakeholder objectives and management action recommendations.
- *Impact Assessment Studies* –
  - Adult Fish Entrainment - During the week of September 16-20, 2002, a research team headed by the Waterways Experiment Station (Killgore) leased a commercial towboat, rigged a specially designed sampling net (30 x 150 ft) onto the stern of the tow to catch fish entrained by the propeller, and sampled Pool 26 on the Mississippi River and the lower 9 miles of the Illinois River. A total of 57, ten-minute trawls were collected. Each trawl covered approximately 0.8 miles of river. The towboat, *Cooperative Venture*, traveled at approximately 4.5

miles per hour, the "company recommended" average travel speed through the pools. The top of the net skimmed the surface and the bottom of the net was set at approximately 8.5 feet below the water surface, essentially sampling most of the water going through the propellers. Individual trawls collected between 0 and 549 fish. The dominant species were gizzard shad (about 95% of total catch) and skipjack herring. Other species collected were goldeye, mooneye, freshwater drum, white bass, threadfin shad, black buffalo, silver carp, and bighead carp, the latter four collected only in the lower Illinois Waterway. Fish were most abundant in the Illinois River and the middle of Pool 26. Lowest catches were in the upper, swift reaches of the pool and the lower, broad reach near Melvin Price Locks and Dam. The majority of fish(>95%) collected were alive with no apparent injuries. Only one gizzard shad was collected that had been cut in half. A number of similar-sized shad (approximately 100 mm total length) had net-induced injuries including mesh-imprinted bruises and decapitation likely caused from the head being caught in the webbing. These type of injuries were not apparent for smaller and larger individuals, suggesting that intermediate sizes were most susceptible to net impingement. All injured fish were preserved and will be forensically examined in the laboratory at ERDC-EL. The same sampling protocol will be employed in mid to late November.



- Aquatic Plant Data Collection - Scientists from the USGS-UMESC completed their survey of submersed vegetation beds in Pools 14, 15 and 19 in mid-August, and are now completing data entry. Many more beds were found than were anticipated. Most of the beds consisted of predominantly, often exclusively, American wildcelery - a highly valuable wildlife food species. The abundance of submersed vegetation in Pools 14 and 15, has not been documented since the 1987-89 drought. LTRMP monitoring data also reveal a steady increase of plants in Pool 13 from 1998 to 2002 (but not in Pools 4 and 8). Concurrent efforts by USGS and Corps researchers continue on data collection and analysis for purposes of refining the previously-developed aquatic plant growth model. This model was designed to assess plant growth impacts due to tow-induced re-suspended sediment. Completion of the model refinement work is expected in early 2003.
- Larval Fish Data Collection – Contractor Harding-ESE conducted additional sampling of larval fish in Pools 16, 20 and 22 in April-July 2002. Identification and sorting of fish is nearing completion, and a draft report is due in November-December 2002. These data will provide valuable additional spatial and temporal information for assessing impacts to larval and adult fish.

**ECONOMICS (Manguno)**

- *Independent Technical Review (ITR) of Sparks Scenario Report* – Harold Hommes, Iowa Dept of Agriculture; Dr. Darryl Ray, University of Tennessee; and Dr. John Urbanchuck, AUS Consultants have been selected as the ITR team. Estimated completion date is Oct 30.
- *Revised Scope of Work (SOW) with Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) for Phase II of TOW COST model development*: Revised scope submitted 20 September.
- *Development of SOW for Assessment of Scheduling and Traffic Management* being discussed with representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation: After several conversations with staff at the Volpe Center of US DOT to discuss analysis requirements, a proposal will be submitted by Volpe in early October.
- *Economics Coordinating Committee (ECC) Conference Call*: Primary topic of discussion will be ITR of Sparks scenario work. This call can not be scheduled until the timeframe for ITR completion is known. At this time, early November would likely be the earliest possible.

**ENGINEERING (Hughey)**

- *Re-evaluation of Small Scale Measures* - Structural Small-scale measures to reduce congestion, include mooring cells, channel improvements, and powered traveling levels that operate on extended guidewalls. All are being revisited to determine if new information has influenced cost or performance estimates and to make adjustments where required. Also, the performance estimates may require a revised format and content clarity for the new economic modeling approach and the new economic modeling team, namely ORNL.
- *Coordination with ORNL* –The EWG is providing performance data needs to ORNL for the without project condition.
- *Lock Design Cost Review* - An independent contractor, Jacobs Engineering was chosen to review a representative sample of cost estimates for new lock construction and lock extension. In summary, the results validate the overall accuracy/feasibility of the Corps' cost estimates for Large-scale measures. During the process of review, an error in pile founded guidewall beam quantities was discovered that will raise costs where applicable. Adjustments for these costs are being made. The Corps is documenting the independent review process.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (Bluhm)**

- *Newsletter*- August issue was mailed to 8,600 addresses and focused on the Interim Report and the Public Meeting recap from last spring.
- *Distribution Lists* - Lists of various interest groups are being refined to keep all interested parties informed of the study progress. The public list contains some 8,600 addresses and is being updated monthly to keep names and addresses current.
- *Website* - Continual refinement to the structure and content. Interim Report and August newsletter were added to document library. An advanced search engine has been added to the website. Responses to comments to the Interim Report will be posted in October 2002.

**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- Illinois Farm Bureau, August 1, 2002, Denny Lundberg delivered presentation on navigation study to an audience of corn and soybean farmers.
- Governor's Liason Committee Meeting, August 6, 2002. Held in St. Louis, MO.
- Mississippi River Commission Low Water Inspection Trip and Public Hearings, August 12-15, 2002. Public hearings held in Marquette, IA (8/12); Davenport, IA (8/13); and Alton, IL (8/15). Navigation Study display and fact sheets.
- Mr. Gary Waxman (Office of Management and Budget) Visit – August 18-24, Mr. Waxman toured a number of Corps projects from St. Louis to La Crosse and held discussions with a number of the basin stakeholders. Participants included: USACE: Denny Lundberg, Greg Ruff, Ken Barr, Mike Thompson, Roger Perk Jerry Skalak; USFWS: Rick Nelson, Bob Cleve nstine, Ed Britton, Bill Thrune, Tom Cox; USGS: Leslie Holland-Bartels, Steve Gutreuter; STATES: Terry Moe; MRBA – NGO's: MRBA Mark Beorkrem; and MARC 2000 - Paul Rhode.
- Senator Kit Bond visited L&D 21 at Quincy Illinois on Monday Aug 26. Lockmaster Roger McElroy provided an informative tour of the lock, dam and overflow. After the tour the Senator hosted a round table discussion with representatives from MARC 2000, The Carpenter's Union, Economic Development of Quincy, UMIMRA, the Corn Growers, and other local interests. Senator Bond also made a brief address to local Television and Press present for the tour. In his remarks the Senator emphasized the importance of an efficient waterway transportation system, the difficulty of forecasting demand for transportation 50 years into the future, and the need to complete the study soon. Present to assist with the tour were Col. Bayles, Kenn Shoemaker, Ron Fournier and Ken Barr. (see Nav. Study website for additional details)
- Meeting with Ohio River Mainstem System Study (ORMSS) Team, August 12-13, 2002. Scott Whitney traveled to Covington, KY to meet with the ORMSS environmental team. Primary topics of discussion included: Cumulative Effects Analysis, Habitat Needs Assessment, Environmental Sustainability, Stakeholder Collaboration, and need for situational awareness between studies.
- Mr. Scott Whitney selected to serve as the Asst. Regional Project Manager / Study Manager for the UMR-IWW System Navigation Study, August 19, 2002 Mr. Whitney has served in this capacity, on an interim basis, since the departure of Mr. Dave Tipple in late February 2002.
- The Nature Conservancy September 03, 2002, met with representatives regarding Interim Report, sustainability, and water level control issues. TNC: Mike Reuter, Kathy McCalvin, and Doug Blodgett; USACE: Scott Whitney, Ken Barr, Hank Dehaan, Nicole McVay, Chuck Theiling.
- Navigation Environmental Coordinating Committee (NECC) meeting, September 04, 2002. Davenport, IA.
- National Waterways Conference, September 4, 2002 in New Orleans, LA. Presentations regarding the UMR-IWW Nav Study made by: USACE: Don Basham (MVD); MRBA: Mark Beorkrem; and Audubon: Dan McGuiness.
- "At Issue" TV talk show in Peoria, Sept 11, 2002. Denny Lundberg, Mark Beorkrem and Chris Brescia participated in a discussion of the navigation study.

- NEW Mississippi Valley Division Commander: September 17, 2002 -- In a formal change of command ceremony September 19, retiring Brigadier General Edwin J. Arnold, Jr., transferred command of the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to [Brigadier General Don T. Riley](#) (link to Bio.). The ceremony was officiated by the Corps' Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Robert B. Flowers.
- Iowa County Conservation Commission – September 21, 2002. Presentations by Denny Lundberg (USACE), Rick Nelson (USFWS), and Rick Moore (Isaac Walton League).
- Congressional Visits September 23-26, 2002. Col Bayles Gary Loss, Dave Hays, and Ron Fournier traveled to Washington D.C. to meet and discuss the status of various Rock Island District Projects with Congressional Representatives. The Navigation study was a topic of interest and discussion with at least 21 of the 23 representatives visited.
- American Waterway Operators, September 26, 2002, Denny Lundberg delivered a presentation on navigation study to barge operators and owners.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS OR SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- SAME, St. Paul, Minn. (October 3-4, 2002)
- Corps meeting with USFWS Region 3 representatives, Bill Hartwig (October 4, 2002)
- RRCT, Conference Call (October 8, 2002)
- Changing faces of Conservation in Agriculture, Moline, IL, (October 8-10, 2002)
- MARC 2000 (November 7-8, 2002)
- GLC (Nov 19), Minneapolis, MN.
- Sustainability Workshops: Peoria (Nov 6-7), St. Louis (Nov 13-14), La Crosse (Nov 18-19), and Moline (Nov 20-21)

**NOTE:** These monthly status reports will be posted and archived on our website. We welcome your input and contributions to improve the format and content of the monthly status reports. If you identify monthly events that we have overlooked, please let us know and we will correct it on the website.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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