

Upper Mississippi River Commission Notes

January 14, 2003

Lock and Dam 7

LaCrescent MN

Briefing/discussion with federal aides

Present: Doug Althrichter, office of Congressman Gil Gutknecht; Karrie Jackelen, office of Congressman Ron Kind; Gary Wertish, office of Senator Dayton; Patrick Connolly, office of Senator Norm Coleman; Nick Henneman, office of State Senator Ron Brown, WI; Denny Lundberg, USACE; Don Powell, USACE; Don Hultman, USFWS; Dick Otto, USACE; Bob Drieslein, WSFWS; Jeff DeZellar, USACE, Jim Nissen, WSFWS, Jeff Janvriin, WDNR;; Gretchen Benjamin, WDNR; Tim Breza, City of Winona; Mike Kennedy, Winona; John Campe, Bill Howe, Marc Schultz, Kent Pehler, John Wetzel, Robin Grawe, MRCC.

Participants heard briefings from Don Powell, USACE, concerning the Environmental Management Program; from Denny Lundberg, USACE, concerning the Navigation Feasibility Study; from Don Hultman, USFWS, concerning the National Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge; and from Kent Pehler, Brennan Marine, concerning securing Upper Mississippi representation on the Mississippi River Commission. Dick Otto provided a tour of Lock 7.

Business Meeting

Weiser Professional Building

La Crescent MN

Present: Bill Howe, John Campe, Robin Grawe, Marc Schultz, Kent Pehler, John Wetzel of the La Crosse chapter of the Friends of the UMRR, Mike Kennedy of Winona.

The meeting was called to order at 1:57 PM by chair John Campe.

Moved by Bill, seconded by Marc to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Bill, seconded by Kent to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

EMP funding: Timing and strategy for advocating EMP funding were discussed. It was decided to send out a news release covering the entire meeting of Jan. 14, with extra emphasis on EMP needs and on the need for “balance of representation on the MRC.”

State of the River meetings: It was decided by consensus to coordinate Pool 5 drawdown public involvement with our SOR Wabasha meeting. It did not appear that a meeting in Iowa would draw sufficient numbers, but a role in assisting with drawdown of Pool 9 public meetings seemed possible. It was questionable whether a meeting in La Crosse was advisable given the number of other meetings—CCP, Nav Study, etc.—that were scheduled for this year.

Pool 8 Drawdown videos: Moved by Marc, Seconded by Bill to receive from a private source and allocate up to \$200 for duplication of additional drawdown videos for public education use on Pool 5. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Moved by Robin, seconded by Marc to approve John Wetzel as a Commissioner. Motion passed unanimously.

It was agreed by consensus to coordinate with efforts to invite the President to release an eagle during the American Queen conservation voyage next summer.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 18, 10:00 AM, Weiser Professional Building, La Crescent, MN. Agenda items included our tax status and upcoming public meetings, with a presentation from Dan McGuiness of the Audubon Society.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Grawe, Secretary