

Upper Mississippi River Commission Notes
December 13, 2001, 12:00 noon
The Sting, La Crosse, WI

Present: Bill Howe, Bob Mullally, John Campe, Marc Schultz, Sue Schultz, Paul Grawe, Robin Grawe, Karrie Jackelen representing Congressman Ron Kind, Malachi McNealy representing Congressman Gil Gutknecht.

Bill Howe opened the discussion requesting legislative updates from the Congressional representatives. Karrie Jackelen reported that Congressman Kind hoped to reintroduce the river bill yet this year; that Laura Cimo, the Sea Grant staff, would be starting to work for a congressman in Michigan starting in January, that the Kind amendment to the farm bill had been voted down but by a small margin. She and Malachi McNealy agreed that the chances of a farm bill passing this year were not great.

Robin Grawe reported that the EMP had been funded at \$20 million.

Bill reported that the Waterways Journal had reported a vacancy on the Mississippi River Commission, and that an engineer was sought. Participants discussed the idea of seeking an engineer from the Upper Mississippi and garnering broad support for such.

Marc Schultz reported on an upcoming conference at Viterbo College called Gathering of Waters, inviting community discussion, to be held February 4-7, 2002.

Bob Mullally noted that the dissolution of the Boundary Area Commission was being used as a campaign issue by some state candidates and suggested that its being used as an issue might be the death knell for reinstatement.

John Campe reported that Senator Bob Kierlin, MN, had suggested a new group covering the area from Red Wing to the Quad Cities, roughly contiguous to the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge.

Discussion turned to the possibility of securing corporate support to pay for administrative services. Paul Grawe noted that with the status of former commissioners and the support of the two Congressional offices, an organization could start to build from a very low dollar base. Sue Shultz noted that her hunger organization had done just that, and now with grant support was operating with a budget of over \$100,000. Paul offered the use of the home office established when Robin had been hired to home office for the Boundary Area Commission.

The group agreed unanimously to form a private organization growing out the former Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission to be called the Upper Mississippi River Commission, to domicile in Winona, MN. Bob Mullally agreed to draft a mission statement. John Campe agreed to file for a trade name. Robin Grawe agreed to serve as acting secretary.

The group agreed to meet again at The Sting in La Crosse, WI, at noon, January 17, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Grawe, Acting Secretary