

Minutes State Interagency Missouri River Authority;  
Department of Economic Development, Des Moines October 27, 2009

Present: Christensen, Hommes, Vegors, Peterson, and Hoyer. Also present was Thom Hart, Jane Clark, and Charlotte Eby.

- A. Review/Approve Minutes from August 18, 2009:** Hoyer stated that there were some names missing from the draft minutes that might be obtained from Skip Meisner. SIMR Authority accepted the draft minutes with the requirement that the names be inserted appropriately.
- B. Continuing Development of an Iowa Vision for Missouri River**
- a. **Lewis and Clark Trail Planning:** Stan Peterson stated that a \$280,000 federal planning grant was being used to plan a multiuse trail from Hamburg to Sioux City. Meetings were held in 5 communities along the general route to gain local ideas. He said that a general conceptual model has evolved with a main, continuous route with multiple spurs and parallel portions to highlight the historical, scenic and recreational attractions along the way. The first review of the plan will be Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> at DeSoto Bend. It will be finalized by February, 2010. It is one of five, main state trails.
  - b. **Discussion on How Shall SIMR Authority Proceed?** Hoyer suggested that we had gone to Sioux City to gather input and learn about the beneficial uses in the area. In a general sense, we were planning to visit the Council Bluffs area in the future for a similar purpose. Amy Christensen noted the need for public input and the value to visit different types of locations pertinent to the benefits of the river. The new USACE Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study was mentioned and Hoyer said that the co-chairs (Kayla Eckert-Uptmor and David Combs) had agreed to meet with SIMR Authority whenever desired. The Corps plan has a 5 year timeline associated with it. Stan Peterson offered to generate a draft plan to develop an Iowa vision for the river. The draft would include coordination with the Corps, public input, and a 1 to 2 year timeline to coordinate with the Corps' plan timeframe and make our Iowa vision relevant. He suggested a 2-3 week time for the first draft ideas. It was agreed that SIMR Authority would meet in about 6 weeks specifically about the Iowa Vision planning outline. Hoyer offered to coordinate with the Corps on this general idea.
  - c. **Plan SIMR Authority Visit to Missouri River below DeSoto Bend:** It was determined that visiting Missouri River sites is valuable to the Authority members. A visit to the DeSoto Bend/Council Bluffs area will be planned for the Spring, 2010, and another will be planned for later in 2010.
  - d. **Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study:** Hoyer attended the kickoff of the 5 year Corps study of authorized purposes in Kansas City. He talked to the co-chairs and they will work with the Authority as we develop our Vision for the river. They were enthusiastic about our endeavor.
- C. Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee Progress:** The Authority reviewed a few documents from the Committee. Hoyer stated that the process seemed to be working rather well. There was some uncertainty about if everyone had received Al Sturgeons reports, and Hoyer agreed to forward them to the Authority members.
- D. Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan Progress:** Hoyer reported that the MRERP process was going slowly, but that the focus was on developing the ecosystem units that will be the focus of the study. A proposal will be finalized at the MRERP meeting in November.

At that time, subcommittees from experts in the states and federal agencies will be formed for each of 10-20 ecosystems.

**E. Review Proposed Agenda for MoRAST Oct. 29-30, 2009 Meeting:**

- a. Treasurer's Report: Iowa dues were discussed. Dick Vegors said that DED's participation in both MoRAST and UMRBA would be decided on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Hoyer said that DNR would pick up DED's portion of MoRAST if necessary. He also reported that no materials were sent yet to the Executive Council, and that DNR's support was now going to come from the F&W Trust Fund rather than the General Fund. Peterson asked if the report indicated that more money was spent by MoRAST than came in. Apparently that was correct. Hoyer was asked to inquire if tribes had paid. None were shown on the report.
- b. Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study: Hoyer suggested that wetlands, and infrastructure including highways, bridges, pipelines and water intakes be added to the issues associated with 'sedimentation, degradation, and channelization.' In general the letter was acceptable to the Authority.
- c. Annual Operating Plan Recommendations: Hommes explained that the bulk of the work was done in association with a subcommittee. IDOT said they participated in the letter, although little was changed from earlier years. Hommes said it seemed an unnecessary formality to comment from MoRAST, but the letter seemed acceptable to the Authority.