

Minutes of State Interagency Missouri River Authority  
Wallace Office Building Conference Room 4W  
Des Moines June 17, 2010

Members Present: Amy Christensen, Harold Hommes, John Fleig, Jessica Montana and Bernie Hoyer. Also present: Bill Ehm, Sharon Tahtinen, Jane Clark, and Joe Wilkerson.

The meeting began at 1:00 PM.

1. **Approve Agenda:** Hoyer noted that item 3 should read, Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2010 SIMRA Meeting (Action Item). The agenda was approved with that change.
2. **Introduction of next DNR representative to SIMRA:** Sharon Tahtinen was introduced as DNR's representative to SIMRA. She is currently DNR's legislative liaison for the Environmental Services Division, but has worked in DNR's Energy Bureau for many years. Pat Boddy, Deputy Director, will back up Sharon when there are time conflicts. Everyone present at the meeting introduced themselves.
3. **Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2010 SIMRA Meeting:** The minutes were approved as drafted.
4. **Select Alternate Director for MoRAST from SIMRA Membership:** Following a brief discussion about travel restrictions, Harold Hommes was asked to serve this function. If unable, Jessica Montana will serve as the alternate.
5. **Discussion of Payment for \$12,500 MoRAST Dues for one Iowa vote:** The group agreed to only seek money for one vote from the Executive Council. IDALS and IUB would not seek any funding for MoRAST. DOT would agree to last year's amount. DED would seek and equal amount, but funding is not assured. DNR was billed \$8,333 and would pay that if DED cannot come up with an appropriate 1/3 amount.
6. **Discussion of Missouri River Corridor Vision Plan of Study:** Christensen suggested that we change the document to reflect Sharon Tahtinen replacing Bernie Hoyer and update the date to June, 2010. Everyone agreed for Hoyer to have the document replaced with that change. Tahtinen said that she had not reviewed the document carefully, but planned to meet with Hoyer next week and would make the document a priority of that discussion. Hommes said that carrying out the Vision Plan was going to take a lot of work. The need for help was discussed. Hoyer suggested that perhaps a foundation could be found to support the work. Montana suggested that graduate students might be found to participate. Christensen said that she felt that we needed to move ahead with the resources we have and make the best of it for now. There was also discussion about the fall trip to Hamburg in September and whether it would work out with a change of DNR staffing. Hoyer said that the bulk of the work was done by Chris Larson and Angi Bruce, DNR staff in western Iowa. It seemed like an attempt will be made to have the meeting this fall.
7. **Public Participation:** Jane Clark suggested that in the Vision Plan, that 'river groups' should be replaced by 'groups interested in rivers' because there are not many 'river groups.' She also suggested that among the 'sample' guiding principles in the document, that we add, 'Enhance recreational opportunities'. The group agreed for Hoyer to make those changes on the web. Joe Wilkerson introduced himself as representing the National Wildlife Federation. The NWF in the Plains region identified two primary issues to cover: the Farm Bill and the Missouri River. He said that he was trying to understand what the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study was all about, and also Iowa's Missouri River Corridor Vision Plan. He and others from the NWF would attempt to provide input on these activities.
8. **For the Good of the River:** Hoyer noted that the SIMRA website was functioning at [www.iowadnr.gov/boards.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/boards.html). A number of SIMRA members noted that they planned to

attend one or more MRAPS scoping meetings in and around Iowa in June and July. Hommes noted that Mike Wells, Deputy Director of Missouri Department of Natural Resources wanted to meet with Iowa folks so that he could explain Missouri's positions. It was decided that SIMRA would attempt to meet from 1:00 – 3:00 PM on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Hommes has already added the meeting to Dir. Leopold and Sec. Northey's schedules from 1-2 PM. The location is currently scheduled for the conference room on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Wallace Building. Christensen offered Tahtinen help with getting started with SIMRA.

- 9. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at about 2:15 PM.

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