



Teleconference Notes

Great Rivers Subarea Coordination Group

June 30, 2020

A teleconference among members of the Great Rivers Subarea (GRSA) Coordination Group convened on June 30, 2020, at 1000 hours to report out the status of draft planning documents and river reconnaissance (recon) planning efforts.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 On-Scene Coordinator Heath Smith distributed the teleconference agenda and facilitated the call. Telephone and video conference lines were established for the meeting and 18 members participated. Call attendees are listed on page 2.

GRSA Contingency Plan. After consultation with counterparts in Regions 4 and 5, Smith explained that Sainte Genevieve (Missouri), Hardin (Illinois), and Crittenden (Kentucky) Counties were added to the subarea. Associated changes were made to the subarea plan and web mapping application. Based on the expanded subarea footprint, the amended plan was shared with USCG Sector Upper Mississippi River (UMR) personnel for review and input. Smith said that once Sector UMR's comments are incorporated, the draft will be distributed to EPA Regions 4 and 5 for final approval and then published.

The group then discussed the possible addition of Gallatin County, Illinois to the GRSA or the neighboring Kentuckiana Subarea, and the implications of each option. Michelle Cozadd of Illinois EPA indicated that she would discuss the matter with other state-level stakeholders and report the State's preference back to the group. Notably, the addition of Gallatin County to the GRSA does not impact Sector UMR's plan review; however, the change must be completed before final review/approval process is initiated.

Cape / East Cape Girardeau Incident Action Plan (IAP). The complete the IAP, river recon information is needed to develop the spill response strategies that are a central element to this planning effort. Consequently, the draft IAP will remain in draft form and completed once the related spill response strategies are developed.

Update on River Recon Planning. Smith explained that recon of Mississippi River miles 25 through 76 was originally scheduled for fall 2020 but various "non-essential" activities within EPA have been postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing that restrictions may be lifted by fall 2020, Smith suggested the group continue preparations for the recon knowing that it may be put off until 2021. After some discussion, the group agreed recon planning should continue.

Smith then queried various agencies about their potential participation in field recon activities and availability resources (i.e., boats and operators). He highlighted the importance of participation from those who are knowledgeable about the sensitive habitats, wildlife, and other features along this section of river. Several subarea members, including Cozadd, Dave Knuth of Missouri Department of Conservation and Mark Winkler of Cape Girardeau County Office of Emergency Management expressed interest in the recon. Both Knuth and Winkler indicated they would coordinate resources to support the effort. Smith said a call would convene July 14th to discuss participation in the field and recon logistics in more detail.

Other Business. The following personnel changes were noted during the call:

- Chief Gary Heflin of USCG Marine Safety Unit Paducah has moved to a new assignment. Lieutenant Timothy Veach is now the unit's Waterways Manager. Veach will be supported by Chief Andrew Caldwell and Marine Science Technician (MST) William Battle.
- Butch Atwood of Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is a fisheries biologist who is familiar with the waterways in/near the GRSA. Atwood is replacing Dave Glover as IDNR's primary representative to the GRSA, although Glover may also join in subarea activities on occasion.

Teleconference Attendee List

Name	Organization	Phone	E-mail
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Notes:

EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	KDEP	Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
MSU	Marine Safety Unit	OEM	Office of Emergency Management
ORSANCO	Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission	UMRBA	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard	USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		

