



River Reconnaissance Planning - Teleconference Notes

Great Rivers Subarea Coordination Group

July 14, 2020

A teleconference among select members of the Great Rivers Subarea (GRSA) Coordination Group convened on July 14, 2020, at 1000 hours to discuss logistics for the reconnaissance (recon) of Mississippi (MS) River miles 76 through 25 and identify participants for field recon activities.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 On-Scene Coordinator Heath Smith distributed the teleconference agenda and facilitated the call. Eric Deselich of the Region 7 Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) recorded the meeting notes. Telephone and video conference lines were established for the meeting and 14 members participated. Action items resulting from the call are listed on page 2. Call attendees are listed on page 3. The following notes capture pertinent information shared among the group and decisions made by the recon planning team.

Smith shared a draft incident action plan (IAP) and Incident Command System (ICS) 215 form with the group to guide the call and document the progress of river recon activities.

Landside Recon – Planned Activities:

- Land recon will occur separately from on-water recon activities.
- Illinois and Missouri sides will be coordinated but will occur on different dates.
- The Illinois Team composed of U.S. EPA Region 5 and Illinois EPA will be responsible for Illinois.
 - Illinois EPA will identify a suitable participant from Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).
- The Missouri Team composed of U.S. EPA Region 7, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will be responsible for Missouri.
- START will provide one team member for both the Illinois and Missouri recon teams to collect data.
- Recon Teams will be restricted to publicly accessible lands/roadways.

Note: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) will contact staff at the Middle MS National Wildlife Refuge to seek assistance in landside and on-water recon activities.

On-Water Recon – Planned Activities:

- On-water recon will occur separately from land recon activities.
- One to two water recon teams (depending on resource availability) will be utilized to collect data. The teams will consist of the following:
 - Illinois Team: EPA R5 OSC, START, USFWS, IDNR, IEPA, and Trans-Montaigne Product Services (TMPS)
 - Missouri Team: EPA R7 OSC, START, USFWS, MDC, MDNR and TMPS.
- A Safety Team will be available during the deployment. Local fire and rescue (Cape Girardeau Fire Department, Jackson Fire-Rescue, Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Office) will be notified and may participate.
- Each team will staff a boat captain who is an experience boat operator.

Note: USFWS and TMPS personnel may participate on either team based on their availability.

Equipment:

- The following equipment was reported to be available by local participants:
 - MDC 22-foot plate bottom boat, seats 8-10, 150 horsepower (hp) outboard and 15 hp emergency engine
 - TMPS response boat and Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)
 - Cape Girardeau Fire Department response boat and UAS
 - Jackson Fire-Rescue response boat
 - Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Office response boat and UAS

Notes: (1) Dave Knuth reported MDC's resources prior to the call.

(2) Cape Girardeau City/County and TMPS have UASs that may be available upon request and for authorized situations.

General Information:

- Blaine Kinsley of IEPA will be involved in recon planning up to his retirement in December. At that time, Michelle Cozadd will take over as IEPA lead. The group should coordinate with both Kinsley and Cozadd in the interim.
- Two specific locations were identified during the call as suitable for staging equipment and easy river access: Red Star Dock and the Trail of Tears State Park Boat Ramp.



Red Star Access/Dock: The boat ramp closes when the river reads 33' on the Cape Girardeau river gauge. Additionally, the boat ramp is not usable when the river is at or below 8' on the Cape Girardeau river gauge.



Trail of Tears State Park Boat Ramp. Large parking lot with restrooms, showers, and picnic shelter near the boat ramp.

Action Items:

- Dave Mosby to contact Middle MS National Wildlife Refuge to identify a suitable recon planner.
- Blaine Kinsley and Michelle Cozadd to contact IDNR to identify a suitable recon planner.
- Mark Winkler to pass contact information for local agencies that maintain boats/UAS to Smith/Deselich. (Completed on 7/14)

Teleconference Attendee List

Name	Organization	Phone	E-mail
Case, John	MDNR	816-718-4277	john.case@dnr.mo.gov
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Yancey, Tim	Trans-Montaigne Product Services, Cape Girardeau	573-335-6688	tyancey@transmontaigne.com

Notes:

EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	MSU	Marine Safety Unit
OEM	Office of Emergency Management	UMRBA	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard	USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service