

**MISSISSIPPI INTERSTATE COOPERATIVE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

January 27, 2014  
Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center  
Kansas City, MO

**Decisions**

1. Scott Robinson was approved as a co-chair of the Habitat Committee.
2. The revised priorities document (as presented with edits in the briefing book) was approved as final.
3. The current priorities document will be for 2014 – 2018, and reviewed in 5-years.
4. The 2014 Young Professionals Travel Stipend was awarded to Patrick O'Rouke.
5. The Paddlefish Sturgeon Committee request to use committee funds to reimburse Hilary Meyers up to \$1,000 for her travel related expenses to attend and give a presentation at the AFS meeting in Quebec was approved.
6. A 2014 operational budget was approved.
7. Executive Board members agreed to hold the July 2014 meeting at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, TX, if the facility is available.
8. The HDR presentation will be made available via webinar.
9. The MICRA communications plan will be a focus of the July meeting.

**Action Items**

1. Travnichek will send a copy of the MRNRC letter that was sent to the USACE following the 2011 flood regarding floodplain management to Conover. The letter will be provided to the Habitat Committee for consideration and appropriate action if any.
2. Travnichek will have someone from the MRNRC prepare bullet points and background materials for the delegates regarding the Missouri River Mitigation Program for the MICRA delegates to discuss with USACE in DC.
3. Jawson will provide bullet points and background materials for the delegates regarding the UMRR EMP for the MICRA delegates to discuss with the USACE in DC.
4. Conover will find out more about the requested reedear and freshwater drum for research in Mississippi catfish ponds and follow-up with Chris Racey and Steve Shults.

5. Benjamin will talk to his Fish Chief and volunteer about serving as the second co-chair of the Habitat Committee.
6. Parsons will report back to the Executive Board about how Minnesota is collecting data on non-game and commercially harvested fish species.
7. Shults will discuss the Asian carp commercial harvest workshop follow-up with the MRBP Executive Committee on their next conference call and request this topic be added to the July meeting agenda.
8. Conover and Brooks will follow-up after the Executive Board meeting to discuss a strategy for moving the discussion on standardized data collection needs forward.
9. Conover will circulate a pdf version of the MICRA overview presentation to the Executive Board members. Executive Board members will review the presentation and provide comments back to Conover to revise the presentation and prepare it for uploading to the MICRA webpage.
10. Conover will create a tally sheet to see which fish chiefs have attended the AFS reception and the Midwest workshop, and to identify which fish chiefs we have not yet connected with through these forums.
11. Wilson, Benjamin, and Conover will follow-up with fish chiefs around the basin to gauge interest in a formal all delegate meeting and/or more informal meetings.
12. Parsons will discuss the UMRBA's decision not to pursue Commission status with Barb Narimore the next time he sees her.
13. Conover will upload the newly approved priorities document to the MICRA website.
14. Wilson will send the newly approved priorities document to the MICRA delegates.
15. Sub-basin representatives will review the example projects listed in the Aquatic Habitat Action Plan data template spreadsheet for their respective sub-basins to 1) update with up to five example projects from each state in the sub-basin and 2) identify each example project by state similar to the format used for the ORFMT example projects by February 28.
16. Conover will update the Aquatic Habitat Action Plan to reflect an initial funding need of \$1M per state per year. The table with funding lines for each objective will be deleted and replaced with a narrative that presents a minimum funding level to produce results, a much larger total need to address basin-wide restoration needs, and the initial funding level providing an ability to build up capacity and to scale-up as additional restoration funds are made available.
17. Conover will send the UMRCC, LMRCC, and Arkansas-Red River draft synopses out to the Ohio River, Tennessee-Cumberland Rivers, and Missouri River sub-basin representatives.

18. Ohio River, Tennessee-Cumberland Rivers, and Missouri River sub-basin representatives will review the UMRCC, LMRCC, and Arkansas-Red River draft synopses and develop a draft 2-page synopsis for their respective sub-basins by mid-March.
19. Conover will compile the sub-basin synopsis and provide them to the Executive Board members to review prior to the July Executive Board meeting. The draft documents will be discussed at the July meeting.
20. Conover will work with Wilson to inform Patrick O'Rourke that he was awarded the 2014 Young Professionals Travel Stipend and Hilary Meyer that the Paddlefish Sturgeon Committee committed to providing a reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for her travel expenses to attend and give a presentation at the AFS meeting in Quebec.
21. Shults will bring the issue of watercraft inspections and messaging regarding cleaning watercraft to both agencies and the general public.
22. Brooks will prepare a request to gage interest in a multi-state paylakes project and send it to Conover to forward on to the MICRA delegates.
23. Executive Board members will review the outstanding action items for the communications plan following the February meeting.

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**AGENDA**

**Monday, January 27**

**8:30 – 9:30**

***Call to Order***

- 1) Call to Order (Benjamin)
  - o Roll Call / Introductions
- 2) Chairman's Report (Benjamin)
- 3) Review of July 2013 Action Items (Benjamin)
- 4) Coordinator's Report (Conover)

**9:30 – 10:00**

***Basin Reports***

- 5) Arkansas/Red River (Racey)
- 6) LMRCC (Rister)
- 7) MRNRC (Travnichek)

**10:00 – 10:15**

***Break***

**10:15 – 10:45**

***Basin Reports (cont)***

- 8) ORFMT (Schoenung)
- 9) Tennessee River (Wilson)
- 10) UMRCC (Parsons)

**10:45 – 12:00**

***Committee Updates***

- 11) AIS Committee / MRBP (Shults)
- 12) Native Mussel Committee (Hubbs)
- 13) Paddlefish & Sturgeon Committee (Quinn)
- 14) Habitat Committee (Benjamin)

**12:00 – 1:00**

***Lunch***

**1:00 – 2:45**

***Old Business***

- 15) Mississippi River Basin Economic Value Report (Jim Caudill, USFWS)
- 16) Asian Carp Commercial Harvest Workshop Follow-up (Benjamin)
- 17) AFS MICRA Delegate Meeting Review (Conover)
- 18) Finalize MICRA Priorities Document (Benjamin)
- 19) Aquatic Habitat Action Plan (Sub-basin Representatives)

**2:45 – 3:00**

***Break***

**3:00 – 5:00**

***New Business***

- 20) Passing of the Gavel (Benjamin)
- 21) Young Professionals Travel Stipend (Wilson)
- 22) Stakeholder and Congressional Outreach Workshop Follow-up (Wilson)
- 23) MICRA 2014 Congressional Visits Planning (Wilson)
- 24) Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study Report (Conover)
- 25) Other New Business (Wilson)
- 26) 2014 Budget (Wilson)
- 27) Summer Executive Board Meeting Planning (Wilson)

**5:00**

***Adjourn***

# MISSISSIPPI INTERSTATE COOPERATIVE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

January 27, 2014  
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### ATTENDANCE

#### Voting Members

Arkansas/Red River	Chris Racey	present
LMRCC	Jeff Quinn	present
MRNRC	Vince Travnichek	present
ORFMT	Brian Schoenung	present
Tennessee River	Bobby Wilson	present
UMRCC	Brad Parsons	present
USFWS	Todd Turner	present
USGS	Mike Jawson	present

A quorum (6) of Executive Board members was present.

#### Non-voting members

MICRA Chairperson	Ron Benjamin	present
MICRA Chairperson-Elect	Bobby Wilson	present
MICRA Coordinator	Greg Conover	present

#### Committee Chairpersons

ANS Committee (MRBP)	Steve Shults	present
Freshwater Mussel Committee	Don Hubbs	absent
Gamefish Committee	Vacant	
Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee	Jeff Quinn	present

#### Introductions

Rip Shively, USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center  
Mark Oliver, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
Scott Robinson, Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership  
Ron Brooks, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources