

# MISSISSIPPI INTERSTATE COOPERATIVE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

## Executive Board Meeting

August 24-26, 2021

Pickwick Landing State Park

120 Playground Loop

Counce, TN 38326

## DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

### Decisions

1. The Executive Board made the decision to use the term invasive carps rather than Asian carps when referring to Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver carps.
2. The Executive Board decided to plan for a MICRA Capitol Hill Fly-in event in conjunction with National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) February 28-March 4, 2022.
3. The Executive Board decided to sunset the standing Habitat Committee.
4. The revised January 2021 Executive Board meeting notes were approved as final.
5. The Executive Board approved the notes from the board's past meetings as final.
6. The Executive Board decided that Conover should not spend his time going back to create meeting notes or document the action items and decisions from the board's 2019 and 2020 meetings.
7. Sub-basin representatives will contact their respective delegates prior to future Executive Board meetings to ask if they have any interjurisdictional fishery management concerns or emerging issues that they would like to discuss with the board or request the board to address.
8. The Executive Board decided to plan and host a Mississippi River Basin large rivers habitat symposium at the 2023 AFS meeting in Grand Rapids, MI.
9. The Executive Board approved a 2022 operational budget.
10. The Executive Board agreed that the partnership has funding available that can be used to assist the committees in accomplishing the identified priorities in the 2019-2023 Priorities Document or to assist the sub-basins accomplish priority interjurisdictional fisheries management needs that may arise.

11. The Executive Board agreed to consider representation from appropriate senior agency staff other than the fish chief for sub-basin representatives when necessary.
12. The Executive Board agreed that the chair-elect and chair positions should be held by fish chiefs whenever possible.
13. The board members agreed to hold 1:00-3:00 pm (CST) on November 16 and 17 for the next Executive Board call.
14. The board members agreed to plan for an in-person Executive Board meeting the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>.
15. The board members decided to meet somewhere south, perhaps Arkansas, for the winter meeting and then to meet in Minnesota this summer in conjunction with an opportunity for walleye fishing.

#### Action Items

1. Conover will send the JSP and fishery commission proposal to DeMario.
2. Conover, Schoenung, and Parsons will follow-up with DeMario to have more discussions about strategizing on the JSP and fishery commission proposal.
3. Parsons will inquire internally about inviting Congressional staff and a journalist to the modified unified method event in late October.
4. If approved, Parsons will provide Smith with the details about the event so that she can send out an invitation to Congressional office staff.
5. Smith will provide a contact list of the field visit attendees to share with the MICRA Executive Board and Congressional staffers.
6. MICRA send thank you letter to fish chiefs and TVA to provide to field staff that provided assistance with the field visit.
7. Smith will send pictures from the field visit to the Executive Board members.
8. Fiss will share TWRA drone footage from the field visit with Executive Board members and Ashlee Smith.
9. Smith will work with Parsons to set-up a field visit in Minnesota during the last week of October if supported by MN DNR.
10. Smith will provide list of the primary people that each state should continually follow-up with regarding opportunities to get out in the field with agency staff to observe field work.

11. Smith will periodically contact the MICRA delegates a few times throughout the year to inquire if they are keeping in touch with their key Congressional staff to provide them with opportunities to get out in the field to observe agency field work.
12. Fiss will make an effort to announce opportunities for staffers to get out in the field with TWRA staff on the TWF coordination calls.
13. Smith will track the Congressional calendars and inquire with fish chiefs if they have any good opportunities for field staff on dates scheduled for district work.
14. Conover will remove Asian carp terminology where possible from the MICRA website.
15. Schoenung and Conover will call Scott Robinson in Georgia to discuss the Joint Strategic Plan.
16. Conover will develop talking points from the board's discussion about funding for the proposed fishery commission and how that funding would be used.
17. The Executive Board and Smith will review and discuss the draft talking points regarding funding for the fishery commission to make sure that everyone is on the same page and determine next steps for further communication.
18. Conover will work with Shively and Gaikowski to revise Article VII of the draft Fishery Compact.
19. Conover will update the draft Fishery Compact with the Executive Board's edits and send the updated draft to Ashlee Smith and the Executive Committee.
20. Conover will provide the most recent version of the Aquatic Habitat Action Plan to the Executive Board.
21. Executive Board members will provide comments on the draft Aquatic Habitat Action Plan by October 1.
22. Sub-basin representatives will work with staff and partners as needed to update and provide missing information from the sub-basin narratives by October 1.
23. Whiteman will deliver Canaday's past Chairman Award.
24. The Executive Board will request the standing committee chairs attend the board's next meeting to review and discuss the committee related priorities in the 2019-2023 Priorities Document, and to regularly attend future board meetings.
25. The Executive Board will invite someone from the Freshwater Mussel Conservation Society to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the Native Mussel Committee priorities (1.2.g.h.) in the 2019-2023 Priorities Document.

26. Conover will follow-up with Schoenung and Fiss to develop guidance for the paddlefish commercial harvest working group.
27. Conover will contact Jim Caudill, USFWS, and invite him to attend the Executive Board's next meeting to discuss objective 1, priorities 4a-4c, in the 2019-2023 MICRA Priorities Document. Conover will update the priorities from 2016 to 2021 and share them with Caudill prior to the call.
28. Parsons will discuss the habitat symposium with the new MN DNR habitat lead when that position is filled.
29. Conover will discuss MICRA's interest in organizing a habitat symposium at the 2023 AFS meeting in Grand Rapids, MI, with Janvrin.
30. Conover will add a discussion about an interjurisdictional fisheries symposium to the agenda for the next MICRA Executive Board meeting.
31. Conover will share the MICRA Priorities Document and discuss the MICRA AIS Committee with the MRBP Executive Committee and discuss panel/committee representation to the MICRA Executive Board.
32. The MICRA Executive Board will discuss the AIS Committee and review the priorities under objective 3 with the MRBP co-chair at the next board meeting.
33. Conover will update the 2019-2023 MICRA Priorities Document with accomplishments identified during the Executive Board meeting.
34. Conover will contact Jerry Rasmussen and Bobby Reed to request pictures to be uploaded to the River Champions Award web page.
35. Committees will be asked to review the committee web pages on the MICRA website and work with Conover to update.
36. Rodgers will provide Bruce Reed's contact information to Conover and inform Reed that MICRA will be reaching out to him.
37. Conover will reach out to Bruce Reed to inform him about the Executive Board's interest in improving the MICRA's website and gauge his interest in discussing the website with the MICRA Executive Board.
38. Conover will contact Jason Schooley and invite him to give a presentation to the Executive Board on Oklahoma's recent work to address wanton waste.
39. Conover will schedule a 2-hour call for the Executive Board to hear Jason Schooley's presentation and then discuss the topic of wanton waste.
40. Conover will schedule additional conference calls or time during scheduled meetings (Fall conference call or Winter meeting) for the board to discuss bow

fishing, wanton waste, different classifications for native rough fish and invasive species, and use of SFR dollars for nongame management activities.

41. Ricky Moses will contact Ken Cunningham (OK) about serving as the new Arkansas-Red-White sub-basin representative.
42. Schoenung will talk to Mike McClelland about accepting the vacant chair-elect position.
43. Schoenung will remind the ORFMT to add the MICRA sub-basin representative to their October meeting agenda.
44. Schoenung will contact Indiana's regional supervisor of the state's big rivers program to see if he would be interested in serving as Indiana's MICRA delegate.
45. Conover will contact Batten to discuss the board's interest in meeting (and fishing) in Arkansas the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



**1:00** **Old Business**

- 9) Habitat Committee Discussion with Jeff Janvrin (Schoenung)
- 10) Aquatic Habitat Action Plan (Schoenung)
- 11) Approval of January 2021 Meeting Notes (Schoenung)
- 12) Review of 2021 Decisions and Action Items (Conover)

**2:30** **Chairman and Coordinator Reports**

- 13) Chairman's Report (Schoenung)
- 14) Coordinator's Report (Greg Conover)

**3:00** **Break**

**3:15** **Sub-basin Updates**

- 15) Arkansas/Red/White Rivers (Ricky Moses)
- 16) Lower Mississippi River (Ben Batten)
- 17) Missouri River (Kasey Whiteman)
- 18) Ohio River (Schoenung)
- 19) Tennessee/Cumberland Rivers (Frank Fiss)
- 20) Upper Mississippi River (Brad Parsons)

**4:30** **Federal Updates**

- 21) USFWS Update (Aaron Woldt)
- 22) USGS update (Rip Shively)

**5:00** **Adjourn**

**6:00** **Dinner (Meet in Lounge)**

Thursday, August 26

**8:30** **Call to Order**

**8:30** **New Business**

- 23) Review of 2019 – 2023 MICRA Priorities Document (Schoenung)

**9:30**

24) Review of MICRA Website (Conover)

**10:00**

**Break**

**10:30**

**New Business**

25) Discussion of issues raised in Scarnecchia and Schooley paper (Schoenung)

- Bow fishing
- Wanton waste
- Different classification of native rough fish and invasive species
- Use of SFR funding for nongame fisheries management activities

26) Approval of 2022 Operational Budget (Conover)

27) MICRA 2022-2023 Chair-elect Nomination (Schoenung)

28) Schedule Fall Conference Call and Winter Executive Board Meeting (Schoenung)

29) Other New Business

**12:30**

**Adjourn**

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### ATTENDANCE

#### Voting Members

Arkansas/Red/White Rivers	Ricky Moses	Present
Lower Mississippi River	Ben Batten	Absent
Lower Mississippi River alternate	Angie Rodgers	Remote
Missouri River	Kasey Whiteman	Present
Ohio River	Brian Schoenung	Present
Tennessee/Cumberland Rivers	Frank Fiss	Present
Upper Mississippi River	Brad Parsons	Present
USFWS	Aaron Woldt	Remote
USGS	Rip Shively	Remote
USGS alternate	Mark Gaikowski	Present/Remote

\* A quorum (six voting members) was present for the duration of the meeting.

#### Non-voting members

MICRA Chairperson	Brian Schoenung	Present
MICRA Chairperson-Elect	Brad Parsons	Present
MICRA Past Chairman	Larry Pugh	Absent
MICRA Past Chairman	Brian Canaday	Absent
MICRA Coordinator	Greg Conover	Present

#### Committee Chairpersons

\* Only the Habitat Committee Chairperson was requested to attend.

AIS Committee (MRBP)	Chris Steffen	Absent
Habitat Committee	Jeff Janvrin	Remote
Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee	Joe McMullen	Absent

#### Introductions:

Ashlee Smith, Mississippi Wildlife Federation

Devin Rice, Mississippi Wildlife Federation

Bruce Drektrah, Missouri Department of Conservation, Fisheries Chief

Devin DeMario, AFWA Government Affairs Manager for Fisheries and Aquatic  
Resources Policy