

MISSISSIPPI INTERSTATE COOPERATIVE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Executive Board Meeting

February 8-9, 2022

Cranor's White River Lodge
806 County Road 703
Cotter, AR 72626

AGENDA

Tuesday, February 8, 8:00-12:00 (CST)

Site Visit

No remote option; meet at Cranor's White River Lodge

Tuesday, February 8, 1:00-5:00 (CST)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Call to Order

- 1) Call to Order (Brian Schoenung)
- 2) Chairman's Report (Schoenung)
- 3) Coordinator's Report (Greg Conover)

Old Business

- 4) Approval of August 2021 Meeting Notes (Schoenung)
- 5) Review of Action Items (Conover)
- 6) Review of 2019-2023 Priorities Document (Schoenung)
- 7) MRBP Update (Eugene Braig)
- 8) Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee Update (Ryan Hupfeld)
- 9) Large Rivers Habitat Symposium Update (Conover)
- 10) Aquatic Habitat Action Plan Update (Conover)

Wednesday, February 9, 8:00-12:00 (CST)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Old Business

- 11) 2022 DC Fly-in (Schoenung and Ashlee Smith)
- 12) Fishery Commission Discussion (Schoenung)

Wednesday, February 9, 1:00-5:00 (CST)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

New Business

- 13) Passing of the Gavel (Schoenung and Brad Parsons)
- 14) USFWS Economic Value Report Discussion (Jim Caudill)
- 15) Tennessee River Deterrents (Frank Fiss)
- 16) Silver Fin Solutions (Ron Brooks)
- 17) MICRA Invasive Carp Sub Committee (Schoenung)
- 18) Schedule Spring Conference Call and Summer Executive Board Meeting (Parsons)
- 19) Other New Business / Parking Lot (Parsons)

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DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Decisions

1. The board decided to extend the application deadline for the 2022 Young Professionals Travel Stipend to June 1.
2. The Executive Board approved the revised August 2021 Executive Board meeting notes.
3. The board agreed that Conover should provide all new state delegates and Executive Board members with the MICRA website address and key MICRA documents including the Joint Strategic Plan, current MICRA Priorities Document, and Coordination Directory. Conover should also copy the MICRA Chairman and appropriate sub-basin representative when welcoming new state delegates to make those introductions. The chairman or sub-basin representative should call the new member to discuss the MICRA partnership with them.
4. The board agreed to move ahead with USFWS to evaluate the 2021 national survey data to potentially repeat the 2011 recreational fishing economic impact estimate for the basin.
5. The board agreed to target a summer meeting in Minnesota (likely in Red Wing), August 2-4. Monday, August 1, will be a travel day.
6. The timing of the Spring Executive Board conference call will be decided after the DC Fly-in.
7. The board members agreed to include the expenses for a coalition luncheon as part of the budget previously approved for the DC Congressional visits.
8. The board members agreed that Objective 3, Priorities 8. (e.) and (f.) are no longer priorities for the AIS Committee to address in the next two years.
9. An Executive Board call will be needed after the DC fly-in (mid to late March) so the board members can be updated on the DC fly-in and have a focused discussion on Joint Strategic Plan next steps for implementation.

10. The Executive Board approved sending a letter from MICRA and plaque or similar item of \$50-\$100 value to Mr. Finley as a thank you for hosting the MICRA Executive Board meeting.

Action Items

1. Conover will add Mike McClelland to the Executive Board mail list and update the membership roster to reflect McClelland as the new Chair-elect.
2. Schoenung will contact the delegates in CO, MT, NE, and ND to see if they can secure their director's signature on the MOA before the end of February.
3. Parsons will attempt to contact the delegates in NC and WY to discuss the Joint Strategic Plan and the status of getting the MOA signed by their directors.
4. Fiss and Rodgers will reach out to their contacts in NC to see if they can get some help with contacting Christian Waters.
5. Schoenung will send a draft contract to Ashlee Smith to renew MICRA's Policy Coordination contract with her for 2022.
6. Conover will update the deadline for applications for the 2022 Young Professionals Travel Stipend to June 1 and share an announcement with the UMRCC and LMRCC coordinators for distribution.
7. Conover will update the website to reflect the new deadline for applications for the 2022 Young Professionals Travel Stipend.
8. Parsons will forward the announcement about the Young Professionals Travel Stipend to the North Central Division for distribution.
9. Parsons and Conover will send an announcement about the extended deadline for the 2022 Young Professionals Travel Stipend to the MICRA delegates.
10. Conover will send a note to the Tennessee River delegates prior to the 2022 quarterly TWF coordination calls, reminding them to announce opportunities for staffers to get out in the field with staff to observe invasive carp field work.
11. Parsons will put the new MN habitat biologist in touch with Conover to start coordinating with Janvrin to plan for the Habitat Symposium.
12. Rodgers will work with her GIS specialist to develop a few lists of interjurisdictional rivers in the Mississippi River Basin using different criteria for the board to consider.
13. The Executive Board will consider proposed new GIS-based lists of interjurisdictional rivers in the Mississippi River Basin and make a decision on the preferred criteria and list to use as an updated list for MICRA.

14. Conover will work with Janvrin to finalize the draft action plan once the Executive Board approves a new MICRA list of interjurisdictional rivers in the Mississippi River Basin.
15. Braig was asked to communicate the relevant priorities back to the MRBP and AIS Committee with the charge to begin addressing the priorities and report back to the MICRA Executive Board on progress or obstacles.
16. Braig was requested to seek recommended updates to the MICRA website from the MRBP and AIS Committee members.
17. The MRBP Executive Committee was asked to consider the recommendation that the MICRA AIS Committee Chair serve as MICRA's primary representative to the ANS Task Force.
18. The paddlefish commercial states workgroup was tasked with developing a summary report on the age and growth project including data collection, analysis, workgroup discussions, recommended next steps, and differing perspectives.
19. The paddlefish commercial states workgroup will present a recommendation to the Executive Board at their summer meeting based on the available data and analysis, along with the different views within the workgroup.
20. Hupfeld will discuss the proposal from Dr. Scarnecchia for facilitating the development of basinwide paddlefish management framework with the Paddlefish Sturgeon Committee and report back to the Executive Board.
21. Schoenung will share the revised briefing documents for the March 2022 DC visits with Woldt and Brown for their review.
22. Smith will ask Connor Bevan to add Parsons, Schoenung, Fiss, and Conover to the contact list for the coalition and send them the link to the doodle poll for the first coalition meeting.
23. Parsons will email delegates to ask about local level partners, for example Friends of the Mississippi River, that should be informed about and asked to support the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission initiative and coalition.
24. Parsons, Schoenung, Fiss, and possibly Conover will represent MICRA on the coalition calls.
25. Conover will inquire internally with USFWS to determine his ability to participate in the coalition in his role as MICRA Coordinator.
26. Smith will keep all board members informed of coalition calls so they can participate if available and interested.

27. The Executive Board will need to discuss what kind of communication should be provided to the MICRA delegates along with the request for local stakeholders to inform about the fishery commission and coalition.
28. Smith will work with Parsons, Schoenung, and Conover to revise the draft compact to address the appointment of commissioners and state agency representation on the commission, and will share a revised version with the Executive Board members.
29. Schoenung will reach out to some of the MICRA states to gauge interest in the formation of a MICRA Invasive Carp Committee and report back to the Executive Board.
30. Braig and Conover will share the TWRA video from the Congressional field visit at Pickwick Dam, along with the appropriate context, with the MRBP membership during the September coordination meeting to initiate a discussion of the potential to develop similar videos to address specific information and outreach needs.
31. Schoenung will provide an update on the Joint Strategic Plan signatures and encourage remaining states to provide signed MOAs by the end of February.
32. Parsons will send (from the MICRA account) the draft Fishery Compact and MICRA's DC briefing documents to the MICRA Delegates prior to the DC fly-in.

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ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

Arkansas/Red/White Rivers	Ken Cunningham	Present
Lower Mississippi River	Ben Batten	Present
Missouri River	Kasey Whiteman	Present via Zoom
Ohio River	Rich Zweifel	Present
Tennessee/Cumberland Rivers	Frank Fiss	Present
Upper Mississippi River	Brad Parsons	Present
USFWS	Aaron Woldt	Present via Zoom
USGS	Mark Gaikowski	Present via Zoom

* A quorum of six voting members was present for 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

MRBP (AIS Committee)	Eugene Braig	Present
Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee	Ryan Hupfeld	Present

Introductions:

Allan Brown, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Angie Rodgers, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Ricky Moses, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Mark Gaikowski, US Geological Survey - via Zoom
Ron Brooks, Retired KDFWR

Bobby Reed, Retired LDWF

Ashlee Smith, Mississippi Wildlife Federation – via Zoom (8/9)

Jim Caudill, US. Fish and Wildlife Service – via Zoom (8/9)