



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 7-9, 2023

Engineer Research and Development Center
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
3909 Halls Ferry Road
Vicksburg, MS

An option for remote participation was provided.

AGENDA

(All times are Central)

Tuesday, February 7, 8:30-12:00 (CST), Environmental Lab Conference Room

Welcome

Dr. David Smith, US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory

Call to Order

- 1) Call to Order (Brad Parsons)

Chairman and Coordinator Reports

- 2) Chairman's Report (Parsons)
- 3) Coordinator's Report (Greg Conover)

Committee Updates

- 4) MRBP Update (Andrew Stump – remote)
- 5) MICRA AIS Committee (Conover and Rob Bourgeois)

- 6) Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee Update (Ryan Hupfeld – remote)
- 7) Freshwater Mussel Conservation Society Update (Stephen McMurray) – *tentative*

Old Business

- 8) Aquatic Habitat Action Plan – Interjurisdictional Rivers Update (Angela Erves)
- 9) Approval of September 2022 Meeting Notes (Parsons)
- 10) Review of Action Items (Conover)

[Lunch Break]

Tuesday, February 7, 1:00-5:00 (CST)

Tour ERDC Facilities

No remote option

Wednesday, February 8, 8:30-12:30 (CST), Environmental Lab Conference Room

Member Updates

- 11) Sub-basin Updates (Sub-basin Representatives)
- 12) Federal Entity Updates (Rip Shively and Aaron Woldt)

Committee Updates

- 13) Invasive Carp Advisory Committee (Brian Schoenung and Rob Simmonds)
- 14) Sub-basin Invasive Carp Partnership Coordination (Partnership Coordinators)

New Business

- 15) 2023 DC Fly-in Planning (Ashlee Smith)
- 16) Fishery Commission/Coalition Next Steps (Smith)
- 17) 2023 Congressional Field Visit / Informational Briefing (Smith)
- 18) MICRA Delegate Webinar Preparation (Smith)

[Lunch Break]

Wednesday, February 8, 1:30-5:00 (CST), Environmental Lab Conference Room

New Business

- 19) 2019-2023 Priorities Accomplishment Tracking (Conover)
- 20) 2024-2028 Priorities Document (All)
- 21) MICRA Communications Plan (Conover)
- 22) All Delegate Meeting Planning (All)

Thursday, February 9, 8:30-12:00 (CST), TBD

Tour ERDC Facilities

No remote option; meet at Environmental Lab Conference Room

[Lunch Break]

Thursday, February 9, 1:00-5:00 (CST), Environmental Lab Conference Room

New Business

- 23) Mississippi River Basin Partnership Initiative (Kim Lutz, Americas Watershed Initiative)
- 24) Large Rivers Habitat Symposium Update (Neil Rude, MN DNR and Jeff Janvrin, WI DNR)
- 25) 2022 Invasive Carp Monitoring and Response Plan (Conover)
- 26) USGS Mississippi River Science Forum and MICRA AIS Presentation (Gaikowski and Conover)
- 27) Young Professionals Travel Stipend (Conover)
- 28) Schedule Spring Conference Call and Summer Executive Board Meeting (Parsons)
- 29) Other New Business / Parking Lot (Parsons)

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Decisions

1. The Executive Board requested detailed notes following Executive Board meetings for their reference and a meeting summary to be uploaded to the MICRA website rather than the detailed meeting notes.
2. The Executive Board approved a nomination for Duane Chapman to receive the MICRA River Champion Award.
3. The Executive Board approved the MRBP's request for the MICRA AIS Committee chair to also serve in the MRBP's newly created MICRA Liaison position.
4. The Executive Board will consider development of a storyboard for an interactive map housed on the MICRA website as a next step after the revision of MICRA's list of interjurisdictional rivers has been finalized.
5. The Executive Board approved the revised August 2022 Executive Board meeting notes as final.
6. The Executive Board, sub-basin invasive carp partnership coordinators, and ICAC will all continue to consider and discuss basinwide invasive carp communications needs.
7. The board agreed to provide written member updates for the Winter Executive Board meetings and verbal updates on news or issues from the delegates for the board's summer meetings.
8. The Executive Board decided to table the discussion about the MICRA Communications Plan.
9. The Executive Board will plan for an All Delegate meeting in conjunction with the AFS annual meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in August 2023.
10. The Executive Board will consider requests for speaker travel support to participate in the MICRA-sponsored Large Rivers Aquatic Habitat Restoration symposium during the August 2023 AFS annual meeting on an as needed basis.
11. The Executive Board approved posting the 2022 Invasive Carp Monitoring and Response Plan on the MICRA website and sharing the document with the Invasive Carp Advisory Committee.
12. The Executive Board decided to award the Young Professionals Travel Stipend to Patrick Padilla with the USFWS's Carterville Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office to present his thesis research into determining dam passage and inter-

river movements of Black Carp via otolith microchemistry at the 2023 AFS annual meeting.

13. The Executive Board will plan to meet in conjunction with the AFS annual meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. Travel days will be Sunday, August 20th and Thursday, August 24th.
14. The Executive Board agreed to notify the delegates in the 2023 membership dues notices that they will be requesting the delegates to consider an increase in membership dues for the states to \$3,000 beginning in 2024.

Action Items

1. Gaikowski will contact USACE Rock Island District to determine if a letter of support from MICRA can still be included with the USACE's Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program 2022 Report to Congress, and if so, who the letter should be submitted to.
2. Conover will work with Parsons to submit the UMRR letter of support pending the response from USACE Rock Island District.
3. Bourgeois was requested to have the recently updated summary of state regulations for invasive carp posted on the MRBP's website.
4. Conover will invite Duane Chapman to attend the MICRA Executive Board's Summer meeting to receive the MICRA River Champion Award.
5. Conover will review the MICRA By-laws and research Robert's Rules of Order to determine if the MICRA Chair-elect is, or should be, a voting board member.
6. Conover will notify the ANS Task Force Executive Secretary that Rob Bourgeois will now serve as MICRA's primary representative to the ANS Task Force and the MICRA Chair will serve as the alternate voting representative.
7. Hupfeld will send the paddlefish commercial workgroup report to the Paddlefish Sturgeon Committee membership along with a note that the committee is now working to develop a basinwide paddlefish management framework, including an invitation for participation.
8. Parsons will send the paddlefish commercial workgroup report to the MICRA delegates along with a note that the committee is now working to develop a basinwide paddlefish management framework.
9. Conover will contact Stephen McMurray to let him know that MICRA can provide up to \$1,000 in financial assistance to support the FMCS Biennial Symposium.
10. Conover will contact Stephen McMurray regarding potential native mussel priorities for the next MICRA priorities document.

11. Angela Erves will provide the Executive Board members with lists of 4th and 5th order and larger interjurisdictional rivers for each sub-basin by the end of February.
12. Executive Board members will review the lists of interjurisdictional rivers provided by Angela Erves and provide a response within 2 weeks.
13. Conover will create meeting minutes from the August 2022 Executive Board meeting notes that include the meeting agenda, participants, and decisions and action items to be uploaded to the MICRA website.
14. Rob Simmonds will send an updated list of ICAC and technical workgroup representatives to Conover; Conover will send to the sub-basin representatives; and the sub-basin representatives will send to their respective sub-basin delegates for their information.
15. Conover will follow-up with Smith to determine what invasive carp maps she is interested in and for what purpose so that he can help her directly or coordinate as needed.
16. Thurman will send an electronic version of the TWRA invasive carp fact sheet to Conover, and he will share it with the board members and invasive carp sub-basin partnership coordinators.
17. Bourgeois will share the TWRA video from the Congressional field visit at Pickwick Dam in August 2021, along with the appropriate context, at the next AIS Committee meeting.
18. Conover was requested to include a reminder about member updates (written or verbal) with Executive Board meeting announcements.
19. Whiteman will share information on Missouri's 2015-2017 study on flatheads and blues in the Missouri and Mississippi rivers with Zweifel.
20. Neal Jackson will put Dave Smith in touch with USFWS staff regarding telemetry data for invasive carp passage at Ohio River dams.
21. The ICAC was asked to provide the Executive Board with a list of questions to survey the basin states regarding limitations, challenges, and needs for increasing staff capacity to collaboratively work on invasive carp and how MICRA can potentially assist address these needs.
22. The ICAC was asked to develop a list of survey questions to gather baseline information from the basin states on current invasive carp removal efforts and potentially other needs to support the workgroups with the basinwide population assessment.

23. The Executive Board will survey the delegates (questions to be developed by the ICAC) regarding staffing or hiring challenges to increase capacity for invasive carp work, as well as asking separate questions regarding the likelihood that the states would use fishery commission funding to hire additional staff to work on collaborative interjurisdictional fisheries management through the commission.
24. The Executive Board will survey the delegates (questions to be developed by the ICAC) regarding current invasive carp removal efforts.
25. Conover will add updates from the sub-basin invasive carp partnerships and the ICAC co-chairs to the agenda for the Executive Board's summer meeting to continue the dialogue between these groups.
26. The MICRA Executive Board will continue to discuss Fishery Commission and Coalition next steps, including the topics to revisit identified during the February 2023 discussion.
27. Smith will schedule a virtual meeting for the Fishery Commission coalition in the next couple weeks.
28. Smith will work with Gaikowski and Rodgers to put together a strategy for organizing Congressional field tours and site visits on the Mississippi River.
29. Smith will work with Gaikowski and Neeley to plan a Congressional field visit at Lock and Dam 19 the week of May 15th, 2023.
30. Smith will work with the partner organizations to identify target dates for an informational Congressional briefing and reception and then follow-up with the Executive Board.
31. Conover was asked to send periodic reminders to the MICRA Delegates requesting them to provide Ashlee Smith with opportunities in their states to get Congressional staffers out on the water.
32. Conover will send a calendar invite and the MICRA Fishery Commission talking points to the MICRA delegates for both February 14th and 16th at 9:00 am Central for a 1-hour briefing on MICRA's fishery commission outreach effort and upcoming DC fly-in. Delegates will be asked to attend one of the two Zoom meetings.
33. Executive Board members will review the draft accomplishment tracking for the 2019-2023 Priorities document and provide suggested additions or changes to Conover.
34. Whiteman will develop a few bullets on the status and needs of habitat restoration related to the authorization for the construction of 166,000 acres of

habitat in the Missouri River as mitigation for the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project.

35. Conover will provide the Executive Board with a draft 2024-2028 Priorities document by the end of March.
36. The Executive Board will meet in mid-April, approximately 2 weeks after receiving the draft 2024-2028 Priorities document, to discuss the draft and moving it forward to the delegates.
37. Parsons and Conover will schedule two All Delegate Zoom meetings to review MICRA's 2024-2028 Priorities document and request the delegates' input.
38. Conover will incorporate the Delegates comments and a revised draft 2024-2028 Priorities document will be provided to the Delegates for their review prior to the proposed All Delegate meeting in August.
39. Smith will provide Kim Lutz, AWI, with an updated version of MICRA's talking points for the 2023 DC fly-in.
40. Executive Board members were requested to provide contact information to Rude and Janvrin within the next two weeks for a sub-basin volunteer to assist on a committee to plan the Large Rivers Aquatic Habitat Restoration symposium during the August 2023 AFS annual meeting.
41. Conover will work with Neil Rude and Jeff Janvrin to identify opportunities and costs for a networking social following the MICRA-sponsored Large Rivers Aquatic Habitat Restoration symposium during the August 2023 AFS annual meeting.
42. Executive Board members were asked to provide Conover and Parsons with suggestions on the MICRA presentation for the USGS Science Forum and information that MICRA could provide to USGS in the pre- or post-forum surveys.
43. Conover will notify Patrick Padilla that the MICRA Executive Board has awarded him the Young Professionals Travel Stipend to present his thesis research into determining dam passage and inter-river movements of Black Carp via otolith microchemistry at the 2023 AFS annual meeting.
44. Parsons will include a note to the MICRA delegates with the 2023 membership dues notices that the Executive Board will be requesting the delegates to consider an increase in membership dues for the states to \$3,000 beginning in 2024.
45. Smith will contact Pat Conzemius with Wildlife Forever to discuss MICRA's initiative for the authorization of a Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission.

46. Parsons will contact Pat Conzemius via the MICRA email account and request the dates that he will be in St. Louis and Kentucky to initiate a line of communication between Wildlife Forever and MICRA.
47. The MICRA Executive Board and invasive carp committees will consider ways to engage with NGO's (e.g., Wildlife Forever) so they are more informed and aware of the collaborative inter-agency efforts to manage and control invasive carp throughout the basin.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Executive Board Members

Ken Cunningham, ODWC, Arkansas/Red/White Rivers Sub-Basin Representative
Ben Batten, AGFC, Lower Mississippi River Sub-Basin Representative
Kasey Whiteman, MDC, Missouri River Sub-Basin Representative
Rich Zweifel, OH DNR, Ohio River, Sub-Basin Representative
Dave Dreves, KDFWR, Tennessee/Cumberland Rivers Sub-Basin Representative
Joe Larscheid, IA DNR, Upper Mississippi River, Sub-Basin Representative (remote)
Aaron Woldt, USFWS, Federal Entity Representative (remote)
Mark Gaikowski, USGS, Federal Entity Representative

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

Non-voting members

Brad Parsons, MN DNR, MICRA Chairperson
Mike McClelland, IL DNR, MICRA Chairperson-Elect (remote)
Brian Schoenung, IL DNR, MICRA Past Chairman and ICAC Co-Lead
Greg Conover, USFWS, MICRA Coordinator

Committee Chairpersons

Andrew Stump, KDFWR, MRBP Co-Chair (remote)
Rob Bourgeois, LDFW, AIS Committee Chair
Ryan Hupfeld, IA DNR, Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee Chair (remote)

Introductions:

Ashlee Smith, MICRA Policy and Government Affairs Contractor
Kristi Butler, LDWF
Jerry Brown, MDWFP
Mark Thurman, TWRA
Dave Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development
Center, Environmental Laboratory
Angie Rodgers, USFWS
Rebecca Neeley, USFWS
Neal Jackson, USFWS
Caleb Aldridge, USFWS
Emily Pherigo, USFWS (remote)
Rob Simmonds, USFWS (remote)