

Agenda
UMRCC Wildlife Technical Section
March 15, 2016
Dubuque Iowa

1:00-1:15	Introductions and Orientation
1:15-1:45	Vegetation proposal with UMESC (Steve Winter)
1:45-2:00	Reno Bottoms case study (Andy Meier)
2:00-3:00	New UMRCC Forest inventory (Winter) Picking forest projects proposals (all) Discussion on vegetation sampling
3:00 -3:15	Break
3:15- 3:45	<i>Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge Fall Aerial Waterfowl Surveys: Assessment of Past Efforts and Planning for the Future</i>
3:45-4:10	Lake Odessa HREP (Robbins)
4:10-4:25	Upper Mississippi River Railroad spills and resolution. (Kelly)
4:25- 4:40	Restoring forest and islands with dredged material (Griffin)
End	Agency Reports

Minutes
UMRCC Wildlife Technical Section
Annual Meeting 3/15/2016

WTS had 33 people present. The sign in sheet is attached.

We followed the WTS Agenda (attached).

Steve Winter (USFWS) discussed the Quick Response Program (QRP) grant UMRCC received from the FWS to have UMESC analyze, serve the data, and provide a report of the findings to the UMRCC.

Andy Meier USACE St Paul gave a presentation on Reno bottoms forestry case study.

Steve Winter talked about starting a new UMRCC forestry pilot program where UMRCC members would volunteer to do forest inventory work on specific projects (similar to the UMRCC aquatic vegetation sampling). It was decided by the group to have two projects as pilots for this year to see what was possible. Andy Meier and Ben Vandermyde (USACE RI) agreed to have pilot programs this year to train volunteers and access the program. Interested volunteers should contact Ben or Andy.

Discussion continued on the UMRCC Aquatic vegetation sampling for this year. Pool 3 and Pool 8 were picked by the group. Brain Stemper volunteered to coordinate the Pool 3 sampling. Brenda Kelly and Ruth Nissen have been asked to coordinate Pool 8 sampling.

Steve Winter then presented for Sabrina Chandler a program titled Fall Aerial Waterfowl Surveys: Assessment of Past Efforts and Planning for the Future. Discussion was held after the presentation on the usefulness of the data and how the partners use the data. The states wanted to continue the collection of the data all along the UMR. A letter from the UMRCC was talked about but was put on hold to allow the FWS to have meetings with the sub-contractors of the aerial counts.

Brenda Kelly led a discussion on Railroad spill that had happened on UMR. It was suggested that WTS draft a letter for the UMRCC executive board to send to the Railroad industry. It was then brought to our attention that the WQ section had already drafted one. WTS supported this action.

The chairman (Mr. Griffin) had not kept the group on task. He asked for the agency updates. Two new state representatives Mike Tenney (MN) and Jeff Horn (IL) gave excellent updates for the group. Griffin then asked all agencies to provide electronic copies (enclosed). Jeff Horn IL graciously accepted the WTS chairman position for the next two years. Missouri will host the Fall technical section. The meeting was well over time by this time so Griffin told the group they were released but if they wanted to see the last presentation he would give it very fast.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Griffin, WTS Chairman