



**Flood Recovery Advisory Working Group**  
**February 10, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**1730 East Elm Street; Jefferson City, Missouri**

- Carol Comer, Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), welcomed the working group and audience members.

### **Reports/Briefings**

- Jud Kneuvean: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District (USACE KC)
  - Levee repair updates
    - 65 levees assessed, 61 approved for repair
    - Temporary repairs that are made are communicated to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA)
- Sarah Jones: USACE Rock Island District (RI)
  - 29 current projects under various status
    - 27 from the 2019 flood
    - 8 are in Missouri
      - 6 in design phase
      - 1 in construction
      - 1 pending approval
- Shane Simmons: USACE St. Louis (STL)
  - Pike-Range system: Benefit-Cost ratio did not support project
  - Navigation structure repairs are fully separate from levee repair work
  - Elsberry: design complete, pre bid site visit
  - Kings lake: Breached, starting design review this week,
  - Elm Point: Breach, pre bid site visit
  - Consolidated North County and the Couse levee districts: no design approved yet, damage assessment is completed
  - Augusta Bottoms: contract still open since last flood. Modified contract.
  - Ste. Genevieve No. 2: design complete
  - Dru asked about the status of intermediate protection. Mr. Simmons responded that USACE STL did not initiate any emergency repairs were completed so that they could focus on full repairs instead.
- Ron Broxton: State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Update

- SEMA has been working to provide the non-federal cost share for levee repairs in the PL84-99 program.
- \$843K paid out so far
- John Remus (USACE Water Management office)- Reservoir outlook update
  - Overview of flood control storage projects
  - Current system release is 35,000 cubic feet per second (cfs)
  - Aggressive release schedule and aggressive evacuation through late winter
  - Projection for 9<sup>th</sup> highest runoff year on record
  - A lot of snowpack in the plains that drain into rivers that enter the Missouri River below the reservoir system.
  - Ice dams prevent releases from the reservoirs. When the river freezes over, the conveyance capacity is severely limited as the open channel becomes a sort of pipe. If the capacity is exceeded, the ice breaks and an ice dam forms, which is worse.
- Kevin Low: National Weather Service: Weather Outlook
  - Missouri River
    - 2019 was 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest on record
    - Going back to past two years, three years, and five year, the groups are the wettest on record.
  - Mississippi to Cairo, not including MO River or OH River
    - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 year groups ending in 2019 are the wettest on record
  - Soil moisture is higher than this time last year
  - Higher stream flows going in to winter this year
  - Mountain snow pack a little higher than last year, but near normal
  - Plains snowpack: In MO river basin same as last year – high; Upper Mississippi basin, close to the same as last year – also high.
  - Frost depth: not as deep as last year
  - 3 month outlook: below normal temp, above average precipitation
  - Spring flood outlook: High potential flood chances
  - Spring flood outlook update Thursday Feb. 13.
- Collin Olson, Craig Heading: RMA
  - 100 levee systems breached
  - 500K acres
  - 80% of that acreage in MO
  - For 2020, RMA will look at new risk and the risk that may be fixed by levee repair
  - Some flexibility available for partially repaired levee protected acreage

### **Discussion of Group Draft Recommendations**

- Discussion of recommendations from conservation groups
  - Read through recommendations
  - Recirculate recs to the FRAWG and resume discussion next meeting
- Other recommendations

- David Shorr: Coalition to Protect the Missouri River:
  - Get into more detail about options for farmers that are looking at losing money on land due to flooding. Landowners either pay steep insurance rates, don't plant, or sell at unprotected rates. Can mitigation money be used?
  - Must incorporate drought discussion into recommendations
- Blake Hurst: Missouri Farm Bureau Federation
  - Split the ideas in the final conservation rec
- Roger Hugenberg: Ursa Farmers Coop
  - H.R. 5288 needs to be considered.

### **Public Comments**

- 5 bin-bolt together sand bag company. The company representative discussed the benefits of his product for flood fighting.
- Carolyn Pufalt – Sierra Club
  - Looking at mitigation will allow the state to be more competitive asking for fed grants
- Jose Cruz – Wainright Levee District
  - Looked at insurance rates. Corn with protection: \$16 per acre, Without protection: \$43/acre.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

**March 9, 2020:** 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., 1101 Riverside Drive, Jefferson City, Lewis and Clark State Office Building, LaCharrette Conference Room

**April 13, 2020:** 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., 1101 Riverside Drive, Jefferson City, Lewis and Clark State Office Building, LaCharrette Conference Room