



**MISSOURI**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

FRAWG Meeting  
Aug. 27, 2019

**Flood Recovery Advisory Working Group**

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**9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**Lewis and Clark State Office Building LaCharrette Conference Room**

- Carol Comer, Director of the Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR)
  - Introduced Governor Michael Parson
- **Welcome:** Governor Parson
  - Discussed impact of the flood, with an estimate of 1.2 million acres flooded with approximately 1.4 million acres in prevented planting claims.
  - Recognized the collaboration among stakeholders, especially between MoDNR and the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA).
  - Introduced the scope of the working group including prioritizing funding for levee repairs and developing recommendations for planning for future flooding.
  - An initial report is due by end of December 2019, and a final report will be completed by May 2020.
- **Introductions:** Director Comer
  - Invited working group members and presenters to introduce themselves.
  - Kayla Hahn, Policy Director for the Governor's Office
  - Dru Buntin, Deputy Director of MoDNR
  - Chris Klenklen, Deputy Director of MDA
  - Chris Chinn, Director of MDA
  - John Osterhage, Chief of Emergency Management for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) St. Louis District
  - Col. Steven Sattinger, Commander of USACE Rock Island District
  - Col. John Hudson, Commander USACE Omaha District
  - Col. William Hannan Jr., Commander USACE Kansas City District
  - John Huss, Federal Coordinating Officer for declared disasters in Missouri for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  - Brent Hampy, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA)
  - J.R. Flores, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - Collin Olsen, USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA)
  - Ron Walker, Director of State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)
  - Luke Holtschneider, Deputy Director of Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED)
  - Chris Engelbrecht, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
  - Bill Jackson, Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association
  - Lucy Fletcher, AgriServices of Brunswick
  - Blake Hurst, Missouri Farm Bureau Federation
  - David Shorr, Coalition to Protect the Missouri River
  - Gary Marshall, Missouri Corn Growers Association

- Ryan Gill, Missouri Soybean Growers Association
- Henry Dienst, Clark County Commission
- Randy Railsback, Green Hills Regional Planning Commission
- Adam Jones, Mississippi River farmer
- Roger Hugenberg, Ursa Farmers Co-Op
- Dru Buntin, MoDNR
  - Invited presentations from resources agencies on flood recovery.
- **Federal Recovery Efforts (USACE, FEMA, USDA)**
  - USACE Kansas City District Col. Hannan Jr.
    - Updated the group on the emergency measures for the Mill Creek and Big Tarkio levee breaches. They are currently hauling rock to the Big Tarkio and are building a road to access Mill Creek.
    - Discussed rehabilitation efforts. KC District has received 106 Requests for Assistance and have conducted 55 assessments thus far. Twenty-three Project Information Reports (PIR) are approved, thus work with levee districts can now begin.
    - Made clear KC District's goal is to work with and support Missouri and its citizens, and that the District wants to help levee districts as they recover.
  - USACE Omaha District Col. Hudson
    - Atchison County is the only Missouri county in the Omaha District. Atchison has a total of four levee districts.
    - Omaha will have to work through summer and maybe fall of 2020 to get levees completely repaired.
    - USACE is looking to be releasing 70,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from Gavins Point through October and into November.
  - Dru Buntin, MoDNR, discussed a levee district in Atchison County considering a levee setback.
  - USACE St. Louis District John Osterhage
    - 12 Requests for Assistance with a lot of work to be done in Illinois.
    - \$18.6 million estimated for total repair cost in Missouri. Looking at next year to get repairs completed.
  - USACE Rock Island District Col. Sattinger
    - Funding is available for levee rehabilitation. Roger Hugenberg, URSA Farmers Co-op, asked about the lack of funding available for dredging. Col. Sattinger explained there are two different "pots" of money for levee rehab and for dredging.
    - Col. Sattinger discussed how they will be moving as quickly as possible and are trying to be mindful of the March 15<sup>th</sup> cutoff date for crop insurance; all other USACE Districts expressed agreement.
  - Col. Hannan Jr., USACE KC, commented that funding will be an issue for KC District and that they will need supplemental money.
  - Blake Hurst, MO Farm Bureau, expressed his appreciation for USACE being mindful of the crop insurance cutoff date and explained his understanding that a farmer must have at least 25 year protection to obtain crop insurance.

- John Huss, FEMA
  - Discussed Disaster Declaration 4451. Explained how FEMA has already distributed \$6 million in Individual Assistance.
  - Clarified for the group that Public Assistance is conducted on a cost-share basis with up to 75% cost share.
- Brent Hampy, USDA FSA
  - The Emergency Conservation Program is the most widely used program for farmers impacted by flooding and is used for debris cleanup, scour rehabilitation, etc.
  - FSA does not have the ability to help with levee rehabilitation.
  - At this time, no details yet on money for damaged stored grain.
- USDA NCRS J.R. Flores
  - Discussed the Emergency Watershed Protection program and the September 3 deadline to sign up. EWP helps with non-Corps levees and where FEMA dollars cannot be used. Described one project at Fortescue in Holt County.
- USDA RMA Collin Olson
  - Explained how crop insurance premiums are determined on a 20 year average.
  - “Rate reflects risk.” This is the adage Collin used when Blake Hurst, MO Farm Bureau, asked him about unrepaired levees. If the level of levee protection is not rehabilitated by March 15 then the farmer will see an increase in crop insurance premiums. Collin explained that if any partial levee repairs are done then that will be taken into consideration when determining the rate on a case by basis.
  - Blake Hurst asked if RMA would be determining what level of protection the levees are repaired to. Collin said they would trust USACE, NRCS, or a trusted engineer to certify if the levee is at a 25 year, 50 year, 100, year, etc., level of protection.
- **State Recovery Overview**
  - SEMA Director Ron Walker
    - Discussed the Levee Sponsor Recovery Assistance that levee districts can apply for. With this state funding, SEMA can cost-share up to 75% of the 20% cost share on PL 84-99 levees that local levee districts have to provide.
    - Explained the Missouri Disaster Recovery Framework, which is a collaborative effort between SEMA and DED.
  - DED Deputy Director Luke Holtschneider
    - Further explained the Missouri Disaster Recovery Framework and the “Whole Community Roles and Responsibilities.” Discussed how a huge component of this is data sharing between agencies and local communities.
  - MoDOT Chris Engelbrecht
    - Explained the number of roads impacted by this year’s flooding and the current status of rehabilitation. Informed the group that MoDOT does use FEMA Public Assistance funding when they can for road repairs.
- **Multi-State Recovery Planning**
  - Dru Buntin (MoDNR) and Chris Klenklen (MDA)

- Informed the group about the lower Missouri River basin coordination and the conversations between Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska. Goals include:
  - Coordinate recovery efforts.
  - Establish joint recovery process.
  - Provide strong platform for the states.
- Really looking into where pinch-points and constrictions are; USACE to do a three to six month analysis. States will then coordinate with local stakeholders to discuss possible solutions.
- Lower Missouri River Study/Upper Mississippi River Planning.
  - States are interested in a whole systemic plan to reduce flood risks.
- USACE Omaha District Col. Hudson commented that identifying pinch points is good, but overall carrying capacity of systems will require a more extensive study than three to six months.
- **Discussion of Future Topics and Next Steps**
  - MO Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst
    - Wants to know if carrying capacity has changed from what it was 25 years ago.
    - Col. Hudson commented that during the peak flooding, the Omaha District experienced 400,000 cfs which is way more than what the system could ever handle.
  - MO Corn Growers Assoc. Gary Marshall
    - Asked if many levee breaches occurred close to where dike notches were.
    - Col. Hudson answered by saying a lot of breaches were from overtopping and where access roads were located.
  - Ursa Farmers Co-op Roger Hugenberg
    - Described how we all need to use science to come up with a structured plan. Also urged the group to consider that levee breaches are bad, but to not forget the weakened and stressed levees that didn't necessarily breach but still had substantial water levels on them.
  - Mississippi River Farmer Adam Jones
    - Explained the impacts on his family farm and how there needs to be a fair and balanced approach to these discussions.
    - We need a more comprehensive plan throughout the river system.
  - Green Hills Regional Planning Commission Randy Railsback
    - Appreciates being included in the discussion and hopes the group will have a meaningful impact.
    - If we keep doing what we've always done, we're going to get what we've always got.
    - Plan needs to consider both stresses on the system by both drought and flood conditions.
  - Clark County Commission Henry Dienst
    - Believes conversations revolving around levees is important, but ultimately dredging will be the key.
  - MO Corn Growers Assoc. Gary Marshall

- Praised the availability of crop insurance for farmers in the river bottoms. Explained that getting levees repaired quickly is huge and that we need to help in any way we can.
- Wants to know if the group can discuss how to mitigate disputes between local levee districts and USACE.
- Coalition to Protect the Missouri River David Shorr
  - Discussed three items to include;
    - Urban areas survive really well due to their stronger levees. Need to have conversations on design for rural levees to improve them and their ability to withstand these times.
    - Would like to discuss the unregulated portions of the Missouri River, meaning the portions in which reservoirs cannot help as much.
    - There needs to be a balanced management for flood and drought years.
- MO Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst
  - Discussed how the infrastructure cost is huge and that no one is really trying to find the full monetary impact on the economy from this year's flooding.
  - Informed the group that he has been in conversations with levee districts who have concerns regarding the deadlines of disaster declarations.
- AgriServices of Brunswick Lucy Fletcher
  - Explained the impact on AgriServices of Brunswick and the impact on the local community.
- Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association Bill Jackson
  - Wants to know the status of Congressman Sam Graves' bill that looks at the management of the river. Dru Buntin, Deputy Director of MoDNR, said he would report back about this proposed legislation at the next FRAWG meeting.
  - Bill described his frustrations with the Endangered Species Act and its impact on the management of the river systems.
- MO Corn Growers Assoc. Gary Marshall
  - Would like the group to look at how other rivers are managed compared to the Missouri River, such as the Mississippi, Ohio, even out of country rivers.
- Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association Bill Jackson
  - Described his frustrations and asked MoDNR and MDA to help find solutions for the group to consider.

The group decided on September 20 for the next Flood Recovery Advisory Working Group meeting.