



**Flood Recovery Advisory Working Group
October 17, 2019
1:00pm to 4:00pm**

East Elm Street Building - Bennett Springs Conference Room; Jefferson City, MO

- Chris Chinn, director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) welcomed the working group and audience members.
- Working Group members in attendance: Kayla Hawn, Chris Chinn, Chris Klenklen, Dru Buntin, Ron Walker, Chris Engelbrecht, David Shorr, Randy Railsback, Tom Poer, Roger Hugenberg, Samantha Davis, Dan Cassidy, Ryan Ottmann, Ryan Gill, and Lucy Fletcher (by phone).

Reports / Briefings

- Dr. Larry Weber, Iowa Flood Center.
 - Dr. Weber participated in organizing and current operations of the Iowa Flood Center. Iowa legislature passed state statute forming the Iowa Flood Center in 2009.
 - The flood center was formed due to excess of \$10 million damages suffered in 2008 flooding on the Cedar River.
 - The goal of the center is to provide real time forecasting on rivers/creeks throughout Iowa.
 - Center currently utilizes 250 bridge sensors to monitor rivers/creeks in interior Iowa. Approx. 50 sensors were added/year to current level.
 - Center utilizes soil moisture and temperature sensors for both flood and drought resiliency
 - 40 units in place monitor weather conditions and water content at various soil depths. Goal is to have 1 monitor per county.
 - Center has developed 26 Community based mapping models based on data from sensors and weather forecast that can reflect the level of flooding the community will experience at various levels of rain fall & flooding.
 - Iowa Flood Center has assisted in the updating of FEMA maps.
 - Center is beginning work on the Missouri River due to recent breaches (54)
 - All information available to the public through website: <https://iowafloodcenter.org/projects/hydrologic-network/>
 - Questions:
 - What is Cost? Approximate annual cost of \$4-5 million. Cost is covered by a mix of state appropriations and independent and federal grants.
 - Could the system be expanded regionally? Yes, currently working on smaller projects that could be expanded.
 - What is the return on investment?
 - Provides one point for public to accumulate data/information from many sources
 - Have attempted to calculate avoided losses
 - Cost / Iowa citizen is approx. \$0.50/citizen
 - Was major provider of information in disaster declarations
- Chris Engelbrecht, Assistant Chief Safety & Operations Officer of Missouri Department of Transportation gave an update of Economic Impact of 2019 flooding.

- Transportation Impacts included
 - Sustained damage in at least 95 counties
 - 470 state highways closed
 - Rail & Amtrak service suspended
 - Missouri River navigation suspended (Mississippi River navigations also suspended)
 - Airports closed
- 341 sites identified on MoDOT routes, of which 283 sites have detailed estimates completed. Total estimated damage to date is \$42,473,150.
- Missouri Silver Jackets assisted in economic impact of I-29 closing.
 - Operating cost for travel on detour routes - \$75,597,903
 - Time cost for travel on detour routes - \$28,226,607
 - Total Impact \$103,824,510
- Other Modes Impacted
 - Limited reporting from railroad facility; reported damage so far of \$40,500,000
 - Air Transportation Impact of 4 reporting airports of facility & economic loss of \$16,472,515
 - Water Transportation reported facility and economic loss of \$180,058,951.
 - Total for all modes - \$383,329,126
- Stephen Bert; District FEMA agent gave a brief explanation on FEMA assistance and touched on flood pumping reimbursement. Requests are handled case by case and must meet two criteria.
 - Was an incident declared?
 - Did the request help in the disaster?
 - Stephen addressed questions regarding where pumping is utilized.
- Ron Walker; SEMA Director provided clarification on the determination of a natural disaster relief request to FEMA and update on \$6 million appropriated by Missouri General Assembly and supported by Governor Parson.
 - Disaster Declarations:
 - Missouri threshold for request must be in excess of \$9.3 million
 - 1st disaster declaration due to flooding March 11 thru April 16
 - The lapse period between the two disaster declarations is due to no additional scientific measurable impact
 - 2nd disaster declaration on April 29 for severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding
 - \$6 million appropriation will be used to provide PL84-99 district levees 75% of the levees required 20% matching funds. Kansas City Corp District is lead. Working with Rock Island and St. Louis with similar process.
 - Questions:
 - Will \$6 million be sufficient? Based on current estimates it should. If not, shortfall could be addressed in next legislative session. Governor Parson is monitoring and if needed, could be a line in his budget request.
 - Comment was made that flood gages are not accurate once levees are breached and could be a false indicator of emergency or not when evaluating for emergency declaration.
- Governor's Report; Kayla Hahn update the group on activities of the governor's office.
 - Governor Parson met with R.D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and continue to discuss flood management.
 - The governor continues his dialogue with Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska governors. The four states are close to signing a memorandum of understanding for government input on lower Missouri River.

Potential Draft Group Recommendations

An open discussion was held to begin the drafting of recommendations to the governor by 12/31/2019. These are draft and will continue to be refined.

- ❖ Develop a resource guide for end user
 - Should be available in print and by website
 - Should include all resources available along with an explanation of the service provided. Requirements should be part of the explanation
- ❖ Recommend re-evaluation of Bank Stabilization projects. These include
 - Dike notching
 - Depth of chutes
 - Col. Hannan, Kansas City District Corps Commander, offered that the Corps is currently looking into this as well.
- ❖ Support Lower Missouri Basin Coalition of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa & Nebraska
 - State group is looking and overall conveyance and pinch points to be addressed short term.
- ❖ Support Upper Mississippi River Basin Association in more coherent interaction between member states
 - Question was raised by group member if land owner views were being heard by the association. Dru provided comments on how this summer's outreach meeting were setup.
- ❖ New Item provided by group member - Promote a more streamlined process of Corps districts interacting with the state of Missouri
 - Missouri county in Omaha Corps district be moved to Kansas City Corps district.
 - Missouri counties in northeast in Rock Island Corps district be moved to St. Louis Corps district.
- ❖ New Item provided by group member – Promote the concept of a Missouri River Commission patterned after the Lower Mississippi River Commission
- ❖ New Item provided by group member – Due to the extended length of this flood event and inability of producers and Corps to access damages and make repairs, recommend changes be made to Federal Crop Insurance to offset current risk premiums assessed to producers.
- ❖ New Item provided by group member – Can Missouri do something similar to the Iowa Flood Center? DNR is leading an effort to reach out to other stakeholders to see if can be done. Other stakeholders would include Missouri University system and other state government agencies.

General Questions by group members for additional follow up

- Can a quantified study of the economic impact on agriculture be compiled in a timely manner that will better reflect on Missouri's number one industry?
- Seek regulatory relief in a "disaster state"? Example given was allowing larger trees to be removed during levee repair
- Begin a process of looking at longer term impact of conveyance in the Missouri River system. Study should look at upstream reservoir improvements and local water retention.

Public Comments:

Brent Hoerr – Farmer; Transfer northeast Missouri counties from the Rock Island Corps District to St. Louis Corps district.

Jim Karpowicz – MO Coalition for the Environment; Pointed out that more restricted water flow creates higher velocity. Use Fish & Wildlife as a tool for flood control. Pointed to the Big Muddy project as an example.

Gary Elmestad – L-15 (St. Charles) Levee District; Thanked the governor for forming the group. Their agriculture levee protects Hwy 94, Boeing, and other major businesses. Will provide the group a list of concerns.

Jose Cruz – Wainwright Levee District; Jose farms in 3 different levee districts. Levee construction needs to be addressed in repairs. Levee may need raising and wider base to improve levee slope, however levee composition is more important than height. Agriculture levees protect more than crop fields.

Clarence Traschel – Reveaux Levee District; Raised concern that there is a direct relationship of where dikes are and where levees were breached. If dikes are no longer needed, remove them. Need a means for better levee assessment fees obtained from utilities. Mr. Troxell was asked if his levee district would consider a setback, and he said yes.

Roy Boessen – Farmer across river in Jefferson City; More water should have been released from reservoir system in the fall of 2018 to prevent/reduce impacts.

Molly Freebairn – Show Me Solar; Climate warming causing problems. Missouri relies too heavily on coal use. Missouri needs to cut greenhouse gases. Gave example of Texas utilities move away from coal.

Caroline Pufalt – Sierra Club; Asked group not to ignore urban/suburban construction and growth in flood plains. Pointed out that Missouri legislature has appropriated funding for these urban/suburban development in the floodplain.

Kathy Holstine (Formerly Kunkel) – Former Holt Co. Clerk; Asked the group to keep focus on dike notching and chutes. Levee districts do have the ability to have assets (utilities, etc.) re-assessed. Pointed out that Missouri River flooding is not flash flooding.

With no further comments presented, Missouri Agriculture Director Chris Chinn announced the next meeting will be November 22 at 9:00am, East Elm Street location. Group was adjourned.