

NEWS RELEASE



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TRIBAL INTERESTS REPRESENTED IN MISSOURI RIVER COMMITTEE

For Immediate Release: The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) met in Kansas City, Mo. February 23–26. Tribes attending the meeting included: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and Three Affiliated Tribes of Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation.

At its 28th meeting, MRRIC continued to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to develop the Missouri River Recovery Management Plan (Plan). The Committee heard presentations on a range of potential management actions that could benefit the three listed species: the least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon. These actions form the basis for alternatives that can be tested using river models.

Having been with the Committee for nearly a year, Randy Teboe with the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska has been nominated to serve as the co-point-of-contact representing the Tribal Interests Work Group. “Being new on the Committee, I’m making strides to serve all Tribal interests within the Missouri River Basin. I look forward to learning about recovery efforts for endangered species while sharing our concerns of cultural resources.”

Additionally, the Committee came to a final consensus on a recommendation letter asking the Corps to expedite implementation of reimbursing Committee member travel expenses as stated in Water Resources Reform Development Act of 2014, Section 4013.

The Committee meets quarterly at different locations throughout the Missouri River Basin. The next MRRIC meeting will be May 19-21st in South Dakota. For more information on MRRIC, please contact Dr. Michael Mac, Committee Chair, at info@mrric.org or the MRRIC Tribal leads: Carol Smith, Carol_Smith@fws.gov; Catherine Warren, Catherine.J.Warren@usace.army.mil. Additional links related to the Missouri River recovery efforts are: www.mrric.org and www.moriverrecovery.org.

MRRIC was authorized by Congress in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act and was established in 2008 by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). Its duties include providing recommendations to the Secretary of the Army and other Federal agencies on efforts to recover Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species, mitigate habitat loss, and restore the ecosystem to protect other native species. MRRIC is supported by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution and RESOLVE, an independent dispute resolution non-profit organization, and Federal agency staff.