



**Annual Report Fiscal Year 2017**

# **MRRIC**

MISSOURI RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE



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### ***MRRIC's Year in Review***

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC or Committee) met four times between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017 to discuss future plans for the Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) leading up to and following the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the related Science and Adaptive Management Plan (AM Plan) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in December 2016. The Committee's Work Groups also met by phone and in person throughout the course of the year to discuss and develop recommendations regarding the substantive and operational activities of the MRRP and MRRIC.

This Annual Report, detailing MRRIC's ninth year of operations, was prepared by MRRIC's Communications Work Group and approved by MRRIC. This report covers activities between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017.

### **MRRIC 2017 Consensus Recommendations**

The Committee made four substantive recommendations to the lead agencies during the year, which are summarized below. Detailed information on substantive recommendations and agencies' responses is available at [www.MRRIC.org](http://www.MRRIC.org) under the "Recommendations" tab.



In November 2016, MRRIC reached final consensus on a recommendation to the USACE regarding its approach to governance of Adaptive Management (AM), which included the following specific recommendations to the USACE:

1. Maintain MRRIC's current membership and decision-making structure, but shift to three face-to-face plenary meetings over the year with an emphasis on providing recommendations related to development of the MRRP Work Plan, now being called the Strategic Plan, to reflect a five year time horizon that includes current (implementation), next year's (development) activities, and activities for the subsequent 3-5 year planning time frame that are appropriate for implementation of the AM Plan. Additional meetings could be recommended by MRRIC if deemed necessary. Further, allow for MRRIC to convene a phone call plenary meeting where final consensus on recommendations could be reached consistent with the Charter.
2. Support agency establishment of Bird (Piping Plover) and Fish (Pallid Sturgeon) Teams, and recommend the agencies establish a Human Considerations Team. MRRIC members and alternates, and other individuals consistent with the MRRIC Charter and Operating Procedures and Ground Rules, would engage directly with those involved in implementation of the AM Program through participation in the Bird, Fish, and HC Teams. The MRRIC-related individuals on the Teams will also comprise separate Work Groups. MRRIC members should be limited to only two representatives per seat on each Team.
3. Support Lead Agency establishment of a Technical Team that will be engaged in ongoing analysis of significant technical aspects of the AM Plan and Work/Strategic Plan implementation and provide information to the Bird, Fish, and HC Teams.
4. Support Lead Agency establishment of an annual Fall Science Meeting and a Winter AM Workshop to include the Bird, Fish, and HC Teams.
5. Maintain separate Independent Science Advisory Panel (ISAP) and Independent Social and Economic Technical Review panel (ISETR) for the MRRP AM Plan but provide for the panels to meet together when appropriate.
6. Support Lead Agency establishment of a Peer Review Process.
7. Include AM Program evaluation and accountability mechanisms in the biennial report to Congress consistent with Section 4003(e) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.

The USACE's response to this recommendation is available via the following link:

[http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/MRRP\\_PUB\\_DEV.download\\_documentation?p\\_file=8334](http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/MRRP_PUB_DEV.download_documentation?p_file=8334)

- » In January 2017, MRRIC reached final consensus on a recommendation to the USACE to extend the public review and comment period for the Draft Environmental impact Statement from 60 to 120 days.
- » The USACE agreed to extend the public review and comment period to April 24, 2017. The formal response to this recommendation is available via the following link:  
[http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/MRRP\\_PUB\\_DEV.download\\_documentation?p\\_file=8336](http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/MRRP_PUB_DEV.download_documentation?p_file=8336)
- » In August 2017, MRRIC reached final consensus on a recommendation to the USACE, USFWS, and National Park Service supporting removal of tires and trash from the Gavin's Point to Ponca reach of the Missouri River.

The Agencies' responses to this recommendation were not available during this reporting period; check online for updates under the Recommendations tab on [www.MRRIC.org](http://www.MRRIC.org). A trash removal event coordinated by the National Park Service was held on September 18, 2017.

- » In August 2017, MRRIC reached final consensus on a recommendation to the USACE that it modify the next version of the AM Plan consistent with the modifications captured in the "AM Governance Planning: Questions/Areas of Interest, Considerations, Products/Areas of Focus, and Materials" document, to reflect the evolving understanding of the relationship between MRRIC and the lead agencies in implementation of the AM Plan (as described in MRRIC's AM Governance Planning Recommendations). (Complete text of this recommendation is available at [www.MRRIC.org](http://www.MRRIC.org) under the "Recommendations" tab.)
- » The USACE's response to this recommendation was not available during this reporting period; check online for updates under the Recommendations tab on [www.MRRIC.org](http://www.MRRIC.org).

Further, MRRIC reached consensus on several important process decisions, including the following:



In May 2017, MRRIC approved the following recommended changes related to MRRIC involvement in implementation of the AM Plan:

1. Stand up the Bird, Fish, and HC Work Groups at the August 2017 meeting.
2. Sunset the Science and Adaptive Management (SAM) Work Group and the AM, Human Considerations (HC), and Vision and Goals Ad Hoc Groups at the August 2017 meeting.
3. Shift the Plover Habitat Subgroup tasks to a Plover Habitat Ad Hoc Group as of the August 2017 meeting.
4. Maintain the Communications, Tribal Interests, and Agenda Work Groups and the Membership, Process, and Procedures (MP2) and the Adaptive Management Governance Planning (AM GP) Ad Hoc Groups.
5. All MRRIC members should be made aware of scheduled meetings and calls as soon as they are scheduled.
6. Charge the AM GP Ad Hoc Group with reassessing the fall portion of the AM governance process and finalizing a proposed 'generic' approach to the Fall Science Meeting and the associated Team meetings and Work Group calls for MRRIC to approve, if appropriate, by the end of the first MRRIC meeting in 2018 (to be able to implement in 2018).
7. Charge the AM GP Ad Hoc Group, with conducting a review of the MRRIC AM Plan Work Groups structure and engagement in the summer of 2019 (or before if it becomes

- necessary) and recommending modifications to MRRIC as necessary.
- 8. Charge the AM GP AHG with assessing how the Data Management issues can be addressed moving forward and make a recommendation as appropriate.
- 9. The MP2 Ad Hoc Group should amend the MRRIC Operating Procedures and Groundrules to reflect modifications for the Bird, Fish, and HC Work Groups.

» In August 2017, MRRIC approved a recommendation encouraging the Chair to assist members with external outreach and communication to increase the awareness of MRRIC’s work in the Missouri River basin.

Additionally, responses from the federal agencies to two of MRRIC’s substantive recommendations from 2016 were made available during 2017:



In August 2016, MRRIC reached final consensus on a recommendation to the USACE regarding the FY17 MRRP Work Plan. This included the following specific recommendations that the USACE:

1. Present the results of the piping plover metapopulation study after completion of the FY16 field season
2. Include funds necessary for emergent sandbar habitat (ESH) maintenance in the FY17 Work Plan;
3. Consider depositing sand and sediment on adjacent shoreline or to form islands to provide nesting habitat for shore birds upstream of the Platte River;
4. Engage MRRIC about funding for supporting the operations of MRRIC, including its engagement with the ISAP and the ISETR panel;
5. Support the allocation of \$1.8 million toward finalization of the EIS to ensure the needed work is completed in a timely manner; and
6. Directly link the FY17 Work Plan to the prioritized “big questions” in the draft AM Plan
7. Support continuing efforts in FY17 to find naturally-produced, age-0 pallid sturgeon.

The USACE’s response to this recommendation is available via the following link:

[http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/MRRP\\_PUB\\_DEV.download\\_documentation?p\\_file=8330](http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/MRRP_PUB_DEV.download_documentation?p_file=8330)



In August 2016, MRRIC reached final consensus on a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Jo Ellen Darcy regarding FY17 MRRP budget, requesting the following:

1. Funding to support travel of MRRIC members to four plenary meetings per year
2. Funding for a demonstration project to improve bird nesting habitat created by the 2011 flood
3. Continuing funding for pallid sturgeon research to provide life history information that will lead to species recovery
4. Additional funding for support of MRRIC for discussion and coordination around the draft AM Plan and EIS and to enable discussion with the independent panels through FY17 meetings and teleconferences

Ms. Darcy’s response to this recommendation is available via the following link:

[http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/MRRP\\_PUB\\_DEV.download\\_documentation?p\\_file=8332](http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/MRRP_PUB_DEV.download_documentation?p_file=8332)



### **Work Group Activities**

The Committee has established standing Work Groups consisting of MRRIC members, alternates, and others approved by the full Committee. Work Groups allow MRRIC members to better understand the actions at hand and work directly with the agencies to make recommendations on how the MRRP can be as effective as possible.

The Work Groups are indispensable for carrying out MRRIC's procedural and substantive endeavors. The groups meet by facilitated conference calls and occasional in-person meetings. They track implementation of the MRRP, help prepare and review presentations for plenary sessions, and develop recommendations for MRRIC's consideration.

### **Adaptive Management (AM) Ad Hoc Group**

- **Purpose:** Help evaluate and make recommendations to MRRIC on how MRRIC, the Independent Science Advisory Panel, and the Independent Socio-Economic Technical Review panel should engage with the lead agencies in implementation of the AM Plan.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** Provided a recommendation to MRRIC regarding the approach to, and implementation of, governance of the AM Plan. The recommendation received final consensus from MRRIC in November 2016 and was accepted by the USACE. (Text of the recommendation available at: [http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/MRRP\\_PUB\\_DEV.download\\_documentation?p\\_file=8333](http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/MRRP_PUB_DEV.download_documentation?p_file=8333).) MRRIC sunsetted the AM Ad Hoc Group in August 2017.

### **AM Governance Planning Ad Hoc Group**

- **Purpose:** Build on MRRIC's AM Governance recommendation from November 2016 to discuss the governance aspects of the AM Plan and develop recommendations regarding how MRRIC should engage in efforts to implement the AM Plan.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** MRRIC established the AM Governance Planning Ad Hoc Group in January 2017. The Ad Hoc Group developed process recommendations to structure the MRRIC's engagement in the AM governance process (approved by MRRIC in May 2017) and a related substantive recommendation (approved by MRRIC in August 2017) asking USACE to modify the AM Plan such that it reflects the evolving understanding of the relationship between MRRIC and the lead agencies in implementation of the AM Plan (text of the recommendation available at [www.MRRIC.org](http://www.MRRIC.org) under the "Recommendations" tab). The Ad Hoc Group is tasked with tracking the "initial run" to AM implementation for 2017-2018.

### **Agenda Work Group**

- **Purpose:** Collaborates with the Committee's Chair in developing the agenda for each MRRIC meeting.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** The Agenda Work Group initiated a practice of post-meeting debrief calls following each plenary meeting.

### **Bird Work Group**

- **Purpose:** Understand the science and technical issues that relate to the piping plover and closely monitor activities underway intended to achieve the bird objectives presented in the EIS and

AM Plan. Understand what actions are being implemented for the birds, monitoring methods and results, the status of hypotheses related to the birds, and how the models work and the implications of updated model results. Keep MRRIC informed of the Bird Team deliberations, provide an opportunity for MRRIC to discuss MRRP activities, and develop recommendations for MRRIC's consideration.

- **FY 17 Highlights:** MRRIC established the Bird Work Group in August 2017. Work Group members have been engaged in the planning for the "initial run" of AM implementation efforts.

### **Common Ground Ad Hoc Group**

- **Purpose:** Identify and discuss topics concerning the proposed assessment and implementation actions related to the draft Missouri River Recovery Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and AM Plan to identify where there may be common ground for potential MRRIC consensus recommendations.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** To take advantage of an opportunity to provide additional recommendations to USACE for consideration in the Final EIS and AM Plan (after the public deadline for comments on the Draft EIS and AM Plan had closed), MRRIC created the Common Ground Ad Hoc Group during the May 2017 plenary. Following the May plenary meeting, topics were identified from a review of the notes from the meeting (including the discussion during the Independent External Peer Review report and member comments in response to the Draft EIS and AM Plan) and additional ideas that had been queried from MRRIC members after the meeting. The Ad Hoc Group worked through 57 identified themes and shared an initial set of 10 proposed recommendations with MRRIC at the August 2017 plenary meeting. Seven of the draft recommendations received tentative approval from MRRIC and were on the agenda for final consensus in November 2017, the outcome of which will be included in the next Annual Report. From the remaining 47 themes, the Ad Hoc Group identified another 8 proposed recommendations to bring forward for MRRIC's consideration at the November 2017 plenary meeting. The group is anticipated to sunset in November 2017.

### **Communications Work Group**

- **Purpose:** Develop the Committee's communication materials, including media press kits, post-plenary meeting press releases and materials, and MRRIC Annual Reports. Facilitate the Committee's annual self-assessment process, and support communication among MRRIC members, agencies, and constituents.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** The Communications Work Group developed a new post-plenary communications packet for MRRIC members to use in communicating with constituents following each plenary meeting and achieved a record response rate on the MRRIC Annual Self-Assessment Survey for 2017. The Work Group continued its efforts to strengthen and enhance the internal and external communications of MRRIC.

### **Fish Work Group**

- **Purpose:** Understand the science and technical issues that relate to the pallid sturgeon and to track progress toward fish objectives presented in the EIS and AM Plan. Work with agency staff to review actions being implemented for the fish, including research and monitoring methods and results, status of hypotheses related to fish, how the models work, and implications of updated model results. Provide information on program activities and insights based on science findings to the full MRRIC for their discussion, and draft recommendations for MRRIC's consideration.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** MRRIC established the Fish Work Group in August 2017. Work Group members

engaged in the "initial run" of AM implementation efforts by contributing agenda topics and preparing to participate in the October 2017 Fall Science Meeting and the February 2018 AM Workshop.

### **Human Considerations (HC) Ad Hoc Group**

- **Purpose:** Provide a mechanism for MRRIC to have meaningful input about how possible management actions interact with human uses of the river.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** MRRIC sunsetted the HC Ad Hoc Group in August 2017. The Ad Hoc Group helped in planning the November 2016 Consequences of Alternatives on Human Considerations: Information Sharing and Open House and helped shape the Independent External Peer Review charge guidance document. The group aided in further clarification of the information flow for HC incorporation in AM and arranged to provide an information bridge to the new HC Work Group. HC-related activities will continue via the HC Work Group going forward.

### **Human Considerations (HC) Work Group**

- **Purpose:** Understand the technical aspects of AM that relate to human uses of the Missouri River System. Understand how HCs are being accounted for in AM. Understand the hydrologic, hydraulic, economic, or other models used to predict effects to HCs. Keep MRRIC informed of the HC Work Group deliberations, provide an opportunity for MRRIC to discuss program activities, and develop recommendations for MRRIC's consideration.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** MRRIC established the HC Work Group in August 2017. Work Group members are preparing to engage in the "initial run" of AM implementation efforts over the next year which includes the Fall Science Meeting in October 2017 and the AM Workshop in February 2018.

### **Membership, Process & Procedures Ad Hoc Group**

- **Purpose:** Address processes and procedures related to the operations of MRRIC. The Ad Hoc Group also assists the lead agencies (USACE and USFWS) with aspects of stakeholder membership on MRRIC.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** The Ad Hoc Group received two substantive charges from MRRIC in FY17: 1) provide recommendations to MRRIC regarding the use of "dissenting opinions", as allowed in the organic language MRRIC (2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)); and 2) provide recommended changes to the MRRIC to implement the MRRIC-approved recommendations related to AM governance. Though authorized by WRDA, the use of written dissents was rejected by the authors of the MRRIC Charter, in favor of consensus decision-making. The Ad Hoc Group endorsed this historic decision in their recommendation to MRRIC at the May 2017 plenary and MRRIC concurred. Recommendations regarding changes to the *Operating Procedures and Groundrules* document will be presented at the November 2017 plenary meeting and outcomes shared in a future report.

### **Plover Habitat Ad Hoc Group**

- **Purpose:** Explore methods to identify potential alternative piping plover habitat sites; prioritize, fund, and track alternative piping plover habitat to assist in addressing piping plover recovery needs and to ultimately determine if alternative habitat types can be integrated into the MRRP efforts.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** MRRIC established the Plover Habitat Ad Hoc Group in August 2017. The group is engaging in a tabletop analysis of potential alternative piping plover habitat sites in the fall of 2017 and will be continuing to work to confirm priority sites and secure funding to enable on-the-ground efforts to begin.

## Science & Adaptive Management (SAM) Work Group

- **Purpose:** Work closely with the ISAP, helping guide development of MRRIC recommendations regarding prioritization of the implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation actions of the MRRP.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** SAM developed questions to guide the ISAP review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) “Bird Targets” white paper and engaged in subsequent discussions with the ISAP about their observations. SAM also worked with the HC Ad Hoc Group to develop guidance for the Independent Expert Panel Review (which included the ISAP) of the Missouri River Recovery Management Plan Draft EIS and draft AM Plan. SAM engaged with the USACE to ensure how the Interception Rearing Complexes (IRCs) sites were chosen was more clearly driven by a scientific set of criteria. SAM coordinated with the USACE to set the stage for the FY 18 work plan being shared with MRRIC and how future efforts to engage around a longer-term strategic plan could be beneficial for MRRIC and the USACE. Finally, through the Plover Habitat Subgroup, SAM developed a definition of Alternative Habitats for plover nesting and began development of a tool to prioritize, and ultimately monitor and assess, alternative plover habitat sites in the Basin. MRRIC sunsetted the SAM Work Group in August 2017. Species-related activities will continue via the Fish and Bird Work Groups and Plover Habitat Ad Hoc Group going forward.

## Tribal Interests Work Group

- **Purpose:** Increase Tribal participation in MRRIC, provide information and advice on Tribal-related issues, and incorporate Tribal concerns into the work of MRRIC.
- **FY 17 Highlights:** Hosted a presentation on Tribal interests and an overview of activities and regulations affecting Tribal engagement on the MRRMP Draft EIS such as Government-to-Government consultation, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Programmatic Agreement, and relevant executive orders for the full MRRIC. Developed draft input to guide selection of Tribal/Cultural/Natural/Water Resources Expert for possible addition to MRRIC’s Independent Scientific Advisory Panel. Learned about interception rearing complexes being planned to understand possible implications, if any, for cultural resources. Discussed barriers to tribal participation in MRRIC and took steps to help Tribal members of MRRIC gain tools and resources to fully participate in MRRIC.



### Meeting Schedule and Locations

The Committee meets quarterly at different locations throughout the Missouri River Basin. The locations and dates for this report are as follows:

- *November 15-17, 2016 – Omaha, Nebraska*
- *January 31 – February 2, 2017 - Kansas City, Missouri*
- *May 23-25, 2017 – Sioux Falls, South Dakota*
- *August 8-10, 2017 - Omaha, Nebraska*

### Fiscal Year Financials

USACE contracts with USIECR, an independent, impartial agency of the federal government to provide impartial consensus building, collaborative problem solving and facilitation services with its contracted partner RESOLVE; provide impartial Committee leadership through its contracted Committee Chair; convene MRRIC meeting and manage meeting logistics; and convene and facilitate coordination efforts

of the Federal Working Group (federal agencies represented on the Committee) in support of MRRIC consensus building efforts. Additionally, the USIECR contracts with the Third Party Science Neutral and Independent Panels to ensure science and economic-social concerns are reviewed independently from the agencies.

MRRIC Financials	Actual
U.S. Institute and Contractor Fees September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017	
<b>U.S. Institute Services, Direct Costs and Fees</b>	
U.S. Institute Services (labor) – 2,122.25 hours*	\$238,489.50
U.S. Institute Direct Costs (e.g. phone charges, materials, shipping, invitational travel, and travel expenses)	\$19,353.93
Contract Administration Fee	\$57,634.44
<i>A. Subtotal U.S. Institute (Services, Direct Costs, Fees)</i>	<i>\$315,477.87</i>
<b>U.S. Institute Contractor Fees</b>	
Facilitation Team	\$814,777.64
Chair	\$165,052.55
TPSN, ISAP, & ISETR	\$882,426.34
<i>B. Subtotal Contractor Fees (Labor and Direct Costs)</i>	<i>\$1,862,256.53</i>
<b>Total U.S. Institute and Contractor Fees (Sum of Lines A and B above)</b>	<b>\$2,177,734.40</b>
Meeting Expenses (Committee meetings: fees for room rental, A/V, etc.)	\$103,478.40
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$2,281,212.80</b>
<i>*The U.S. Institute contributed 407.25 unbillable hours (with a value of \$51,366.50) to the MRRIC project over and above the hours listed in line 1.</i>	

## About MRRIC

### The Origins of MRRIC

The Missouri River is the longest river in North America, flowing over 2,340 miles through seven states. Its basin encompasses over 529,000 square miles. It has been a source of sustenance and transportation for more than 12,000 years. The river basin was heavily developed in the 20th century, affecting the environment and human interests.



*MRRIC members, agency staff, and facilitators explore a Missouri River sandbar. Sandbars provide habitat for the interior least tern and piping plover.*

In 1989, the USACE announced it would undertake a revision of the Master Water Control Manual (Master Manual) for Missouri River Reservoir Operations, the principal water management tool for the river. The extensive revision process coincided with the listing of the pallid sturgeon, least tern and piping plover as threatened or endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act; the issuance by the USFWS of two biological opinions on steps necessary to preclude jeopardy to these species; and extensive federal and state court litigation on water management and species recovery issues. When USACE finalized the revised Master Manual in 2004, the agency committed to establishing a group consisting of stakeholders

and sovereign nations to be known as the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee, often referred to as MRRIC.

Commencing in 2005, USACE, USFWS and other federal agencies enlisted the assistance of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) to develop a process for establishing MRRIC. These steps included a Situation Assessment which concluded a group, such as the MRRIC, was needed to assist in the coordination of recovery actions in the basin. The assessment also concluded federal agencies take a leadership role in establishing this Committee.



*MRRIC members, agency staff, and facilitators examine a young pallid sturgeon at the Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery.*

A Working Group of federal agency representatives organized a Planning Group to draft a governing document for MRRIC. The group was comprised of appointed members and alternates from basin Tribes and states, and self-selected nongovernmental participants from a wide range of basin interests. The Planning Group proposed a Charter to the Secretary of the Army in February 2008. Following Government-to-Government consultation with basin Tribes, the Charter was approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works at the Planning Group's final meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on July 1, 2008. For additional information on the background of MRRIC, please visit [www.MRRIC.org](http://www.MRRIC.org).

The Missouri River Recovery Program is designed to comply with the 2003 USFWS Biological Opinion and has a number of elements to the program to include flow management, habitat creation, AM, hatchery support, and research. This program is funded annually to support these activities as well as the activities of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee which was authorized in 2007.

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee is comprised of nearly 70 representatives of Tribes, stakeholder groups, states, and federal agencies from all parts of the Missouri River Basin. Through this Committee, members can express their interests in a collaborative forum while developing a shared vision and comprehensive plan for Missouri River recovery.

### **About MRRIC**

The Committee's purposes are set forth in Section 5018 of the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and include:

- Providing guidance to federal agencies on the existing Missouri River recovery plan, including priorities for recovery work and implementing changes based on the results of AM.
- Providing guidance to federal agencies on a long-term study of the Missouri River and its tributaries to determine actions required to mitigate losses of aquatic and terrestrial habitat,

Connect with the Missouri River Recovery online at:

- [MoRiverRecovery.org](http://MoRiverRecovery.org)
- [facebook.com/MoRiverRecovery](https://facebook.com/MoRiverRecovery)
- [youtube.com/user/MoRiverRecovery](https://youtube.com/user/MoRiverRecovery)
- [flickr.com/photos/MoRiverRecovery](https://flickr.com/photos/MoRiverRecovery)

recovery of federally listed species, and restore the ecosystem to prevent further declines among other native species.

- Developing recommendations that recognize the social, economic and cultural interests of stakeholders; mitigate the impacts on those interests; and advance the multiple uses of the river.

The Committee approves its recommendations by a consensus vote; each recommendation proposal is fully vetted through Work Group deliberations and discussions at one or more MRRIC meetings. While this process takes time, it encourages informed decision-making and widespread agreement for approved recommendations.

The preamble to the MRRIC Charter reiterates that the Committee’s purpose is to “make recommendations and provide guidance on a study of the Missouri River and its tributaries and on the existing Missouri River recovery and mitigation plan.” The Charter also defines recommendations as “official suggestions, comments, or advice representing the consensus of the Committee and provided to the appropriate governmental or non-governmental agencies, groups or persons.” Recommendations include substantive recommendations to federal agencies as well as process recommendations related to the Committee’s operations.

Consensus recommendations made on substantive issues require a two-step decision making process, with a tentative recommendation made at an initial meeting and a final recommendation made no sooner than the next MRRIC meeting. The two-step process is intended to allow time between the tentative and final consensus recommendation determinations for members to deliberate and consult with their constituents.

MRRIC’s Annual Report is prepared by MRRIC’s Communications Work Group and approved by MRRIC each year.

### **MRRIC Members**

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee has nearly 70 members who represent a wide array of local, state, Tribal and federal interests throughout the Missouri River Basin. MRRIC’s 2017 membership included representatives of eight states and 21 of the eligible 29 basin Tribes. The 29 stakeholder members, representing 16 different interest categories, apply to and are selected by the USACE’s Northwestern Division Commander to serve three-year terms. Federal agency representatives are appointed by their agency. State representatives are appointed by the governor. Tribal representatives are appointed by tribal leadership. USACE and USFWS serve as lead agencies. For additional information about MRRIC membership, please visit [www.MRRIC.org](http://www.MRRIC.org).

Learn more about MRRIC by visiting [MRRIC.org](http://MRRIC.org).  
Contact the MRRIC Chair at [mrric@usace.army.mil](mailto:mrric@usace.army.mil)

Members select the Vice Chair and provide input on selection of the Committee’s Chair and facilitation team. USIECR provides support services to MRRIC through a Memorandum of Understanding with USACE,



*Nebraska Game and Parks personnel weigh a pallid sturgeon caught during the 2017 fall pallid sturgeon sampling and broodstock collection.*

and in turn contracts with the Chair and the facilitation team.

***The 2016-2017 MRRIC members and alternates are as follows:***

Stakeholder Categories	Stakeholder Members	Stakeholder Alternates
Agriculture	Dan Engemann	Don Borgman
	David Sieck	Trevor Whipple
At Large	David Galat/Shane Kinne	Shane Kinne/David Galat
	Harold Higman Jr.	
Conservation Districts	Jack Majeres	Bruce Biermann
Environmental/Conservation Org	Thomas Ball	James Redmond
	Paul Lepisto	
Fish and Wildlife	Jason Skold/Todd Strole	Graham McGaffin/Todd Strole/ Jason Skold
	Jim Becic	
Flood Control	Bill Beacom	Daniel Kuenzel
	Robert Vincze	
Hydropower	Bill Drummond	Chris VandeVenter
	Douglas Hardy	Chris Studer
Irrigation	Scott Heine	
	Buzz Mattelin	Rachel Frost
Local Government	Carla Markt	Kathy Holstine
	Franklyn Pogge	Robert Williamson
Major Tributaries	Ross Silcock	
	Dan Rostad	Burt Williams
Navigation	Tom Horgan/Lynn Muench	Lynn Muench/Tom Horgan
	Vicki Richmond	Richard Grenville
Recreation	Terry Fleck	Jill Denning Gackle
	Mike George	
Thermal Power	Brian Barels	John Shadle
Water Quality	Marian Maas	
	Michael Bollinger	Craig Giesmann
Water Supply	Michael Armstrong/Emily Wicoff	Greg Totzke/Michael Armstrong
	Donald "Skip" Meisner	Rich Mach
Waterway Industries	Kenneth Reeder	
	David Shorr	



*MRRIC members and agency staff explore the Missouri River during the May 2017 field trip.*

<b>Missouri River Basin Tribes</b>	<b>Tribal Members</b>	<b>Tribal Alternates</b>
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	Robert Walters	
Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation	Harlan Baker	Dustin White
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	Darrell Zephier	Sidney Bad Mocassin
Crow Nation	Emerson Bullchief	
Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation	Baptiste Weed	
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe	Elizabeth Wakeman	Anthony Reider
Fort Belknap Indian Community	John Allen	Dennis Longknife
Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes	Deb Madison	
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska	Alan Kelley	
Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation	Joni Tobacco/Reno Red Cloud	
Osage Nation	Andrea Hunter	John Fox/Pascha Enzi
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska	Shannon Wright	Randy Teboe
Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation	Virginia LeClere	
Rosebud Sioux Tribe		Syed Huq
Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska		Kirby Robidoux
Santee Sioux Nation	Roger Trudell	David Henry
Spirit Lake Sioux Nation	Robert Thompson	Joan Black
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	Kelly Morgan/Doug Crow Ghost	Kelly Morgan/Doug Crow Ghost
Three Affiliated Tribes of Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation	Toni Fettig-Smith	
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	Randy Teboe/Louis LaRose	
Yankton Sioux Tribe	Kip Spotted Eagle/Jody Allen Zephier	
<b>States Represented</b>	<b>State Members</b>	<b>State Alternates</b>
Iowa	Shawn Shouse	
Kansas	Steve Adams	Tracy Streeter
Missouri	Dru Buntin/Karen Rouse	Karen Rouse/Matt Vitello
Montana		Don Skaar
Nebraska	Jeff Fassett/Shuhai Zheng	Shuhai Zheng
North Dakota	John Paczkowski/Bruce Engelhardt	Laura Ackerman
South Dakota	John Lott	Chris Longhenry
Wyoming	Beth Callaway	Steve Wolff

Federal Agencies Represented	Federal Members	Federal Alternates
Bureau of Indian Affairs		Wayne Stone
Bureau of Land Management	Sandy Leach	Mike Philbin
Bureau of Reclamation	David Trimpe/Christina Gomer	Doug Epperly
Environmental Protection Agency	Damon Frizzell	Jim Berkley
Federal Highway Administration	Brian Yanchik	Kevin Moody
Maritime Administration		Branden Criman
National Park Service	Rick Clark	Hector Santiago
National Weather Service/NOAA	Marian Baker/Wendy Pearson	Wendy Pearson/Doug Kluck
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Verlon Barnes	Craig Derickson
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	David Ponganis	Mary Roth
U.S. Coast Guard		
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Michael Thabault	Casey Kruse
U.S. Forest Service	John Kinney/John Hagengruber	John Hagengruber
U.S. Geological Survey	Robert Swanson	Rip Shively
Western Area Power Administration	Matt Marsh/Robert Harris	Christina Gomer/Matt Marsh
Committee Chairs		
MRRIC Chair	Gail Bingham/Mike Mac	
MRRIC Vice Chair	Dan Engemann/Jim Becic	

To view meeting attendance, please visit the 'meetings' tab online at [www.MRRIC.org](http://www.MRRIC.org).



***The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee***