

**Memorandum of Understanding
for
Illinois River Basin Restoration
among the
Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Rock Island District (MVR), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
St. Louis District (MVS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Chicago District (LRC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
and the
Detroit District (LRE), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

1. PURPOSE

This Memorandum for Understanding (MOU) among MVD, LRD, MVR, MVS, LRC and LRE is entered into to define and formalize a process for the efficient management of the Illinois River Basin Restoration of Section 519 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 and Illinois River Ecosystem Restoration Study. Section 519 of WRDA 2000 defines the Illinois River Basin as the Illinois River, Illinois, its backwaters, its side channels, and all tributaries, including their watersheds, draining into the Illinois River. The study area encompasses areas under the responsibility of the Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, specifically the Rock Island, St. Louis, Chicago and Detroit Districts. The defining of management responsibilities is an integral part of projects and is prescribed in ER-5-1-11, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Business Process.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The implementation guidance for Section 519, dated 5 March 2002, paragraph 7, states:

“Since this authority involves multiple divisions and districts, the assessments should be managed in a regional fashion. Consideration should be given to forming an executive committee composed of MVD, LRD, the state of Illinois, interested Federal agencies, and appropriate watershed or regional entities to coordinate efforts. MVD will be responsible for overall executive direction and management, and will select a district to provide the overall project management service. The two Regional Headquarters, MVD and LRD, should collaborate on developing the comprehensive plan. Each district should be responsible for detailed planning, design, construction, and monitoring of projects within its boundaries. Activities

under this authority, if funded, should be coordinated with other ongoing studies to ensure that basin needs are addressed in the most effective manner.”

The following organizational structure is proposed to implement the above guidance.

(1) *Executive Committee.* The Committee will have representatives from both Regional Headquarters (i.e., Mississippi Valley Division and Great Lakes and Ohio River Division), the Corps Districts (i.e., Rock Island, St. Louis, Chicago, and Detroit), and the non-Federal sponsors (i.e., Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and representatives from the states of Indiana and Wisconsin). The Executive Committee will be chaired by the MVD. It will be responsible for oversight on the management and implementation of the project, including decisions on project funding. The Executive Committee will meet approximately twice a year, with meeting schedules timed to synchronize receipt or provision of input from other committee meetings as needed.

(2) *Steering Committee.* The Steering Committee will be the interagency group responsible for coordinating the Illinois River Basin and Ecosystem Restoration efforts. It will be co-chaired by the Corps of Engineers and the Illinois DNR, and will be composed of State and Federal agency representatives. This Committee will meet approximately twice a year to exchange views, information, and advice to ensure coordination among various agency programs.

(3) *System Team.* The system team will be composed of the multi-disciplinary technical staff primarily from the Corps of Engineers and State DNRs. Additional team members may be selected. This team will have primary responsibilities for overall project delivery and system evaluations. The team will incorporate the expertise of scientists and technical staff as necessary.

(4) *Regional Teams.* Organizing efforts by geographic region allows for the more efficient accomplishment of project activities. Four regions established for the basin are Upper Illinois, Kankakee, Middle Illinois, and Lower Illinois. The regional team, made up of Corps of Engineers and State DNR staff will have primary responsibilities for the evaluation and implementation of critical restoration projects. Regional team meetings will provide a forum for groups—with detailed information on resource concerns—to exchange views and information regarding areas in need of assessment and potential critical restoration projects, evaluate the proposed site-specific projects, and facilitate the detailed study of these projects. Invited attendees include the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Illinois Department of Agriculture, representatives from the states of Indiana and Wisconsin, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Administration (FSA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), U.S. EPA, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Ecosystem Partnership Groups, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Levee and Drainage Districts, and Local Governments.

(5) *Stakeholders Meetings.* Stakeholders meetings will provide a forum to present study status and information on implementation and management to all interested Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations. Stakeholders meetings will be held approximately once a year in each of the four regions or as interim products are completed. Their primary focus will be public involvement, information sharing, and dialog among all groups and interests.

3. OVERALL SYSTEM MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Work on the System Feasibility Study/Comprehensive Plan and system-wide tasks will be accomplished as described below.

(1) *Regional Headquarters Level.* The Corps of Engineers' Mississippi Valley Division will be responsible for overall execution direction and management of the Section 519 Illinois River Basin Restoration Program and coordination with the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. Both MVD and LRD will serve on the Executive Committee, chaired by MVD.

(2) *Program Level.* The Corps of Engineers' Rock Island District will administer project management responsibilities, including the following:

- (a) Serve as the primary point of contact for Illinois River Basin Restoration activities.
- (b) Report the program financial execution to MVD and others on a quarterly basis.
- (c) Coordinate the activities of the Executive Committee, Steering Committee, Stakeholders Group, and System Team.
- (d) Coordinate, consolidate, and forward to MVD all upward reporting requirements, such as budgetary information, fact sheets, and issue papers that require input from more than one District.
- (e) Lead the comprehensive system study efforts.
- (f) Serve as lead responsible party for system monitoring efforts.

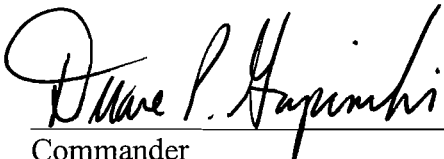
(3) *Project Level.* Each district shall carry out assigned tasks, participate in committees, and communicate funding and schedule information to MVR for consolidation and regional coordination.

4. DISTRICT CRITICAL RESTORATION PROJECT RESPONSIBILITIES

Project Level. The responsibility for planning, design, construction, monitoring, and evaluation of Critical Restoration Projects will be assigned to the Districts (Rock Island, St. Louis, Chicago and Detroit) based on their jurisdictional boundaries. The districts will be responsible for staffing, scheduling, and communicating funding needs for the efforts of individual Project Delivery Teams (PDTs) operating within their District boundaries. The assignment of projects that cross district boundaries will be determined by the Executive Committee as necessary.

5. SIGNATURE AND DATES:

ENDORSED BY




Commander
Rock Island District

Date: 29 JULY 2004



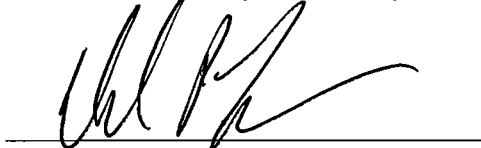
Commander
Chicago District

Date: 10 Sept 04



Commander
St. Louis District

Date: 24 Aug 04



Commander
Detroit District

Date: 8-Oct-04

APPROVED BY



Commander
Mississippi Valley Division

Date: 4 Jan 05



Commander
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

Date: 17 Dec 05