

OPERATION WATERSHED - **RECOVERY**

Responding to the Historic Mississippi River Flood of 2011

Interagency Recovery Task Force (IRTF)

June 22, 2011

June 21, 2011

1800-1930 Optional Pre-Meet - Group Dinner - Discussion, assemble in lobby around 1745 , 1815 Reservations at Rendezvous.

June 22, 2011

0745-0800 Sign-in – Gloria Piazza

0800-0815 Welcome and introductions

- Operation Watershed – Video (6min)

0815-0845 IRTF as important component of System Flood Recovery

0845-1015 State Perspectives – Safety and Security
Structured Group Discussion

- 1.) Overview of your interest or authorities in flood recovery.
- 2.) General expectations for Interagency Recovery Task.
- 3.) Your top 5 flood-related recovery priorities and challenges.

1015-1030 Break

1030-1130 State Perspectives – Common Themes, Next Steps & Action Items

1130-1230 Lunch (On your own, list of locations provided)

1230-1400 Federal Perspective – Resources & Authorities
Structured Group Discussion

- 1.) Overview of your interest or authorities in flood recovery.
- 2.) General expectations for Interagency Recovery Task.
- 3.) Your top 5 flood-related recovery priorities and challenges.

1400-1500 Federal Perspectives - Common Themes, Next Steps & Action Items

1500-1530 Summation, Discuss Next Meeting, Closing Remarks

- Potential 16 August date, Memphis, on the MV Mississippi

Interagency Recovery Task Force Meeting - List of Attendees
Speed to Momentum
June 22, 2011

Name	Agency/Org	Attending
MG Mike Walsh	USACE	Yes
Ben Weiger	NWS	Yes
Deborah Ingram	FEMA	Unknown
Roy E. Wright	FEMA	Yes
Harold Deckerd	USDA	Yes
Doug Mundrick	EPA	Yes
Dr. Rowan Gould	USFWS	Unknown
Bob Hainly	USGS	Yes
Steve Hadley	USCG	Yes
James Murphy	MARAD	Yes
BG John Heltzel	KY EMA	Unknown
Sara Parker Pauley	MO DNR	Unknown
Tim Diemler	MO EMA	Unknown
Doug Nelson	MO, Gov Office	Unknown
Joseph G. Klinger	IL EMA	Yes
Cecil H. Whaley, Jr.	TN EMA	Yes
Mike Womack	MS EMA	Yes
Frank Scott	AR, Gov Office	Unknown
Jon Moran	AR, Gov Office	Unknown
Jerome Zeringue	LA	No
Jane Waldrop	TN EMA	Yes
Mike Caudill	TN EMA	Yes
Scott Whitney	MVD	Yes
Gloria C. Piazza	MVD	Yes
Rich Lockwood	MVD	Yes
Jack Hurdle	CECW-HS	Yes
Jim Hannon	CESWD-RB	Yes
Rich Hancock	CELRD-RB	Yes
Karen Durham-Aquilera	CECO	Yes
Alex Dornstauder	CECW-HS	Yes
Don Davenport	CEMVM-EC-H	Yes



OPERATION WATERSHED-RECOVERY
Responding to the Historic Mississippi River Flood of 2011
Interagency Recovery Task Force (IRTF)

STATE OF ILLINOIS

1. Overview of your interest or authorities in flood recovery
 - Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act
 - IEMA is responsible for the coordination of the overall emergency management program in the State. This requires extensive coordination with a large number of local emergency management agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, mutual aid organizations, private sector, etc. to ensure the most effective and efficient use of resources. Lessons learned from recent flood response and recovery efforts in Illinois and throughout the Midwest will help further enhance our efforts in the future.
2. General expectations for the Interagency Recovery Task Force
 - Improved coordination among the border states and local, state and federal entities.
3. Top flood-related recovery priorities:
 - Potential mitigation efforts and projects leading to reduced impact in future flood events.
 - Long-term recovery strategies.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

1. Overview of your interest or authorities in flood recovery.
 - During a natural disaster, it is common that the Governor of the state of Mississippi will assign the executive director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency to act as his representative. Mr. Womack has been tasked by Gov. Haley Barbour to be his representative over disaster recovery.
2. General expectations for Interagency Recovery Task.
 - Priorities are identified as it relates to the Long Term Recovery in the flooded counties.
3. Your top 5 flood-related recovery priorities and challenges.
 - Funding and development of the Yazoo Backwater pump
 - Acquisition and or elevation of flood prone repetitive loss structures that are not protected by the levee system on the Mississippi River and the tributaries.
 - Complete the Mainline MS River Levee enlargement and berm project.
 - Raise the Yazoo Backwater Levee.
 - Fix the under seepage issues (large sand boils) discovered during the 2011 Flood.
 - Port protective measures

STATE OF LOUISIANA

1. Overview of your interest or authorities in flood recovery.
 - We have a sincere interest in flood protection which requires our office to address both riverine and coastal flooding. The Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration is responsible for implementing and overseeing coastal protection and restoration for the state of Louisiana, which includes working with our local levee districts on federally authorized MR&T levees.

OPERATION WATERSHED-RECOVERY
Responding to the Historic Mississippi River Flood of 2011
Interagency Recovery Task Force (IRTF)

2. General expectations for Interagency Recovery Task.
 - Our expectations are that we can work together to ensure that federal funding is secured to complete the MR&T system, in addition to working with the MRC to maximize utilization of the river and its sediments to restore, rehabilitate and maintain this nations valuable ecosystem in coastal Louisiana.
3. Your top 5 flood-related recovery priorities and challenges.
 - Complete MR&T
 - Restore system to pre-high water event
 - Improve system to accommodate future floods Implement diversions along coastal Louisiana to relieve pressure on the system and enhance and create wetlands.
 - Utilize to the greatest extent practicable the dredging of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers in order to benefit wetlands and Navigation.

USGS

1. Overview of your interest or authorities in flood recovery.
 - USGS has a scientific mission in the earth and biologic sciences, which includes water resources. Our main authority is the Organic Act. Essentially, our interest will be to provide data collection and scientific assessment of the Mississippi River basin and specifically to help the Federal government to analyze and implement necessary actions for the restoration of the MRT system to achieve the best balance of public safety, environmental, and economics as can be obtained.
2. General expectations for Interagency Recovery Task.
 - To the extent possible, the USGS would like to see the Task Force produce an organized science- and engineering-based Recovery Plan. To support that effort, the USGS would like to be recognized as having expertise in data collection and scientific analysis in water resources (hydrology and hydraulics), biology, geography, water quality, geology, etc. and be given the ability to contribute that expertise in the process of developing and implementing the Recovery Plan.
3. Top five priorities for USGS:
 - Document and describe the extraordinary hydrologic and water-quality conditions, as well as, other earth-science topics that occurred during the flood event.
 - Provide data and analyses to support the development of water-management plans, support future water-management decisions, and facilitate research opportunities.
 - Provide hydrologic and water-quality modeling to assess the impacts of the levee breaches, both locally and within the floodway, and support the modification of operational plans.
 - Stabilize the funding for the USGS stream gage network within the Mississippi Valley to assure that the USGS can provide full support for future flood events.
 - Recommend installation of stream gages at strategic locations, such as the vicinity of the Mississippi River at Cairo, Illinois, where intensive data-collection efforts were requested.

OPERATION WATERSHED-RECOVERY
Responding to the Historic Mississippi River Flood of 2011
Interagency Recovery Task Force (IRTF)

NRCS

1. Overview of your interest or authorities in flood recovery.
 - The primary programs NRCS has for flood recovery is Emergency Watershed Protection Program, EWPP. Through EWP, NRCS may assist public sponsors to repair levees (drainage area less than 400 square miles), remove debris and logjams from streams, and remove sediment from drainage ditches.
 - We also offer easement programs which may interest landowners whose land is severely damaged. Two programs are available for this.
 - The Wetlands Reserve Program which assists landowners to restore land to a wetland environment and has the primary goal of providing habitat for migratory waterfowl. Landowners continue to own the land and control access but are prohibited from cropping the land.
 - The second program is the Emergency Watershed Protection- Floodplain Easement, EWP-FPE. The primary goal of this program is to expand areas of the floodplain and reduce future damages.
2. General expectations for Interagency Recovery Task.
 - Increase coordination of resources to reduce duplication of services and to maximize the recovery effort.
3. Your top 5 flood-related recovery priorities and challenges.
 - Assists sponsors and landowners for Recovery of the Birds Point - New Madrid floodway to productive agricultural area to the extent possible.
 - Assist sponsors and landowners for recovery of the drainage system in the seven county Bootheel region of Missouri
 - Current availability of funding for the EWPP is very limited.
 - Use of EWPP funding for floodplain easements is dependent on language that accompanies the appropriated funds

USCG

1. Overview of your interest or authorities in flood recovery.
 - In the interest of navigational safety for all users of the waterway, our program will be working on the restoration of the aids to navigation system as flood waters recede.
2. General expectations for Interagency Recovery Task.
 - Not sure.
3. Your top 5 flood-related recovery priorities and challenges.
 - Establish buoys as prevailing river stages require
 - Salvage/rebuild critical navigation lights along the river banks
 - Rebuild less critical shore aids (lights and day beacons) as operations permit

Collaborative Recovery

- Unified support for the system
- Organized and consistent government response
- Synchronization of efforts
- Transparent and responsive
- Leveraging resources and expertise
- Ownership in process and results
- Regional awareness and informed decisions
- Open and honest communication
- Common vision and purpose

Purpose

The Interagency Recovery Task Force is represented by seven states and 10 Federal agencies, affected by the 2011 Mississippi River floods. The collaborative task force aims to set priorities and plan a comprehensive and holistic approach to restoring the watershed. Communication and participation is crucial in making the best decisions for our current impacts and future flood risk management in the valley. By pooling resources, talents, and expertise, to create short- and long-term restoration priorities, the task force will focus on key elements that protect the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans and ensure the system is prepared to prevent future catastrophic flooding.

To find out more, contact:

Scott D. Whitney

MVD Regional Flood Risk Manager

E-Mail: Scott.D.Whitney@usace.army.mil

Ph. (309) 794-5386

Bberry (309) 912-0782

Gloria C. Piazza

Program Manager

E-Mail: Gloria.C.Piazza@usace.army.mil

Ph. (601) 634-5077

Bberry (601) 415-2391



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Mississippi Valley Division
BUILDING STRONG®



Speed to Momentum

INTERAGENCY RECOVERY TASK FORCE

June 2011

Operation Watershed

A map of the United States showing major river basins. The basins are color-coded: Western (yellow), Pacific (orange), Colorado (red), Great Basin (green), Mississippi (blue), and Eastern (purple). The Great Lakes are shown in dark blue.

- Prolonged drought concerns/storage of runoff
- Multi-state aquifer diversions

- **Assess** flood system damages, post flood
- **Evaluate** flood system design, post flood, to ascertain the risk and consequences, and prioritize
- **Repair** flood damages to system
 1. **Reset** system to basic level of protection and functionality, reducing biggest impacts before next flood season
 2. **Restore** system to pre-flood conditions



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

CECW-HS

13 May 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR

COMMANDER, MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION
COMMANDER, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION
COMMANDER, GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER DIVISION
COMMANDER, SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

SUBJECT: Guidance for Establishing an Interagency Recovery Task Force (IRTF)

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance for establishing an IRTF that ensures common purpose and drives effective collaboration across agencies and organizations during recovery from the Mississippi River Basin flood event of 2011.
2. We have an outstanding example of the Regional Interagency Levee Task Force established for the Midwest Floods of June 2008. To address the current situations caused by the Spring Floods 2011, the MVD commander will establish an IRTF that effects short and long term recovery of damaged flood risk management systems in the Mississippi River Basin. This will require representation from appropriate Federal agencies and from the States of Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. NWD, LRD, and SWD will support MVD in establishing and engaging the IRTF. An IRTF Management Plan will be developed in the coming weeks to codify scope, intent, purpose, goals, strategy, operations, governance, quality assurance, and strategic communications.
3. The IRTF will establish a collaborative and holistic approach to recovering and rehabilitating flood risk management and floodplain management systems damaged by the Mississippi River Basin flooding of 2011 while also integrating solutions for long-term flood risk management.
4. Detailed policy guidance for the inspection, review, repair, and rehabilitation of projects damaged during the Mississippi River Basin flooding of 2011 will follow under separate correspondence.
5. Point of contact for this guidance is Mr. Alex Dornstaeder at (202) 761-4714.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

KAREN DURHAM-AGUILERA, P.E., SES
Director of Contingency Operations
and Homeland Security