

Interagency Recovery Task Force

Together...restoring the third largest watershed in the world!

How it began:

- Monumental Flooding in the Mississippi River Valley Watershed
- Activation Memo from HQ Signed May 13, 2011 to establish the Interagency Recovery Task Force (IRTF)
- Invitation letters to join the IRTF signed by MG Walsh and sent May 20, 2011.
- Meetings:
Teleconference, 27 May
Memphis, TN, June 22
Pearl, MS, 23 Aug
New Orleans, LA, 20 Oct
St. Louis, MO, 14 Dec
- Next meeting, 22 Feb 12
Memphis, TN

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St. Louis IRTF Meeting, 14 Dec 2011



Listening to presentations: (from left) MG John W. Peabody, Mr. Al Lee (SES)-MVD, Mr. Dru Buntin, -Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and COL Christopher Hall., District Engineer-St. Louis District.

Progress and preparedness led the discussion at the 5th Interagency Recovery Task Force meeting hosted by the State of Missouri Dec. 14 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District headquarters. The Task Force, which formed following the record flooding in the Mississippi Valley earlier this year, is comprised of representatives from seven states and ten federal agencies. The team focuses on collaboration and sharing information and resources across a wide array of programs and authorities in an effort to address the near- and long-term recovery needs of the flood impacted region. The region has documented damages to federal levees, floodwalls, structures, floodways, ports and navigation channels with current repair estimates in the \$2 billion range.

“We’ve made some significant progress in assessing damages up and down the river system,” Maj. Gen. John Peabody, the Corps’ Mississippi Valley Division commander said. “Our Nation cannot recover without all the relevant experience that is exhibited by all of our partners.” IRTF partners and reviewed the status of the Corps’ damage assessments. The review allowed participants to fully appreciate the nature and extent of impaired flood damage reduction or navigation systems along the Mississippi River, the 3rd largest watershed in the world.

Peabody and Mississippi Valley Regional Flood Risk Manager Scott Whitney expressed the reality of rebuilding and recovering operations in a constrained economic environment. The Corps recovery



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Everyone listening intently while Ben Weiger, NWS, presents on the potential forecast.

St. Louis, MO IRTF Meeting, 14 Dec, cont.

operations consist of 142 critical repair projects with cost estimates totaling \$1 billion dollars, along with another several hundred non-critical repair projects. The non-critical items are projected to require another \$1 billion to bring systems back to pre-flood conditions and performance. Whitney explained to partners at the meeting the current funds have only allowed the Corps to begin construction and design work on approximately 22 of our 142 critical projects. "At this rate it will take nearly a decade to effect repairs on only our most critical repair sites. That is an unacceptably long period of time to leave our citizens and industry exposed to increased risk of severe or even catastrophic flood damage from future flood events," Whitney said. "We've harvested \$120 million from other projects across the Corps," Peabody said expressing the Corps commitment to rebuilding critical flood damage reduction structures before the next flood season. "We are seeing a unique demand given unique fiscal circumstances."

The Corps' goal at this phase of Operation Watershed is restoring the quality of life to the citizens and reliability of flood control and navigation structures affected by high water. MVD projects include repairing extensive areas of levees and floodwalls, water control structures, reservoirs, navigation channels and ports and harbors spread across the border states of Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, North Dakota, Louisiana, Iowa and Wisconsin. As they rebuild and look to the future, the Corps is also looking back at the operational decision process and communications relative to the management of the Mississippi River System last year.



"Right now, we are asking three questions: How did the system perform; how would the system perform now and what does the system need to perform in the future?" Hank DeHaan, Operation Watershed Recovery System Performance Evaluation program manager, said. Corps members from the six Districts in the Mississippi Valley Division are working together to study lessons learned and are in the process of preparing a Performance Evaluation Report that will assist in recovery and improvement, overall system management and will serve as a reference and resource in future flood fights. The report was scheduled for final submittal in August 2012. Recent funding shortfalls have placed the effort on pause until additional funding transfers can be approved by Congress. The Corps team is also looking to improve communication with IRTF partners and the public with a new web based mapping product that allows individuals to locate the flood damaged sites in their area and access information papers and construction fact sheets. Given the limited repair funding the Corps has been able to secure, Whitney said, it is clear that many sites will still be in their current damaged condition through the next flood season.

The current conditions and projected forecast brought the IRTF members to the challenges they all face as they prepare for the coming flood season. "It is more than possible that we will have some flooding to deal with going into the next flood season," Peabody said. IRTF members concluded the meeting as representatives from the National Weather Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Coast Guard and Maritime Administration discussed the challenges they have overcome and still face as they recover not only from record floods, but tornadoes, natural disaster and other federal emergencies over the last year. "Together, as a team, we'll be able to overcome our challenges and deliver what the citizens expect from us," Peabody said.



Bill Brown, MEMA, Beth Freeman, FEMA, and MG Peabody focused on the presentations.

Current Funded Projects!

From June through December 2011, USACE was able to self-finance \$170 million towards the initiation of Flood Repair Construction on 29 projects within Mississippi Valley Division. Funding for most was not made available until late in the 2011 calendar year. However, rapid mobilization of Corps and contract work crews did afford site stabilization on several of these projects before work largely ceased in mid December due to onset of heavy rains and freezing conditions. Recently approved \$802M Supplemental for MR&T should allow MVD districts to complete the full list of prioritized critical repairs within next 2-3yrs. Corps teams, partners and contractors are preparing to ensure an aggressive execution of a broad array of repairs in the coming months. An additional \$534 million of O&M funding was also approved in the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act. A sizable portion of those funds are expected to be allocated to MVD for critical dredging of harbors and channels and effecting repairs on damage structures and facilities. By mid March the 2012 work plans will be in place and scheduled work with supplemental funds will be shared.

Last update 6 January 2012

Feature	Flood Damaged Site	CORPS DISTRICT	STATE	Estimated Cost	FY11-12 Funds Allocated
MRL	BPNM Floodway - Make Safe and Stable	MVM	MO	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000
CI	Cache-Cairo	MVM	IL	\$26,110,000	\$26,110,000
MRL	City of Cairo, IL	MVM	IL	\$4,600,000	\$4,600,000
MRL	Cairo Parcel 5	MVM	IL	\$10,400,000	\$10,400,000
MRL	Above Cairo Parcel 2A - Relief Wells	MVM	IL	\$6,769,221	\$6,769,221
MRL	Above Cairo Parcel 2 - Slurry Trench	MVM	IL	\$1,900,514	\$1,900,514
MRL	Buck Chute	MVK	MS	\$2,640,000	\$2,640,000
MRL	Albermarle Slide	MVK	MS	\$1,006,000	\$1,006,000
MRL	Duncan Point	MVN	LA	\$8,850,000	\$8,850,000
MRL	Baton Rouge Front	MVN	LA	\$1,762,000	\$1,762,000
CI	Third District	MVN	LA	\$11,400,000	\$11,400,000
Struct	Morganza Control, Piezometers and relief wells	MVN	LA	\$2,460,000	\$2,460,000
CI	Merriwether-Cherokee, top bank and revetment deep reach	MVM	TN	\$24,115,000	\$6,800,000
CI	Presidents Island	MVM	TN	\$26,689,000	\$7,300,000
PL84-99	Souris River	MVP	ND	\$5,000,000	\$2,030,000
PL84-99	Scott County Levee Breach	MVS	IL	\$1,716,000	\$1,716,000
Dredge	Deep Draft Projects - MR Baton Rouge to Gulf	MVN	LA	\$10,000,000	\$6,000,000
Dredge	Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, LA	MVN	LA	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
FCCE	Tolna Coulee Advance Measures	MVP	ND	\$5,680,250	\$5,680,250
Dredge	Miss River Btwn Mo River and Minneapolis, MN	MVR	MO/IL/IA/WI	\$500,000	\$500,000
Dredge	Miss River, Cairo to Mouth of Missouri	MVS	MO / IL	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
CI	Chute of Island 8	MVM	KY	\$9,650,000	\$600,000
CI	Greenville Bend	MVN	LA	\$3,902,000	\$5,500,000
CI	Avondale Bend, RM 108.0	MVN	LA	\$4,700,000	\$4,700,000
CI	Avondale Bend, RM 108.3	MVN	LA	\$4,703,000	\$4,703,000
CI	Port Allen	MVN	LA	\$3,800,000	\$3,800,000
CI	Kempe Bend	MVK	LA / MS	\$10,920,000	\$12,167,000
CI	Bourgere	MVN	LA	\$23,587,000	\$147,800
CI	Richardson Landing Casting Field	MVM	KY	\$10,000,000	\$1,100,000
TOTALS				\$262,159,985	\$170,691,785



“Speed to Momentum”



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US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG

2012 Flood Season Preparedness

After the monumental Midwestern flood of 2011, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mississippi Valley Division inspected and completed damage assessments for all levees, channel improvement, dredging and structural elements involved in the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project and other flood risk reduction projects throughout the watershed. From the assessments, a prioritized project repair list was developed based on critical risks to life and safety, as well as economic impacts. The top priority items; items whose crucial repairs were needed prior to the spring floods, were funded immediately by the Corps and are in various stages of constructions. Although repair work has proceeded on the MR&T flood risk reduction components, the lower part of the Mississippi River system will be at increased risk to flood damages this Spring due to the large number of damages that occurred from the 2011 flooding.

Taking into account the vulnerable condition of the MR&T project and projected National Weather Service Spring forecast, the Corps mobilized a Regional 2012 Flood Preparedness Team in order to mitigate flood risks to an already vulnerable system. The team will focus on: 1.) Risk identification – what are the primary risks? 2.) Risk management – how will risks be addressed, and 3.) Communication - what is the best way to communicate the information to our partners and stakeholders? These questions will be answered by mid-February to help the Corps, partners, and the public better prepare for the upcoming flood season.

Risk Identification involves establishing key risk areas using available damage assessment reports, after action reports from the flood, and the system performance evaluation interim report. Information captured through the above reviews will be coordinated with appropriate structural, hydraulics, and environmental staff to establish how the system will perform in its damaged condition and identify key operational, physical, and environmental risks. This information will be shared with partners along with flood inundation maps of high risk areas.

Risk Management will review the identified risks and determine appropriate measures to best address these weak points in the system (e.g., interim construction measures, flood-fight actions, intense monitoring, etc.). Trigger points will be determined for reservoirs and floodways in the event temporary changes in operation are required. Strategies will be developed that will maximize flood storage while effectively routing floodwaters. Summary documents and maps of this information will be created and shared.

The risk communication processes and tools will be improved to better inform and prepare the public. From recent events, websites have been created to share up-to-date information to include inundation maps, press releases, and communication pamphlets. A regional workshop is being scheduled for mid- February to enhance coordination efforts with multiple federal and state agencies, district emergency managers, stakeholders, and levee boards. The use of social media during the 2011 flood was vital to sharing the message.

The 2012 Flood Season Preparedness Team has a lot to do in a very short time. When the project is complete, there will be valuable information to share as well as means to share it. Our primary goal with this effort is to be fully prepared to help protect the lives and livelihoods of people living within the Mississippi River Valley.

