

Missouri River FLOOD TASK FORCE

Agency Collaboration Bulletin

April 16, 2012; Volume 2



Work underway at the 28th St. Pump Station in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where contractors work to restore the level of flood risk reduction at this segment of Missouri River Levee Unit L624-627 to its pre-flood status.



Corps officials from the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers meet with members of Responsible River Management at the lower breach of Missouri River Levee Unit L-575 south of Hamburg, Iowa.



Tribal coordinator Joel Ames, district commander Col. Bob Ruch and emergency management branch chief Kim Thomas of the Omaha District listen to Guy Cameron, director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security. The Omaha District coordinated a series of meetings with FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribes and state emergency management personnel in the Missouri River Basin to reinforce relationships and strengthen communication in advance of a potential disaster response.

USACE Begins April with Full Capacity of Flood Control Storage

Unusually warm and dry conditions in the Missouri River basin during the month of March resulted in below normal runoff into the mainstem reservoir system for the first time since November 2010. As a result, the total volume of water stored in the reservoir system on April 1 was 56.9 million acrefeet, leaving 16.2 of the 16.3 MA of flood control storage available. For more information, read the full press release at <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/pa/2012/NR20120405-WMMonthlyAPRb.pdf>

River Management Work Group Webinars Now Available

The River Management Work Group has been a collaborative effort to establish relationships and improve understanding of how the Missouri River is managed. This group focused on data the Corps uses to determine its inflow forecast, much of which is provided by partner agencies, and brainstormed ways to increase the conveyance capacity of the Missouri River. Webinars this group has held can be found at: <http://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/mrftf/river.asp>

New Guidance Results from 2011 Missouri River Flood Impacts

Through the MRFTF Regulatory/Permitting Working Group regulatory/permitting guidance for expected activities addressing the 2011 Missouri River flood recovery effort has been developed and includes:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Compliance Guidance on Endangered Species Act (ESA), Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 Compliance Guidance on a district-by-district basis.
- National Park Service (NPS) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) Compliance Guidance.
- A "Flood Recovery Categorical Exclusions" matrix developed by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
- Flood Recovery Permitting Contacts" lists developed for the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

These documents can be found on the Missouri River Flood Task Force website (<http://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/MRFTF/>) under the "Regulatory/Permitting" Working Group link OR some of the documents can also be found at your local county-level USDA Service Center.

NRCS and Partners Hold Meetings in Missouri River Flood Zone

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) held a special meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2012 for landowners with cropland which was altered or damaged by the 2011 flood. The program, also supported by the Pheasants Forever, Inc., South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, Inc., and Whitetail Unlimited, covered details about the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conservation practices to consider as a viable alternative to restore this crop ground.

