

## Management, Missouri Water NWD02

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**From:** James Heisinger [jheising@usd.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2006 9:47 PM  
**To:** Management, Missouri Water NWD02  
**Subject:** Federal Working Group/framework

Group Coordinator

As Chair of the "Living River Group" of the Sierra Club and a retired scientist living in a river town, Vermillion South Dakota, I have followed your attempts to establish the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee with great interest. My comments are based upon information from the Spring Situation Assessment meeting and the Proposed Framework meeting. You certainly face difficult challenges in the establishment of a working Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee but I feel that your projected time table is unrealistically long. The longer you delay the less confidence people along the river have in the sincerity of your efforts. I frequently speak with bank stabilization people as well as conservationists and recreation enthusiasts. The longer the delay in the implementation of flow changes the greater will be the resentment of the public regarding island building and other temporary and expensive measures. Eventually recovery will demand major management modifications and virtually every intelligent stakeholder realizes this need.

In the framework document you discuss the selection of the Chair for both the Planning Committee and the Recovery Committee. I hope the Chair(s) will be a recognized river scientist from out of the basin. I also feel that representative stakeholders in both the Planning Committee and the Recovery Committee should be citizens capable of understanding the scientific complexities of river management and the nature of experimentation and adaptive management. You will never be able to have optimal stakeholder representation, but you can select able minded, capable people dedicated to the task of recovering a river ecosystem that will support the endangered/threatened species. These same people can also dedicate themselves to doing the least damage possible to the diverse stakeholders along the river.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

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