

**Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association
- Executive Board Meeting Minutes -
Memphis, TN
January 21, 2009**

Action Items and Decisions

1. Minutes from the July 2008 MICRA Executive Board meeting were approved.
2. MICRA will continue to publish the River Crossings newsletter in 2009, however the number of issues will be reduced from 6 to 4. The first issue will be for January – March 2009.
3. MICRA will contract with Jerry Rasmussen to provide the draft newsletter (20-pages per issue) on a quarterly basis during 2009 at a fee of \$3,000 per issue. Conover will draft an agreement between MICRA and Rasmussen for signature.
4. MICRA will continue to support Ron Benjamin to organize and plan a large rivers symposium hosted by MICRA at the 2010 AFS meeting in Pittsburgh.
5. Conover was asked to speak with accountant in Marion about MICRA's organizational status, and to see if he is comfortable working with MICRA. If he is, then Conover was instructed to continue with the efforts to relocate.
6. O'Bara will write a letter to the accountant asking him to make our payments on time and to send monthly bank statements to Conover.
7. The Executive Board members agreed that closer oversight of the Panel is expected of MICRA as the hosting organization. O'Bara will meet with MRBP Executive Board and make sure to communicate the necessity for MICRA oversight as the hosting agency. The MRBP members need to clearly understand that they are bound to the same limitations as MICRA, especially regarding lobbying restrictions.
8. The Executive Board agreed that MICRA should keep the Gamefish Committee, but that the committee should be left inactive until an appropriate issue for the committee is identified.
9. The Executive Board decided to pursue changing the MICRA Constitution and By-laws regarding federal agency representation. As proposed, the MICRA delegates shall elect by a simple majority vote, two federal agencies or entities to serve on the Executive Committee for consecutive 5-year terms. The elected agencies will be asked to appoint a representative to the Executive Committee.
10. Conover will pursue commercial web hosting for the MICRA web site rather than continuing to host it on the USGS server. Conover will work with USGS to transfer the web site to a commercial host and update the MICRA and MRBP web pages.
11. The Executive Board will be asked to make a decision regarding a new domain name for the MICRA website via email before the next meeting.
12. MICRA will support the 2010 Catfish Symposium with \$2,000. The Executive Board will consider providing travel support for students to attend the conference during the 2009 summer Executive Board meeting.
13. Rister will share with the MICRA Executive Board the LMRCC's forthcoming decision regarding a process for consistent consideration of funding requests.
14. Alligator gar, longnose gar, shortnose gar, and spotted gar will be added to MICRA's list of IJ fish.

15. O'Bara will forward the FWS letter to the MICRA delegates, with an update on the status of the draft SOA as presented by George Jordan.
16. MICRA will continue with the on-going evaluation of the commercial harvest in Illinois, Kentucky, and Missouri as planned.
17. MICRA will invite Mike Hoff (FWS, Region 3) to provide a briefing to the Executive Board at the 2009 summer meeting on the potential to develop a Mississippi River Basin strategic plan modeled after the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategic Plan.
18. The following 2009 expenditures were approved:
 - \$5,000 for Executive Board meeting expenses and travel assistance
 - \$11,000 requested by the Coordinator for 2009 travel and operational expenses
 - \$16,000 for 4 issues of River Crossings in 2009
 - \$1,000 for the Freshwater Mussel Committee to sponsor 2009 annual meeting
 - \$45,000 MRBP funding pass through from FWS (not received yet)
 - \$250 for commercial web hosting and domain registration for MICRA web site
 - \$2,000 to sponsor 2010 Catfish Symposium
 - \$21,500 for Columbia NFWCO to manage paddlefish stock assessment database
 - \$5,000 operational budget for Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee
 - \$2,500 to sponsor publication of Paddlefish Symposium Proceedings
19. O'Bara will follow-up with Executive Board to select a date and location for the summer Executive Board meeting.

**Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association
- Executive Board Meeting Minutes -
Memphis, TN
January 21, 2009**

Call to Order:

Chris O'Bara called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

Welcome and Introductions:

- [Attachment 1](#)

Roll Call:

Chair – Chris O'Bara
Chair-elect – Bobby Reed
LMRCC – Paul Rister
UMRCC – absent
ORFMT – absent
Arkansas/Red – Barry Bolton
Tennessee Cumberland – absent
FWS – Mike Weimer
USGS – Michael Mac

Ron Benjamin unable to attend for the UMRCC, Brian Schoenung unable to attend for the ORFMT, and Doug Keller unable to attend for the MRBP all due to state travel restrictions. Barry Bolton sat in for Jeff Boxrucker as the Arkansas/Red River representative.

Review of agenda

- [Attachment 2](#)

Approval of minutes from July 30-31, 2008 meeting:

There were no questions or discussion regarding the minutes from the July 30-31, 2008 meeting at Mille Lacs, WI.

! Paul Rister motioned to approve the minutes from July meeting as drafted. Bobby Reed seconded the motion. No further discussion. The motion was approved without objection.

Chairman's Report:

Chris O'Bara has primarily spent his time on MICRA issues addressing the shovelnose sturgeon SOA. Chris sent a cover letter and a copy of the document approved by the full MICRA delegation addressing 'management of shovelnose sturgeon within the sympatric range of pallid sturgeon' to the FWS Directors in Regions 3, 4, and 6 on October 17, 2008.

Chris received an email from the FWS on December 24, 2008, with a reply to the MICRA letter. The email contained no text, but only a PDF copy of a letter signed by the FWS Director in Region 6. Chris received a hard copy of the letter in the mail a couple of weeks ago. Chris has not been contacted by anyone in the FWS regarding the letter and was hesitant to send the letter out to the state delegates until after discussing the letter with the MICRA Executive Board. Chris spoke briefly with George Jordan about the letter following the Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee meeting.

Chris has spent sometime corresponding with the FWS to resolve MRBP funding that was due MICRA for hosting the ANS Task Force Regional Panel during 2006 and 2007. Paperwork has also been submitted to the FWS for 2008 and 2009 funding.

Chris has reviewed articles provided by Jerry Rasmussen in the draft layouts of the Sep/Oct and Nov/Dec 2008 issues of River Crossings. Chris has worked with the Coordinator to edit the newsletter and has given administrators a chance to review articles that concern a member's state agency. There were three articles in the two newsletters published at the end of 2008 that were reviewed by MICRA delegates. An article concerning snakeheads in Arkansas was reviewed by Mike Armstrong; an article on paddlefish regulations in TN was reviewed by Bill Reeves and George Scholten; and an article on the dispersal barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal was sent to Illinois for review.

Chris has tried to keep in communication with the MICRA fish chiefs by providing an update every couple of months.

! Chris would like to have a discussion later today about the future of the Gamefish Committee. Kyle Austin is no longer available to be the chair for this committee.

Coordinator's Report:

Finances / Budget

Conover provided copies of the accountant's and coordinator's financial reports ([Attachments 3 and 4](#)) and gave an update on the MICRA budget.

- Coordinator's recorded balance on January 1, 2008 was \$116,368.
- Coordinator's recorded balance on December 31, 2008 was \$144,452.
- Accountant's recorded balance on December 31, 2008 was \$153,804.
- The difference between the Coordinator's and Accountant's reported balance on December 31, 2008 is consistent with the difference on December 31, 2007.
- Coordinator's projected balance after all 2008 charges clear is \$130,475.72.
- \$2,642 obligated for 2008 were de-obligated at the end of 2008 (\$1,000 from the Freshwater Mussel Committee and \$1,642 from the Sturgeon SOA Workgroup)
- 2008 obligations totaling \$67,118 were carried over to 2009; the majority of these obligations (\$56, 449) are from the MRBP.
- FWS funds for hosting the MRBP during 2006 and 2007 were received by MICRA during 2008.

- FWS obligated \$50,000 for MICRA to host the MRBP during FY08. MICRA invoiced the FWS for the funds in November 2008. Payment has not been received to date.
- MICRA submitted paperwork requesting the FWS obligate MRBP FY09 funding (\$50,000). FWS cannot modify agreement and obligate funds until FY09 appropriations received.

2009 Budget Request

Conover reported on the expenditure of funds transferred to the FWS for the Coordinator in 2008. \$14,000 was budgeted for travel and operational costs for 9 months in 2008 (March-December); approximately \$3,000 was not spent and carried over to 2009. Conover estimates travel and operational expenses in 2009 at \$14,000.

! Conover requested the Executive Board to obligate \$11,000 for the coordinator in 2009.

Book Keeping and Bank Account

MICRA bank account and book keeping are still with companies in the Quad Cities area, which has created some difficulties since the Coordinator's office has been relocated to Marion. Conover recommended that these services be relocated to Marion, where he would have the ability to stop in and talk with the businesses when there are questions/problems that need resolved. Communication with current accountant (Mike Masterson) has been difficult at best and at times unreliable. David Hass, a certified public accountant with Gray Hunter Stenn in Marion, has agreed to take over MICRA's book keeping at the same cost currently paid to Mike Masterson (\$250/mo). Fifth Third Bank in Marion provided MICRA with a proposal for MICRA's financial accounts. The bank recommends opening business checking and money market accounts available with no monthly fee. Money can be transferred between the two accounts with on-line access to provide the greatest interest potential. On-line statements are also available.

Conover provided the bank with a copy of MICRA's EIN and organizational documents (signatory document) and was told that if MICRA is a "partnership", then these documents would be adequate to open a new business account. However, further action to switch banks and book keeping are on hold until the Executive Board has the opportunity to discuss the issue and approve the changes.

Organizational Status

There were questions during the previous Executive Board meeting regarding MICRA's organizational status and tax reporting requirement. Similar questions were raised by the accountants and bankers that Conover talked with about moving MICRA's current accounts. The only organizational document that Conover has been able to locate is a copy of MICRA's EIN number that notes the organization's tax return filing status as exempt. The form does not indicate the filing status that MICRA registered under. The EIN number was sent to Marion Conover. The Coordinator spoke with Marion and he has no additional records pertaining to MICRA's organizational status. MICRA's accountant, Mike Masterson, told the Coordinator that he is certain that MICRA

registered with the IRS as a quasi-governmental 501(c)3 organization, that MICRA has no tax reporting requirements, and that MICRA is doing things above board. There is also some uncertainty as to whether MICRA filed for corporate status. Marion Conover and Jerry Rasmussen both told the Coordinator that MICRA did not file documents of incorporation. However MICRA's accountant has told the Coordinator that MICRA did file for incorporation in Iowa, but that annual fees have not been paid and MICRA's corporate status has not been maintained.

Conover reported that according to the accountant, digging into issues regarding MICRA's organizational status could be somewhat of a Pandora's Box. The Executive Board needs to make a decision regarding whether to "leave well enough alone" or to consider hiring a lawyer that specializes in 501(c)3 groups for assistance and a legal opinion to make sure that MICRA's "ducks are in a row".

! A conference call with Mike Masterson is scheduled later during the Executive Board meeting to discuss MICRA's organizational status. The Coordinator requested the Executive Board consider the recommended relocation of MICRA's book keeping and financial accounts to Marion, IL, following the discussion with Mike Masterson.

River Crossings

Sep/Oct and Nov/Dec issues of River Crossings were published as requested following the last MICRA Executive Board meeting. Jerry Rasmussen provided draft layouts for both issues in a timely manner and met established deadlines. The Executive Board had approved \$5,000 for consultant to work on River Crossings. Jerry invoiced for slightly over \$6,000; O'Bara approved the additional expense. Draft layouts were reviewed and edited before final copy provided to printer. Two or three articles in both issues were revised.

The bulk mail account and P.O. Box in Bettendorf, IA were both closed earlier this year. Printing and mailing are both being handled by a new company in Benton, IL. There was a problem with the bulk mail account when the Sep/Oct issue was mailed and the Post Office did not mail the newsletters and did not notify the printer. It was well into November before the problem with the Post Office was discovered and the issue delivered. The printer had promised delivery of the Nov/Dec issue by Dec 31, 2008, but will not mail the newsletter until he receives payment for postage. The printer was late providing an invoice and the accountant has not been quick to pay the invoice. Conover spoke with the printer this morning and he still has not received payment from the accountant. Conover said that he has another local printer that he can work with if things do not work out with the current printer, however the biggest problem is getting the printer paid by the accountant in a timely way.

During the previous Executive Board meeting, at least 50% of the Coordinator's time was allocated to publishing River Crossings during 2008. Jerry Rasmussen has agreed to continue providing the draft layout for the newsletter at a flat rate of \$3,000 per issue, which greatly reduces the amount of time the Coordinator spends on the newsletter. Though much less of the Coordinator's time would be required, the Coordinator would

still invest time to reviewing and editing the newsletter, coordinating reviews of selected articles by the MICRA Chairman and others, revising articles as requested following review, and completing final layout in desk top publishing software after revisions completed.

! Conover said that River Crossing is on the agenda later and that the Executive Board will need to make some decisions regarding the newsletter:

- 1) continue publishing River Crossings in 2009
- 2) contract with Jerry Rasmussen or other consultant to provide draft layout, or have Coordinator spend 50% or more of his time publishing newsletter
- 3) determine the number of River Crossing issues to publish during 2009 (bi-monthly publication in past) (draft layout \$3,000/issue, printing and postage \$1,000/issue)

MICRA Website

Conover reported that he has not been able to access the USGS server to update/manage the MICRA (and MRBP) web site since starting as the Coordinator in March 2008. Within the last week USGS has decided that he will need a USGS ID with the Department of Interior to access the server. USGS has initiated the process of creating a USGS ID for Conover's access to the server, but he does not know how long this process will take.

An alternative to hosting the web site on the USGS server would be for MICRA to pay for web hosting through a commercial service provider. Hostmonster.com and Inmotion hosting are two options that Conover presented to the Executive Board as options to consider. A business class hosting agreement with Inmotion costs \$6.95/month with a 24 month agreement. This would give MICRA the option to maintain 2 separate web sites (MICRA and MRBP) and to register up to 6 domains with email. The first domain registration is free; additional registrations are about \$10 annually.

Conover was asked during the summer 2008 Executive Board meeting to look into web based email accounts and a more user friendly domain name (e.g., www.MICRA.com) that could be directed to the current web site maintained on the USGS server. Unfortunately none of the simple 'MICRA' domain names are available (i.e., .com, .org, .us, .info), with the exception of 'MICRA.net' which can be purchased for a one time fee of \$2,088. Domain names using 'MICRArivers' are available. Other domains can be checked during the Executive Board meeting.

Conover has asked the USGS IT person about redirecting domain names and internet email to the USGS server but has not received a response yet.

! Conover said that the MICRA web page is on the agenda later in the meeting and the Executive Board will need to make some decisions at that point, for example:

- 1) How long do we pursue web hosting options with USGS? Or is there interest in pursuing commercial web hosting?

2) Does the Executive Board want to register domain names for MICRA that are easier for the public (and members) to remember? If so, what domains, how many domain (e.g., .com, .net, .info, .org), and for how many years?

River Crossings

O'Bara reminded the Executive Board of their decision during the July 2008 meeting to publish 2 more issues of River Crossings in 2008 and to revisit publication of the newsletter in January 2009. The group agreed that River Crossings is important to MICRA and discussed how to best use the coordinator's time. O'Bara stated that a decision is needed on how to continue the newsletter: does the Executive Board want to contract with Jerry Rasmussen continue to provide the first layout of the newsletter at a cost of \$3,000 per issue, or do we want to have the Coordinator use the majority of his time to develop the newsletter?

O'Bara said that another issue to consider is how many issues of the newsletter should be published each year. Do we want to continue publishing 6 issues per year, or perhaps go to a quarterly schedule? There was some discussion Will the document be larger, will postage

We could do a written agreement to specify what we want in the newsletter, the size, and the cost.

! Bobby motioned that we contract with Jerry Rasmussen to provide MICRA with the draft layout for (4) quarterly 20-page issues of River Crossing in 2009. Mac seconded the motion. Bobby noted that we need to develop a contract that specifies what is expected for both MICRA and Jerry, but that the contract should not insult Jerry with too many details. The question was raised "Does Jerry want to continue publishing?" Conover said that Jerry had expressed his willingness to continue the current arrangement during 2009 for a flat rate of \$3,000 per issue. The comment was made that we do not know how long Jerry will want to continue with the newsletter and the MICRA will need a long term solution for publishing the newsletter. The motion passed without objection. Conover was asked to draft an agreement with Jerry Rasmussen for O'Bara's signature.

Habitat Symposium

O'Bara reminded the Executive Board that the habitat symposium was discussed during the July 2008 meeting and Ron Benjamin was asked to take the lead on developing the symposium. The Executive Board had originally wanted to host the symposium at the 2009 AFS meeting in Nashville, TN, but at this point that meeting is probably too soon. O'Bara suggested that the Executive Board consider the 2010 AFS meeting in Pittsburgh as a target for the symposium.

Can MICRA tie the symposium in with the Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan? Rob Simmonds said that he is involved with the Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership, which is currently a candidate

partnership and the third strategic planning meeting for the group is next week. There are several other candidate partnerships that also include large rivers.

Mac asked what MICRA's role would be in this habitat symposium? O'Bara replied that MICRA would provide resources for Benjamin to put together an agenda. MICRA could also help provide travel assistance, but organizing and hosting would be MICRA's main role. We could also consider some form of publication such as extended abstracts that could be posted on MICRA's website. We would look to organize the symposium and coordinate with AFS. We may want to consider having a keynote speaker. AFS would like us to provide funds to help sponsor the meeting, but we would not have to do this.

! Reed made a motion that MICRA continue to support Ron Benjamin to organize and plan a large rivers symposium hosted by MICRA at the 2010 AFS meeting in Pittsburgh. Weimer seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

Mike Masterson

The Executive Board participated in a conference call with Mike Masterson to discuss MICRA's organizational status.

Masterson informed the Executive Board that first and foremost, MICRA is a partnership organization. MICRA is registered with the IRS, has an EIN or tax number, and is not required to file annual tax paperwork. Masterson does not have a copy of the filing paperwork, but stated that MICRA is registered as a not-for-profit membership partner organization with a resource conservation and public awareness purpose. MICRA is a tax exempt organization without a filing requirement, similar to an electric coop. The partnership provides a benefit to our member partners and this is documented through meeting minutes and the newsletter.

Masterson asked the Executive Board 'what is MICRA's purpose?' Specifically, is MICRA intended to be a lobbying or fund raising entity? As long as MICRA continues as a partnership organization with a common goal and does not get into fund raising outside of dues (more than 15%), MICRA does not need to make any changes to its organizational status with the IRS. For example, If MICRA gets to a point of producing videos and selling items then we would need to consider our status. As a non-profit, MICRA cannot compete with a for-profit business.

Likewise, as long as MICRA is only looking to support or take a position on legislation and not draft organic legislation or actively lobby, then MICRA is not crossing any lines. If the states ever wanted MICRA to be more active in lobbying or fund raising, then MICRA could always form a spin-off entity that is registered and reports as a lobbying organization. Masterson clarified that if member dues are used to lobby then MICRA is still in good shape, however if more than 15% of MICRA's income is from sources outside of member dues, then a closer look is required.

Masterson was asked if MICRA is incorporated. He replied that MICRA is a corporate entity organized in Iowa with an EIN number, and has a not for profit status with the

IRS. There was some questioning about MICRA's corporate status. No one on the Executive Board could recall MICRA filing papers of incorporation. Masterson that it is possible that MICRA only applied for a federal id number and did not file incorporation paperwork. He reiterated that MICRA is a quasi-governmental member organization principally funded by dues. Masterson pointed out that because of new requirements and fees implemented since September 11, 2001, that it would likely be cost prohibitive for MICRA to redo the paperwork that was completed in the past. .

The point was made that about half of MICRA's annual income is from a FWS grant (for hosting the MRBP). Masterson said that as long as the FWS is a MICRA member these funds are actually considered member dues.

Masterson was asked if MICRA is ok to seek funds from an outside entity. If the funds are for the purpose of resource conservation or public awareness then it should not be a problem.

Sometimes MICRA members are asked by granting entities or their own agencies when requested to pay dues what MICRA 'is'. Masterson instructed the Executive Board members to answer this question by responding that MICRA is a 'member organization' or 'member benefit organization'. Masterson recommended that MICRA members clearly understand that if member dues are used to lobby that is ok, but if MICRA gets into fund raising to support a lobbyist or to draft legislation then MICRA would need to look into setting up a different organization with reporting requirements under MICRA.

Masterson was asked if MICRA needs to have or maintain a corporate status. Masterson said no and stated that fees for incorporation could be as high as \$25,000 to organize and then there would be annual renewal fees.

Is it a good idea to change accountant? Does Greg see the actual bank statements? No. Is there an issue with the FWS if Greg reviewed the bank statements?

The call with Masterson was ended and the Executive Board discussed the information.

There was some uncertainty as to whether Conover should continue with relocating MICRA's accountant and financial accounts. The group was comfortable with Masterson, and how comfortable he appears to be working with MICRA. Conover reminded the group of the difficulty he has had communicating with Masterson over the last 9 months, and the length of time it has taken the accountant to pay invoices submitted to the accountant. Conover said that it would be much more functional if the accountant and financial accounts were all located in the Marion area where he could work directly with the businesses.

! Conover was asked to speak with accountant in Marion about MICRA's organizational status, and to see if he is comfortable working with MICRA. If he is, then Conover was instructed to continue with the efforts to relocate.

Rister asked if Conover ever sees the bank statements or if all anyone in MICRA ever sees are the reports generated by the accountant. Conover said that the bank statements are sent directly to the accountant and that he does not have access to the account to view the statements on-line. Rister recommended that based on LMRCC's experience and problems, that someone in MICRA should review the monthly bank statements.

! O'Bara will write a letter to the accountant asking him to make our payments on time and to send monthly bank statements to Conover.

Member agencies are not allowed to lobby so we need to be clear in our mission statement that MICRA does not lobby. Conover read MICRA's mission statement, and all agreed that the mission statement, as written, is adequate.

Freshwater Mussel Committee

! Committee requests \$1,000 sponsorship for the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society symposium at the Marriott Waterfront in Baltimore, Maryland on April 19-24, 2009. The theme for the 2009 symposium is: Healthy Mollusks = Healthy Rivers = Healthy People.

The Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society's 2009 International Symposium is shaping up to be a fantastic meeting, with speakers from around the world and Native American Tribes of North America. As always, the meeting will focus on the ongoing work of North American malacologists to restore, conserve, and understand our freshwater mollusks. In 2009, however, we will broaden the scope and reach beyond our organization to share information and learn from our international and tribal partners. The Society has a membership of 500, and 300 members generally attend our symposium. Membership is made up of agency, industry, non-governmental organizations and academicians from across North America, mostly from the eastern US and Canada but with an increasing overseas interest. We expect attendance at this meeting to be one of the largest ever as we have made a special effort to invite our international and tribal partners to make this event more national and international in scope.

Fee and Registration:

- FMCS Member Early Registration- \$275
- FMCS Member Late Registration (after March 1, 2009)- \$325
- Non-Member Early Registration- \$305
- Non-Member Late Registration (after March 1, 2009)- \$355
- FMCS Student Member Registration- \$225
- Student Non-Member Registration- \$245
- *optional Field Trip- National Zoo- \$30
- *optional Field Trip- Smithsonian Museums- \$30
- *optional Hatchery Tours (transportation cost only) - \$35
- *optional Guest Reception - \$35
- *optional t-shirt (S-XL) fee - \$15

Registration includes your attendance at the symposium, receptions on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, breakfast and breaks on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, a lunch on Wednesday, and any conference materials provided. **Registration deadline is April 10, 2009.**

Special session topics will include:

- Advances in Propagation of Mussels
- Pearl Culture
- Life History & Population Ecology
- Physiology and Reproductive Biology
- Systems and Community Ecology/Freshwater Mussel Ecosystem Services
- Habitat Restoration/Fish Passage/Connectivity
- Maritime, Roads, and Rail: Transportation, Impacts and Opportunities
- Water Quality and Ecotoxicology
- Status of Mollusks on Tribal Lands
- Conservation of Margaritiferidae
- Status and Distribution of Mollusks
- International Restoration Concerns
- Evolution and Systematics
- Outreach that Works
- Conservation Genetics

For More Information Contact:

Catherine Gatenby, Ph.D.

Project Leader

White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery

400 E. Main Street

White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986

304-536-1361

Email: Catherine_Gatenby@fws.gov

Or Visit: <http://ellipse.inhs.uiuc.edu/FMCS/>

MRBP report

The following report was provided by Doug Keller; Conover provided an overview and answered questions pertaining to the report.

The Mississippi River Basin Panel (MRBP) on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) held two meetings during 2008; as an individual panel in January in Nashville, TN, and a joint meeting with the Great Lakes Panel in June in Milwaukee, WI. Attendance at Panel meetings remains reasonably good despite travel restrictions by state agencies throughout the basin; however, an increasing number of MRBP members are requesting travel assistance to attend panel meetings and functions.

The next MRBP meeting will be held on February 18-19, 2009 in San Antonio, TX. With increasing travel restrictions placed on state participants, MRBP has appropriated up to \$10,000 of the panel's budget for travel support for the upcoming meeting.

MRBP funding for FY06 and FY07 was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) during 2008. The FWS obligated an additional \$50,000 in funding for FY08. An invoice for FY08 funding was submitted by MICRA in November 2008; the invoice has not been paid yet. A request has been submitted to modify the Cooperative Agreement with the FWS to include FY09 funds, however the Agreement cannot be modified until the FWS receives its FY09 budget allocations. FY08 and FY09 are the only MRBP funding that has not been paid to MICRA by the FWS.

MRBP would like to evaluate risk of pay lakes, river barges, wild caught bait, live food fish, and dry hydrants as vectors for the introduction and spread of ANS. A number of these potential vectors will be discussed at the upcoming MRBP meeting in San Antonio.

MRBP requested that ANSTF to work with its partners to ensure that the full amount of funding authorized for state management programs is appropriated. MRBP and GLP have drafted letters to the ANSTF concerning the inadequacy of regional panel and state management plan funding. These letters have been forwarded to the other regional panels asking them to draft similar letters. We hope to present letters from each regional panel to the Task Force prior to the spring 2009 meeting.

MRBP provided funds to support the completion of ANS surveys in Oklahoma and Indiana during 2008. Surveys are used to determine boater and angler awareness of ANS, their sources of information on ANS, and their efforts to prevent the spread of ANS. The surveys will provide a baseline of information to evaluate the effectiveness of outreach efforts to modify boater and angler behaviors with respect to ANS. MRBP has agreed to support a similar survey for Illinois in 2009. Kansas and Montana performed surveys during 2007 which were also partially funded by MRBP.

MRBP has completed a draft of the "Field Guide to Aquatic Nuisance Species" in the Mississippi River Basin. Following an initial review by the Education and Outreach Committee, the field guide will be sent to the full MRBP membership for final review before publication. The field guide will provide a valuable resource to ANS and other natural resource managers.

MRBP has been working with the Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant to finalize the design of a hydrilla and Brazilian Elodea WATCH card. Design of the WATCH card has been completed and the print order is finalized. MRBP has committed funds to provide members with the new WATCH cards, as has been done with other WATCH cards in the past. The WATCH card uses the national invasive species hotline (877-STOP-ANS) for reporting ANS.

MRBP has nearly completed work to publish the proceedings of the International Asian Carp Symposium hosted by the panel in Peoria, IL during August 2006. Thirteen chapters have completed the peer-review process and been submitted to the American Fisheries Society. The few remaining chapters are in review or modification after

review. All chapters are expected to be finalized by the end of 2008, with printing and publication to immediately follow.

The ANSTF should request the USFWS move forward with immediate implementation of the national Asian Carp Plan. At the November 2007 ANSTF meeting, the USFWS said it would begin implementation of the Plan and host the first meeting of an implementation committee in February 2008. MRBP recognizes that the USFWS Branch of Invasive Species has had staffing challenges this year; however, this important first step in implementing the Plan has not occurred to date. MRBP fully supports the Plan and considers its implementation a high priority regional and national issue. Implementation needs requiring prompt attention include establishing a full-time coordinator position dedicated to implementation of the Plan, establishing an implementation committee, exploring options to secure and direct the stable, prioritization of the Plan's 131 recommendations, and long-term funding necessary to fully implement the Plan.

MRBP members attended the national Triploid Grass Carp Inspection Certification Program (TGCICP) workshop (August 2008) and requested the assistance and participation of grass carp stakeholders in the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to conduct an independent scientific external review of the TGCICP inspection program. A review of the TGCICP is a recommendation in the national Asian Carp Plan. MRBP will work to broaden support and involvement of the RFP from a regional to a national level during 2009, prior to developing and/or releasing the RFP.

Developed a draft recommendation, in accordance with the recommendations of the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* (Asian Carp Plan), and the recommendations of the USFWS national Triploid Grass Carp Inspection and Certification Program workshop (August 2008), that encourages states that authorize the use of grass carp to adopt consistent policies and regulations that prohibit the stocking of diploid grass carp and restrict the use of grass carp to only triploid forms. The MRBP will share and further develop the draft recommendation with other Regional ANS Panels with the intent of submitting a joint panels' recommendation to the ANS Task Force during 2009.

Contracted with Tetra Tech EM, Inc. to convene and facilitate an Incident Command System (ICS) based mock rapid response exercise in November 2008. The exercise provided a forum for state and federal authorities to review the ICS and National Incident Management System (NIMS) models, share current knowledge and experiences planning and implementing rapid response actions, examine methods for containing or eliminating the threat posed by ANS, and test participants ability to design and conduct an ICS based mock rapid response.

MRBP provided funding to support the development of a decision-support tool (DSS) that will give natural resource managers a practical tool for assessing, in a transparent manner, when and how to best control an invasive species on a case by case basis. Leah Sharpe, a PhD student at the University of Minnesota, is working closely with

natural resources managers in the Mississippi River Basin to develop a working DSS within the next 18 months.

The MRBP and Great Lakes Panel jointly recommended the ANSTF: 1) scientifically evaluate the accuracy, sensitivity, ease of use, and cost effectiveness of existing risk assessment and screening tools, 2) report on the strengths and weaknesses of each screening tool, and 3) recommend how to adapt screening approaches and risk assessment methods that rapidly and accurately assess risks to native species and ecosystems.

MRBP purchased 9 sonic transmitters to support early detection monitoring efforts for Asian carp near the electric dispersal barrier in the upper Illinois Waterway. Several agencies are contributing to joint efforts to complete field surveillance, and to construct, maintain, and operate an acoustic network to detect the movements of telemetered Asian carps upriver towards the dispersal barrier and the Great Lakes. MRBP challenged the Great Lakes Panel to also provide sonic transmitters to this multi-agency effort.

Arkansas has postponed the snakehead eradication attempt until spring 2009 due to high water in the region in the fall of 2008.

The ANS Task Force approved state management plans for Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Tennessee at their October 2008 meeting. The South Dakota plan was conditionally approved at the same meeting but the Task Force asked for more time to review the plan and the Governor's signature is still being sought. Sixteen of the 28 states that drain to the Mississippi River now have ANS plans approved by the ANS Task Force (see table below). Nine of the remaining basin states are actively developing their state ANS management plans.

The MICRA/MRBP Coordinator has not been able to access the USGS server to update the MRBP web site. As a result, the MRBP web site has not been updated for nearly 12 months and is no longer functioning as a useful tool for the MRBP. The web site is a vital tool for member communication and outreach. The MRBP is considering options for transferring web hosting from the USGS to a commercial provider as a solution to revitalize the web page and allow for regular maintenance.

! The MRBP requests MICRA's assistance in resolving the web site hosting issues, and in restoring a functional and effective web site for the MRBP.

Status of MRBP Member State Management Plan Development

State	Approved	In Development	Unknown
Alabama		X	
Arkansas			X
Colorado		X	
Georgia		X	
Illinois	X		
Indiana	X		
Iowa	X		
Kansas	X		
Kentucky	X		
Louisiana	X		
Minnesota		X	
Mississippi		X	
Missouri		X	
Montana	X		
Nebraska			X
New York	X		
North Carolina		X	
North Dakota	X		
Ohio	X		
Oklahoma	X		
Pennsylvania	X		
South Dakota	X		
Tennessee	X		
Texas		X	
Virginia	X		
West Virginia			X
Wisconsin	X		
Wyoming		X	

The Executive Board expressed some concern with the funding letter that the MRBP plans to send to the ANSTF. The members were specifically concerned that the MRBP letter could be construed as lobbying. Conover explained that the MRBP and Great Lakes Panel have worked together on this letter and are trying to get each of the Regional Panels to submit letters to the ANSTF. The Panels have been careful not to lobby for additional funding, but rather to report to the ANSTF that existing funding levels are inadequate for the Panels to complete the work which they have been tasked to do.

Mac asked how the Panel ended up selecting San Antonio as its meeting location. Conover said that the MRBP meetings are held at different locations throughout the Basin. Oklahoma had offered to host the 2009 meeting, but was unable to. Texas

stepped-up and offered to host the meeting. The Panel looked at costs for Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio. San Antonio was by far the cheapest meeting location.

Mac said that the Panel needs to consider perception when selecting its meeting location. The ANSTF may question the panels letter that funding is inadequate when the annual meeting is held in San Antonio and \$10,000 of the panel's budget is set aside for travel support.

Conover was asked how important the MRBP meetings are to the committee. Conover replied that the panel members consider the meetings very important to bring the state ANS coordinators from around the Basin together to discuss common issues and identify projects. That is why the Executive Committee decided to allocate \$10,000 of the MRBP budget to travel support.

O'Bara said that as a committee of MICRA, MICRA will ultimately be responsible for MRBP expenses and actions. The MICRA Executive Board members discussed the need for the MRBP not to lobby. How much oversight is appropriate? MICRA was asked by FWS to host the Panel and is given 10% of the MRBP's budget annually for oversight of the Panel.

! The Executive Board members agreed that closer oversight of the Panel is expected of MICRA as the hosting organization.

! O'Bara will meet with MRBP Executive Board and make sure to communicate the necessity for MICRA oversight as the hosting agency. The MRBP members need to clearly understand that they are bound to the same limitations as MICRA, especially regarding lobbying restrictions.

Gamefish Committee

O'Bara reported that the Gamefish Committee has not been active for 2-3 years. The sauger project was the last project that the committee worked on.

Kyle Austin is no longer able to serve as committee chair. Chairs for other MICRA committees are all from the Ohio River Basin. O'Bara suggested that it would be good if a new chair for the Gamefish Committee could be identified from the Missouri River Basin.

O'Bara is uncertain of the role of the Gamefish Committee and requested input from other members of the Executive Board. O'Bara asked if MICRA should continue to have a Gamefish Committee. Should the committee be kept as inactive? Fish disease may be an issue for the committee in the future.

! The Executive Board agreed that MICRA should keep the Gamefish Committee, but that the committee should be left inactive until an appropriate issue for the committee is identified.

Executive Board Representation

Mac requested that the Executive Board review the MICRA constitution regarding federal agency representation on the Executive Board. It has been more than 2 years since he was last elected to the Executive Board.

Conover read the following from the MICRA Constitution and By-laws: "Sub-basin board members shall be appointed by their six respective sub-basin groups. Entity board members (i.e., two Federal agency representatives) shall be elected for staggered two-year terms by a simple majority of MICRA member votes. Elections will be conducted by mail ballot."

FWS and USGS have been the only active federal agencies for years. Who is the FWS representative to the Executive Committee? Conover said that the Assistant Director - Fisheries in Washington was originally the FWS representative to MICRA, but the current AD, Gary Frazer, reassigned that responsibility to the Region 3 Assistant Regional Director – Fisheries who is Mike Weimer.

TVA was an original signatory to MICRA. Would they be likely to re-engage with MICRA. TVA's mission no longer includes environmental conservation so it is unlikely that they will be active with MICRA in the future.

Should Federal representatives be standing members, similar to the sub-basin representatives? It doesn't make much sense to hold elections every year to continue to elect the same two federal agencies to the Executive Board. USGS and USFWS have served as the federal representatives for a number of years and are overdue for elections. Should the bylaws be changed so that nominations for a federal agency representative are not needed on a yearly basis? USGS and USFWS are really the only Federal agencies currently active with MICRA. Perhaps MICRA should elect the federal agencies to be represented on the Executive Board every 5 years, but leave it up to the federal agencies to decide who the actual representatives shall be on an annual basis. For example, the FWS may choose to rotate the representative among the ARD in different regions or the USGS may want to select different labs to represent the agency from year to year. Federal agencies should be voted on periodically so that other federal agencies have a chance to participate on the Executive Board if they become active with MICRA.

! Reed motioned that the Executive Board pursue changing the MICRA Constitution and By-laws regarding federal agency representation. MICRA delegates shall elect by a simple majority vote, two federal agencies or entities to serve on the Executive Committee for consecutive 5-year terms. The elected agencies will be asked to appoint a representative to the Executive Committee. Rister seconded the motion. FWS and USGS abstained from vote. Vote passed without objection.

MICRA Web Page

Conover reminded the Executive Board members of the problems with web hosting presented in his earlier report. Mac said that USGS server access will not be overly

problematic for the short-term, but long-term IT security may be problematic. Federal agency guidelines and requirements are constantly evolving and it is becoming more and more difficult for people outside the agency to access the server and for the agency to host external web sites such as MICRA's.

The commercial hosting options presented by Conover earlier look relatively inexpensive: \$7/mo with 24 month contract. Regular server access through a federal agency cannot be guaranteed over the long-term. There have been times when the government servers are shut down.

Conover said that the Executive Board has already discussed the importance of the newsletter to the organization. The website could potentially be a more effective tool for outreach and for MICRA members. Conover said that he is interested in reworking the websites and suggests that this would be a good use of his time, especially considering the Executive Board approved more than 50% time to developing the newsletter last year.

! Rister motioned that Conover pursue commercial web hosting options and revamp the MICRA/MRBP websites in 2009. Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

! There was no further discussion regarding a new domain name for the MICRA website when it is transferred to a commercial web server. The Executive Board will be asked to make a decision on this via email before the next meeting.

New Business

1) O'Bara read a request to add the alligator gar to MICRA's list of interjurisdictional fish species.

What does it mean for fish to be on MICRA's list? It helps agencies with their project requests. MICRA delegates attempted in the early 1990s to develop a list of all IJ fish that are of interest to MICRA delegates. It was likely just an oversight that alligator gar were not included when the list was originally developed.

! Reed motioned that alligator gar be added to MICRA's list of IJ fish. Bolton seconded. Motion passed without objection.

Following the meeting, Reed sent the following message to the MICRA Executive Board to revise and expand the approved motion.

"In Memphis last week the Exec Board entertained a request to add the alligator gar to the MICRA IJ fish list. However, there are four species of garfish widely distributed in the Mississippi River basin and I don't see how we can add the alligator gar to the list without adding the other three. All are very mobile in our big rivers. Somehow we overlooked this group when we originally prepared the list in the early 1990*s. I would like to make a motion that the MICRA Excom add the following species of gar to the IJ fish list:

Lepisosteidae - gars

Atractosteus spatula (Lacepede, 1803) - alligator gar

Lepisosteus oculatus Winchell, 1864 - spotted gar

Lepisosteus osseus (Linnaeus, 1758) - longnose gar

Lepisosteus platostomus (Rafinesque, 1820) – shortnose gar”

The revised motion was seconded by Bill Reeves. The motion passed without objection.

2) Scholten presented a request to sponsor the 2010 Catfish Symposium (Attachment 5).

Did MICRA contribute to the first Catfish Symposium? Not sure without looking into financial records. When is the money due? The fund raising committee requested contributions by the end of 2008, but it is not too late to contribute.

MICRA received a written request to contribute \$5,000 to the symposium. There are five sponsorship levels, benefits begin at \$750 (see attachment 5). What level of sponsorship includes a free registration? MICRA could donate the free registration to a student. MICRA could contribute less to the symposium and provide travel assistance to one or more students separately.

! Reed motioned that MICRA support the 2010 catfish symposium with \$2,000 and consider meeting support for students separately at the June MICRA Executive Board meeting. Mac seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

Do we need a process for considering and approving requests for funding so that MICRA is consistent in responding to such requests? Rister said that the LMRCC is looking into this same issue.

! O’Bara asked Rister to share LMRCC’s decision .with the MICRA Executive Board.

Similarity of Appearance (SOA)

O’Bara informed the Executive Board that he sent the MICRA letter on shovelnose sturgeon management to the FWS Regional Directors in Regions 3, 4, and 6 on October 17, 2008. O’Bara received a response from the FWS on December 24, 2008 via email and then a hard copy in early 2009. The first that O’Bara heard from the FWS was the email he received on December 24 containing no text and only a PDF of the FWS letter signed by the Region 6 Regional Director. O’Bara has not been contacted by anyone in the FWS regarding the letter to MICRA, but he did speak briefly with George Jordan following the Paddlefish Sturgeon Committee the previous day. O’Bara said that there was a lack of professional courtesy in the delivery of the letter from the FWS. MICRA put a lot of time and effort into developing the letter sent to FWS, but there has been no communication from the FWS. O’Bara said that he did not want to send the FWS letter to the MICRA delegates until it was discussed with the Executive Board.

Rob Simmonds said that there was communication within the FWS to avoid just such an incident. Simmonds and Weimer both apologized for the lack of communication from the FWS.

Conover presented an overview of the presentation that George Jordan provided the previous day during the Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee meeting (Attachment 6).

Rob Maher stated that the MICRA study does not have anything to do with Law Enforcement personnel, only commercial fishermen. Will the results of the study be considered if it does not demonstrate that Law Enforcement can distinguish between sturgeon species? Joyce Collins replied that the LE basis for the SOA listing is not just based on LE officer's difficulty in distinguishing the species, but also the many issues that have been brought to LE attention regarding the difficulty in distinguishing the species.

O'Bara reviewed the considerations for an SOA that MICRA included in the letter he sent to the FWS. As presented in the presentation from George Jordan to the Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee, the draft proposed SOA addressed several but not all of MICRA's concerns. Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana have expressed concern that an SOA listing will shift fishing pressure to open waters outside of the sympatric range. The geographic scope of the proposed rule is beyond the four state limitation that MICRA requested. Any sturgeon species that is harvested within the sympatric range has to be immediately released.

! O'Bara will forward the FWS letter to the MICRA delegates, with an update on the status of the draft SOA as presented by George Jordan. MICRA will continue with the on-going evaluation of the commercial harvest as planned.

Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee

Annual Meeting

Scholten reported that the Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee had just concluded a day and a half meeting that afternoon. Scholten had tried to plan a separate LE session in conjunction with the committee meeting, but ended up holding a joint meeting with many LE officers. The meeting was very productive and it is beneficial to have the biologists and LE officers meet together.

Scholten asked the Executive Board if the committee can establish an award to present to an outstanding officer at the committee meeting each year. Scholten was asked if the committee has considered presenting the award to an agency and not just an individual. Does the committee give an annual award to a biologist? No.

Commercial Roe Harvest Database

Scholten reported that the committee continues to work on the commercial roe harvest database. Scholten, Dan Burlesin, and FWS Columbia Fisheries office have proposed the components of a draft database. Brian Elkington with Columbia NFWCO can

provide an empty database, but the committee is trying to find someone to populate and manage the database. Burleson will be meeting with an LE data center in Missouri that compiles and disperses LE data to see if they can provide assistance with the commercial roe harvest database. The database is coming together, but there is still an issue with who would house and manage the database.

Columbia NFWCO said they could develop and maintain the database for \$30,000. There were some concerns discussed about FOIA requests. Decision was to develop the format for a data base, standardize the data that is entered into the database, and try to find someone to house the data that would be exempt from FOIA. There needs to be a mechanism for compiling and sharing the data among states. State compacts may provide a mechanism for this.

Basin-wide Paddlefish Stocking Protocol

The committee discussed the need for a basin-wide paddlefish stocking protocol. Such a plan should address tagging protocol, requirement to stock all fish with tags, disease, and genetics issues. The committee plans to start with a conference call with all of the states that stock paddlefish to reach a gentlemen's agreement and then develop the stocking protocol over the next year.

Stock Assessment Database Management

Columbia NFWCO reviewed their expenditures to manage the database and reported to the committee that they have spent approximately \$30,000 per year, well below the \$21,500 they have requested each year. The Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee approved a request from Columbia NFWCO for \$30,000 to manage the database during 2009; this funding request is being brought forward to the Executive Board.

Paddlefish Book

Scholten provided a handout (Attachment 7) to the Executive Board members describing the Paddlefish Symposium Proceedings being published by AFS. Scholten reported that nearly \$14,000 of the \$25,000 goal has been raised. MICRA was requested to contribute \$10,000 as the primary sponsor of the AFS publication. Will the proceedings will still be published if the fund raising falls short of the \$25,000 goal. Scholten replied yes.

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

Conover reported that Mike Hoff would like to brief the MICRA Executive Board on the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategic Plan. Mike Hoff was closely involved with the Great Lakes plan and would like to propose that MICRA use the Great Lakes plan as a model for developing a strategic plan for the Mississippi River Basin. The MRBP is in need of a strategic plan. A comprehensive strategic plan for MICRA could focus on key issues such as aquatic nuisance species and habitat. The Great Lakes states have been able to provide congressional representatives with clear identified and widely supported priorities for the Great Lakes that have resulted in a number of bills that will potentially bring substantial funds to the Great Lakes region.

! MICRA will invite Mike Hoff to the summer Executive Board meeting to give a briefing on the potential to develop a Mississippi River Basin Strategic Plan modeled after the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategic Plan.

Sub-basin Reports

LMRCC

Rister reported that the main push in the LMRCC has been habitat restoration. Each state has identified their highest priorities for habitat restoration projects. The LMRCC working with other agencies completed the Loosahatchie Bar (Memphis), Kangaroo Point (RM 649 - AR bank) and Below Ludlow dike field (RM 623 - AR bank) habitat restoration projects. Total LMR secondary channel restoration in 2008 = 15+ miles; total cost = \$256,500 (\$17,100/mile). Construction funding was provided through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Passage Program and all project-related engineering assistance (planning, design, and construction management) was provided by the Memphis District of the Corps of Engineers River Engineering Team and Environmental Branch.

ORFMT

Bill James reported on efforts to coordinate paddlefish regulations in the Ohio River Basin. James also discussed a recent Indiana Law Enforcement case involving paddlefish and the sale of roe from recreationally harvested fish.

Red River

Reed reported on attempts by the COE to put a 6th lock and dam near the Arkansas border: The COE installed the first 5 locks and dams during the 1980's.

Bolton reported on a COE project from 1950s that is resurfacing again. The project involves removing chlorides for irrigation in SW Oklahoma.

UMRCC

Hanson reported that the UMRCC Fish Technical section is revising their 10 year strategic plan. The current plan was developed more than 15 years ago.

Commercial fishermen have recently caught bighead, silver, and grass carp in Pool 8. The collection of multiple fish suggests that the species have expanded their range well above Lock and Dam 19.

TN River

Scholten reported that paddlefish regulations in Tennessee have been froze for the next 3 years. AL, MS, TN coordinate regulations on Pickwick Reservoir. Big issue is difference in regulations on small mouth bass. No information on the coal ash spill.

Rister reported that hydrilla has been collected in the Kentucky portion of Kentucky Lake during the last 2 years.

MRNRC

Wayne Nelson-Stastny gave a presentation and provided an overview and update on the Missouri River Recovery Program. MRRIC is a broad stakeholder group providing recommendations on recovery implementation. MRERP and EIS were authorized by WRDA 2007: restore, mitigate, recover; study authorized to look at tributaries.

There is some growing support in congress to review the 1944 Flood Control Act – The Pick Sloan Plan.

2009 Budget Discussion

Conover projected expenses for 2009 on page 4 of the budget report he prepared.

Fixed expenses include:

- Dues and subscriptions for AFWA and Greenwire. Greenwire is the source of most information used in the River Crossings newsletter.
- Legal and professional fees. The accountant is paid \$250 each month.
- Bank Fees for MICRA's checking account.

Proposed discretionary funding proposed by Conover includes:

- \$5,000 for Executive Board meeting expenses and travel assistance
- \$11,000 requested by the Coordinator for 2009 travel and operational expenses
- \$24,000 for 6 issues of River Crossings in 2009
- \$1,000 for the Freshwater Mussel Committee to sponsor 2009 annual meeting
- \$45,000 MRBP funding pass through from FWS (not received yet)

River Crossings 2009 obligation was reduced to \$16,000 due to the Executive Boards earlier decision to reduce the number of River Crossings issues published during 2009 from 6 to 4.

MICRA Web Page

The Executive Board obligated \$250 to cover commercial web hosting services and domain name registration.

2010 Catfish Symposium

The Executive Board obligated \$2,000 for the 2010 Catfish Symposium as approved earlier during the meeting.

Paddlefish Stock Assessment Database Management

The Executive Board considered the request forwarded by the Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee for \$30,000 to fund Columbia NFWCO to manage the stock assessment database during 2009.

What is our obligation to fund the paddlefish stock assessment database? Budgets are tighter and we cannot expect Columbia to operate in the red. Perhaps we can split the

increase cost with Columbia to share the burden. MICRA may see reduced dues contributions from the states this year due to the tight budget climate. We really don't know what to expect for 2009 income. We may need to consider paying less for the paddlefish database. Propose funding \$21,500 as in past years and request Columbia come back with justification for additional funding during summer meeting. MICRA's budget will be more clear at that time and Columbia should have a better handle on their actual needs.

Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee

Conover recommended that \$5,000 be obligated as operational expenses for the paddlefish/sturgeon committee. There was some discussion during the meeting about purchasing an emergency supply of coded wire tags to cover surplus production as occurred in Missouri during 2008. There are no funds set aside for the paddlefish project of for the next committee meeting.

Paddlefish Book

The \$10,000 request for sponsorship of the Paddlefish Symposium Proceedings was considered. The handout (Attachment 7) provided by Scholten during the earlier discussion of this issue shows that pledged contributions range from \$350 to \$2,000. \$10,000 is more than MICRA should contribute to the paddlefish book. Why should we contribute 2x more than other entities? Recommend \$2,500 for book sponsorship.

Approved 2009 Obligations

- \$5,000 for Executive Board meeting expenses and travel assistance
- \$11,000 requested by the Coordinator for 2009 travel and operational expenses
- \$16,000 for 4 issues of River Crossings in 2009
- \$1,000 for the Freshwater Mussel Committee to sponsor 2009 annual meeting
- \$45,000 MRBP funding pass through from FWS (not received yet)
- \$250 for commercial web hosting and domain registration for MICRA web site
- \$2,000 to sponsor 2010 Catfish Symposium
- \$21,500 for Columbia NFWCO to manage paddlefish stock assessment database
- \$5,000 operational budget for Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee
- \$2,500 to sponsor publication of Paddlefish Symposium Proceedings

2009 obligations total \$109,250. Projected income for 2009 is only \$85,100 based on past dues contributions. Projected 2008 balance is \$130,475. Sufficient balance to cover the additional expenditures in 2009.

! Mac motioned that the 2009 obligations be approved as discussed. Wayne Nelson-Stastny seconded the motion. Expenditures were approved without objection.

2009 Summer Meeting

Should we hold in conjunction with the AFS meeting in Nashville in September? The Executive Board used to hold its winter meeting in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, but decided to hold separate meetings because travel approval can be a problem when the meeting is held in conjunction with the large conferences.

Paducah, KY has a river heritage museum. How about somewhere near Gavin's Point Dam? Agency office may be available for free meeting space. The Tech Center in Boseman may be an option. The LaCrosse lab is near the airport. How important is it to meet near a major airport to avoid the need for rental cars? If this is not an issue, then we can look at pretty much anywhere in the basin.

O'Bara said that his preferred time frame for the summer meeting is early August to avoid conflicting with peoples summer travel.

! A final decision on the date and location for the summer meeting was tabled. O'Bara will follow-up on this topic via email.

The meeting adjourned 5:05.

In Attendance:

Mike Weimer (FWS)
Rob Simmonds (FWS)
Michael Mac (USGS)
Bobby Reed (LA)
Paul Rister (KY)
Chris O'Bara (WV)
Greg Conover (FWS)
Wayne Nelson Stastny (FWS)
Barry Bolton (OK)
George Scholten (TN)
Gerald Mestl (NE)
Tom Stefenavage
Bill James
Joyce Collins (FWS)
Nate Caswell (FWS)

Meeting Agenda

MISSISSIPPI INTERSTATE COOPERATIVE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Holiday Inn Select
Memphis, TN

Wednesday January 21 8:30 am

AGENDA

Call to Order/Roll Call/Opening Remarks (Chris O'Bara)

- Review of Meeting Agenda and Goals
- Review and Acceptance of July 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Review of Chair Activities

Coordinator's Report/Budget (Greg Conover)

- Review of Coordinator's Activities
- Review of Budget

ONGOING ACTIVITY REPORTS

- Habitat Symposium
- 2010 Catfish Symposium
- River Crossing
- IRS Status Mike Masterson (10:00 am)
- Sturgeon Similarity of Appearance Activities

BASIN REPORTS

UMRCC	LMRCC	MRNRC
Tennessee River	Arkansas/Red River	ORFMT

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Freshwater Mussels Committee (Don Hubbs)
- Gamefish Committee
- Mississippi River Basin Panel (Doug Keller)
- Paddlefish/Sturgeon (George Scholten)

NEW BUSINESS AND BUDGET ISSUES

- Interjurisdictional Fish List-Alligator Gar
- Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's Strategic Plan
- Budget Items
- Summer Meeting Planning
- Other New Business

Accountant's Financial Report

Jan 12 2009 13:44

HP LASERJET FAX

P. 2

MICRA
BALANCE SHEET
As of December 31, 2008
(Unaudited)

ASSETS

Current Assets:	
Cash in Bank -QC Bank & Trust	\$ 64,170.96
Savings - QC Bank & Trust	<u>89,633.32</u>
Total Current Assets	153,804.28
Property and Equipment:	
Other Assets:	
Total Assets	<u>\$ 153,804.28</u>

LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	\$ (250.00)
Total Current Liabilities	<u>(250.00)</u>
Long-Term Liabilities:	
Stockholders' Equity:	
Net Income	28,084.03
Retained Earnings	<u>125,970.25</u>
Total Stockholders' Equity	<u>154,054.28</u>
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	<u>\$ 153,804.28</u>

See Accountant's Compilation Report

MICRA
INCOME STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

	1 Month Ended		12 Months Ended	
	Dec. 31, 2008	Pct	Dec. 31, 2008	Pct
Business Income				
Federal Grants	\$ 0.00	0.00	\$ 108,336.00	77.81
State Funds	0.00	0.00	30,261.96	21.74
Interest Income	<u>30.15</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>628.99</u>	<u>0.45</u>
Total Income	30.15	100.00	139,226.95	100.00
General and Administrative:				
Dues & Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.05
Legal & Professional Fees	250.00	829.19	3,000.00	2.15
Paddlefish Project	0.00	0.00	8,960.60	6.44
Mississippi River Project	0.00	0.00	18,620.24	13.37
Pallid Sturgeon Project	0.00	0.00	24,589.73	17.66
Aquatic Nuisance Species Pro	0.00	0.00	24,181.77	17.37
Office Expense (Overhead)	6.36	21.09	6,265.72	4.50
River Crossing Printing	0.00	0.00	4,486.21	3.22
Postage - River Crossings	0.00	0.00	888.63	0.64
Internet Fees - AOL/Store	0.00	0.00	175.88	0.13
MICRA Coordinator Support	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	13.65
MICRA Sturgeon HCP	0.00	0.00	727.32	0.52
Supplies	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>171.82</u>	<u>0.12</u>
Total General and Administrative	256.36	850.28	111,142.92	79.83
Other Income and Expense:				
Total Other				
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (226.21)</u>	<u>(750.28)</u>	<u>\$ 28,084.03</u>	<u>20.17</u>

See Accountant's Compilation Report

Coordinator's Financial Report

Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) Budget Tracking

2/10/2009

2008 Balance Sheet

Balance January 1, 2008 116,368.10

Receipts (thru December 31, 2008) 139,515.69

MRBP funding (FY08 \$50k outstanding)	98,586.00
Money Market Funds (Jan 08 - December 08)	628.99
USPS - bulk mail account refund	288.74
Membership Dues Collected	40,011.96

Alabama	Discontinued MICRA payments, doing all work through SARP.	
Arkansas		1500
Colorado		1500
Georgia		
Illinois		1500
Indiana		1500
Iowa		1500
Kansas		1500
Kentucky		
Louisiana		1500
Minnesota		1500
Mississippi		
Missouri		1500
Montana		1500
Nebraska		1500
New York		1511.96
North Carolina		1500
North Dakota		1500
Pennsylvania		1500
Ohio		
Oklahoma		1500
South Dakota		1500
Tennessee		1500
Texas		
Virginia		
West Virginia		1500
Wisconsin		1500
Wyoming		
TVA		
BRD		5000
BOR		
USFWS	Coordinator Salary / Benefits	
?		5000

Total Funds Available 255,883.79

Attachment 4

Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) Budget Tracking

2/10/2009

Total Funds Available		255,883.79
Expenditures		-111,431.66
MICRA Coordinator	19,000.00	
Meetings and Travel Support	3,411.28	
Paddlefish Project	8,960.60	
Paddlefish Project - Database Management	21,500.00	
Sturgeon SOA Workgroup	3,858.16	
Sturgeon Genetics	0.00	
Freshwater Mussel Committee	0.00	
Gamefish Committee	0.00	
Newsletter	3,008.00	
ANS Program (MRBP)	39,527.64	
Dues and Subscriptions	75.00	
Legal and Professional Fees	3,000.00	
Office Expenses	759.02	
River Crossings - Printing	2,305.23	
River Crossings - Postage	61.61	
Internet Fees - AOL	169.52	
Rent	0.00	
Repairs and Maintenance	0.00	
Supplies	171.82	
Unreconciled Charges (Jan / Feb)	5,623.78	
Balance on hand December 31,2008		144,452.13
Accountant Balance December 31,2008		153,804.28
Difference December 31, 2007	9,602.15	
Difference December 31, 2008	9,352.15	

2008 Budget Allocation Summary

EB Meetings and Travel Support

Budget	5,000.00
Expenditures	3,411.28
2008 Obligation (Jan n	1,588.72
Balance	0.00

Coordinator Budget

Budget	19,000.00
Expenditures	19,000.00
Balance	0.00

Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee

Paddlefish Project

Budget	10,540.74
Expenditures	8,960.60
2008 Obligation (Jan n	1,580.14
Balance	0.00

Sturgeon Genetics

Budget	7,500.00
Expenditures	0.00
2008 Obligation (SIU C	7,500.00
Balance	0.00

Sturgeon SOA Workgroup

Budget	5,500.00
Expenditures	3,278.25
Balance	2,221.75
De-obligated	2,221.75
Balance	0.00

Paddlefish Database Management (Columbia)

Budget	21,000.00
Expenditures	21,000.00
Balance	0.00

Freshwater Mussel Committee

Budget	1,000.00
Expenditures	0.00
Balance	1,000.00
De-obligated	1,000.00
Balance	0.00

Game Fish Committee

Budget	0.00
Expenditures	0.00
Balance	0.00

MRBP

January 1, 2007 Balance	-37,608.97
FWS funding FY06, FY07	98,336.00
MICRA overhead	-10,000.00
Invoices Received	250.00
Expenditures	-39,527.64
Balance	11,449.39
Invoiced but not paid	-50.00
FWS funding FY08	50,000.00
MICRA overhead	-5,000.00
2008 obligations	-56,399.39
Projected Balance	0.00

2008 Projected Balance

Outstanding 2008 Deposits		50,500.00
FWS FY08 MRBP	50,000.00	
FWS - Seattle	500.00	
De-obligated 2008 funds		2,641.84
Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup	1,641.84	
Freshwater Mussel Committee	1,000.00	
Remaining 2008 Obligations		-67,118.25
<u>MICRA Obligations</u>		
Sturgeon Genetics Agreement with SIU	7,500.00	
Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee	1,580.14	
EB Meeting Expenses / Travel Assistance	1,588.72	
<u>MRBP Obligations</u>	56,449.39	
2008 Projected Balance		130,475.72

2009 Projected Deposits		85,100.00
FWS FY09 MRBP	50,000.00	
Member Dues	35,000.00	
Interest Income	100.00	
2009 Projected Expenses		4,651.32
Dues and Subscriptions	1,575.00	
Legal and Professional Fees	3,000.00	
Bank Fees	76.32	
2009 Recommended Obligations		86,000.00
EB Meeting Expenses / Travel Assistance	5,000.00	
MICRA Coordinator (travel / operational)	11,000.00	
River Crossings (6 issues)		
preparation @ \$3,000 / issue	18,000.00	
printing/mailing @ \$1,000 / issue	6,000.00	
Freshwater Mussel Committee	1,000.00	
Gamefish Committee	0.00	
MRBP	45,000.00	
Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee		
2009 Projected Balance		124,924.40

Coordinator's 2008 Budget Report

Contributed Funds to FWS (9 months) 19,000.00

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Office Set-up	5,000.00	4,838.86	161.14
Operational	2,500.00	1,848.97	651.03
Travel	11,500.00	9,143.71	2,356.29

- 2008 MICRA / MRBP Travel
- Nebraska City - Sturgeon Working Group
 - Davenport, IA - Jerry Rasmussen
 - Minneapolis, MN - FWS R3 Fisheries ARD
 - Windsor, OT - Great Lakes Fishery Commission
 - Collinsville, IL - Sturgeon Working Group
 - Shepherdstown, WV - National Conservation Training Center
 - Milwaukee, WI - MRBP meeting
 - St. Louis, MO - Sturgeon Working Group
 - Mille Lacs, MN - MICRA Executive Board meeting
 - St. Louis, MO - Triploid Grass Carp Workshop
 - Omaha, NE - MRNRC meeting
 - Arlington, VA - ANS Task Force meeting
 - Sparta, IL - MRBP ICS Workshop

2008 Carryover 3,168.46

2009 Budget Request (12 months) 11,000.00

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>'008 Carryover</u>	<u>2009 Funds</u>
Operational	2,500.00	651.03	1,848.97
Travel	11,500.00	2,356.29	9,143.71
			10,992.68

14,168.46

2010 Catfish Symposium

MICRA
Greg Conover
9053 Rt 148
Marion, IL 62959

July 14, 2008



Greg:

It is with great enthusiasm that the organizers of “Conservation, Ecology, and Management of Catfishes: The 2nd International Catfish Symposium” invite you to join us as a symposium sponsor. The 2nd International Catfish symposium will be held in St. Louis Missouri from June 19-22, 2010. This symposium is co-hosted by the Ictalurid Technical Committee of the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and the Catfish Management Technical Committee of the Southern Division of AFS. This symposium will be the follow-up to the highly successful “Catfish 2000.”

Symposium attendance is expected to reach 300 and will include fishery managers, researchers, employers, educators, and administrators. The meeting will provide a forum for the exchange of information about the biology, ecology, management, and conservation of worldwide catfish populations and their habitat. Presentation of research on both game and non-game species will be encouraged. Symposium proceedings will be published through AFS in a hard-bound book. The symposium has allotted time for 80 20-minute oral presentations. Catfish 2000 continues to be a valuable reference and this symposium’s proceedings should be equally as valuable.

To attract anglers and provide opportunities for input and interaction, the symposium will be held at the conclusion of a national catfish angling tournament. The tone of the meeting will be somewhat casual, combining the scientific aspects of a professional fisheries meeting with the relaxed atmosphere of a sports show. It is hoped that in this environment, anglers and scientists will be able to interact openly and progress the management of these important fishes.

We hope that you are as excited about this great symposium as we are. If so, please consider becoming a platinum level sponsor. Attached are our sponsorship levels and associated benefits of sponsoring at each level. Thank you for any and all consideration. If I can be of any help in the decision making process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tom Lang
Fundraising Chairman
2nd International Catfish Symposium
(620) 672-0722
toml@wp.state.ks.us

Sponsorship Levels



Platinum Level - \$5,000 +

- Name or logo printed on registration gift
- Opportunity to insert materials into registration packet
- Two complimentary copies of symposium proceedings
- Two complimentary meeting registrations
- Sponsorship acknowledged publicly at meeting
- Sponsorship acknowledged in symposium proceedings
- Link and logo on symposium website
- Sponsorship acknowledged in symposium program
- Sponsorship acknowledged in AFS *Fisheries* Magazine
- Sponsorship acknowledged in In-Fisherman Magazine

Gold Level - \$2,500-\$4,999

- Opportunity to insert materials into registration packet
- One complimentary copy of symposium proceedings
- One complimentary meeting registration
- Sponsorship acknowledged publicly at meeting
- Sponsorship acknowledged in symposium proceedings
- Link and logo on symposium website
- Sponsorship acknowledged in symposium program
- Sponsorship acknowledged in AFS *Fisheries* Magazine
- Sponsorship acknowledged in In-Fisherman Magazine

Silver Level - \$1,500-\$2,499

- Opportunity to insert materials into registration packet
- Sponsorship acknowledged publicly at meeting
- Sponsorship acknowledged in symposium proceedings
- Link and logo on symposium website
- Sponsorship acknowledged in symposium program
- Sponsorship acknowledged in AFS *Fisheries* Magazine
- Sponsorship acknowledged in In-Fisherman Magazine

Bronze Level - \$750-\$1,499


- Sponsorship acknowledged publicly at meeting
- Sponsorship acknowledged in symposium proceedings
- Link and logo on symposium website
- Sponsorship acknowledged in symposium program

In-Kind

- Sponsorship acknowledged publicly at meeting
- Sponsorship acknowledged in symposium proceedings
- Link and logo on symposium website
- Sponsorship acknowledged in symposium program

George Jordan's presentation to the MICRA Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee January 20, 2009


**Shovelnose SOA:
An overview for the MICRA
paddlefish-sturgeon committee.**



Presented by George Jordan
US Fish and Wildlife Service


Chronology of events

- 1990 - Endangered species list
- 1993 - Recovery plan written recommending a moratorium on commercial sturgeon fishing
- 1997 - Pallid sturgeon documented in fish market (Sheehan et al. 1997)
- 1997 - MICRA paddlefish and sturgeon sub-committee recommend closure of shovelnose fishery
- 2003 - Multi-state sturgeon meeting held in Cape Girardeau to better standardize commercial shovelnose fishing regulations
- 2005 - Multi-state standardize commercial shovelnose fishing regulations fully implemented on Mississippi River
- 2006 - 3 Commercial fishermen sentenced in Federal Court for illegal fishing operation. One found guilty for take of an endangered species (pallid sturgeon) 16 USC 1538(a)(1)(B)
- 2007 - 5 year review concludes commercial harvest still a threat.



Chronology of events

- 2007 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requests that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service utilize SOA to protect pallid sturgeon.
- 2007 - Recovery Team indicates that the illegal harvest of pallid sturgeon by commercial sturgeon fishermen continues to be a significant threat.
- 2007 (late) - Service considers utilization of SOA provisions under the Act to help protect pallid sturgeon.
- 2008 - Service representatives begin developing a proposed Shovelnose SOA rule.



Drafted proposed rule to list the Shovelnose as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act due to Similarity of Appearance to Pallid Sturgeon

- Section 4 of the act: A species may be listed due to Similarity of Appearance (SOA) to a species currently listed under the ESA if:
 - enforcement personnel would have substantial difficulty differentiating between the protected and unlisted species;
 - this difficulty results in an increase threat to the protected species; and
 - listing the species due to SOA will substantially facilitate enforcement of the ESA and conservation of the protected species.

Summary of recent evidence for take of pallid sturgeon associated with commercial fishing

At least 1.8% of sturgeon harvested in Tennessee are pallid sturgeon (Bettoli et al. 2008).

Lost nets have resulted in documented lethal take of pallid sturgeon (Bettoli et al. 2008).

Higher maximum age of pallid sturgeon observed in areas without commercial harvest (Killgore et al. 2007)

14 years with commercial harvest
21 years without commercial harvest

Mortality rates of pallid sturgeon and shovelnose sturgeon nearly identical in areas where shovelnose sturgeon harvest is allowed and higher than areas where harvest is not allowed (Colombo et al. 2007).

Summary of recent evidence for take of pallid sturgeon associated with commercial fishing

Pallid sturgeon with egg check wounds and scars have been observed by researchers.

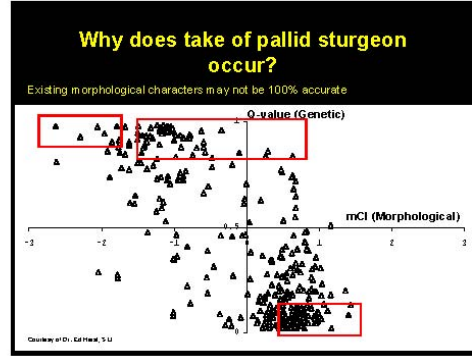


Pallid Sturgeon with egg check mark

Why does lethal take of pallid sturgeon occur?

Value of eggs (roe) has increased substantially in recent years.

The two species can be difficult to tell apart based only on physical characters (Kuhajda et al. 2007; Murphy et al. 2007) making it difficult to enforce regulations and prosecute violations.

Rationale for Similarity of Appearance: shovelnose and pallid sturgeon

- Differentiating between pallid sturgeon and shovelnose sturgeon requires consideration of multiple characters, careful measurement, and may require multivariate and genetic analysis.
- Difficult for fisherman and Law Enforcement officers to accurately identify shovelnose and pallid sturgeon in a field situation.
- Pallid sturgeon age Structure – considerably lower where commercial fishing occurs for shovelnose sturgeon.
- Mortality rates of both pallid and shovelnose sturgeon are more than twice as high in areas where commercial shovelnose fishing occurs, indicating that fishermen are either unable to correctly identify pallids, or are intentionally taking pallids.
- Roe harvesters are after females: SOA will protect breeding female pallid sturgeon and thus promote conservation of the species.

SOA options

- SOA can be geographically specific,
- A 4(d) rule can be developed to exempt certain activities.

Shovelnose SOA options the Service is considering

Protections applicable where the two species commonly coexist.



Shovelnose SOA options the Service is considering

- A 4(d) exemption to allowing take associated with scientific investigations, conservation purposes, etc.
- An "endangered species permit" would not necessarily be required to work with shovelnose sturgeon.

Though states, universities, tribes, etc. using gears that can collect shovelnose sturgeon in areas where pallid sturgeon coexist should have a 10(a)(1)(A) permit and/or Section 6 agreements to cover activities.

Shovelnose SOA options the Service is considering

- A 4(d) exemption for recreational fishing.
- Would exempt recreational fishing activities targeting non-sturgeon species.
- Would allow for recreational harvest of shovelnose where shovelnose sturgeon are recognized and managed as recreationally important species and harvest is authorized and regulated by States or Tribes.

Shovelnose SOA options the Service is considering

- A 4(d) rule exemption for commercial fishing for non-*Scaphirhynchus* fishes.
- Would exempt commercial activities targeting non-sturgeon species provided incidentally caught sturgeon are immediately removed from gear and released at their point of collection.

A shovelnose SOA would not require Section 7 consultations, recovery plan development, nor designation of critical habitat.

Process for a Similarity of Appearance listing

- Publication of a proposed rule in the Federal Register.
 - Give public notice of the proposed regulation.
- Make the proposal available for public comment.
- Publication of a final rule within 12 months of publication of the proposed rule.

Paddlefish Symposium Proceedings Handout

Paddlefish Management, Propagation, and Conservation in the 21st Century: Building From 20 Years of Research and Management

Craig Paukert and George Scholten, editors

Status of Chapters

January 16, 2009

Part 1. Distribution, ecology, and life history

1. Biology and life history of paddlefish: an update *Cecil Jennings and Steve Zigler*
Status: Waiting for authors' revision (should be in within a few days) (Paukert)
2. Status, distribution and abundance of paddlefish in the US *George Scholten, Janice Kerns, and Phil Bettoli*
Status: Accepted (Paukert)
3. Paddlefish ecology in the Alabama River drainage *Dennis DeVries*
Status: Accepted (Paukert)
4. Feeding ecology of paddlefish in the Mermentau River, LA *Nicole Smith, Richard Condrey, and Bobby Reed*
Status: Accepted (Paukert)
5. Paddlefish movements in the Mobile River Basin of Alabama *Maurice (Scott) Mettee, Patrick O'Neil, and Steve Rider*
Status: Accepted (Scholten)
6. Population characteristics of paddlefish in two Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway habitats. *Dan M. O'Keefe and Don C. C. Jackson*
Status: Accepted (Scholten)
7. Spawning migrations and reproductive dynamics of paddlefish in the Upper Missouri River Basin *Pat Braaten, Dave Fuller, and Ryan Lott*
Status: Accepted (Paukert)
8. Survival, movement, reproduction, and habitats used by paddlefish in the Arkansas River, Arkansas. *Steve Donabauer, Joe Stoeckel, and Jeff Quinn.*
Status: Accepted (Scholten)
9. Swimming Performance of Juvenile Paddlefish: Quantifying Risk of Entrainment. *Jan Hoover, April Turnage, and K. Jack Kilgore.*
Status: Waiting for author's minor revisions (Paukert)
10. Morphological variation in juvenile paddlefish. *Jan Hoover and Steven St. George.*
Status: Waiting for author's minor revisions (Paukert)

Part 2. Threats to paddlefish

11. Habitat-related threats to paddlefish. *Joe Gerken and Craig Paukert*
Status: Not yet received; in USGS policy review (Paukert)
12. Potential effects of invasive species on paddlefish *Mark Pegg, John Chick, and Brenda Pracheil*
Status: Accepted (Paukert)
13. Harvest of paddlefish in North America. *Jeff Quinn*
Status: Accepted (Scholten)

14. Paddlefish harvest in Oklahoma *Brent Gordon*
Status: Waiting for author's minor revision (Paukert)
15. Joint management of an interjurisdictional paddlefish snag fishery in the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam, South Dakota and Nebraska. *Gerald Mestl and Jason Sorensen*
Status: Accepted (Scholten)
16. Management of the Arkansas River commercial paddlefish fishery with check stations and special seasons *Jeff Quinn, William Posey, Frank Leone, and Robert Limbird*
Status: Accepted (Paukert)

Part 3. Paddlefish conservation and management

17. Current management of paddlefish sport fisheries *Kirk Hansen and Craig Paukert*
Status: Waiting for author revision (Scholten)
18. Management of commercial paddlefish fisheries in the US *George Scholten*
Status: Waiting for author revision (Paukert)
19. Paddlefish genetics, conservation, and inbreeding *Brian Sloss, Robert Klumb, and Ed Heist*
Status: Waiting for author revision (Scholten)
20. Mortality and movements of paddlefish released as bycatch in a commercial fishery in Kentucky Lake, Tennessee. *Janice Kerns, Phil Bettoli, and George Scholten*
Status: Accepted (Paukert)
21. Commercial Harvest of Paddlefish in the Upper Mississippi River *Mike Quist, Mike Steuck, and Michelle Morron*
Status: Accepted (Scholten)

Part 4. Paddlefish stocking and culture

22. Propagation and culture techniques for paddlefish. *Steve Mims, Richard Onders, and William Shelton*
Status: Accepted (Paukert)
23. Maintaining paddlefish by stocking. *Joanne Grady and Brian Elkington*
Status: Not yet received (Scholten)
24. Restoration of paddlefish to the Upper Allegheny River, New York *David Argent, William Kimmel, Rick Lorson, Paul McKeown, Douglas Carlson, and Michael Clancy*
Status: Accepted (Scholten)
25. Factors associated with age-0 paddlefish production in rearing ponds *Steve Chipps, H. Denise Symens, and Herb Bollig*
Status: Accepted (Paukert)

Part 5. Future directions

26. Summary of where we are today in paddlefish conservation and management; future research needs *Craig Paukert and George Scholten*
Status: Will be written after all chapters are in

Contributions for Paddlefish Book as of 01-16-09

Contributor	Pledged Amount	Amount AFS Received
Nebraska AFS Chapter	\$500	\$500
Dakota AFS Chapter	\$500	\$500
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission	\$1,000	\$1,037.50
Arkansas AFS Chapter	\$350	
Pennsylvania AFS Chapter	\$500	
Indiana AFS Chapter	\$500	
U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center	\$1,000	
USFWS - Region 4	\$2,000	
North American Native Fishes Association	\$500	\$500
USFWS - Regions 2, 3, & 6	\$3,000	
USFWS - Division of Scientific Authority	\$1,000	
UMRCC	\$2,000	\$2,000
SD Game, Fish, and Parks	\$500	\$500
New York AFS Chapter	\$500	
TOTAL	\$13,850	\$5,038
AMOUNT NEEDED FOR GOAL	\$11,150	\$19,963
PERCENT CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS GOAL	55%	20%