

MISSISSIPPI INTERSTATE COOPERATIVE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Executive Board Meeting

August 2-3, 2022

St. James Hotel
406 Main Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

AGENDA

(All times are Central)

Tuesday, August 2, 8:00-1:00 (CST), Oak Room

Call to Order

- 1) Call to Order (Brad Parsons)

Invasive Carp Interbasin Coordination

- 2) Population Assessment / Invasive Carp Advisory Committee / Invasive Carp Committee (Rob Simmonds, Greg Conover, Brian Schoenung)
- 3) Sub-basin Invasive Carp Partnership Coordinators Discussion (Sub-basin Partnership Coordinators)
- 4) Wildlife Forever Commercial Harvest Incentives Program (Conover)

[Lunch Break]

Tuesday, August 2, 3:00-TBD (CST), Lake Pepin

Field Visit

No remote option. Additional information will be provided Tuesday morning.

Wednesday, August 3, 8:00-12:00 (CST), Oak Room

Fishery Commission

- 5) FishTracks Database (Marybeth Brey, Andrea Fritts, and Travis Harrison)
- 6) Congressional Outreach (Ashlee Smith)
- 7) Fishery Commission Discussion (Parsons)

Joint Strategic Plan

8) Joint Strategic Plan Implementation (Conover and Parsons)

- Update on director concurrence
- Implementation
- What, if any, communication with delegates?

[Lunch Break]

Wednesday, August 3, 1:00-5:00 (CST), Oak Room

Chairman and Coordinator Reports

9) Chairman's Report (Parsons)

10) Coordinator's Report (Greg Conover)

11) Sub-basin and Federal Entity Updates (Sub-basin Representatives)

Committee Updates

12) MRBP/AIS Committee Update (Eugene Braig) – remote at 1:30

13) Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee Update (Ryan Hupfeld) – remote at 2:30

Old Business

14) Native Mussel Priorities (Steve McMurray) – remote at 2:00

15) Approval of February 2022 Meeting Notes (Parsons)

16) Review of Action Items (Conover)

New Business

17) 2024-2028 Priorities Document Development (Conover)

18) Young Professionals Travel Stipend (Conover)

19) Mississippi-Yangtze River Basins Symposium Sponsorship Request (Conover)

20) Schedule Fall Conference Call and Winter Executive Board Meeting (Parsons)

21) Other New Business / Parking Lot (Parsons)

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DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Decisions

1. The Executive Board members agreed that a single state should not serve as the representative more than one sub-basin on the Invasive Carp Advisory Committee.
2. It was agreed that the Executive Board does not need to formally approve the sub-basin partnerships' nominations for the Invasive Carp Advisory Committee.
3. The February 2022 Executive Board meeting notes were approved as final.
4. The Executive Board awarded the Young Professionals Travel Stipend to Sam Schaick with the Illinois Natural History Survey.
5. The Executive Board agreed to provide \$1,000 sponsorship for the Mississippi-Yangtze River Interbasin Symposium at the 152nd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society.
6. The Executive Board will target March 6-10, 2023, for agency and Congressional visits in Washington, DC.
7. The Executive Board will target the week of February 6-10, 2023, for a Winter meeting in Mississippi, Alabama, or Louisiana.
8. The Executive Board will target December 6-7, 2022, for a Congressional briefing.
9. The Executive Board will hold a fall conference call from 1:00-3:00 pm (Central) on November 1.

Action Items

1. The Invasive Carp Advisory Committee (ICAC) co-chairs will keep the MICRA Executive Board informed on progress of populating the ICAC and technical workgroups.

2. The Executive Board sub-basin representatives will inform their respective delegates of the ICAC and technical workgroup representatives that have been identified for their respective sub-basins.
3. The Executive Board sub-basin representatives will work to identify state agency co-chairs for the Sampling Approach Workgroup and the Data and Analysis Workgroup by the end of August.
4. Conover will provide Simmonds with contact information for the MICRA Executive Board members.
5. Simmonds will provide the Executive Board with an overview of the ICAC and technical workgroup members that have been confirmed and which positions are still needed from the different sub-basins.
6. Smith requested distribution/abundance maps for the different sub-basins.
7. Conover will share the communications planning notes from the board's July 2014 meeting with the Executive Board members.
8. Conover will add a discussion of a MICRA Communications Plan to the agenda for the board's Winter meeting.
9. The sub-basin partnership coordinators and ICAC co-chairs will provide examples of communications needs and barriers to the Executive Board.
10. The Executive Board will hold a conference call specifically focused on resuming this discussion about internal and external communication needs, particularly the following considerations (see details in August 2022 meeting notes page 25).
11. The Executive Board will work with the sub-basin partnership coordinators to develop a request and guidance regarding sub-basin scale objectives for invasive carp management and control.
12. The sub-basin partnership coordinators will work with their respective sub-basin partnerships to identify sub-basin scale objectives to assist the ICAC and MICRA Executive Board with basinwide planning and communications.
13. The sub-basin partnership coordinators and the ICAC co-chairs will continue to discuss how the sub-basin scale objectives should be consistently developed and will report back to the Executive Board when they have reached consensus.
14. Smith will review the Wildlife Forever Commercial Harvest Incentive Program proposal and follow-up with recommendations for the MICRA Executive Board.
15. Gaikowski will work with USGS staff to provide the Executive Board and Invasive Carp Advisory Committee with a factsheet on FishTracks and the potential to expand the database to include telemetry data from other sub-basins and species.

16. Sub-basin partnership coordinators will share the FishTracks factsheet with their partners once it is updated and provided by USGS.
17. Sub-basin partnership coordinators will discuss the Executive Boards interest in basinwide platforms for data management and analysis with the sub-basin partnerships.
18. Sub-basin partnership coordinators will work with USGS to schedule a webinar on FishTracks for the sub-basin partnerships.
19. Sub-basin partnership coordinators follow-up with their partners to determine interest and concerns in a basinwide approach to collecting and storing telemetry data.
20. Woldt and Gaikowski will have internal discussions about briefing up within their respective agencies to raise awareness about MICRA's Fishery Commission initiative and draft legislation.
21. The Executive Board will work with Ashlee Smith to schedule a few Zoom meetings for the MICRA Delegates to be briefed on MICRA's fishery commission outreach effort.
22. The MICRA AIS Committee will be asked to work with Ashlee Smith to develop standardized state fact sheets for MICRA's 2023 Congressional visits.
23. Executive Board members were requested to provide Smith with additional recommendations for regional and local organizations that she might want to contact regarding the coalition.
24. Smith will begin working with the existing coalition members to begin working on a charter that addresses how to become a coalition member, Pledge of Support, dues, etc.
25. Smith will reach out to MICRA delegates regarding potential field visits for Congressional staff during the August recess.
26. Sub-basin representatives will email Smith with a few days of availability in August to go in the field with Congressional staff.
27. Parsons will email delegates to ask about local level partners, for example Friends of the Mississippi River, that should be informed about and asked to support the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission initiative and partnership coalition.
28. Parsons will ask MICRA Delegates to brief new agency directors on the MICRA Fishery Commission initiative and to keep existing agency directors informed of progress and status of the commission.
29. Parsons will contact Dirk Miller, Deputy Chief of Fisheries, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, regarding the MICRA Joint Strategic Plan.

30. Parsons will follow-up with Montana, Nebraska, and Colorado regarding status of their director's signing the MICRA Joint Strategic Plan Memorandum of Agreement.
31. Executive Board members should review the Joint Strategic Plan ahead of the board's next meeting and discussions about the 2024-2028 priorities document.
32. Marybeth Brey will be invited to provide an overview of the FishTracks database at the next Paddlefish Sturgeon Committee meeting.
33. Conover will follow-up with Stephen McMurray about the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society referring to MICRA in their guidance documents and providing an annual update to the Executive Board.
34. Conover will follow-up with Stephen McMurray to discuss incorporating Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society priorities into the next MICRA priorities document.
35. Conover will add the final February 2022 Executive Board meeting notes to the MICRA website.
36. Conover will inform Jeff Janvrin that Neil Rude, MN DNR, has been asked to lead the planning of the MICRA large rivers habitat symposium at the 2023 AFS meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and that Rude will be reaching out to him to begin planning.
37. Conover will update the 2019-2023 MICRA Priorities document with initial accomplishments and provide the draft to the sub-basin representatives.
38. Sub-basin representatives will provide the annotated 2019-2023 MICRA Priorities document to their respective sub-basin delegates to request initial input on 2024-2028 priorities by the end of the calendar year.
39. Conover will notify the Young Professionals Travel Stipend applicants of the board's decision regarding the 2022 award.
40. Conover will notify Hae Kim of the board's decision that MICRA will provide \$1,000 sponsorship for the Mississippi-Yangtze River Symposium at the 152nd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society.
41. Conover will follow-up with MICRA delegates in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana, and Ashlee Smith, to identify a meeting location and options for an Executive Board meeting the week of February 6-10, 2023.
42. Smith will work with the Executive Board to organize a Congressional briefing December 6-7, 2022. Briefing should include an overview of USFWS and USGS work in support of the sub-basin partnerships.
43. Conover will follow-up with Gaikowski and a few USFWS field offices regarding Innovasea discount pricing of telemetry equipment.

44. Aldridge will send Conover notes regarding his discussion with Innovasea.
45. Aldridge will organize a call with Innovasea to introduce Conover to discuss potential discount pricing for MICRA member agencies.

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ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

Arkansas/Red/White Rivers	Ken Cunningham	Present
Lower Mississippi River	Ben Batten	Present
Missouri River	Kasey Whiteman	Present via Zoom
Ohio River	Rich Zweifel	Present
Tennessee/Cumberland Rivers	Frank Fiss	Present
Upper Mississippi River	Joe Larscheid	Present
USFWS	Aaron Woldt	Present / via Zoom (8/2)
USGS	Rip Shively	Absent

Alternates

Lower Mississippi River	Angie Rodgers	Present
USGS	Mark Gaikowski	Present

* A quorum (six voting members) was present for the meeting.

Non-voting members

MICRA Chairperson	Brad Parsons	Present
MICRA Chairperson-Elect	Mike McClelland	Present via Zoom
MICRA Immediate Past Chairman	Brian Schoenung	Present
MICRA Coordinator	Greg Conover	Present

Committee Chairpersons

MRBP (AIS Committee)	Eugene Braig	Present via Zoom (8/3)
Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee	Ryan Hupfeld	Present via Zoom (8/3)

Introductions:

Ashlee Smith, MICRA Policy and Government Affairs Contractor

Caleb Aldridge, USFWS

Neal Jackson, USFWS

Rob Simmonds, USFWS – in person (8/2), via Zoom (8/3)

Emily Pherigo, USFWS

Mark Fritts, USFWS – via Zoom (8/2)

Jessica Hogrefe, USFWS – via Zoom (8/2)

Marybeth Brey, USGS – via Zoom (8/3)

Andrea Fritts, USGS – via Zoom (8/3)

Travis Harrison, USGS – via Zoom (8/3)

Stephen McMurray, Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society – via Zoom (8/3)