

## **MICRA Delegate Meeting Minutes**

August 21, 2023 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM (EST)

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel Governor's Room 187 Monroe Avenue NW Grand Rapids, MI

An option for remote participation was provided.

## **MEETING AGENDA**

(All times are Eastern)

- 1:00 Welcome and Introductions (Brad Parsons)
- 1:10 MICRA's Policy and Government Affairs Work in 2023 (Ashlee Smith)
  - Fishery Commission Initiative, Legislative, and Coalition Progress
  - Next Steps for Congressional and Partner Outreach
- 2:30 Success! Now what? Operationalizing the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission (Parsons)
- 3:00 Break / Refreshments
- 3:30 MICRA's Draft 2024-2028 Priorities Document (Parsons and Greg Conover)
- 4:00 MICRA's Draft MICRA's Aquatic Habitat Action Plan (Parsons and Conover)
- 4:30 Proposal to Increase MICRA Member Annual Dues (Parsons)
- 4:50 Closing Remarks (Parsons)
- 5:00 Adjourn / Mixer
- 6:00 Mixer Closes

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Delegates were asked to let Ashlee Smith or Ben Batten know if they would be willing to participate in the 2024 DC Fly-in tentatively scheduled for February 26 – March 1, 2024.
- 2. Delegates were requested to assist with providing two-sided state fact sheets with AIS issues on one side and interjurisdictional fisheries information on the other side (template to be provided by the AIS Committee) by the end of January 2024 for use during MICRA's 2024 DC Fly-in.
- 3. The draft legislation to authorize a Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission and MICRA talking points will be shared with the delegates again following the meeting.
- 4. Delegates were asked to make sure their directors are briefed on the proposed Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission and the associated draft legislation that will soon be introduced into the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee.
- 5. Delegates may be requested by Ashlee Smith this fall to participate in remote meetings with staff in Congressional Offices in their states to discuss the proposed Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission.
- 6. Delegates were asked to let Ashlee Smith know if there are organizations in their respective states that should be briefed and invited to participate in the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission coalition.
- 7. Delegates (and their staff) were asked to text ( ) or email ( ) Ashlee Smith pictures with a short description of their field work, Mississippi River Basin scenery, interjurisdictional fish, AIS, etc. to be used on the coalition website and social media posts.
- 8. Delegates were asked to let Ashlee Smith know whenever there is an opportunity to invite Congressional staff out to observe large rivers field work.
- Delegates were asked to contact Ashlee or Ben Batten if they are interested in participating or have staff that they would like to have participate in the Congressional briefing in DC tentatively planned for November 8.
- 10. Ashlee Smith will investigate the governance documents of existing fishery commissions.
- 11. The Executive Board will provide the Delegates with a final draft of the 2024-2028 Priorities Document later this Fall and highlight any major revisions or additions so they can be quickly and easily reviewed.

- 12. The Executive Board will share the final version of the MICRA Aquatic Habitat Action Plan with the delegates once it is finalized this Fall.
- 13. The Executive Board will consider adding information to the revised list of interjurisdictional rivers in the basin on federal authorities and ceded territories that result in interjurisdictional management of fisheries and aquatic resources.
- 14. The Executive Board will reconsider the amount of the proposed annual dues increase for state agency members and develop a justification that explains why the increase is needed and identifies what the states will get back in return for their investment in the partnership.

## **MEETING ATTENDEES**

- 1. Ben Batten, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, MICRA Chair-elect
- 2. Dave Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 3. George Scholten, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- 4. Rich Zweifel, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio River Sub-basin Representative
- 5. Ken Cunningham, Oklahoma Division of Wildlife, Arkansas-Red-White Rivers Subbasin Representative
- 6. JC Nelson, U.S. Geological Survey
- 7. Dave Dreves, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Tennessee-Cumberland Rivers Sub-basin Representative
- 8. Greg Conover, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MICRA Coordinator
- 9. Justine Hasz, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- 10. Angie Rodgers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, LMRCC Coordinator
- 11. Allan Brown, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 12. Raynie Harlan, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- 13. Ashlee Smith, Sequoya Strategies, MICRA Contractor
- 14. Kevin Irons, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- 15. Brian Schoenung, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, MICRA Past-chair
- 16. Tim Bister, Texas Parks and Wildlife<sup>1</sup>
- 17. Aaron Woldt, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service<sup>1</sup>
- 18. Katie Zipfel, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources<sup>1</sup>
- 19. Christian Waters, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission<sup>1</sup>
- 20. Bob Caccese, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission<sup>1</sup>
- 21. Heather Smiles, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission<sup>1</sup>
- 22. Clint Jones, Tennessee Valley Authority<sup>1</sup>
- 23. Bruce Drektrah, Missouri Department of Conservation<sup>1</sup>
- 24. Jerry Brown, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks<sup>1</sup>
- 25. Mark Thurman, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency<sup>1</sup>
- 26. John Lott, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks<sup>1</sup>
- 27. Brad Parsons, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Remote participants