

MISSISSIPPI INTERSTATE COOPERATIVE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Executive Board Meeting Notes

January 25-27, 2021

Remote Participation

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Decisions

1. The Executive Board tentatively approved the Joint Strategic Plan as final pending revisions to Appendix A as discussed during the meeting.
2. The final Joint Strategic Plan will be distributed to the MICRA Delegates once Appendix A is finalized and Appendix B is reviewed and modified as needed based on the preliminary legal department reviews.
3. The Executive Board agreed to review the Joint Strategic Plan and MICRA Priorities Document and then discuss MICRA's standing committees at the summer Executive Board meeting.
4. The Executive Board decided to consider a nomination for Ron Brooks as the next River Champion award recipient and potentially seeking nominations from the membership in early 2022 for future recipients.
5. The Executive Board decided to revisit the 2021 Young Professionals Travel Stipend during the summer meeting.
6. The Executive Board approved a motion to contract hire policy coordination support in 2021 for an amount not to exceed \$29,000.
7. The Executive Board decided to schedule quarterly Zoom meetings for 2021. Meetings will be rescheduled or added as needed. Scheduling an in-person meeting will be revisited later in the year once we begin to see agencies lifting travel restrictions.

Action Items

1. Conover will check with the CAWS Stakeholder Group to confirm that the attached letter was submitted to USACE.
Complete: The CAWS Advisory Committee letter was submitted to USACE. A response from USACE was received on December 18, 2020 and is included in the notes.
2. Conover will revise Appendix A based on the drafting team's discussion and provide the revised Appendix to the Executive Board for review and comment. A

reference to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's process will be added and the reference to the Encyclopedia Americana will be deleted. The idea of emergent consensus will be linked to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Bullet 3.b) that references "the specter of public revelation" will be deleted.

3. Fiss, Canaday, and Moses will provide the Memorandum of Agreement in Appendix B to the legal staff in their states to review the document and provide feedback.
4. Conover will update the dates in the recitals of Appendix B in the Joint Strategic Plan.
5. Schoenung will send a brief update to the MICRA Delegates to inform them that the Executive Board tentatively approved the Joint Strategic Plan as final and will provide them the final document once the Memorandum of Agreement has undergone review.
6. Conover will schedule a follow-up conference call for the Executive Board to discuss the fishery commission talking points with the Service to make sure that both groups are comfortable with the messaging and support each other's messages.
7. Smith will send a copy of the National Wildlife Federation's resolution supporting a Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission (and other such documents from other organizations) to Conover to share with the Executive Board members.
8. Smith will send a list of organizations talking with Ashlee about supporting the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission concept to Conover to share with the Executive Board members.
9. Smith will send her draft bill language to establish a Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission to Conover to share with the Executive Board members.
10. Smith will develop a list of key committee members and offices for MICRA's visits to identify which fish chiefs will need to be invited to participate in the meetings.
11. Schoenung will contact the fish chiefs in the MICRA states where MICRA will be conducting office visits to invite and request local participation in the meetings.
12. Conover will invite Tokowitz to a call with the MICRA Executive Board to discuss MICRA's interest in a Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission and opportunities for partnering with ASA more broadly. This discussion will be scheduled after the Executive Board works with the Service to develop talking points regarding the purpose, need, and benefits of a fishery commission.
13. Conover will add information on the River Champion Award and the inaugural winners to the MICRA website.

14. Moses will talk with Bobby Reed and make arrangements to get him his River Champion Award and to get a photo of Reed with the award for the MICRA website.
15. Fiss will develop a River Champion nomination for Ron Brooks to share with the Executive Board for consideration before October.
16. Schoenung will talk with Smith regarding the need to develop and use MICRA talking points when discussing the proposed Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission.
17. Conover will send Parsons a new invoice for 2020 membership dues with today's date.
18. Conover will send out doodle polls to schedule quarterly Executive Board Zoom meetings for 2021.
19. Board members were asked to give some thought to the process for standing up the commission, including how the Executive Board would integrate, and to be prepared for a more in-depth discussion of this topic during the next meeting.

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AGENDA

Session 1: Monday, January 25, 9:00-10:30 (CST)

Call to Order

- 1) Call to Order (Brian Schoenung)
- 2) Chairman's Report (Schoenung)
- 3) Coordinator's Report (Greg Conover)

Sub-basin Updates

- 4) Arkansas/Red/White Rivers (Ricky Moses)
- 5) Lower Mississippi River (Angie Rodgers)
- 6) Missouri River (Kasey Whiteman)
- 7) Ohio River (Schoenung)
- 8) Tennessee/Cumberland Rivers (Frank Fiss)
- 9) Upper Mississippi River (Brad Parsons)

AFWA Legislative Affairs Update

- 10) Legislative Affairs Update (Jen Mock Schaeffer)

Session 2: Monday, January 25, 2:00-3:30 (CST)

Sub-basin Updates

- Continued

Federal Entity Updates

- 11) TVA (Dennis Baxter)
- 12) USFWS (Aaron Woldt)
- 13) USGS (Rip Shively)

Session 3: Tuesday, January 26, 1:00-3:00 (CST)

Old Business

- 14) Joint Strategic Plan (Conover)
- 15) Fishery Commission Initiative (Schoenung)
- 16) 2021 Congressional Outreach (Schoenung)
- 17) 2021 Policy Coordination Contract Renewal (Schoenung)
- 18) Review of MICRA Planning Documents (Conover)

Session 4: Wednesday, January 27, 8:00-10:00 (CST)

New Business

- 19) Mississippi River Economic Profile (Bryan Hopkins, MO DNR)
- 20) Review of Standing Committees (Conover)
- 21) ASA Government Affairs Committee (Conover)
- 22) River Champion Award (Canaday)
- 23) Young Professionals Travel Stipend (Conover)
- 24) 2021 Operational Budget and Workplan (Conover)
- 25) Schedule Spring Conference Call and Summer Executive Board Meeting (Conover)
- 26) Other New Business (Schoenung)

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ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

Arkansas/Red/White Rivers	Ricky Moses	Present sessions 2,3,4
Lower Mississippi River	Ben Batten	Present sessions 2,3,4
Missouri River	Kasey Whiteman	Present all sessions
Ohio River	Brian Schoenung	Present all sessions
Tennessee/Cumberland Rivers	Frank Fiss	Present all sessions
Upper Mississippi River	Brad Parsons	Present all sessions
USFWS	Aaron Woldt	Present sessions 2,3,4
USGS	Rip Shively	Present all sessions

A quorum of Executive Board members was present for all sessions.

Non-voting members

MICRA Chairperson	Brian Schoenung	Present all sessions
MICRA Chairperson-Elect	Brad Parsons	Present all sessions
MICRA Past Chairman	Larry Pugh	Absent all sessions
MICRA Past Chairman	Brian Canaday	Present all sessions
MICRA Coordinator	Greg Conover	Present all sessions
LMRCC Alternate	Angie Rodgers	Present all sessions

Committee Chairpersons

AIS Committee (MRBP)	Chris Steffen	Absent all sessions
Freshwater Mussel Committee	Vacant	
Gamefish Committee	Vacant	
Habitat Committee	Jeff Janvrin	Present session 3
Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee	Joe McMullen	Absent all sessions

Guests

Allan Brown	USFWS	Present all sessions
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Bruce Drektrah	MDC	Present all sessions
Mark Gaikowski	USGS, UMESC	Present all sessions
Jen Mock Schaeffer	AFWA	Present session 1
Dennis Baxter	TVA	Present session 2
Ashlee Smith	MWF	Present session 3
Bryan Hopkins	MO DNR	Present session 4

Drafting Team Members (Session 3)

Jeff Janvrin	Wisconsin DNR
Dennis Riecke	Mississippi DWFP
Randy Schultz	Iowa DNR
Robby Maxwell	Louisiana DWF
Tim Bister	TPWD
Chris Greene	Alabama DWFF