

**Briefing Book**

**Executive Board Meeting**

August 20-22, 2024

Cleveland Metroparks

Lakefront Administration Building

8701 Lakeshore Blvd

Cleveland, OH 44108

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**Executive Board Meeting**

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*Remote Participation*

[Join Zoom Meeting](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87890197906?pwd=QioGJ8YQKKNLn3O7bvZJ18tTvBcF4L.1)  
Meeting ID: 878 9019 7906  
Passcode: 336013

Phone: 312-626-6799

## MEETING AGENDA

(All times are Eastern)

*Tuesday, August 20, 6:00 am – 12:00 pm; Oasis Marinas at Port Lorain*

**Optional Field Trip**

Address: 301 Lakeside Ave, Lorain, OH 44052

*Tuesday, August 20, 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm; Cleveland Metroparks Lakefront Building*

**Call to Order / Welcome**

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum (Ben Batten)
2. Welcome and Introduction to Cleveland Metroparks (Jennifer Grieser)

**Chairman and Coordinator Reports**

1. Chairman’s Report (Batten)
2. Coordinator’s Report (Greg Conover)

**Business Items**

1. Approval of January 2024 Executive Board Meeting Minutes (Batten)
2. Review of Action Items (Conover)
3. Review of Priorities Document (Batten)
4. 2025 Operational Budget (Conover)

*Wednesday, August 21, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm; Cleveland Metroparks Lakefront Building*

1. Legislative, Policy, and Outreach Next Steps (Ashlee Smith)
2. Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission Next Steps (Brad Parsons)

**Lunch**

1. Collaborative, Multi-Agency Invasive Carp Management and Control (All)

*Thursday, August 22, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm; Cleveland Metroparks Lakefront Building*

**Old Business**

1. USFWS Economic Value Report Update (Jim Caudill)
2. Implementing Collaborative, Multi-Agency Invasive Carp Management and Control (All)
3. Interjurisdictional Rivers, Federal Nexus, and Tribal Nexus (All)

**New Business**

1. Schedule Fall Conference Call and Winter Executive Board Meeting (Batten)
2. Other New Business / Parking Lot (Batten)

**Adjourn**

# Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

**MICRA Executive Board Members**

*Voting Members*

Arkansas-Red-White Rivers Ken Cunningham ODWC

Lower Mississippi River Jason Henegar TWRA

Missouri River Kasey Whiteman MDC

Ohio River Rich Zweifel OH DNR

Tennessee-Cumberland Rivers Dave Dreves KDFWR

Upper Mississippi River Kirk Hansen IA DNR

USFWS Aaron Woldt USFWS

USGS JC Nelson USGS

MICRA Chairperson-Elect *Vacant*

\* Six voting members are needed for a quorum.

*Non-voting members*

MICRA Chairperson Ben Batten AGFC

MICRA Past Chairman Brad Parsons MN DNR

MICRA Coordinator Greg Conover USFWS

*Committee Chairpersons*

AIS Committee Rob Bourgeois LDFW

Invasive Carp Advisory Committee Brian Schoenung IL DNR

Invasive Carp Advisory Committee Rob Simmonds USFWS

MRBP - MICRA Liaison Rob Bourgeois LDFW

Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee Sara Tripp IL DNR

**Introductions**

# Welcome and Introduction to Cleveland Metroparks

*Information Item:*

Jennifer Grieser will welcome the Executive Board and provide an overview of Cleveland Metroparks.

# Chairman’s Report

*Information Item****:***

Ben Batten will provide an update on the Chairman’s activities since the board’s January 2024 meeting.

Activities:

* Search for chair-elect
* DC Fly-in prep and visits
* Congressional outreach and coordination with Ashlee Smith
* Fishery Commission workgroup meetings
* Meeting and follow-up with Mississippi River Commission
* Met with Jim Caudill, USFWS Division of Economics, to discuss updated economic report for MRB
* Represented MICRA on a quarterly TWF invasive carp professionals call
* USACE WRDA 509 public meeting coordination

Correspondence:

* Letter from MICRA was sent to USACE Nashville District to communicate the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers (TNCR) Invasive Carp Partnership’s decision analysis-based recommendation for priority locations for the placement of invasive carp deterrent systems in the TNCR and the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway (TTW) based on constraints provided by authorizing language in WRDA 2020, Section 509, as amended in WRDA 2022.
* Email received from Dr. Jim Williams, USGS retired, expressing concern “regarding the threat to the aquatic ecosystem of the Mobile basin from invasive species passing through the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway” and disappointment “in the lack of transparency in the Nashville District regarding the issue”. Dr. Williams requested “a report or information regarding the placement and type of structure to be installed”.
* Letter received from the Chairman of the Watts Bar Ecology and Fishery Council (WBEFC) regarding the TNCR Invasive Carp Partnership’s decision analysis project and resulting “MICRA recommendations”. The WBEFC requested a copy of the modeling effort. The letter also includes WBEFC’s recommendations and information that they requested be considered by the partnership in Phase 2 of the decision analysis project.
* A letter from MICRA was sent to AFS Executive Director, Doug Austen, requesting AFS’s support of the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission initiative and for AFS to sign on to the coalition’s letter of support.
* Responded to emails from the National Aquaculture Association requesting that a mechanism for stakeholder participation and input in the proposed Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission.

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From: **Jim Williams** <[fishwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:fishwilliams@gmail.com)>  
Date: Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 3:46 PM  
Subject: Tenn-Tom Waterway Barrier Systems  
To: <[Ben.Batten@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:Ben.Batten@agfc.ar.gov)>

Ben -- I am a retired USGS aquatic biologist. I formally worked in the Gainesville, Florida, lab where I was a branch chief managing the invasive species program for the lab. As part of that job, I coauthored books on nonindigenous fishes, Black Carp, and Asian bigheaded carps published by the American Fisheries Society. In addition to the books, I published other articles on impacts of introduced aquatics, mostly fishes.

A couple of years ago, I contacted the US Army Corps of Engineers in the Mobile District Office regarding the threat to the aquatic ecosystem of the Mobile basin from invasive species passing through the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. In addition to foreign invasives, there are also native species that cross the divide between the two basins with the potential of becoming invasive (e.g., Alabama Bass moving from Mobile basin into the Tennessee basin). After the Corps secured funding to look into this problem, I contacted the Nashville District (where congressional appropriations were sent) and asked Stephen Logan if I could participate in the Decision Analysis Team (DAT). They did not accept my offer and instead informed me that I would have a chance to comment on the results once the DAT report had been prepared. My question is do you have anything in the way of a report or information regarding the placement and type of structure to be installed that you could pass along?

I must confess that I have been somewhat disappointed in the lack of transparency in the Nashville District regarding this issue. I was told by Stephen Logan that it had been farmed out to different agencies for different tasks, but at this point, there doesn't seem to be an agency that can send me anything. I'm hopeful that you have something that details the placement and type of structure to the point that it can be evaluated by outside persons like myself.

I should also mention that I've worked on aquatic conservation of fishes and mussels for decades (13 years in the Endangered Species Office, FWS, Washington DC). I've also published a book on freshwater mussels of Alabama and the Mobile basin. I am a native Alabamian and have spent much of my career working on issues related to the Mobile basin. As you might guess by now, it's very near and dear to my heart and mind. If you have any questions for me, please let me know and I look forward to hearing from you hopefully with reports on deterrents/barriers on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

Thank you,

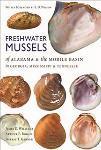
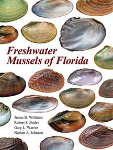
Jim

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

James D. Williams                                  
4820 NW 15th Place  
Gainesville, FL 32605

(352) 672-7298 (cell)

"Science is my passion; politics is my duty" Thomas Jefferson

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From: **Paul Zajicek** <[paul@nationalaquaculture.org](mailto:paul@nationalaquaculture.org)>  
Date: Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 9:07 AM  
Subject: Request provision: Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission  
To: Ben Batten ([ben.batten@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:ben.batten@agfc.ar.gov)) <[ben.batten@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:ben.batten@agfc.ar.gov)>  
CC: Mike Freeze <[mikefreeze@keofishfarms.com](mailto:mikefreeze@keofishfarms.com)>

Ben:

We have been thinking about the legislative provisions to create the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission. It would seem unlikely a federal fishery commission of this scope could be formed by legislation unless a provision specific to stakeholder participation is included. Currently the bill restricts membership and participation to regulators and there isn’t a section with a broad goal related to public input and how that might occur.

We checked the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.  The provision requiring federal fishery management councils to include stakeholders is:

101-627

“…to establish Regional Fishery Management Councils to exercise sound judgment in the stewardship of fishery resources through the preparation, monitoring, and revision of such plans under circumstances (A) which will enable the States, the fishing industry, consumer and environmental organizations, and other interested persons to participate in, and advise on, the establishment and administration of such plans, and (B) which take into account the social and economic needs of the States;”

We might suggest adding to:

Section 3. Definitions

(4) Eligible Entity – The term “eligible entity” includes:

(H) fish harvesting, fish farming, consumer and environmental organizations.

All the best,

Paul

Paul W. Zajicek, Executive Director

National Aquaculture Association (USA)

[](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fthenaa.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cgreg_conover%40fws.gov%7C6e25ad0241e14357223708dcb7e1c44f%7C0693b5ba4b184d7b9341f32f400a5494%7C0%7C0%7C638587427494572448%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XxOI2nqZ0gFcUsUuojv9uNRUQfR942IAM4qgcwxEd90%3D&reserved=0)Cell: 850-443-3456

[Home - National Aquaculture Association](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nationalaquaculture.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cgreg_conover%40fws.gov%7C6e25ad0241e14357223708dcb7e1c44f%7C0693b5ba4b184d7b9341f32f400a5494%7C0%7C0%7C638587427494566935%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tXnjKdjOMPfvWYaEYo%2Ft9xvilQwJU8Oy0bWuiXJm3w4%3D&reserved=0)

On Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 11:34 AM Paul Zajicek <[paul@nationalaquaculture.org](mailto:paul@nationalaquaculture.org)> wrote:

Ben:

We have further refined and organized our suggestion for the legislation which includes the stakeholder requirements of the Great Lakes Fishery Committee and eight federal fishery management commissions.  Hopefully this will be helpful in sharing our rationale.

The Mississippi River Basin Management Commission is patterned after the [Great Lakes Fishery Commission](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.glfc.org%2Findex.php&data=05%7C02%7Cgreg_conover%40fws.gov%7Cb1fa2a05797f4fd4a7b508dcb7e1e948%7C0693b5ba4b184d7b9341f32f400a5494%7C0%7C0%7C638587428115468975%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4vHG2tq6BeaEBJ4lSo1E9KnxIjahY6q3KGJ2KahFNKY%3D&reserved=0) and the eight federal marine fishery commissions authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act.  We believe that it would seem unlikely a federal fishery commission of this scope (i.e., 31 states) could be formed by legislation unless a provision specific to stakeholder participation is included. Currently the bill restricts membership and participation to regulators and there isn’t a provision with a broad goal related to public input and how that might occur.

We checked the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.  The provision requiring federal fishery management councils to include stakeholders is:

101-627

“…to establish Regional Fishery Management Councils to exercise sound judgment in the stewardship of fishery resources through the preparation, monitoring, and revision of such plans under circumstances (A) which will enable the States, the fishing industry, consumer and environmental organizations, and other interested persons to participate in, and advise on, the establishment and administration of such plans, and (B) which take into account the social and economic needs of the States;”

The authorizing legislation for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, [16 USC Ch. 15A: GREAT LAKES FISHERIES (house.gov)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuscode.house.gov%2Fview.xhtml%3Fpath%3D%2Fprelim%40title16%2Fchapter15A%26edition%3Dprelim&data=05%7C02%7Cgreg_conover%40fws.gov%7Cb1fa2a05797f4fd4a7b508dcb7e1e948%7C0693b5ba4b184d7b9341f32f400a5494%7C0%7C0%7C638587428115474875%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Hk5YaH2JWBZtZ1SWjR9a%2F7aPso28nKQkuAAD%2BVi95t8%3D&reserved=0), provides stakeholder input within §933. Advisory Committee.

§933. Advisory Committee

(a) Appointment and number of members; factors in selection

The United States Section shall appoint an advisory committee for each of the Great Lakes, upon which committee each State bordering on the lake may be represented by not more than four members. In making such appointments, the United States Section shall make its selection for each State from a list proposed by the Governor of that State; and shall give due consideration to the interests of—

(1) State agencies having jurisdiction over fisheries;

(2) the commercial fishing industry of the lake;

(3) the sports fishing of the lake; and

(4) the public at large.

(b) Membership on other committees

A member of the advisory committee for one lake may also be a member of the advisory committee for one or more other lakes.

(c) Compensation

The members of the advisory committee shall receive no compensation from the Government of the United States for their services as such members. Not more than ten members of all the committees, designated by the committees and approved by the United States Section, may be paid by the Government of the United States for transportation expenses and per diem incident to attendance at the annual meeting of the Commission or of the United States Section.

(d) Meetings

The members of the advisory committee for each lake shall be invited to attend all nonexecutive meetings of the United States Section relating to that lake and at such meetings shall be granted opportunity to examine and be heard on all proposed recommendations, programs, and activities relating to that lake.

We suggest amending the Mississippi River Basin Commission legislation to add the following text which will create a voting right for stakeholders.

Section 3. Definitions

(4) Eligible Entity – The term “eligible entity” includes:

(H) national, regional, and state fish harvesting and fish farming organizations.

If you have questions/comments, please do not hesitate.

Thank you,

Paul

Paul W. Zajicek, Executive Director

National Aquaculture Association (USA)

Cell: 850-443-3456

[Home - National Aquaculture Association](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nationalaquaculture.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cgreg_conover%40fws.gov%7Cb1fa2a05797f4fd4a7b508dcb7e1e948%7C0693b5ba4b184d7b9341f32f400a5494%7C0%7C0%7C638587428115480946%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2F80RJ34StvMT38Uwuck07z60kmHzqU2SLfxsG4Td0DU%3D&reserved=0)

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# Coordinator’s Report

*Decision Item:*

1. Financial

* Accountant, bank, and coordinator financial records all reconcile as of 7/31/2024
  + See accountant’s report provided below.
  + 7/31/2024 balance = $240,667.50
    - MRBP balance = $42,962.33
    - MICRA balance = $197,705.17
  + July bank statements and accountant’s report provided to Ben Batten for audit.
* Status of 2024 membership dues (see table below)
  + 19 states have paid $3,000
  + 3 states have paid $1,500
  + 6 agencies that paid membership dues in 2023 have not paid in 2024
  + July invoices have been sent to 5 states and TVA
  + Dues payments are up $16,000 from the 2023 high of $50,500
* MICRA’s System of Award Management (SAM) registration
  + Registration expired January 19, reported on renewal problems at January meeting
  + Required to process a name change from ‘Association’ to ‘Agreement’
    - MICRA’s TIN and bank accounts under the name ‘Agreement’
  + Name change completed and registration renewed May 31
* MRBP funding
  + FY18 Award (5-year)
    - Performance Period: 6/1/2018-12/31/2023
    - Total received: $236,000
    - Final reports submitted April 2024
    - Award officially closed 7/19/2024
  + FY23 Award (5-year)
    - Performance Period: 7/1/2023-12/31/2027
    - Modification request submitted July 2 for $50,000 FY24 funding
      * Performance period for modification: 1/1/24 – 12/31/2024
      * Status: “Approved (Processing)”
      * The entity name change is not expected to affect awarding of requested modification for FY24 funding

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* MICRA provided $6,000 in contributed funds to USFWS in January 2024 to support the MICRA Coordinator’s operational expenses and travel through 2024.
  + Contributed funds cover cell phone, office supplies, and travel
  + 2024 MICRA related travel to date
    - January ANS Task Force and Regional Panels Principals meetings
    - MICRA January Executive Board meeting
    - UMRCC Annual Meeting
    - MRBP coordination meeting
    - May ANS Task Force and Regional Panels Principals meetings
    - Mississippi River Watershed Partnership Workshop
    - LMRCC Annual Meeting
    - MICRA August Executive Board meeting
  + $1,000 deficit with estimated travel for August 2024 MICRA EB meeting
  + Projected travel for MICRA through remainder of 2024: $5,000 - $9,200
    - AFS: $5,000 (plus registration?)
    - ORBA Summit: $1,200
    - ANSTF: $2,000 (virtual?)
    - UMRBA: $500
    - Paddlefish Sturgeon Committee: $500? (not scheduled)
  + MICRA related travel expenditures since 2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Travel (w/ meeting supplies)** |
| **2018** | $8,965.26 |
| **2019** | $4,527.25 |
| **2020** | $7,016.21 |
| **2021** | $353.60 |
| **2022** | $2,762.95 |
| **2023** | $8,787.94 |
| **2024 to date** | $8,555.53 |

* Additional $8,000 requested for remaining travel in 2024 (or $3,000 without AFS).
* Accountant updates
  + Accountant management transferred back to Marion, IL, December 2023
  + Changes in authorization to MICRA’s bank account necessary due to staffing turnover
    - Current signatories being removed
    - Three new signatories being added
      * Two primary, one backup
  + Manager is proposing new “controls” to protect both ATLAS and MICRA
    - ACH payments when possible and no additional cost to MICRA
      * Checks will continue to be used to reimburse individuals
    - 2 signatures on checks
      * Requires collusion for unapproved withdrawals on account
    - Requesting to establish a list of approved payees at bank to authorize single signature
      * Based on MICRA’s recurring approved payments
      * MICRA can also establish an upper limit for single signatures (e.g., all checks > $5,000 require two signatures)
* See draft resolution and approvals below.



Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association

RESOLUTION ON

THE NEED TO CHANGE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES

ON MICRA’S MONEY MARKET AND CHECKING ACCOUNTS

WITH FIFTH THIRD BANK

Adopted August 20, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Charlotte Kennedy, Claudius Rolle, and Cherry Laird be added as authorized signatories on the accounts at Fifth Third Bank.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Rosemary Winters and anyone not named above be removed as authorized signatory on the accounts at Fifth Third Bank.



August 26, 2024

Claudius Rolle, CPA

2602 W. DeYoung St.

Marion, IL 62959-7928

Dear Claudius,

Please find enclosed a Resolution for changes to the authorized signatories on MICRA’s money market and checking accounts with Fifth Third Bank. The Resolution was adopted by the MICRA Executive Board during their meeting August 20, 2024.

The Executive Board approved the use of ACH payments when possible and at no further cost to MICRA. The board also approved the addition of appropriate controls for the management of MICRA’s bank accounts as recommended by ATLAS CPAs and Advisors, PLLC (ATLAS), to include the requirement of two authorized signatories on withdrawals against MICRA’s accounts. MICRA authorizes the establishment of a list of payees for recurring payments that are approved for a single signature to be on record with Fifth Third Bank. All payments in excess of $5,000 shall require two authorized signatories. No members of the MICRA Executive Board or employees of ATLAS shall be approved for payments from MICRA’s accounts with a single signature. The Executive Board further authorized the MICRA Chairman, in his role as Financial Officer, to approve an initial list of payees requiring only a single signature and periodic changes proposed by ATLAS.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the information contained herein.

Sincerely,

Ben Batten

MICRA Chairman

1. MICRA Website

* Receiving occasional emails that people trying to access MICRArivers.org are unable to access the website and receive an error message stating “This site can’t provide a secure connection” … “micrarivers.org uses an unsupported protocol.”
* The following information was provided by MICRA’s webhost:
  + The error you are getting when you access the website is just letting you know that there is not a valid SSL certificate on the site.
  + SSL certificates are a validation/verification tool for websites. An SSL certificate can be purchased through your Go Daddy account and we can install it on the website's hosting for you.
  + There are several types of SSL certificates that Go Daddy offers; a standard cert is cheaper and would definitely be adequate for your site. I've attached a screenshot of their pricing. Our charge for the installation of the certificate would be our regular hourly rate for web development ($95). This installation should not take longer than one hour.
* A standard SSL certificate is currently $69.99/year paid in advance for 3 years and renews at $99.99/year for a 3-year term.
* Requesting approval from the board to move forward with this expenditure.

1. Young Professionals Travel Stipend

No applications have been received for the 2024 Young Professionals Travel Stipend.

1. Mississippi River Watershed Partnership Workshop
2. TNC Sentinel Monitoring Sprints update

# Approval of January 2024 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

*Decision Item:*

Executive Board members will be asked to approve the [draft January 2024 Executive Board meeting minutes](http://micrarivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/MICRA-Executive-Board-January-2024-Meeting-Minutes.pdf) as final. The draft meeting minutes will be posted on the MICRA website once approved as final. No requested revisions have been received for the draft meeting minutes or the [draft January 2024 MICRA Executive Board meeting notes](http://micrarivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/MICRA-EB-meeting-notes-January-2024_lr.pdf).

# Review of Action Items

*Discussion Item:*

Executive Board members will review Decisions and the status of Action Items from the board’s January 2024 meeting and discuss completion of outstanding action items. Outstanding Action Items from previous meetings are also included for consideration. Status of each action item is noted in green font if complete and red font if not completed.

**January 2024**

Decisions

1. The Executive Board members agreed that only the meeting minutes need to be formally approved. Meeting notes will be considered final following a 30-day review period by the Executive Board members and requested revisions addressed.
2. The Executive Board approved the February 2023 Executive Board Meeting minutes as final.
3. The Executive Board approved the August 2023 Executive Board meeting and August 2023 MICRA Delegate meeting minutes as final.
4. The Executive Board requested USFWS and the sub-basin coordinators to continue building out the invasive carp data on the dashboard that La Crosse FWCO has begun developing.
5. A small workgroup was formed with Batten, Parsons, Zweifel, Gaikowski, and Conover to work on operationalizing the fishery commission between Executive Board meetings.
6. The Executive Board approved final revisions to the 2024-2028 MICRA Priorities Document.
7. A motion was made and approved to accept the nomination of Jason Henegar as the Lower Mississippi River sub-basin representative to the MICRA Executive Board.
8. The Executive Board approved a $500 donation to the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute for the use of their facility for the board’s meeting.

Action Items

1. Conover will update the MICRA Executive Board membership and mail list to include Jason Henegar as the LMR sub-basin representative on the board.

*Complete*

1. Conover will let the sub-basin representatives know which states have not responded with a vote on the proposed By-Laws changes.

*Complete*

1. Executive Board members were requested to provide Gaikowski with input on how they see their agency interfacing with USGS as part of the technology transfer process for the various technologies that are currently in development.

*Unknown: Reminder, delete?*

1. Smith will send the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission draft legislation sign-on letter without any state agencies listed to Batten with a request for the states to seek approval for their agencies to be added to the letter and their agency’s logo added to the coalition website.

*Complete*

1. Batten will send the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission draft legislation sign-on letter and request the state delegates to seek approval for their agency to be added to the sign-on letter and their agency’s logo added to the coalition website.

*Complete*

1. Executive Board members were asked to send the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission draft legislation sign-on letter to any groups that might sign-on in support of the commission and approve their organization’s logo being added to the coalition website.

*Unknown: Reminder, delete?*

1. Batten will share the 2024 DC fly-in talking points with the Executive Board members for review once a final draft is ready.

*Complete: final version sent after DC fly-in*

1. Executive Board members were requested to talk with their staff that have been involved in the sub-basin invasive carp partnership planning process to get their feedback and share it with the respective partnership coordinator.

*Unknown: Reminder, delete?*

1. Smith will send Zach Burnside the sign-on letter for the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission and the most recent version of the Mississippi River Restoration and Resiliency Initiative legislation.

*Unknown: Reminder, delete?*

1. Smith will share MICRA’s Congressional talking points with Zach Burnside and Pat Conzemius at Wildlife Forever before MICRA’s fly-in in March.

*Unknown: keep as a reminder for March 2025?*

1. Executive Board members and the invasive carp coordinators (sub-basin partnerships and ICAC) will encourage agency staff to provide science-based content, pictures, and videos to Wildlife Forever for sharing with the public through their Citizen Carp Control platform.

*Unknown: Reminder, delete?*

1. Neeley will share the Excel table that was provided to Ruehmann with the UMR invasive carp project data with the other sub-basin invasive carp partnership coordinators to add new tabs with the respective data for the remaining sub-basins. Coordinators were also asked to provide a breakdown of project funding by state.

*On-going:*

1. La Crosse FWCO was requested to make the following updates to the dashboard: 1) change the Tennessee River to the Tennessee-Cumberland; 2) change all sub-basin headings from ‘Region’ to ‘Sub-Basin’; 3) add a data layer for the bigheaded carp distribution map that is used in the USFWS’s Report to Congress; 4) add USEPA’s impaired waters data layer; and 5) add data layers for MICRA’s list of 6th order and larger IJ rivers including ceded territories, tribal lands, and federal nexus (once complete and provided by MICRA).

*On-going:*

1. Conover will setup a call with Batten and Caudill to discuss MICRA’s interest in an economic value estimate and to better understand Caudill’s request for creel data from the basin states.

*Complete:*

1. Conover will post the 2024-2028 MICRA Priorities Document on the MICRA web site.

*Complete:*

1. Batten will email the 2024-2028 MICRA Priorities Document to the MICRA delegates.

*Complete*

1. Conover will check with Erves to see if the Hatchie River is included in her data files as having a federal nexus.

*Complete: The Hatchie River flows through both the Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge and Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge.*

1. Conover will send the sub-basin maps and lists of 6th order and larger interjurisdictional rivers to the sub-basin representatives along with a description of how federal nexus was defined and determined.

*Not started: Will send after #19 is addressed at August 2024 EB meeting*

1. Executive Board members will collaborate on final definitions of “interjurisdictional”, “tribal nexus”, and “federal nexus” for the identification of interjurisdictional rivers in the Mississippi River Basin.

*On-going: To be discussed at August 2024 meeting.*

1. Sub-basin representatives will review the sub-basin maps and lists of 6th order and larger interjurisdictional rivers and provide recommended additions, changes, and/or questions for Conover to address with Erves.

*Not started: Conover will provided (#18) after #19 is addressed at August 2024 EB meeting.*

1. Parsons will follow-up with the Missouri River sub-basin delegates in an effort to recruit a chair elect.

*Complete*

1. Sub-basin representatives will consider potential options for recruiting a chair-elect from their respective sub-basins.

*On-going: To be discussed at August 2024 meeting.*

1. Conover will send an email to the MICRA delegates to inform them that nominations remain open for the 2024 Young Professionals Travel Stipend.

*Complete*

1. Conover will inform the Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee chair that the Executive Board has agreed to support a Mississippi River Basin focused interjurisdictional fisheries symposium at an upcoming national or regional meeting if the committee has interest and sees benefit in organizing a symposium.

*Complete*

1. Zweifel will explore meeting and fishing options in Ohio in late August and report back to Batten and Conover.

*Complete*

1. Batten and Conover will schedule a Spring conference call as needed after the MICRA DC Fly-in is complete.

*Complete*

**Outstanding Action Items**

**August 2023**

Action Items

1. Ashlee Smith will send a request for pictures to be used on social media and a Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission coalition to Conover for distribution to the MICRA Delegates and sub-basin invasive carp partnerships.

*Standing need? Move to list of reminders and delete?*

1. The Executive Board will attempt to recruit participation from more delegates for short 1- or 2-day visits during the 2024 DC Fly-in.

*Complete*

1. Ashlee Smith will request MICRA Delegates 1) to continue to speak with their agency director regarding the Mississippi River Fishery Commission and associated draft legislation, and 2) to notify her of opportunities to get Congressional staff out to observe field work and talk with delegates.

*Standing need? Move to list of reminders and delete?*

1. The Executive Board will finalize the draft 2024-2028 Priorities document and post it on the MICRA website in December.

*Complete*

1. Neal Jackson will share the TNCR Phase 1 decision analysis results with the MICRA Executive Board once the process is complete and the results have been provided to USACE.

*Complete: See letter dated February 13, 2024, in Chairman’s report to USACE, Nashville District, with priority deterrents locations.*

1. Conover will follow-up with the respective sub-basin representatives to discuss sub-basin specific questions on the draft lists of 6th order and larger rivers.

*On-going: Deleted, captured by new action item from January 2024 meeting.*

1. The Executive Board will finalize the draft 2019-2023 Priorities accomplishment tracking after Conover provides a final draft at the end of the year.

*Complete*

1. The Executive Board will consider approval of the February 2023 Executive Board draft meeting notes during the October 27th meeting.

*Complete*

1. JC Nelson will provide Conover with the soon to be released USGS research priorities for paddlefish and sturgeon for dissemination and review by the Paddlefish Sturgeon Committee members.

*On-going: Check with JC and Mark on availability*

1. Conover will follow-up with the sub-basin invasive carp partnership coordinators to determine if sub-basin fact sheets can be provided prior to the Congressional briefing tentatively planned for November 8, 2023.

*Incomplete: Delete or keep as an action item for 2025 DC Fly-in or flag for future communications needs discussion?*

1. Rebecca Neeley will determine the possibility of the La Crosse FWCO developing a web-based dashboard tool for MICRA that includes MICRA sub-basin group boundaries, congressional districts, MICRA’s 6th order and larger streams, and the characterization of relative abundance of bigheaded carps similar to the figure included in the USFWS-led Report to Congress.

*Complete: La Crosse FWCO working on additional updates to dashboard.*

1. The Executive Board will consider what a few top priority communications needs or maps might look like and the data layers that would be needed to develop them.

*Complete: The web-based dashboard was discussed during the board’s January 2024 meeting.*

1. Kasey Whiteman will seek a nomination for the MICRA Chair-elect 2024-2025 term from the Missouri River sub-basin delegates.

*Complete: No nomination for MICRA Chair-elect. Will be discussed during the board’s August 2024 meeting.*

**October 2023 Conference Call**

Decisions and Action Items

1. Parsons and Batten will participate on the call to be scheduled with General Peeples.

*Complete*

1. Executive Board members will attend the meeting with General Peeples if they are available. Conover will share the meeting information with the Executive Board members once it is scheduled.

*Complete*

1. The notice and justification for the 2024 membership dues increase should also be provided with the 2024 membership dues invoices.

*Complete*

**February 2023 Meeting**

Action Items

1. The ICAC was asked to provide the Executive Board with a list of questions to survey the basin states regarding limitations, challenges, and needs for increasing staff capacity to collaboratively work on invasive carp and how MICRA can potentially assist address these needs.

*On-going: Does this remain a priority and action item? Revisit after IC discussions during August meeting.*

1. The ICAC was asked to develop a list of survey questions to gather baseline information from the basin states on current invasive carp removal efforts and potentially other needs to support the workgroups with the basinwide population assessment.

*On-going: To be addressed by Control Actions Workgroup? Does this remain a priority and action item? Revisit after IC discussions at August meeting.*

1. The Executive Board will survey the delegates (questions to be developed by the ICAC) regarding staffing or hiring challenges to increase capacity for invasive carp work, as well as asking separate questions regarding the likelihood that the states would use fishery commission funding to hire additional staff to work on collaborative interjurisdictional fisheries management through the commission.

*Complete?: The Executive Board surveyed the delegates during the August 2023 All Delegate meeting regarding the likelihood that the states would use fishery commission funding to hire additional staff to work on collaborative interjurisdictional fisheries management through the commission. The ICAC was asked to develop and provided the Executive Board with a list of questions regarding staffing or hiring challenges to increase capacity for invasive carp work. See action item 21 above.*

1. The Executive Board will survey the delegates (questions to be developed by the ICAC) regarding current invasive carp removal efforts.

*Incomplete: Awaiting survey questions to be provided by ICAC or CAW. Does this remain a priority and action item? Revisit after IC discussions at August meeting.*

1. The MICRA Executive Board and invasive carp committees will consider ways to engage with NGO’s (e.g., Wildlife Forever) so they are more informed and aware of the collaborative inter-agency efforts to manage and control invasive carp throughout the basin.

*Incomplete: Communications consideration?*

**August 2022**

1. The sub-basin partnership coordinators and ICAC co-chairs will provide examples of communications needs and barriers to the Executive Board.

*Not started: Communications consideration. Does this remain a need and action item?*

1. 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.

*On-going:*

1. Sub-basin partnership coordinators will share the FishTracks factsheet with their partners once it is updated and provided by USGS.

*Complete?: But where does this effort stand now?*

1. Sub-basin partnership coordinators will discuss the Executive Boards interest in basinwide platforms for data management and analysis with the sub-basin partnerships.

*Unknown: Does this remain a need and action item?*

1. Sub-basin partnership coordinators will work with USGS to schedule a webinar on FishTracks for the sub-basin partnerships.

*Incomplete:* *Does this remain a need and action item?*

1. Sub-basin partnership coordinators follow-up with their partners to determine interest and concerns in a basinwide approach to collecting and storing telemetry data.

*Unknown: Does this remain a need and action item?*

1. 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.

*On-going: Need to follow-up with new FMCS Chair.*

1. Conover will follow-up with Stephen McMurray to discuss incorporating Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society priorities into the next MICRA priorities document.

*On-going: Need to follow-up with new FMCS Chair.*

**February 2022**

1. Conover will work with Janvrin to finalize the draft action plan once the Executive Board approves a new MICRA list of interjurisdictional rivers in the Mississippi River Basin.

*On-going: Working with Janvrin to get revised figures before he retires August 30*

# Review of Priorities Document

*Discussion Item:*

The Executive Board will complete an annual review of the [MICRA 2024-2028 Priorities Document](http://micrarivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/MICRA-2024-2028-priorities-document-final.pdf) to discuss progress to date and priorities over the next 6-12 months.

# 2025 Operational Budget

*Decision Item:*

The Executive Board will review the draft 2025 operational budget provided on the following page and approve a 2025 operational budget for MICRA. Line-item changes from the previous year are shaded light blue. Projected 2024 expenses over budget are shaded red. Projected 2024 income over budget and expenditures less than budget are shaded green.



# Legislative, Policy, and Outreach Next Steps

*Discussion Item:*

Ashlee Smith will provide an update and lead this discussion with the Executive Board.

Potential discussion topics to be covered include:

* Status of draft fishery commission legislation
  + Requested bill edits:
    - IL commercial fishers request for invasive carp requirement
    - LA freshwater fisheries disaster (wild caught crawfish)
    - MD blue catfish in Chesapeake Bay
    - Aquaculture industry request for voting right for stakeholder groups by adding “national, regional, state fish harvesting and fish farming organizations” to the list of eligible entities under Section 3. Definitions.
  + How to handle stakeholder group input within the commission?
    - Commission level vs sub-basin level?
    - How to quickly get delegate input or approval on proposed revisions?
* Coalition progress and additional outreach needs
* Congressional outreach
  + 2024 activities to date
  + Remaining touch points in 2024
    - Congressional staff briefing?
* Regular partner outreach needs:
  + E.g., AFWA, MAFWA, SEAFWA, NAFWS, UMRBA, MRC
  + Others?
* 2025 DC fly-in
  + State ANS management plan funding

# Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission Next Steps

*Discussion Item****:***

The Executive Board will continue the on-going discussion to prepare for operationalizing the proposed Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission. Brad Parsons will report out on the small workgroup’s discussions since the board’s January 2024 meeting. Potential discussion topics to be covered include:

* Comparing and contrasting governance documents, administrative procedures, organizational structure, functions, and staffing among the different fishery commissions.
* Proposed adoption of Great Lakes Fishery Commission structure
  + Commissioners
  + Council of Sub-basin Committees
  + Sub-basin Committees
* Funding allocation
  + Allocation among member agencies
    - State vs sub-basin approach
      * Greater need in sub-basins without inter-state fisheries teams? (I.e., ARW, MOR, TNCR)
      * Capturing values in decision-making and prioritization of funding
    - Federal agency and tribal considerations
  + Split between non-competitive and competitive funding

# Collaborative, Multi-Agency Invasive Carp Management and Control

*Discussion Item:*

The afternoon will be dedicated to an initial MICRA Executive Board discussion, that includes USFWS invasive carp and FWCO program leadership, about how the USFWS collaborates with MICRA to lead “a multiagency effort to slow the spread of [invasive] carp in the [Mississippi River and tributaries, including the 6 sub-basins of the River] by providing technical assistance, coordination, best practices, and support to State and local governments in carrying out activities designed to slow, and eventually eliminate, the threat posed by [invasive] carp.”

The MICRA Executive Board restructured the Invasive Carp Advisory Committee (ICAC) in November 2022 and charged with providing “basinwide coordination for the development of collaborative advice and recommendations on the development, implementation, and assessment of management and control actions across the six sub-basin partnerships to promote a unified, collaborative strategy for the Mississippi River Basin”. (See ICAC Principals of Operation provided below.) The FY2024 planning cycle was the first cycle for the restructured ICAC to integrate into the MICRA coordination structure and process that has evolved since 2015. The ICAC and sub-basin partnerships (SBPs) have struggled with integration of the ICAC into the process due to a lack of clarity, particularly around ICAC and SBP roles and how these groups interact and support one another without duplication of effort.

The USFWS provides sub-basin partnership coordinators (SBPC), a federal agency ICAC co-chair, and federal agency co-chairs for each of the ICAC workgroups. This USFWS “coordination team” works together to provide leadership and support throughout the MICRA coordination structure to accomplish collaborative, multi-agency invasive carp management and control in the MRB. The USFWS coordination team has been discussing how to most efficiently meet the coordination needs and expectations of MICRA. The USFWS AIS and FWCO programs have also been discussing how to best support the collaborative, multi-agency effort in the MRB. The USFWS invasive carp program leadership has requested time for an in-depth discussion with the MICRA Executive Board to discuss coordination needs and expectations for accomplishing collaborative, multi-agency invasive carp management and control in the MRB.

A description and outline for the focused discussion are provided below, followed by reference material including a portion of Section 1039 from WRRDA 2014, figures detailing coordination structure and annual funding cycle timeline, and the ICAC Principals of Operation.

Description:

An initial MICRA Executive Board discussion, that includes USFWS invasive carp and FWCO program leadership, about how the USFWS collaborates with MICRA to lead “a multiagency effort to slow the spread of [invasive] carp in the [Mississippi River and tributaries, including the 6 sub-basins of the River] by providing technical assistance, coordination, best practices, and support to State and local governments in carrying out activities designed to slow, and eventually eliminate, the threat posed by [invasive] carp.”

Purpose:

1. Develop a shared vision for accomplishing collaborative, multi-agency invasive carp management and control in the Mississippi River Basin.
2. Develop a shared vision and provide clarification on how collaborative, multi-agency invasive carp management and control in the MRB is accomplished through the MICRA coordination structure (i.e., Executive Board, Invasive Carp Advisory Committee, Workgroups, Sub-Basin Partnerships, partner agencies).

Objectives:

1. Understand the historical context and MICRA coordination structure.
2. Understand the coordination and deliverables for the USFWS annual invasive carp funding cycle process to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the MICRA EB, ICAC, and SBPs.
3. Develop a vision for how collaborative, multi-agency management is accomplished in the Mississippi River Basin through the MICRA coordination structure.
4. Develop a vision of how federal and states agencies integrate for greatest collaboration and effectiveness.

Outline:

1. Introduction

Desired Outcome:

1. A shared understanding of the history, context, and MICRA coordination structure that is currently in place within the MRB.
2. A clear understanding of the discussion that is planned for the afternoon.

Discussion Notes:

1. Legislative and historical context
2. Overview of MICRA coordination structure
3. Restructured ICAC (November 2022)
4. Discussion overview
5. Coordination of the annual funding cycle

Desired Outcome:

1. A shared understanding of deliverables for the USFWS annual invasive carp funding process and how they are used by USFWS and MICRA groups.
   1. Specifically, what deliverables are used by who, why, and when?
2. A clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the MICRA EB, ICAC, and SBPs as it relates to the funding process deliverables.
   1. Specifically, what is each group’s role and responsibility for each deliverable.

Discussion Notes:

1. Review and discuss each of the deliverables for the annual funding cycle, specifically,
   1. Proposals (including basinwide package and summary tables)
   2. Work plans
   3. Grant documents (specifically project and budget narratives)
   4. Annual interim summary reports
2. Clarify relevant responsibilities in the ICAC Principals of Operation
   1. Objective 4: Recommend an annual suite of collaborative project proposals for the Mississippi River Basin for submittal by MICRA to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for funding consideration.
   2. Objective 5: Coordinate the development of an annual Monitoring and Response Plan for the Mississippi River Basin that documents USFWS funded projects as part of an overall basinwide strategy to manage and control invasive carps.
3. Recommended revisions to clarify the Principals of Operation.
   1. Propose USFWS coordination team draft recommended revisions and share with ICAC and MICRA Executive Board.
4. Collaborative, Multi-Agency Invasive Carp Management and Control

Desired Outcome:

1. A shared understanding of how collaborative, multi-agency invasive carp management and control is accomplished through the MICRA coordination structure.
2. A shared understanding of the roles, expectations, and deliverables for the different coordinating bodies and partner agencies to accomplish coordinated multi-jurisdictional management.

Discussion Notes:

1. Overview of existing direction and documents (i.e., WRRDA direction, national plan, sub-basin frameworks, state plans).
2. Start with a high-level discussion about scale to make certain that we are all beginning with the same end in mind and that all are “rowing in the same direction.”
3. Discuss roles and responsibilities of the ICAC and SBPs and how they work together to accomplish coordinated multi-jurisdictional management. (Review ICAC Principals of Operation and USFWS team questions.)
   1. Discuss expectations for how recommendations and products of the ICAC and work groups are integrated into existing planning processes.
   2. How do we reconcile duplication of effort and conflicting recommendations from the ICAC and SBPs? (E.g., results of the TNCR decision analysis and SAW/DAW)
4. Implementing Collaborative, Multi-Agency Invasive Carp Management and Control (Thursday morning)

Desired Outcome­:

1. Develop a shared understanding of how federal and states agencies can better integrate for greatest collaboration and effectiveness in planning, implementing, and evaluating management and control actions in the MRB.

Discussion Notes:

1. What are expectations for implementing a collaborative, multi-agency program for invasive carp management and control in the MRB?
2. How do USFWS and other federal agencies integrate for greatest collaboration and effectiveness?
3. Wrap-up
4. Review decisions and action items.
5. Identify next steps.

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**SEC. 1039. INVASIVE SPECIES.**

(b) AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION.—

(1) MULTIAGENCY EFFORT TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF ASIAN

CARP IN THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI AND OHIO RIVER BASINS AND

TRIBUTARIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the United States

Fish and Wildlife Service, in coordination with the Secretary,

the Director of the National Park Service, and the

Director of the United States Geological Survey, shall lead

a multiagency effort to slow the spread of Asian carp in

the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries

by providing technical assistance, coordination, best

practices, and support to State and local governments in

carrying out activities designed to slow, and eventually

eliminate, the threat posed by Asian carp.

(B) BEST PRACTICES.—To the maximum extent practicable,

the multiagency effort shall apply lessons learned

and best practices such as those described in the document

prepared by the Asian Carp Working Group entitled

‘‘Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass,

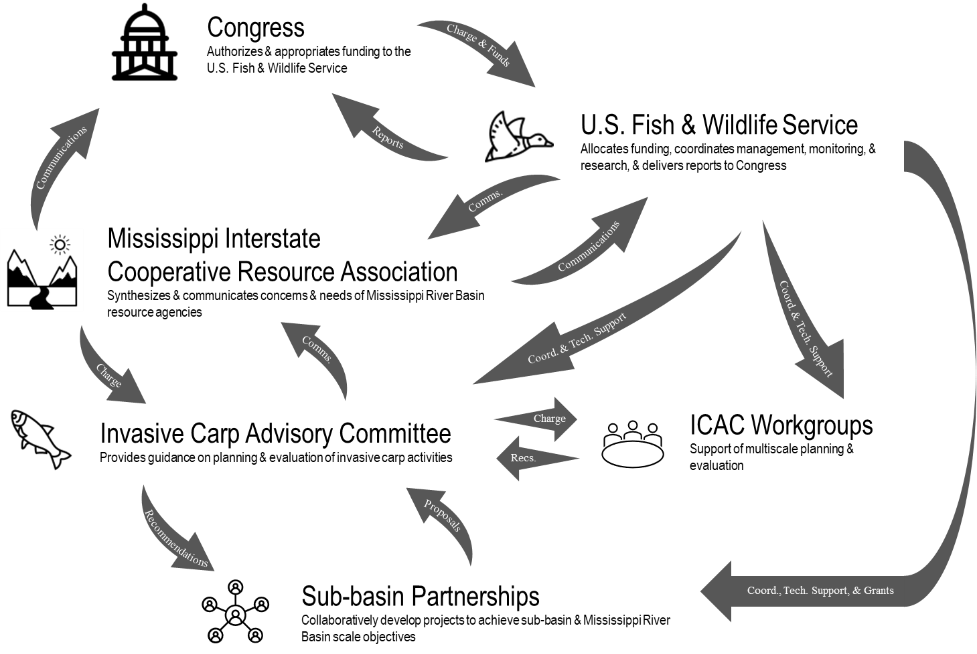
and Silver Carps in the United States’’ and dated November

2007, and the document prepared by the Asian Carp

Regional Coordinating Committee entitled ‘‘FY 2012 Asian

Carp Control Strategy Framework’’ and dated February

2012.

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# USFWS Economic Value Report Update

*Information Item:*

Jim Caudill, USFWS Division of Economics, will provide an update on the development of a new economic value report for the Mississippi River Basin.

# Implementing Collaborative, Multi-Agency Invasive Carp Management and Control

*Discussion Item:*

This is a continuation of 11) Collaborative, Multi-Agency Invasive Carp Management and Control that is intended to build from the discussions the previous afternoon. This discussion will focus on how the state and federal agencies collaborate to accomplish effective cooperative management (planning, implementation, and evaluation) in the Mississippi River Basin. Integration of all agencies and resources at the partnership level varies by partnership. The discussion is intended to focus on identifying ways to maximize collaboration and overall effectiveness of combined state and federal efforts.

# Interjurisdictional Rivers, Federal Nexus, and Tribal Nexus

*Decision Item:*

Executive Board members will have a discussion to develop definitions for “interjurisdictional rivers”, “federal nexus”, and “tribal nexus” to inform finalizing MICRA’s updated list of interjurisdictional rivers.

Revised sub-basin tables with 6th order and larger interjurisdictional rivers were discussed at the Executive Board’s January 2024 meeting and are provided below. The revised tables included columns indicating rivers with a federal or tribal nexus. The board members agreed that federal nexus is important information to include in MICRA’s revised list of interjurisdictional rivers and agreed to continue working on this information before finalizing the action plan. The discussion resulted in the following action item.

Executive Board members will collaborate on final definitions of “interjurisdictional”, “tribal nexus”, and “federal nexus” for the identification of interjurisdictional rivers in the Mississippi River Basin.

Interjurisdictional rivers are defined in MICRA’s original list as “rivers that flow between, or are common to, two or more state boundaries, or that flow between two or more land management jurisdictions.” Similarly, a list of interjurisdiction fish was developed shortly after MICRA was formed. In that document, “Interjurisdictional fish” are defined as those species that depend on interjurisdictional rivers during some part of their life cycle, and therefore, come under the management of two or more governmental entities. Interjurisdictional fish are not necessarily migratory, but can move either short or long distances between political jurisdictions in the completion of their life cycles. Even species as common as bass and bluegill can come under interjurisdictional management.

Following is an excerpt from a project description that Angela Erves provided (full document provided below).

Tribal lands: To determine which rivers bordered or ran through tribal lands, US Census Bureau’s 2018 AIANNH (American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian) data was used; the layer is named **tl\_2018\_us\_aiannh**. The **ceded lands** data layer was shared by a USGS contact.

Federal nexus: To address the federal nexus question **USGS’s PAD-US** (protected area data) was used. US DOT’s **Navigable Waterway Network Lines** data was an additional dataset used in the analysis.

Additional questions about rivers that had a federal nexus, were in ceded lands, and were navigable waterways were asked. Answering those additional questions required more data collection and analysis tools. I had to rerun the query from NHD flowline network to merge all the flowlines based on the GNIS ID to get one feature for each unique river; however, I specified the Max Stream Order for each river. Then I deleted everything with a Stream Order below 6. Another major limitation with my query results is that several river segments were unnamed so they could barely be included in this analysis. After getting the results, several other queries were performed such as a select by location query was to get the rivers that were within 1 mile of a federal land (PAD-US federally owned or federally managed) and a query to determine which rivers were within ceded lands. A visual analysis and another desktop reconnaissance were performed to determine navigable waterways that were not part of list of results from the additional queries.

Draft definitions for consideration:

Interjurisdictional Rivers:

Interjurisdictional rivers are defined as rivers that flow between, or are common to, two or more state boundaries, or that flow between two or more political jurisdictions including state, federal, tribal, and provincial.

Tribal Nexus:

Interjurisdictional rivers have a tribal nexus when the river borders or runs through tribal lands, including the Ceded Territories1 of 1837 and 1842.

1 Within the Ceded Territories, Tribal Nations have off-reservation treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather that are mandated by Federal Court rulings.

Federal Nexus:

Interjurisdictional rivers have a federal nexus when the river borders or runs through federally owned or managed jurisdictions (such as Tennessee Valley Authority, Bureau of Reclamation, National Forests, and National Wildlife Refuges), are designated National Wild or Scenic River, or are designated as part of the Inland Waterways Navigation System.

**Determining Interjurisdictional Rivers using GIS Analysis**

**February 27, 2024**

**Project Description**

The primary goal of the project was to use GIS to determine the “interjurisdictional rivers” in the Mississippi River Basin (MRB). “Interjurisdictional rivers” are defined as rivers that flow between, or are common to, two or more state boundaries, or that flow between two or more land management jurisdictions. Several lists of interjurisdictional rivers were to be developed based on different criteria. The appropriate stream size or order of the rivers to include in the lists was to be determined. Therefore, I thought the initial request was to find all the interjurisdictional rivers within the Mississippi River basin (all rivers that crossed two or more states or bordered or were within tribal lands) that were at a Stream Order of 4 or above. However, the workflow for this project has been changed several times adding new data to answer additional questions such as which rivers have a federal nexus and which navigable waterways to include at a specified Stream Order.

**Data Collection Process**

One of the major criteria for selecting which GIS datasets to use to find out the interjurisdictional rivers was to use the most comprehensive datasets available. The standard **USA\_States (generalized)** and **USA\_Counties (generalized)** data layers were used to verify spatial location. A data layer of all six sub-basins in the MRB named **MS\_Basinwide\_Watersheds** was developed using USGS’s Watershed Boundary Dataset. USGS’s NHDPlus High Resolution (NHDPlus HR) was determined to be the most comprehensive waterbody data set available for this extensive reach (MRB watershed – which drains in all or parts of 31 states and 2 Canadian provinces). A meeting was held with USGS NHD Plus developers to better understand the data’s use and limitations. The **NHDPlus HR Flowline Network** datawas the suggested data source from the NHDPlus HR data to determine the interjurisdictional rivers. A few other meetings were also held with USGS GIS analyst to acquire a National dataset of the Flowline Network data and to figure out the best approach to finding and correctly dissolving/merging all the various segments of the river (e.g. Osage River (MO) – 265 segments, Kanawha River (WV) – 108 segments, etc.). The **NHDPlus HR flowline data** also contained an attribute of Stream Order for each segment of a river which was beneficial in identifying rivers at Stream Order 4 and above. To determine which rivers bordered or ran through tribal lands, US Census Bureau’s 2018 AIANNH (American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian) data was used; the layer is named **tl\_2018\_us\_aiannh**. As the workflow changed to also include the rivers that had a federal nexus or were on ceded lands, more data collections were needed. To address the federal nexus question **USGS’s PAD-US** (protected area data) was used. The **ceded lands** data layer was shared by a USGS contact. US DOT’s **Navigable Waterway Network Lines** data was an additional dataset used in the analysis.

**Data Analysis Process**

The workflow for this project went through several iterations throughout the course of the project. Many lessons were learned by trial and error. Therefore, I will only share the processes that worked and were used in the final analysis. First step was to extract all the data to the geographic scope of the project (MRB); therefore, I had to clip the national NHD Flowline Network dataset, USA\_States, USA\_Counties, tribal lands, PAD-US, Navigable Waterway Network Lines, and other data layers which made the project processes more manageable. After clipping everything to the project boundary (MRB), I had to dissolve the NHD Flowline data (as I mentioned each river had hundreds and sometimes even thousands of segments). I dissolved the flowlines using the Level PathID attribute in the Value Added Attributes (VAA) portion of the flowline network data to merge all rivers that were the same. Then I realized by dissolving using the Level PathID, the results only included the attributes for the one segment of the river (which was not the highest Stream Order in most cases). Therefore, I had to perform an additional task of checking all the identified river segments in an Excel spreadsheet to determine the highest Stream Order. Using the results of the rivers in MRB at a Stream Order of 4 and above, a select by location query was performed to determine which of those rivers intersect at least two states. Desktop reconnaissance was also done as an additional step to ensure the results were valid. Another select by query of rivers at Stream Order 4 and above that are within tribal lands was completed. The results of these processes were sent as a list to the MICRA members for their initial review. Initially the task was to look at rivers that were Stream Order 4 and above; however, after several back-and-forth collaborations with MICRA members it was determined that rivers at a Stream Order 6 and above is sufficient. Full disclosure, although efforts were made to try to make sure the results were as objective as possible based on the GIS analysis there were some decisions made by very knowledgeable biologist from the area. If the decision made was subjectively, an effort was made to document the reasoning behind the decision.

Additional questions about rivers that had a federal nexus, were in ceded lands, and were navigable waterways were asked. Answering those additional questions required more data collection and analysis tools. I had to rerun the query from NHD flowline network to merge all the flowlines based on the GNIS ID to get one feature for each unique river; however, I specified the Max Stream Order for each river. Then I deleted everything with a Stream Order below 6. Another major limitation with my query results is that several river segments were unnamed so they could barely be included in this analysis. After getting the results, several other queries were performed such as a select by location query was to get the rivers that were within 1 mile of a federal land (PAD-US federally owned or federally managed) and a query to determine which rivers were within ceded lands. A visual analysis and another desktop reconnaissance were performed to determine navigable waterways that were not part of list of results from the additional queries.

**Resources and Tools**

*ArcMap 10* by ESRI was the software necessary to perform the processes required to create this GIS analysis. Microsoft Excel was also used extensively. In addition to the GIS data sources mentioned in the data collection portion, several other sources were used to verify locations and their surrounding features. Google Earth, Wikipedia, [www.AnyplaceAmerica.com](http://www.AnyplaceAmerica.com) , SARP’s Flowlines by Stream Order maps, resource agency personnel, and other sources were useful research tools.

**Arkansas-Red-White Rivers Sub-basin – 6th order and larger interjurisdictional rivers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Rivers** | | | **Stream Order** | **States** | **Tribal** | **Federal** |
|  | **White** | | | **8** | **AR, MO** |  | **x** |
|  | **North Fork** | | | **6** | **MO, AR** |  | **x** |
|  | **Black** | | | **7** | **MO, AR** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Current** | | **6** | **AR, MO** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Spring** | | **6** | **MO, AR** |  |  |
|  | | | **Eleven Point** | **6** | **MO, AR** |  | **x** |
|  | **Arkansas** | | | **9** | **CO, KS, OK, AR** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Salt Fork Arkansas** | | | **7** | **OK, KS** | **x** | **x** |
|  | | **Medicine Lodge** | | **6** | **OK, KS** |  |  |
|  | | **Chikaskia** | | **6** | **OK, KS** | **x** |  |
|  | **Cimarron** | | | **6** | **OK, KS, CO** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Verdigris** | | | **7** | **KS, OK** | **x** | **x** |
|  | | **Caney** | | **6** | **OK, KS** | **x** |  |
|  | | | **Little Caney** | **6** | **OK, KS** | **x** |  |
|  | **Neosho** | | | **7** | **OK, KS** | **x** | **x** |
|  | | **Spring** | | **6** | **MO, KS, OK** | **x** |  |
|  | **Illinois** | | | **6** | **AR, OK** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Canadian** | | | **8** | **OK, TX, NM** | **x** | **x** |
|  | | **North Canadian** | | **7** | **OK** | **x** | **x** |
|  | | | **Beaver** | **6** | **OK, TX** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Poteau** | | | **6** | **AR, OK** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Red** | | | **7** | **LA, AR, OK, TX** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **North Fork Red River** | | | **6** | **OK, TX** |  | **x** |
|  | **Washita** | | | **6** | **OK, TX** |  | **x** |
|  | **Muddy Boggy Creek** | | | **6** | **OK** | **?** |  |
|  | **Kiamichi** | | | **6** | **OK** |  | **x** |
|  | **Little** | | | **6** | **OK, AR** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Mountain Fork** | | **6** | **OK, AR** |  | **x** |
|  | **Sulphur** | | | **6** | **AR, TX** |  | **x** |
|  | **Twelve Mile Bayou** | | | **6** | **LA** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Big Cypress** | | **6** | **TX, LA** |  | **x** |
|  | **Loggy Bayou1** | | | **6** | **LA** |  |  |
|  | | **Bayou Dorcheat** | | **6** | **AR, LA** |  |  |

1 Loggy Bayou is not an interjurisdictional river, but it is formed by IJ tributaries.

**Lower Mississippi River Sub-basin – 6th order and larger interjurisdictional rivers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Rivers** | | | | **Stream Order** | **States** | **Tribal** | **Federal** |
|  | **Mississippi** | | | | **10** | **MS, LA, TN, AR, MO, KY** |  | **x** |
|  | **Ohio** | | | | **9** | **OH, PA, WV, KY, IN, IL** |  | **x** |
|  | **Obion** | | | | **7** | **TN** |  | **x** |
|  | **Hatchie** | | | | **6** | **TN, MS** |  |  |
|  | **St. Francis** | | | | **7** | **AR, MO** |  | **x** |
|  | | **(Right Hand Chute) Little River** | | | **6** | **MO, AR** |  | **x** |
|  | **White** | | | | **8** | **AR, MO** |  | **x** |
|  | **Arkansas** | | | | **9** | **AR, KS, CO, OK** |  | **x** |
|  | **Yazoo** | | | | **7** | **MS, LA** |  | **x** |
|  | **Red** | | | | **8** | **TX, OK, AR, LA** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Black** | | | **7** | **LA** |  | **x** |
|  | | | **Little River** | | **6** | **LA** |  | **x** |
|  | | | **Tensas** | | **6** | **LA** |  | **x** |
|  | | | **Oauchita** | | **7** | **LA, AR** |  | **x** |
|  | | | | **Bayou Bartholomew** | **6** | **LA, AR** |  |  |
|  | | | | **Boeuf** | **6** | **LA, AR** |  |  |
|  | **Atchafalaya1** | | | | **8** | **LA** |  | **~~x~~** |

1 The Atchafalaya River is a distributary river formed by the Mississippi and Red Rivers.

**Missouri River Sub-basin** **– 6th order and larger interjurisdictional rivers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Rivers** | | | **Stream Order** | **States** | **Tribal** | **Federal** |
|  | **Missouri** | | | **9** | **MO, NE, SD, ND, MT, IA, KS** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Madison** | | | **6** | **WY, MT** |  | **x** |
|  | **Gallatin** | | | **6** | **WY, MT** |  | **x** |
|  | **Milk** | | | **6** | **MT, AB2, SK3** | **X** | **x** |
|  | **Marias** | | | **6** | **MT, SK3** | **X** | **x** |
|  | **Yellowstone** | | | **8** | **WY, MT, ND** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Clarks Fork** | | **6** | **WY, MT** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Bighorn** | | **7** | **MT, WY** | **X** | **x** |
|  | | | **Wind** | **7** | **WY** | **X** |  |
|  | | **Tongue** | | **6** | **MT, WY** | **X** | **x** |
|  | | **Powder** | | **6** | **MT, WY** |  | **x** |
|  | **Little Missouri** | | | **6** | **SD, ND, WY, MT** | **X** | **x** |
|  | **Grand** | | | **6** | **SD** |  | **x** |
|  | | **North Fork Grand** | | **6** | **ND, SD** |  | **x** |
|  | **Moreau** | | | **6** | **SD** | **X** |  |
|  | **Cheyenne** | | | **7** | **WY, SD** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Belle Fourche** | | **6** | **WY, SD** |  | **x** |
|  | **White** | | | **6** | **SD, NE** | **X** | **x** |
|  | **Niobrara** | | | **6** | **WY, NE** |  | **x** |
|  | **James** | | | **7** | **ND, SD** |  | **x** |
|  | **Big Sioux** | | | **7** | **SD, IA** |  |  |
|  | | **Rock** | | **6** | **MN, IA** |  |  |
|  | **Little Sioux** | | | **6** | **IA, MN** |  | **x** |
|  | **Platte1** | | | **8** | **NE** |  |  |
|  | | **South Platte** | | **7** | **NE, CO** |  | **x** |
|  | | | **Laramie** | **6** | **WY, CO** |  | **x** |
|  | | **North Platte** | | **7** | **NE, WY, CO** |  | **x** |
|  | **Nishnabotna** | | | **6** | **IA, MO, NE** |  |  |
|  | **Kansas** | | | **8** | **KS** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Smoky Hill** | | **7** | **CO, KS** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Republican** | | **7** | **NE, KS** |  | **x** |
|  | | | **Beaver Creek** | **6** | **WY, SD** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Big Blue** | | **7** | **NE, KS** |  | **x** |
|  | | | **Little Blue** | **6** | **NE, KS** |  |  |
|  | **Grand** | | | **7** | **IA, MO** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Thompson** | | **6** | **IA, MO** |  |  |
|  | **Osage** | | | **7** | **MO** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Marais des Cygne** | | **6** | **KS, MO** |  | **x** |
|  | **Gasconade** | | | **6** | **MO** |  | **x** |

1 The Platte River is not an interjurisdictional river, but it is formed by IJ tributaries.

2 AB = Alberta Canada

3 SK = Saskatchewan

**Ohio River Sub-basin – 6th order and larger interjurisdictional rivers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Rivers** | | | | | **Stream Order** | **States** | **Tribal** | **Federal** |
|  | **Ohio** | | | | | **9** | **OH, PA, WV, KY, IN, IL** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Allegheny** | | | | **8** | **NY, PA** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Monongahela** | | | | **7** | **PA, WV** |  | **x** |
|  | | | **Cheat** | | | **6** | **WV, PA** |  | **x** |
|  | | | **Youghiogheny** | | | **6** | **PA, MD** |  | **x** |
|  | **Beaver1** | | | | | **7** | **PA** |  |  |
|  | | | **Mahoning** | | | **6** | **OH, PA** |  |  |
|  | **Little Beaver Creek** | | | | | **6** | **OH, PA** |  |  |
|  | **Muskingum** | | | | | **7** | **OH** |  | **x** |
|  | **Little Kanawha** | | | | | **6** | **WV** |  | **x** |
|  | **Kanawha** | | | | | **6** | **WV** |  | **x** |
|  | | | **New** | | | **6** | **WV, VA, NC** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Big Sandy** | | | | **7** | **WV, KY** |  | **x** |
|  | | | **Tug Fork** | | | **6** | **KY, WV, VA** |  | **x** |
|  | | | **Levisa Fork** | | | **6** | **VA, KY** |  | **x** |
|  | | | | | **Russell Fork** | **6** | **KY, VA** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Licking** | | | | **6** | **KY** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Kentucky** | | | | **6** | **KY** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Green (and Barren)** | | | | **7 (6)** | **KY** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Wabash** | | | | **6** | **IN, IL, OH** |  | **x** |
|  | | | | **Vermillion** | | **6** | **IL, IN** |  |  |
|  | | **Tradewater** | | | | **6** | **KY** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Cumberland** | | | | **7** | **KY, TN** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Tennessee** | | | | **8** | **KY, TN, MS, AL** |  | **x** |

1 The Beaver rivers is not an interjurisdictional river, but it is formed by IJ tributaries.

**Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers Sub-basin – 6th order and larger interjurisdictional rivers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Rivers** | | | | **Stream Order** | | **States** | | **Tribal** | | **Federal** | |
| **Tennessee** | | | | | **8** | | **KY, TN, MS, AL** | |  | | **x** | |
|  | **Holston** | | | | **6** | | **TN** | |  | | **x** | |
|  | | **South Fork Holston** | | | **6** | | **TN, VA** | |  | | **x** | |
|  | | | | **Wautaga** | **6** | | **TN, NC** | |  | | **x** | |
|  | **French Broad** | | | | **7** | | **TN, NC** | |  | | **x** | |
|  | | **Nolichucky** | | | **6** | | **TN, NC** | |  | | **x** | |
|  | **Little Tennessee** | | | | **6** | | **TN, NC, GA** | |  | | **~~x~~** | |
|  | **Clinch** | | | | **6** | | **VA, TN** | |  | | **x** | |
|  | | | **Emory** | | | **6** | | **TN** | |  | | **x** | |
|  | **Hiwassee** | | | | **6** | | **TN, AL** | |  | | **x** | |
|  | **Elk** | | | | **7** | | **TN, AL** | |  | | **x** | |
|  | **Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway** | | | | **N/A1** | | **TN, MS, AL** | |  | | **x** | |
| **Cumberland** | | | | | **7** | | **KY, TN** | |  | | **x** | |
|  | **Red** | | | | **6** | | **KY, TN** | |  | |  | |

1 The Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway divide cut is not in the USGS NHD flowline database, so no stream order is available for this manmade canal. It is included in MICRA’s list because it is an IJ waterway and connects the TN river to the Tombigbee River in the Mobile Drainage. Inland waterway data layer.

**Upper Mississippi River Sub-basin – 6th order and larger interjurisdictional rivers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Rivers** | | | **Stream Order** | **States** | **Tribal1** | **Federal** |
|  | **Mississippi River** | | | **10** | **MN, WI, IA, IL, MO** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Minnesota** | | | **8** | **MN, SD** | **x** | **x** |
|  | | **Whetstone** | | **6** | **SD, MN** |  |  |
|  | **St. Croix** | | | **6** | **MN, WI** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Chippewa** | | | **7** | **WI** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Black** | | | **6** | **WI** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Wisconsin** | | | **6** | **WI** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Rock** | | | **7** | **IL, WI** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Pecatonica** | | **7** | **IL, WI** |  |  |
|  | | | **Sugar** | **6** | **IL, WI** |  |  |
|  | **Iowa** | | | **7** | **IA** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Des Moines** | | | **7** | **IA, MN, MO** |  | **x** |
|  | **Illinois** | | | **8** | **IL** |  | **x** |
|  | | **Kankakee** | | **6** | **IN, IL** |  |  |
|  | | | **Iroquois** | **6** | **IN, IL** |  |  |
|  | | **Fox** | | **6** | **WI, IL** |  | **x** |
|  | **Missouri** | | | **9** | **MO, NE, SD, ND, MT, IA, KS** | **x** | **x** |
|  | **Big Muddy** | | | **6** | **IL** |  | **x** |
|  | **Kaskaskia** | | | **6** | **IL** |  | **x** |

1 Borders or flows through tribal lands or are the ceded territories of 1837 or 1842.

# Schedule Fall Conference Call and Winter Executive Board Meeting

*Discussion Item:*

Executive Board members will discuss scheduling a Fall conference call and Winter Executive Board meeting.

Reminder: Written updates will be requested for the board’s Winter meeting.

# Other New Business / Parking Lot

*Discussion Item:*

Executive Board members will address topics put in the parking lot during the meeting and additional items that board members would like to bring up for discussion there were not included as part of the meeting agenda.