

Missouri River Basin 100th Meridian Team Meeting Minutes
Cabalas Outlet Store
Kansas City, Kansas
April 17-18, 2007

April 17, 2007

Introductions:

Many thanks to Jason Goeckler and Brian Canaday for co-hosting this year's Missouri River Basin 100th Meridian Team Meeting

Attending:

Steve Schainost – Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Andy Burgess – South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Eileen Ryce – Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Kim Bogenschutz – Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Jason Goeckler – Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Brian Canaday – Missouri Department of Conservation
Bill Zook – Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Pam Chafee – US Coast Guard Auxiliary
Wen Baldwin – Lake Mead Boat Owners Association
Joe Werner – Kansas City Power and Light

Individual Agency Updates:

Montana: Eileen Ryce

With the help of funding provided by PSMFC, Montana was able to hire 6 seasonal employees last summer to complete an evaluation of two of the states six TIS systems and to conduct boater surveys on Montana waterways.

TIS Evaluation showed very low listenership, less than 10% of the people surveyed at mandatory stops for boaters a couple of miles after passing the TIS reported tuning-in. 50% of those interviewed did report seeing the road sign asking “Boaters and Anglers” to tune to the radio frequency for an important message. Does not recommend using TIS on major highways, may have a place on access road to major waterways if ANS information is combined with information on fishing, camping, boating, etc.

Completed a high volume of boater surveys on major waters in Montana

Completed a large number of ZM surveys including 50 miles of the 1,500 miles of shoreline at Fort Peck Reservoir. No further information on the infamous

Peanut Butter Jar incident, but no ZM found during shoreline surveys or in veliger samples at Fort Peck or other Montana waters.

Purchased a large, self-contained, trailer-mounted power boat washer unit manufactured by Greenfield Inc. of Monarch, MT for \$60K. The unit was delivered in January and has yet to be tested. The system will be mainly used at high profile events such as large tournaments and as a public outreach tool. FUNDING IS NEEDED to fund two full-time seasonal trained operators to take full advantage of this tool in the future. Eileen will demonstrate the unit at the MRBP meeting in Montana this June.

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks staff surveyed most of the state's major waterways this past year and found no Eurasian Water Milfoil. Theory - EWM can't compete with natives.

The spread of NZMS in Montana has slowed. Only found in places associated with known populations. In some areas, NZMS numbers have declined and the area seems to be displaying some "boom or Bust" characteristics.

Eileen reports that there are NO FUNDS available to hire staff for field work in 07.

(Update: Since the meeting, a small amount of money has become available to hire two part-time seasonal employees. They will help with monitoring).

In addition, the late receipt of USFWS funds from last year has made her program indebted to the state general fund. Need for further funding has reached a critical point for the program. State terrestrial weed money now funding ANS educational materials.

Work plans for the coming year include:

- Boat inspections on a limited basis, primarily high profile events

- Limited monitoring of high risk waters

- Hatchery water supply sampling will continue.

- Reauthorization of ANS plan to begin in 2007.

North Dakota: Presented by Bill in Lynn's absence

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Aquatic Nuisance Species

Lynn Schlueter

Report to Missouri River ANS Work Group

Summary of 2006 Activities:

Monitoring – Field monitoring for presence of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) was completed by NDGF field staff, USCOE staff, and a seasonal employee. Three-thousand nine-hundred samples were collected from 1,449 sites at 87 waterbodies. Included in this effort were 76 veligar samples taken at nine waterbodies. Zebra mussel traps were used at 31 sites. Samples were collected using standard protocol developed by the NDGF or others.

ANS infestations sampled were – Curlyleaf pondweed in the Missouri River system, McDowell Dam, Spillway pond, and Sheyenne River near Valley City, ND. The last find was a new infestation. Eurasian watermilfoil was found in Dead Colt Creek Reservoir and Dead Colt Creek, and the Sheyenne River near Valley City, ND. No new infestations of EWM were found.

Projects – EWM control was attempted in Dead Colt Creek Reservoir, near Lisbon, ND, for the second year using a fall drawdown to freeze out the plants. Drawdown in 2005 appeared to greatly reduce the EWM, but a band was found this fall in above the 2-foot contour line. A fall chemical treatment in Dead Colt Creek with Navigate, a 2, 4-D on clay granules product, appears to be successful. Both the creek and reservoir will be monitored this summer to evaluate the treatments' effects.

Mass Media – Newspapers, radio and television stations were supplied with periodic reports on ANS – new species in the region, results of monitoring, I/E on prevention, and information on impacts from ANS infestations.

Meetings and Programs – Groups, public and professional, were given presentations on impacts to native and desirable species from ANS and how to prevent the importation or movement of ANS into or within the state.

Aquatic Invasive Species Committee, it is comprised of public organizations/NGOs, state agencies, and tribal representative, meet or through conference calls discussed ANS problems, control projects, and review draft language in proposed regulations.

Fishing Tournaments – Provide presentations at fishing tournament rules meetings to encourage professional anglers to provide ANS message during their seminars in the fall and winter. Continue to work with tournament organizers to include effective ANS prevention protocols.

Regulations – A final draft of ND's ANS list, categories, and regulations for possession has been prepared. This will be provided to the public at spring and Fall Advisory Board meetings (8 meetings in the spring and in the fall, and at different locations around the state). Newspapers will receive a summary of the regulations. Regulations are – no aquatic vegetation on or in boats/trailers/motors

or construction equipment, no water in livewells, bilges, or compartments of construction equipment, and minnows/live bait being imported or offered or transported shall be in water that is free of plant fragments. The first offense is a misdemeanor, but the second offense is Class B Felony – up to \$1,000 fine, forfeiture of equipment, and loss of fishing privileges.

Summary of 2007 planned activities:

Control/Herbicide Projects - Local governmental entities, Barnes County Water Resource District, Barnes Country Weed Board, US Corps of Engineers, City of Valley City, Valley City State University, and other interested parties, will be participating in an aquatic herbicide application/evaluation project. Treatment will be with Navigate, 2, 4-D on clay granules, which will be applied as spring spot treatment to control EWM. Long term monitoring will evaluate the chemical's effectiveness.

McDowell Dam, a small reservoir near Bismarck, ND, project is a spot treatment in the bay which has the boat ramp. Aquathol Super K (endothall salt) was selected as aquatic herbicide to evaluate in this reservoir. Additional data will be available later in the year.

Monitoring – A seasonal aide will survey duck marshes used by waterfowl hunters which are close to Dead Colt Creek and other large wetlands for EWM. Fisheries staff will continue to monitor waterbodies for ANS during fish population monitoring projects.

Mass media – Utilize similar information releases with area newspapers, radio and television stations, and periodicals.

Meetings and Programs – Continue to work with various public and professional groups to inform them of ANS impacts to native and desirable species from ANS. Update them on importance of prevention is more effective than attempting to control an ANS infestation.

Aquatic Invasive Species Committee meetings to discuss ANS problems, control projects, and review draft language in proposed regulations.

Fishing Tournaments – Provide presentations at fishing tournament rules meetings to encourage professional anglers to provide ANS message during their seminars in the fall and winter. Continue to work with tournament organizers to include effective ANS prevention protocols.

North Dakota will host the next MRB 100th Meridian Team Meeting in April, 2008 at Bismarck

South Dakota: Andy Burgess

The priority this past year has been to increase ANS awareness within the agency. Toward this end, Andy put-on a 4 hour internal training highlighting VHS, plants, pathogens, state mgt. plan, etc. His Division Chief has given invasive species a high priority and teams of agency staff will be convened in the coming year to begin the process of development of a state ANS plan.

Work continues in cooperation with the Federation of Fly-fishermen on Rapid Creek in the Black Hills to assess the growing Didymium population. Work in other regions has indicated an inverse relationship Phosphorus levels and streams in this area of the state are phosphorous poor so an attempt to control the population will be made this year by adding phosphorous to the system.

A brittle naiad infestation in has been found in McCook Lake located just south of Sioux Falls. Contractor hired for spot treatment.

South Dakota is in dire need for more ANS funding. Only a portion of his time is available for ANS work.

Nebraska: Steve Schainost

Two major utility companies in Nebraska sampled for Veligers at water intake/control structures. Samples were processed by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. No Veligers detected in any of the samples.

Kansas stream team collected Juvenile silver carp in Walnut Creek, KS. These carp came through Missouri River, up the Big Nemaha River, into Walnut Creek. This demonstrates need to sample smaller streams for Asian carp in NE.

A Terrestrial invasive management group in NE is up and running, but not yet addressing ANS. Steve has brought the need for ANS plan up with the group.

The situation at Offutt Base Lake will be discussed in detail later in the meeting

Iowa: Kim Bogenschutz

Kim has hired a new full-time assistant to Iowa's Aquatic Invasive Species program using new boat registration money. His name is Jason Euchner and worked for Kim as a seasonal previously.

Iowa will hire nine summer techs for plant and ZM surveys this summer. Two will be assigned to do vegetation surveys; five will work with specific water patrol offices doing boater surveys and ramp inspections of watercraft, remaining

two will be roving watercraft inspectors. They already have 5,000 boater surveys that can be added to the 100th Meridian boater database.

Zebra mussels have been found in two lakes in Iowa in the last year, making them the 1st two instances of zebra mussels in inland waters in Iowa. Two zebra mussels were discovered in Clear Lake in 2005. Reproduction was confirmed in 2006. Clear Lake is a large lake and major destination fishery in Iowa and is a walleye brood stock lake with eggs going to the Rathburn and Spirit Lake hatcheries. Iowa State University will receive funding to study and document water quality conditions in the lake starting in 2007. A HACCP program has been implemented at the lake and two receiving hatcheries to prevent the spread of zebra mussels as a result of brood collection/hatchery operations. So far the population density of zm's in Clear Lake is low.

Zebra mussels were found in a second inland lake, Lake Delhi (tributary to Mississippi) by the public in 2007. They were found on cinder blocks raised from the lake bottom.

Iowa continues to participate with Minnesota and Wisconsin in a joint education and outreach program. This is the second of a three year project to increase public awareness using the Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker logo and message at airport and rest area displays, on flyers, with signs and on gas pump toppers. They will use their summer surveys to see if people recognize logo, and what it means. Minnesota has a TIS and will be evaluating its effectiveness this year as part of this overall effort.

Both Missouri and Iowa were the target of environmental terrorism this past year. Both agencies were threatened with the release of zebra mussels into their waters if the state didn't back-down on its plan to ban internet poker. Both cases were turned over to the USFWS to investigate. No information to date on results or progress of this investigation.

The new Iowa DNR Director shows a strong interest in ANS issues.

Kansas: Jason Goeckler

Kansas conducted multi-agency, multi-state HACCP training in November thanks to funding support from the USFWS through Tina. This training was very successful. In addition, several HACCP Plans have been written for Kansas hatcheries in the past year. ANS identification training was given to the Law Enforcement Division, Stream Team, and Fish and Wildlife Division.

White perch are now listed on the prohibited species list in Kansas.

A recent (2006) licensed angler survey revealed that 78% of KS anglers have heard of zebra mussels. Up substantially when compared to the 1996 survey in which only 20% of respondents had heard of zebra mussels.

New signs are being placed at ANS infested lakes as part of increased public awareness program emphasis. The state is now including an ANS packet of information with all boater registrations. ANS information is now found in the Kansas Fishing and hunting Regulation summaries (3 pages). Jason NEEDS MORE ZM WATCH CARDS.

Kansas is using 4' x 8' foot signs at boat ramps in some waters; using the back of existing signage facing the water so that boaters see it as they leave infested waters. The signs read "Did you check...."

EWM discovered in several KS lakes this past year. Eradication efforts are being evaluated.

Jason introduced a draft of a bait fish survey he will soon send out to a randomly selected sample of licensed anglers in Kansas to determine how baitfish are obtained, used, disposed-of and what their attitudes are toward the use of live baitfish and several proposed regulation changes. Team members should provide comments back to Jason within a week.

Kansas is going to add grass carp to the prohibited species list and require certification of triploidy for all future grass carp introductions into state and private waters.

Missouri: Brian Canaday

Brian directed the Team to their MDC website to review their new strategic and operational plan called "Next Generation Conservation". They expect to have an Invasive Species Plan by 2010.

On June 14th 2006 (Z-day) zebra mussels were discovered in Lake of the Ozarks, a 60,000 acre reservoir in central Missouri and the states best known and most popular recreational water. The lake has 25,100 private and public docks. Dive surveys last summer found zebra mussels in 10 of 12 dive sites.

MDC has devoted a lot of effort in the past year to boater/public education; including signing more boat ramps, direct mailings to 728 marinas, private docks, restaurants, bait shops, boat dealers and resorts on Lake of the Ozarks and Table Rock Reservoir, 3 new billboards on US 54 and I-44 (donated by local Commissioner), PSA's and including information in regatta websites and permits.

ZM's were found on a construction barge used on the Mark Twain Bridge project after it was in the water. MDC now requires inspection and zebra mussel free

certification on all in-water contracts, as do the MODOT and USACE. MDC and the USACE have set-up a monitoring project at the site of the Mark Twain Bridge.

Missouri completed a State ANS Plan and submitted it to USFWS for approval. Probably won't happen in 2007

MDC has placed live bait restrictions on three water supply lakes in the state and is considering a free bait shop permit to begin to get control of the increasing problems being caused by invasive species being sold as bait fish and increasing concern over the VHS virus. MDC has distributed "don't dump bait" stickers and is doing HACCP training for hatchery, enforcement and field staff.

Brian Organized an Invasive Species Workshop at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference in February 07. Twelve speakers participated.

MDC has also established an Asian Carp Working Group with the University of Missouri, USGS and St Louis Zoo as the major players. They are examining options to add value to AC market by using them to develop exotic animal feed (penguins, pelicans and sea lions).

MDC is establishing five regional focus groups in place of a survey of licensed anglers to get information about the effectiveness of various outreach efforts and public perception and attitudes about zebra mussels.

Bass Pro Shops in Missouri are now including an information packet about ANS with new boat sales that includes SAH stickers for boats and trailers. They will also sponsor displays at the Spring BASS Classic.

MDC operates a mobile aquarium at fairs, boat shows and landowner workshops including information about ANS. The theme for MDC's display at the 2007 Missouri State Fair will be Invasive Species

USFWS – Presented by Bill at Bob Pitman's request

Please recommend to those at the MRB 100th Meridian meeting to check-out the very nice on-line training Dave (Britton) developed and added to the 100th Meridian website. States might want to consider recommending that boaters go to the website to take the training and print-out the certificate as another way to reinforce responsible boating practices. In the near future, Dave may include on-line boater surveys linked to the training. His website tracking can provide numbers for each state so that they can research outreach effectiveness and alter procedures if necessary.

Bob also let everyone know that the updated Zap the Zebra brochure is ready for downloading and printing. They should contact David Britton need any assistance with the brochure or printing. USFWS order is due for delivery by Mid-April

Colorado Basin Quagga Report – Wen Baldwin, Lake Mead Boat Owners Association

Wen Baldwin, who responded to and confirmed the 1st report of zebra/quagga mussels in Lake Mead, provided an update on the situation in the Lower Colorado Basin:

Mussels were first found in Lake Mead Jan 6th, 2007 and originally thought to be zebra mussels. They were later confirmed to be quagga mussels and to date no zebra mussels have been found in any of the Colorado River reservoirs. Within days of the first discovery, divers found live quagga mussels in the lower Lake Mead Basin, in Lake Mojave and Lake Havasu and an irrigation diversion downstream of Lake Mead. They were also found by observers at the Lake Mead and Willow Beach Hatcheries.

Wen, working as a representative of the Lake Mead Boat Owners Association and volunteer for the National Park Service had been sampling Lake mead with Portland substrate samplers for four years and had not seen any sign of mussels over that time frame and has yet to find them on samplers despite the fact that they are well established in the lake currently. He has since, with the assistance of the USFWS, developed new samplers that include a string of 4 samplers at various depths and are made of dark plastic pipe instead of white PVC currently used in the Portland samplers.

The quagga mussels appear to have been in the lake for 2-4 years as all size classes are being found in diver samples and on boats being hauled-out for cleaning by several marinas. It is almost certain that this infestation was the result on overland transport on trailered watercraft from the great lakes since that is their current North America distribution.

Wen showed a very informative set of slides from the Lake Mead area.

Offutt Base Lake Update – Steve Schainost

Zebra mussels were first discovered in Offutt (Air Force) Base Lake in the spring 2006. It is a 112 acre lake located on the Base and is not open to the public, for military personnel and families only. It sits slightly above and a half-mile or less from the Missouri River in the Omaha Nebraska area and drains, when full, into the Missouri through an overflow culvert and drainage ditch. The lake has not

been full for at least a decade. The zebra mussel population is well established and is estimated to have been present for at least 7 years.

A meeting of involved agencies (USFWS, USACE, local Utility interests, EPA, BOR, local and state government reps, etc.) was held on March 8, 2007 to discuss options for containment and eradication. Brian Watson who directed the only zebra mussel eradication project in the US in Virginia was also in attendance. The meeting was very productive, but did not result in any definitive plans because the high ranking military representatives were not present. Another meeting has been scheduled for May 9 to include military representatives that will narrow the focus of alternatives for both short-term containment and long-term eradication.

The group discussed the merits of various options and ways to support Nebraska, including letter writing to the Air Force and Government officials by neighboring states and the USFWS (Tina). The group agreed that this is situation needs to be resolved soon and that Base Lake presents an excellent opportunity because of its size and isolation for a complete eradication.

(Up-date – The meeting scheduled for May 8th was postponed for a week and held on May 16. Prior to the meeting, base personnel plugged the out-let culverts with concrete. Flooding in the region resulted in the lake filling above the outlet elevation in Late April, but, because the culverts were plugged and the elevation stayed below the height of the emergency spillway, zebra mussels were not allowed to drift downstream into the Missouri River and a disaster was narrowly averted. The military has also closed the lake to boat launching, leaving several small watercraft at the lake for the use of military personnel)

Kansas Zebra Mussel Update – Jason Goeckler

Jason briefed the group on the status of the Zebra mussel population in El Dorado Reservoir. The population has been increasing rapidly and densities have increased each year. Kansas conducted research in 2006 to determine the incidence of Veligers in live-wells and bilges of watercraft leaving the lake. Results confirm potential of spread from this vector. This study will be replicated at Winfield City Lake in 2007 where zebra mussels were found in Dec 2006. Based on angler survey data provided and maintained in the 100th Meridian database, Winfield was the number 9 highest risk lake in Kansas to receive zebra mussels via watercraft transfer from Lake El Dorado.

VHS and Baitfish Information and Discussion – Group

The increasing, and in some cases poorly regulated, bait fish industry in the Missouri Basin needs more attention, particularly in light of the VHS problem.

Jason, Eileen, and Andy volunteered to serve on a baitfish sub-group to look at the issue and make recommendations for “best management practices” or “model regulations” for the basin. For example; No harvest of baitfish from zebra mussel infested waters; Baitfish may be used only in water where caught; and all fish imported into a state must be certified disease free. The group will report on their recommendations by the end of May.

Veliger Sampling Information and Discussion - Eileen

Eileen reported that Montana processed Veliger samples from NE, SD, and ND in 2006 and is willing to accept samples from those states again in 2007 provided that they are accompanied by a new data sheet she will design soon. SHE REPORTED AND THE GROUP CONCURED THAT A MISSOURI BASIN VELIGER LAB WAS STILL NEEDED FOR THE BASIN. Montana is willing to house the lab as long as some funding for staffing can be provided. USFWS has not been willing to fund the budget previously submitted by Eileen to Stephen and Tina. In exchange for processing samples in other states, Eileen has a list of lakes that she would like sampled in those states.

Rapid Response Planning - Bill

Copies of the Columbia River Rapid Response plan were distributed. Bill asked that everyone read the Plan and get back to him by the end of October with thoughts on whether a similar plan should be developed for the Missouri Basin. If the group decides to proceed with a plan, each Team member will be assigned as lead on a section to prepare draft language prior to the 2008 meeting in Bismarck.

Team Planning - Group

Newsletter articles should be in to Bill by the end of April. The Newsletter will be printed and distributed sometime in May

Next meeting: Bismarck, North Dakota in April 2008– Hosted by Lynn Schlueter and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Action Items:

- Andy, Jason, and Eileen will draft baitfish recommendations and send them out to the Team for review by the end of May
- Eileen will process samples for ND, SD and NE again this year w/o charge.
- Team will provide rapid response recommendations/suggestions to Bill by October after reviewing the Columbia Basin Rapid Response Plan.

- Kim and Eileen will draft a letter for the ANSTF to the Department of Defense regarding the need to eradicate and/or contain zm's in Offutt Lake.
- The Team will provide comments to Jason on the baitfish survey by April 27
- Brian will contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Missouri regarding ANS inspections and training
- Jason will provide copies of his Lake El Dorado slides to the Team
- Brian will send Team members copies of USACE regional construction permit conditions relating to equipment cleaning and use
- Brian will contact SAH about labeling recreational equipment before proceeding independently with local manufactures
- Eileen and Andy will contact Lynn about interstate fish movement.
- Andy and Jason will provide Newsletter articles to Bill by the end of April.
- Eileen to send copy of Montana's bait regulations to Brian by the end of April
- Andy will do Veliger sampling on Lake Francis Case in 2007.
- Jason will send his notes on meeting minutes to Bill by the end of April.
- Jason will resend veliger sampling protocol to the Team by the end of May.
- Bill will follow-up with Tina about funding expenditures from last year and this year.
- Bill will work toward increasing attendance for next years meeting
- Bill to send draft Missouri Basin River Watch newsletter to the Team for review by mid-May and publish the letter by the end of May
- Bill will contact Stephen and Tina to encourage funding for Missouri Basin veliger lab in Montana.
- Steve will include new datasheet with all Veliger samples sent to Eileen for processing
- Steve to work to make sure that uniformed military officers attend Offutt meetings and will keep the Team updated on the situation at Offutt Lake
- Wen to send Grab and Go watercraft Decontamination kits to Eileen and Brian
- Kim will help provide some other Team members with ANS outreach/educational materials when possible and as requested

3 rd Annual Bowl-a-Rama Results:

South team wins 3rd straight year, but by a razor-thin margin this time

Bill Zook records the best individual score for 2nd straight year by a wide margin.

April 18, 2007

Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Training – Bill Zook and Wen Baldwin

Bill and Wen presented their training course to all Team Members present and two additional Coast Guard Auxiliary regional environmental coordinators. The training included the DVD "*It Only Takes One*" and a detailed session on

watercraft inspection and decontamination procedures including a “hands-on” inspection exercise.

Field trip to see Asian Carp on the Missouri River – Jason Goeckler and Brian Canaday

Brian and Jason provide a boat tour of the Missouri river and a tributary stream to observe first-hand the “antics” of the flying Asian carp. Low water temperatures limited the activity of carp and only a couple were observed, but it was an excellent field trip!

Final Agenda

**Missouri River Basin ANS Work Group
April 17-18, 2007
Cabalas Outlet Store
Kansas City, Kansas**

Day 1 - April 17

8:30 – 8:45	<i>Introductions, Minutes, Agenda Group</i>
8:45 – 10:15	<i>Agency Updates Group</i>
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Colorado Basin Quagga Mussel Status Report Wen Baldwin</i>
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Nebraska Zebra Mussel Actions and Update Steve</i>
11:15 – 11:30	<i>Kansas Zebra Mussel Actions and Update Jason</i>
11:30 – Noon	<i>VHS Virus Information and Update..... Group</i>
Noon - 1:00	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00 – 1:30	<i>Bait Fish Regulations Jason</i>
1:30 – 1:45	<i>Veliger Sampling Lab and Protocol Eileen</i>
1:45 – 3:00	<i>MRB Rapid Response Planning Group</i>
3:00 – 3:15	<i>Break</i>
3:15 – 4:00	<i>Team Planning Group</i>

Newsletter, Training Programs, “To Do” Review

