

100th Meridian Initiative
Columbia, Missouri
May 24, 2004

Tina welcomed everyone. Introductions and brief updates were provided.

Jeff Scherer, South Dakota ZM Update:

Larry Hesse, Rivers Corporation, sampled for veligers and adult zebra mussels in Missouri River. He has fixed monitoring sites (from previous research) that he utilized. Larry didn't find adults, but found 2 hits for veligers in the Missouri River above and below Gavins Point Dam. Local media were contacted after confirmation. He currently has partial funding with \$18,000 from USFWS, Region 6 and \$5,000 from SD Fisheries program. Jeff may be able to give ACOE Waterways Experiment Station (WES) collected samples to process. Larry was sampling for presence/absence last summer; this summer he will be looking at more quantitative results.

Steven Wilson, NPS, Missouri National Recreational Reach oversees the 2 sites where veligers found. A short term action plan was created starting this summer using brochures, signs, stickers; more monitoring. Yankton group will meet late summer/fall and develop action plan. Minutes from Steve Wilson (meeting) will go on 100th website. St. Croix management plan will be put on 100th website.

SD put up two ANS billboards, one near the SD/MN border and one on I-29 north of Sioux City, SD. The company who designed the billboards thought the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers logo had too much text for people to view in cars on a highway so the signs have a much simpler message.

Over 70 Missouri River boat ramps were posted with the sign approved by the Missouri River Working Group.

Tom Mosher, Kansas ZM Update:

Tom introduced Jason Goeckler as the new state ANS Coordinator.

The woman who found ZMs in El Dorado Reservoir had received a brochure about zebra mussels with her boating registration. In 1995, Kansas Wildlife and Parks started putting the brochure out sporadically with boat registration. A 3.5 foot drawdown of El Dorado was initiated in December 2003 to evaluate what was there and develop management options. They found 20-25mm shells with 2-3 growth rings so the population was established earlier than previously thought. ZMs were found at 17 feet (as far as diver was allowed to go – may find ZMs deeper). The lake won't be drained any more than it already was. Turbidity readings were measured each week prior to infestation. Kansas DWP will be comparing turbidity now after ZMs found. In deeper water, they found 150 ZM's per square meter density. Monthly veliger sampling by Joe Bidwell is occurring. No veligers were found in April, 2004. Migration of mussels is a challenge. 18 degrees C is the prime reproductive temperature and we expect to see more veligers at this temperature.

El Dorado Marina (private) has been very cooperative. The staff has been showing people how ZMs could infest trim tabs on boats. They hauled a boat out of its slip to clean for algae and found hundreds of ZMs. This experience opened up their eyes more to the issues and the difficulty in finding them on boats. An El Dorado partnership meeting was held this past winter. Bob and David showed the PDA program so Kansas now has 4 PDAs in state for staff to get additional boater survey information. There is interest in another PDA to be used by Joe Warner, Kansas Energy, in a cooling lake in Eastern KS. There is a potential closure of cooling lakes to fishing due to ZM issues.

KDWP is providing signs at boat ramps and at entrances to reservoirs. They developed an ANS link on the agency web page and developed a PSA (video) on their web site for anglers on where to look for ZMs. The Coast Guard Auxiliary will be volunteering at El Dorado Reservoir, talking to boaters over Memorial Day weekend. They will be directing people to a public wash facility nearby.

KDWP is ordering one power sprayer to help out the local yacht club and one sprayer for KDWP activities. They added a windshield flyer to outreach tools at boat ramps when they can't make physical contact. They also added a question to all creel surveys (10 lakes this summer) to determine where boaters are moving their boats from. Missouri River Boat Ramps have been signed. On July 4th, because of a major Lewis and Clark activity at Atchison, KDWP will be coordinating boater outreach with police.

Brent Bristow, OK Fishery Resource Office (USFWS)

Boater surveys will be starting this summer. Many ZM signs have been posted at boat ramps in both infested and un-infested areas.

Steve Schainost, Nebraska Wildlife and Parks

They funded the zebra mussel survey with SD and FWS. They also participated in SD/NE ZM group meeting in Yankton. Steve mentioned there were 3 water utility companies at the meeting as well. NE is interested in personalizing the impacts to water utility customers and will be working with companies to do this.

Don MacLean, USFWS, Washington Office

The official logo is now on the website.

Bob McMahon, U. of Texas at Arlington

They have added some materials to the web site including an article on aquatic invaders and the proceedings from a malacological symposium.

Erin Williams, USFWS, California

The ZM Rapid Response Plan for California is still in process. The border check stations have been closed due to budget limitations. She will be looking for a contractor to do the CA boater surveys this summer.

Rob Klumb – USFWS

Rob did a presentation on Asian carp larval fish densities in the Missouri River. See the linked power point presentation for information on preliminary results.

Bill Zook – Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Update

PSMFC will be printing 200,000 Zap the Zebra brochures for L&C project. He just completed a two week marina tour from Fort Peck to Omaha.

Missouri River Team – The recently developed PSA (“Clark & Lewis”) was mailed out to 200 stations with news release and other ZM information. TIS sites – 2 in SD; 1 in ND (ND DOT) at Bismarck; 1 in IA – up and running (borrowed DOT FM transmitter) Sergeant’s Bluff; 1 in MO – outside of St. Louis – Big Bass Pro Shop; 1 in MT at Missouri Headwaters. Finally got permission for Cabella’s TIS in MN. (ACOE will put 2 messages on the Gavins Point TIS).

River Watch Partners – Bill has spent last 2 weeks visiting marinas and met with 50+ marina operators (about all of them). Some won’t be able to operate with low water levels this year. There are 27 Partners for River Watch Program. Generally, the attitude of operators was much better this time around. The marinas are seeing more L&C business, which likely helped Bill’s cause.

Signs were delivered this past winter. Bill didn’t see many signs posted on his trip, so hopefully states will get them up this summer.

Columbia River Team – The team is looking at the Missouri model and developing a very similar strategy. There are lots of participants because there are more Federal Agencies, Tribes, etc in the Columbia vs. the Missouri, so the process is a bit slower. It helps to have the Missouri strategy as a starting point. They are looking at 1-2 TIS systems for Columbia (limited due to \$\$).

Signs – they are not going to have a standard sign. Idaho has a sign committee to develop a sign already and is going to use that and WA just resigned too, so doesn’t want to switch. Oregon and Tribes are going to develop a sign.

They will have a modified River Watch Program because there are a lot more marinas in Columbia, (21 marinas just in Portland).

Lynn Schlueter, ND Game and Fish

We watched a new video: “Lose the Hitchhikers” which was produced with 100th Meridian funds. Lynn is making copies of the video on both VHS and DVD. The Video will go up on the 100th Meridian website. The videos are being shown at Fishing Commission meetings, wildlife clubs and fishing tournaments. Tina asked for Refuges in ND to get a copy – Lynn will provide.

Another project funded by 100th Meridian was a report, “Summary of Survey of States’ Precautions at Fishing Tournaments.” The contractor from Valley City State University conducted a phone survey with a time limit of 7 minutes for 16 questions. The lower 48

states were contacted during November and December 2003. Lynn handed out report copies on CD, which includes some other reports as well.

In ND, all bait dealers must be permitted and areas where they are taking bait from are monitored, inspected, and go through HACCP process.

Lynn handed out the brochure that NDGF sends out with boater registrations. Video has been segmented and segments are available on NDGF website. Some “big” fishing tournament managers are requiring boat cleaning prior to participation in ND. Smaller tournaments are not on board.

We watched another new video produced with 100th Meridian funds. This is a Boat Inspection Video produced by Washington Department of Wildlife. They are available through the Fish and Wildlife Service and will be put on the 100th Meridian web site.

Reviewed 2003-2004 Work Plan

100th Meridian Initiative Work Plan 2004-1005

1. HACCP trainings – interest in SD, MN, etc. regional training; Steve Schainost would like to hold one for Hatchery Managers.
2. 100th Meridian display – Don will continue working with FWS designers at National Conservation Training Center to finalize the display.
3. Tina will order business cards with 100th meridian logo.
4. Accomplishment report – Don will develop an accomplishment report for 100th Meridian. FWS ANS Coordinators will work with Don to report accomplishments using Department of Interior requirements, and then contact others for ideas and input.
5. Bob P. contacted Doug Jensen at MN Sea Grant regarding ANS survey questions. Bob will follow up on this to see if any suggested changes and if these can be incorporated into boater survey template.
6. Coordination of ZM monitoring databases at Portland State University, California Department of Water Resources and Washington state (David Britton, Erin, Paul Heimowitz, Kevin Aitkin, Mary Pfauth).
7. Bob, Lynn, Erin, Tina, Stephen and Paul H. will develop a way to evaluate the effectiveness of TIS systems. Montana is evaluating effectiveness of their system, but signage has been a major problem.
8. Tina, Erin will work on developing/reprinting 100th Meridian bags.
9. Web site additions – put ND movie and ND tournament survey on web site,
10. Bob M. will prepare list of ZM references for power companies.
11. Sticker distribution – Coast Guard Auxiliary; boat shows; Region 1 outreach van.
12. Continue L&C efforts and expand into Columbia River Basin.
13. Look into adding Boater Survey questions to creel surveys, especially now with the electronic program.
14. Add more Boater Surveys to inform risk analysis, signage decisions, etc.: California, New Mexico, Canada, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Arizona (have Lake Powell & Mead). Suggestion was made to focus on a few states each year to get them done. Nebraska surveyed at Cabella's and got a ton of responses.

Suggestions on Boater Survey Approach

Incentive trinkets (t-shirts, hats, keychains)

Focus on boater supply places in addition to boat ramps

Approach in-state as well as out-of-state boaters