

100th Meridian Initiative Team Meeting

Tulsa, Oklahoma

June 6-7, 2001

Thursday, June 6, there was a field trip to the Oklahoma Welcome Center at Miami, OK in the northeast corner of the state. A press conference was held to announce the opening of the short-range radio system with the zebra mussel message. Good attendance by print, radio and TV media. Partners include Oklahoma Departments of Transportation, Wildlife Conservation, and Tourism.

Bob Pitman lead the meeting in Tulsa on Thursday afternoon, June 6 and Friday morning, June 7.

Reports

Dr. Bob McMahon – The University of Texas at Arlington
David Britton
Center for Biological Macrofouling Research

Bob described the 100th Meridian Initiative Database which includes information from surveys in by 5-7 states and 1 province in 1998-2000. The purpose of collecting the data is to define the risk of accidental spread of aquatic nuisance species to western waters through trailered recreational boats. Anger/boater surveys provide information about boat movements along with user attitudes and response to concepts of clean boating. David Britton has developed a website for the 100th Meridian and eventually all of the data will be available on the website. The current address is:

<http://www.uta.edu/biology/cbmr/100th.html>

David would like to receive comments about what should be on the website and ideas for links. Don suggested putting on "Zap the Zebra" and the "100th Meridian Strategy" in pdf format. Bob requested suggested a link to Kevin Aitkens database/maps also.

Kim Webb - FWS - California

Compiled list of commercial boat haulers through library database service, yellow pages, boating magazines. The committee talked to them on the phone to determine how to do outreach. Letter sent to ~250 Haulers two weeks ago. Inserts: Zap the Zebra and zebra mussel ID cards. Follow-up letter will go to select group in the center of the country to make appointments to meet with them. John Shanahan suggested that US Department of Transportation write a letter to state DOT's to identify CBH. John will follow-up on this task. Note: Kim received two calls from haulers when she checked her voice messages on Thursday.

Kevin Aitken - FWS, Washington (report given by Kim Webb)

Database of zm monitoring stations in states and provinces west of the 100th meridian. Created monitoring survey form to collect more detailed locality information. ACCESS database has been started. Any monitoring done on regular basis is part of the database. Give information to Kevin if there is information available that isn't on the list or map. David Britton suggested that database maps could be layered. Bob McMahon suggested that Kevin contact power plants because there are many who are doing monitoring. Potable water suppliers are also monitoring. John Shanahan said that the Coast Guard buoys on Missouri River are pulled up and checked regularly.

Jean Nauss - ACOE- Lewis and Clark Coordinator Meeting in April in Omaha - 6th annual workshop - 400 people attending. Bicentennial Council will sponsor signature events that may bring in thousands of people. No one agency has the lead or one time frame - the Commemoration will cover 2003 to 2006. This increases the potential for transporting invasive species. MOU for 14 federal agencies; added NRCS and Coast Guard as signatories this spring.

Visitation figures: Missouri and North Dakota both project 15-20% increase. Montana projected 20 million visitors over the four years. Three predictions about site visitation: 1) no relation to L&C along the Missouri River, may be a 4 to 5% increase; 2) within 25 miles of important site, may be a 15-20% increase; 3) at major site, may be a 150 to 300% increase. Anecdotal evidence of large boat increases for river L&C festivals.

Federal interagency group is developing an interagency brochure with 52 sites - nationwide coast to coast. Small paragraph on invasive species.

Denny Lassuy met with Michelle Bussard, executive director of Bicentennial Council. Blaine Parker, Columbia Intertribal Fish Commission, put the meeting together. Circle of Tribal Advisors are not clued into the risks of invasive species. Explained whole concept of invasive species and the potential for new populations which could cause a lot of damage. Michelle has been concerned about trail stewardship and wants to form a committee on the council which will take several issues and develop a brochure with pages dedicated to these stewardship issues. Wants to print thousands of brochures to be available at all places where people will stop. Need to know where is the most likely places where people will put in and take out. ACOE doing safety boating brochures specifically for Lewis and Clark Commemoration. MOUs with Time Magazine, National Geographic and Smithsonian. Articles and TV shows - in each case, Michelle will suggest that they have trail stewardship plus invasive species as part of the story.

Michelle will send letter to states asking them to include the Zap the Zebra brochure in the literature they send out to trail travelers.

Council's website: www.lewisandclark200.org has information on events.

Jean Nauss also talked about the "Grand Excursion 2004" an event to commemorate the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad reaching the Mississippi River in 1854. President

Millard Fillmore led 1,200 people from Rock Island Illinois to St. Paul, Minnesota to attract people to Minnesota country. As a result, Minnesota became a state and the region attracted millions of investment dollars. There will be a large flotilla of boats on the Mississippi in 2004 commemorating this event.

Bob Pitmann handed out brochures on [Ion Man boat wash system](#) that can be set up at boat launch site. Can be put in high risk areas. \$18,000 per unit. States could require that people clean boat before launching. The surface of the system could be used for ads.

Wendy Ralley - Manitoba

Wendy sent letters to commercial haulers - no response. Monitoring of boats again this year. Letters to cottage associations (cabins around lakes) to alert them of the zm issue.

Lynn Schlueter - North Dakota

Two years of information of interviews along highways. Also have asked questions in Creel surveys about awareness of ANS and zms. 12% of people used boats outside of ND. Will put signs at boat ramps; large ads in newspapers. Walleye anglers are coming from Ohio, Illinois, Texas, Iowa, Nebraska, etc. Also a problem with duck hunters with their boats from many other states. Will continue angler surveys as well as awareness of ANS. Not inspecting the boats. Attorney general did not approve the 100th meridian boat survey forms that other states are using. However, the data they are gathering is still usable for the database maintained in Texas.

John Wachsmuth - Montana

Concerns about Eurasian watermilfoil - doesn't occur yet in Montana but is close in Idaho. Will be passing out information about EW, zms, whirling disease. Two TIS (short range radio) systems will be put in Montana. Would like to have TIS systems around the state before Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Highway 2 and Highway 200 are the first.

Stephen Phillips - Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Northern and Central Idaho will have 100th meridian surveys this summer plus Snake River and Columbia River.

Steve Schainost - Nebraska

100th meridian surveys - two employees this summer. MO River and irrigation and power reservoirs in the western 2/3rds of the state. Public ramps every 20 miles along the River.

Steve Adams - Kansas

Finding of 7 shells on intake screen of power plant on Missouri River outside of Kansas City, Kansas. State installed signage within 70 mile radius. Good media coverage. State parks in that area handed brochures to anyone in a boat. Power plant will do veliger sampling all summer. Peak time to see veligers is 18°C.

Will develop new list of water intakes in the area. Working with ACOE. Put out artificial substrates to see if zms attach. Scotchbrite pads are good substrates, according to Bob. Connect to cement block - take them out and rinse. These will pick up larvae faster than blocks alone. Bridal veil in PVC pipe is also a good substrate.

Jeff Boxrucker - Oklahoma Department of Wildlife

Distributing literature. Have tabletop display that they take to meetings, fairs, etc. State Department of Agriculture has developed a prohibited list of plants plus a species of concern list. SOC plants are distributed by nurseries. Red flag: grass carp fingerlings found in Lake Takoma. Letter writing regarding black carp issues. Established a native mussel reserve on Poteau River on Arkansas-Oklahoma border.

Everett Laney - ACOE in Oklahoma

Numbers of zms going down. Bob McMahon doing studies on temperature tolerances. Surviving in warmer waters than expected. Reproducing all summer, even in 90°F. They are spawning at temperatures where they aren't even supposed to be able to survive. Bob is concerned that these mussels could evolve to be more heat tolerant and then be a population that could spread south.

Lots of knowledge on zms in OK because of high level of information in this state--due to Arkansas River population. Lots of media coverage. Marina operators are very aware, as are boaters. Sampling being done at powerplants.

Bob McMahon - Texas

Main activity is keeping the database going. Will work several weekends this summer to do trailer counts in northeast Texas and interview boaters. All the electric power plant companies in Texas are looking and monitoring. Bob Howells at Texas Parks and Wildlife does sampling for freshwater mussels and is also looking. Most likely place, Lake Texoma which is near the Arkansas River.

John Shanahan - Coast Guard Auxiliary

John suggested a partner list for 100th Meridian:

NASBLA - National Association of State Boating Law Administrators - waterways management committee. Eleanor Mariani is the chair.

Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation - advocacy group to promote boating and fishing. Based in Washington, DC

MEEF - Marine Education and Environment Foundation

Boat/US and Boat/US Foundation - national boating advocacy and supply/service organization. Also education foundation (Jim Ellis - president). Over 500,000 members.

National Marine Manufacturers' Association and National Marine Retailers Association - NMMA and NMRA.

State Division of Motor Vehicle Agencies - could get information insert in boat registration. Also ANS information printed on back of registration decal.

State Marine Trades Association - Marine businesses and marine owners in each state.

Regional/Watershed Management Authorities –

River Authorities
Lake Associations

National Marine Owners Associations

Sea Grant Colleges

Bob P. will invite these folks to WRP meeting in Las Vegas, NV in September.

Activities for the next year

North American Lake Management Society - NALMS national conference in October in Madison, WI. Session planned on invasive species. Lakeline is the magazine. Tom Conry is the WRP representative from NALMS. Bob P. mentioned that we will get someone on the agenda. Wendy suggested handouts to present at the conference. Don McLean is working on getting the giveaways ordered.

Outreach and education to fishing tournaments. Everett has been actively doing this in Oklahoma. Many lakes have tournaments nightly. People are cleaning boats, but maybe not trailers. Information could go out with registration materials. Give programs to tournament organizers - could show "Clean Your Boat" video at this opportunity. Booths at Boat shows. Check on what states are doing as far as permitting for these tournaments. In Kansas, every tournament must get a permit from state agency. Kim will get information, brochures and giveaways to states, ACOE and BuRec for permitting fishing tournaments.

Increase awareness of ANS and short range radio at Oklahoma Welcome Center. Suggestions were: a sign with the radio frequency, 100th meridian information, "Zap the Zebra" brochures, track numbers of people who pick up the information. Bob P. will talk to the staff about evaluating the success of the TIS system.

Discussion on billboards and signs/templates available.

Billboards: Manitoba has one for people traveling west. Minnesota Sea Grant has

billboards. Signs: Everett has laminated posters in Oklahoma. Pat Carter and Denny Lassuy have signs.

Meeting Attendance

Everett Laney

US Army Corps of Engineers (OK)
918-669-7411

Jean Nauss

US Army Corps of Engineers (NE)
402-697-2532

Kim Webb

US Fish & Wildlife Service (Region 1 - CA)
209-946-6400, x311

Steve Schainost

Nebraska Game and Parks
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Jeff Boxrucker

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife
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Steve Adams

Kansas Wildlife and Parks
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Stephen Phillips

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
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Wendy Ralley

Manitoba Conservation
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Lynn R. Schlueter

North Dakota Game and Fish
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John Wachsmuth

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
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Bob Pitman

US Fish & Wildlife Service (Region 2 - NM)
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Pat Carter

US Fish & Wildlife Service (Region 4 - GA)
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Denny Lassuy

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Donald MacLean

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John Shanahan

U.S. Coast Guard Auxillary
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Tina Proctor

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