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**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bridget Carbary	Upper River Services, LLC
Tamara Cameron	USACE
Mike Dahlquist	USACE
Chuck Dillerud	CalCed, Inc.
Scott Dohman	CF Industries
Paul Freeman	MN Soybean Growers Association
Greg Genz	Kaposia Marine Service
Doug Hosszu	Upper River Services, LLC
Ava Langston Kenney	St. Paul Port Authority
Mary Leary	MHL Consulting
Linda Loomis	Lower Minnesota Watershed District
Lee Nelson	Upper River Services, LLC
Patrick Phenow	MN DoT
Ryan Pecinsky	Pile Drivers/Carpenters
Kathryn Sarnecki	St. Paul Port Authority

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE BY PHONE:**

(Phone connection not working)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Doug Hosszu called the meeting to order at 12:20 PM. A quorum was preset.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the draft of the January minutes. The motion carried.

**III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Taylor Luke was not present but former Chairman, Paul Freeman, reported in his place that at the present time, farmers were not moving product. Everyone was sitting on their crops. He also stated that it looks like we are going to have a late spring and he is concerned about fertilizer not getting here because of the hold up by ice on the river.

*Q: When do you need the fertilizer?*

*A: May 15. In Minnesota it varies.*

*Comment: We will get Al M from Cargill to give his weather report next month.*

*Q: With all the cold this winter, will that affect Lake Pepin?*

*A: They are measuring the ice and did last week. Right now it's 21 inches. All the projects are on schedule for down-river.*

*Q: What is the earliest?*

*A: The 12<sup>th</sup> of March at Lock 11. There is work on Lock 6. If they get through Lock 11, there are 130 miles up to Lock 6. They could get stuck in there but our annual average opening is March 20. There doesn't seem like there is anything coming that would prevent that.*

#### IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Doug had a short report related to the discussion above about ice on the Mississippi. He noted that last year the numbers were near the end of March. The snow cover will help.

#### V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Requested that members return the survey. They are looking for open and honest feedback. They will report on the results at next month's meeting. They are struggling with what people want. Bridget suggested that if people are not comfortable telling them their thoughts, then they could email a response. She will put all the information together and report back to the members.

*Comment: They are looking in particular for what people think about technology, for instance. And what is their favorite thing or least favorite thing.*

*Comment: An Update on the website is that they have met with Brian and discussed some fairly exciting options, depending on where they decide to go as an organization. The website could be more of a communication tool than it is now. At the present time, the website is not only out-dated but if there were a calendar, a member could add an item and more information. Please know that this project has not fallen by the wayside, but it being worked on. If anyone has any great ideas and feel they should be included, let them know. Send an email to them and the ideas will be taken into consideration.*

#### VI. AGENCY REPORTS

##### a. Tamara Cameron – USACE

Introduced Mike Dahlquist as interim Deputy Chief of the St. Paul District Operations Division while Tamara is serving as Operations Chief. Kevin Baumgard is on assignment at Corps Headquarters until May 2019.

1. Guidewall Crib projects are underway at Locks 4, 5, 5A, 9 and some warranty work at Lock 8.
2. Lock 6 End Cell project is currently under construction.
3. Lock 6 upstream riverward miter gate anchorage area is undergoing some concrete repairs. Lock is bulkheaded off on the upstream end.
4. Miter Gates are being fabricated for Locks 5A, 8 and 10.
5. Mississippi Managers/Industry meeting was held 5-7 February in Rochester. It was well attended by Industry and USCG. I highly encourage attendance at this annual event.
6. The normal December River Resources Forum (RRF) was cancelled due to several federal partners not being able to attend, the typical one day April RRF will be two days in Bloomington, MN.
7. The DREDGE GOETZ is currently in below Chain of Rocks in St. Louis District it was decided to defer dredging in St Louis District until later in the year due to consistent high water. Will mobilizing be mobilizing to Pool 21 to await the opening of LD 20.
8. Corps Is Unload: No work plan yet (from Newt) but understand material is likely going to Prairie Island Indian Community.
9. Wabasha Gravel Pit trucking CT: Contractor (LS Marine) is ahead of schedule, project going well; quantity has been increased to 360K, 340K has been moved to date.
10. Lost Is Unload: 1.1Mcy of 1.3Mcy project complete. Newt will resume in spring.

11. Pool 2 Channel Management Project: Phase I rock structures, the upstream rock structure was completed last fall, the downstream rock structure is scheduled to be constructed after mussel relocation this spring. Met Council is repairing a sewer outfall as soon as they can so as not to delay construction. The sewer outfall will pass under the downstream structure.
12. Pool 2 DMMP going through MVP internal review, MVD currently is reviewing.
13. Pool 4 DMMP: Wabasha proposal being reviewed by MVP, seeking guidance from MVD & HQUSACE on Sec 217 Authorities.
14. Pool 5 DMMP: Performing property appraisal on willing seller property near Kellogg. Willing seller to remain confidential until public comment period this spring (at property owners' request).
15. Pool 6 DMMP: Public meeting had to be rescheduled and will now be held tonight February 21st, 6-8 PM at the Winona Historical Society.
16. Corps Regulatory staff are taking action regarding the unpermitted dock that is of concern as a navigation hazard. The dock is located near the LaCrosse railroad bridge (River Mile 699.6).

**b. Linda Loomis – Lower Minnesota River Watershed**

They just met with their engineers on Tuesday for the dredge site. They are reconstructing the berms where they contain the dredge material. They are hoping to build them to industry standards and start the reconstruction this fall, Oct and Nov. They have a 60% design plan from Barr Engineering, which LS Marine has reviewed and it looks like the plans are on track. It will depend on whether they can get all the permits and everyone in line to get that work done this year.

They have had an initial meeting at the legislature with Representative Rick Hanson, chair of the Environmental and Natural Resource Finance Committee. They talked to him about the District's capital dollar needs for this reconstruction. He is going to author a bill for us requesting \$250,000 from the General Fund. We are going to request a similar amount over the next 5 bienniums (or for the next 10 years) because the initial cost estimates with contingencies and everything for the construction of the berms is going to be about \$1 million.

*Q: Is that project eligible for Port Development Assistant funds?*

*A: That's a good question. It has been suggested that we get Port Development funds rather than a direct appropriation from the Legislature. We thought that we would try to get the \$250,000 this year and then talk with Patrick and see if there was a possibility of doing it through that program.*

*Q: It is my understanding that that is way off base. If the initial project is dredging is not eligible for the program but setting up something like that is eligible.*

*A: We have gotten Port Authority fund before. Our legal council was concerned that we don't qualify for it because we are not a port authority, but if you read the legislation, it's related to navigation.*

*Comment: As long you are part of a commercial navigation facility.*

*A: Yes. I have looked at that a while back unless the legislation has changed the work would qualify for PDAP funds. I have asked Legal to go back and look at it again. We have received those funds in the past.*

*Comment: A discussion ensued about the legislation and Linda clarified the problems with dredged materials, what it looks like, its condition (dry or watered) and the slope of the storage area.*

## **II. OLD/ NEW BUSINESS**

As the meeting closed, there was a discussion by several members present regarding a private dock that has been relocated and extends toward the main channel. Tamara stated that the Corps is sending the owner a letter about the dock on their property. They did not get a permit and the DNR did not sanction it. The pilots have concerns about this. They come within 5 – 10 feet of this and the situation is considered unsafe.

With no further old or new business to be discussed, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m.