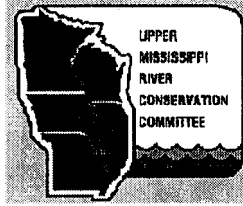


UMRCC Executive Board Meeting



Wednesday March 21, 2012 – Riverport Inn, Winona, MN

OREIT Section Report– Cindy Samples

We had 21 members attend the meeting, some migrated in and out of the meeting. All states were represented except Illinois.

Iowa member, John Maehl volunteered to organize the Fall Technical section meeting.

No state member could commit to being the OREIT section chair, so Cindy Samples will remain as the chair.

Topics:

Field Trip Fund. We discussed the success and possible changes needed to improve the Field Trip Fund. We feel the Field Trip fund is a valuable resource for schools along the Mississippi River and proposed that the Pilot Program be extended for another year. During this time the sub-committee of Ruth Nissen and Angie Smith will explore opportunities to partner with other organizations to create a fund that is sustainable. Possible partnerships include: Living Lands and Waters, Izaak Walton League, Ducks Unlimited, Audubon. Another idea was to include an item in the Silent Auction that specifically went to funding this stream. Cindy will request funding for a second Pilot Year and to extend the 2011 funding to allow Illinois and Missouri teachers to submit Field Trip Fund request.

Book Project: Ruth Nissen volunteered to be the OREIT section member on the Book committee replacing Cindy Samples.

Veg Sampling Video: Last year the Wildlife Tech Section requested that the OREIT section make a video showing how to properly fill out veg sampling forms. Lisa Reid and Brian Pember from the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge filmed the process. We proposed that Dan Krumholz be hired to take the raw film footage and make the final video. Cindy Samples will work with Lisa Reid to draft any graphic elements needed. Cindy will bring this to the Executive Board and ask for \$300 to contract with Dan Krumholz for the video.

UMRCC Website: There was a discussion about an external audience trying to find information on the website. We decided that we would like to form a sub-committee possibly made up with a member from each Tech section that would review the website and provide input to on possible changes necessary. We decided to make this a topic for the Fall Technical meeting.

Suggestions: Show canoe rental locations on website, safety messages, add non-designated trails but suggested loops, can these be downloaded gps coordinates?, look into content

management system to make it more user friendly for both an internal and external audience.

Agency Updates:

Corps of Engineers:

St. Louis District: – Angie Smith Our Mississippi River Curriculum Guide – Angie Smith Educator workshops are scheduled. They are planned on the barge of Living Lands and Waters. They need facilitators so are encouraging UMRCC members to attend. Angie requested list of local resources to add to facilitator binders.

Rock Island District: LuAnn McGracken: Floatzilla 3rd year River Action main channel SOP2012 event, looking for 1200 paddlers.

Mark Cornish: Communicating about invasives and the need to not move firewood. Wasps have been introduced to fight emerald ash borer.

Minnesota DNR –

Scot Johnson Scot suggested that the canoe loops be posted on the UMRCC website. Note: Fall Technical Section meeting we can discuss how to make these maps more easily accessible on the website so they are a tab instead of lost in a list of information.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Cindy Samples Headquarters:

– Summer of Paddling 2012 Looked at the www.SOP2012.org website. There is at least one event in every state, the goal is to have 100 events and there are 103 events planned.

Sue Fletcher La Crosse District: Reported that they are having smaller SOP2012 events that will not be on the main channel but in the quiet backwaters of the refuge. Targeting families and those who have never paddled.

Mary Stefanski Winona District: Current canoe trails up for National Trails designation, 15 Summer of Paddling Events with themes,, National Trails Day Bike/Canoeing event, a new water trail at Aghaming near Winona, MN and new hiking trail and Wabasha Prairie

Ann Blankenship McGregor District: Several events are planned for Summer of Paddling, River Cleanup is happening at the end of April.

LaCrosse Fisheries Office: Heidi Keuhler Reported about the 4th Annual Youth Outdoor Fest.

Paula Ogden-Muse La Crosse District: Final stages of the Visitor Center with a dedication planned for August 25. Pool 8 plantings and island naming contest. Developing an Educational partnership with Sand Lake Elementary to use the refuge as their outdoor classroom.

Wisconsin DNR:

Ruth Nissen: Reported there will be no Teacher Workshop this summer.

Missouri DOC:

Janet Sternburg reported that they have someone interested in the OREIT section chair but still don't have supervisory approval to participate. Working with Corps and others on Lower River Study. Trying to connect people to river.

Missouri Coalition for the Environment Brad Walker: Educational event next Monday with SierraClub at NGRAC.