

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT COMMAND

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GLMRIS-BRANDON ROAD

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Thursday,
September 14, 2017

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The meeting met at Muskegon Community College
Collegiate Hall, 221 S. Quarterline Road,
Muskegon, Michigan 49442, at 3:30 p.m., Col.
Craig Baumgartner, presiding.

PRESENT:

COL. CRAIG BAUMGARTNER, Commander
COL. AARON W. REISINGER, Commander
MARK CORNISH
SUSANNE DAVIS
DENA ABOU EL-SEOUD
DENNIS HAMILTON
ANDREW LEICHTY
JOHNNA POTHOFF
JEFF ZUERCHER
FRED JOERS

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 4:12 p.m.

3 MR. ZUERCHER: Well, welcome,
4 everyone, to today's public meeting. My name is
5 Jeff Zuercher, and I am the GLMRIS Program
6 Manager.

7 GLMRIS is a part of a multi-pronged
8 effort by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the
9 fight against aquatic invasive species. Our
10 other efforts include operating the electric
11 barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal
12 and working with other agencies and states to
13 monitor the location of Asian carp. Previous
14 efforts under GLMRIS have evaluated both the
15 Chicago Area Waterway System and other pathways
16 between the two basins.

17 With this current effort, the Corps
18 has been tasked with evaluating potential options
19 and technologies to prevent the upstream transfer
20 of aquatic invasive species at the Brandon Road
21 Lock and Dam.

22 Before I introduce our panel, let me

1 just go over one quick announcement about
2 logistics in this room. You'll note that
3 emergency exits are located over here to the
4 right and directly behind you. Restrooms are
5 located out the door.

6 So our team has organized this public
7 meeting to accomplish two goals. First, we want
8 to present to you information on the Tentatively
9 Selected Plan. Second, we are here to solicit
10 your input.

11 The Army Corps of Engineers will be
12 collecting these comments through November 16,
13 2017, comments then will be compiled and posted
14 on our website. For comments to be formally
15 included, they need to be given during one of
16 these three public comment meetings. You can
17 submit them as a written comment via mail, or you
18 can go on our website and submit them via the
19 website.

20 We're going to begin today's meeting
21 with a brief presentation followed by the public
22 comment period. The public comment period is

1 scheduled to come to a close at 6:30 this
2 evening.

3 I'd now like to introduce our panel
4 for this evening. Starting at our far end, we
5 have Dena Abou, our economist. Next to her is
6 Mark Cornish, our planning environmentalist. And
7 next to him, Johnna Pothoff, our planner, Sue
8 Davis, our Chief of Planning, Dennis Hamilton,
9 the Deputy District Engineer, Colonel
10 Baumgartner, the District Engineer for Rock
11 Island.

12 To my right here we have Andy Leichty,
13 the Project Manager for Brandon Road. And next
14 to him is Fred Joers, the Director of the Inland
15 Navigation Design Center.

16 With that, I'd like to turn it over to
17 Colonel Baumgartner for a few opening remarks.

18 COL. BAUMGARTNER: Okay. Well,
19 certainly glad to join you here on a beautiful
20 day, and recognizing that this week was September
21 11th, 16 years after a tragedy struck our nation,
22 and then also recognizing both the hurricanes,

1 Harvey that impacted the states of Texas,
2 Louisiana and beyond and also Hurricane Irma and
3 her impacts on the Caribbean and the state of
4 Florida and beyond also. My thoughts and prayers
5 remain with the victims' family and friends.

6 Great to be joining you today. I grew
7 up on the river. I grew up with access going to
8 the Great Lakes since I was a small boy and grew
9 up, you know, not only the weekends and summers
10 on Lake Ontario and Lake Erie and other areas,
11 but also live on the Mississippi River now.

12 So I've always been close to water.
13 I understand how precious water as a resource.
14 So exciting to be here and joining all of you.

15 So thank you for taking the time to
16 join us for what is a most critical part of our
17 study process. And that's gathering public
18 comment.

19 This is the second of three public
20 meetings that we've had. We were in Chicago just
21 this past Monday on the 11th. And then we'll be,
22 for our third session, we'll be going to Joliet,

1 Illinois this coming Monday.

2 And all of these meetings have
3 significant importance to the Corps of Engineers
4 as we share the Tentatively Selected Plan for the
5 Brandon Road Study.

6 As already mentioned, today we brought
7 our subject matter experts in order to inform you
8 about the Corps' Tentatively Selected Plan. And
9 I hope you're all aware that the report has been
10 available for review since early August and will
11 remain available for public comment.

12 To clarify, originally the public
13 comment period was 45 days. It was going to
14 close on 2 October. And I'm happy to announce
15 this week we worked through the approval process.
16 And the public comment period will be extended 45
17 additional days and now end on 16 November. You
18 should see this extension posted to the Federal
19 Register here in the coming days.

20 Addressing the spread of Asian carp
21 and other aquatic nuisance species is a shared
22 responsibility. Federal, state, local entities

1 continue to work together. As well, we recognize
2 our international obligation with our neighbors
3 to the north in Canada.

4 These entities have been working very
5 closely together and diligently as part of an
6 Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee or
7 ACRCC, as well as many other venues. And I'm
8 very proud that the Corps of Engineers, what
9 we've accomplished to date in fulfilling our
10 roles and responsibilities.

11 After the release of the Great Lakes
12 Mississippi River Interbasin Study report in
13 2014, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for
14 Civil Works directed the Corps to evaluate
15 potential options and technologies at the Brandon
16 Road Lock and Dam to prevent to the max extent
17 possible the upstream transfer of aquatic
18 nuisance species from the Mississippi River Basin
19 to the Great Lakes Basin while also minimizing
20 impacts to waterway uses and users.

21 It should be noted, and I want to
22 stress the point, that this is a Tentatively

1 Selected Plan that you'll learn about today. And
2 it's just that. It's tentative. There are many
3 steps between the tentative plan and the Corps'
4 Chief's Report planned for August 2019.

5 Thanks again for your attendance and
6 valuable comments and input that you will
7 provide. I will end by thanking the collective
8 teams that have come together and brought this
9 meeting here to us today. There's been a lot of
10 hard work and coordination in order to make this
11 day happen.

12 Thanks again for your attendance. And
13 I look forward to speaking with you individually
14 as time allows. Thanks again.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. LEICHTY: Good afternoon. Again,
17 my name is Andrew Leichty, the Project Manager
18 for the GLMRIS Brandon Road Study. So thank you
19 all for coming out here today.

20 And the main purpose for today's
21 meeting is to get input from you. So we want to
22 hear from you.

1 So I'm going to tell you just a little
2 bit about the study, what we have done, and what
3 we're doing right now, and then the timeline to
4 complete. And I'll cover that as quick as I can
5 so we can get to hear from you.

6 As Colonel Baumgartner mentioned, we
7 have the Assistant Secretary of the Army for
8 Civil Works that directed us to go ahead and
9 proceed with the study. And the reason why she
10 recommended a study at Brandon Road was to look
11 at technologies that could prevent the one-way
12 transfer of aquatic nuisance species from the
13 Mississippi River Basin up to the Great Lakes
14 Basin.

15 The Brandon Road site was identified
16 in three of six structural alternatives in the
17 GLMRIS report which would have come out in 2014.
18 So Brandon Road is a key location in the Chicago
19 Area Waterway System.

20 As you can see up here in the map,
21 it's just downstream before you spread out into
22 the CAWS area waterways. So it's a choke point.

1 And I will talk about some more features of that
2 site here in just a moment.

3 But it was also identified in that
4 report as a location where something could be
5 quickly implemented. The first step, so to
6 speak. What's the first thing that we can do to
7 fight the invasive species? Again, this is a
8 one-way transfer. And we'll talk about that in a
9 moment.

10 So the study goal, then, is to reduce
11 the transfer of aquatic nuisance species into the
12 Great Lakes while minimizing impacts to waterway
13 users and uses.

14 There are three modes of
15 transportation of aquatic nuisance species. And
16 so the team formulated our alternatives based on
17 these three modes of transportation. So there's
18 swimmers, floaters, and hitchhikers.

19 The swimmers are, Bighead and Silver
20 Carp have been identified. Floaters would be
21 things such as fish eggs and fish larvae. And
22 hitchhikers would be a freshwater crustacean or

1 scud.

2 The GLMRIS report that came out in
3 2014 had identified bighead and silver carp and
4 scud as aquatic nuisance species coming from the
5 Great Lakes, I'm sorry, coming from the
6 Mississippi River Basin towards the Great Lakes.

7 And what the team did during this
8 study for Brandon Road is we looked at those
9 species and did the additional research and
10 confirmed that those still are the aquatic
11 nuisance species of concern migrating from the
12 Mississippi River Basin.

13 So why Brandon Road? Again, it was
14 identified in the GLMRIS report of 2014 as a
15 location in three out of six structural
16 alternatives that could prevent the one-way
17 transfer of aquatic nuisance species upstream.
18 And that is because of the high head dam located
19 at Brandon Road.

20 So, in the Mississippi River Basin and
21 Ohio River Basins when they have high water
22 events or flooding, there's lots of obstructions

1 in the river. But during high water events, that
2 can allow species such as Asian carp to go over
3 or around those obstructions.

4 Here at Brandon Road that would not
5 happen. For example, at a 500-year flood there
6 are still 24 foot of head here at the dam.

7 So what that means is the lock chamber
8 itself is the last pathway for species to migrate
9 upstream. So that provides us with an
10 opportunity here to install control measures in
11 the approach channel to that lock to prevent that
12 transfer of aquatic nuisance species upstream.

13 So, like the Colonel mentioned,
14 there's a group called the ACRCC. And they,
15 along with lots of federal agencies, state
16 agencies, and local agencies, stakeholders, NGOs,
17 and academia, and those in industry, have
18 provided a lot of input and expertise to make
19 this study happen.

20 So this is groups of people that have
21 been working on aquatic nuisance species already
22 well before the Brandon Road Study started.

1 So what we sought to do is leverage
2 that expertise and subject matter experts to
3 provide the best available information to us to
4 formulate our alternatives and to conduct our
5 evaluations.

6 So we rely heavily on these partners.
7 And in a moment when we get to the actual plan
8 itself, we have partners that will be a part of
9 implementing the plan.

10 And also this highlights the notion
11 that aquatic nuisance species is clearly a shared
12 responsibility because we need the expertise,
13 skills, and abilities, and the authorities that
14 different agencies can bring to bear on this
15 issue of aquatic nuisance species. It takes
16 everybody working together.

17 Safeguarding the nation's economic
18 interests, so the Great Lakes Basin and inland
19 waterway systems are key to the region and to our
20 nation.

21 And so what the team did is we looked
22 at this solution, as we had in mind that, you

1 know, clearly there are major resources here that
2 we want to be able to protect. So, as we
3 formulated our alternatives, we wanted to make
4 sure that we kept that in mind. We value the
5 resources that both the Inland Waterway and the
6 Great Lakes Basin have for our nation.

7 So what is that we are trying to
8 protect? The Great Lakes has over 20 percent of
9 the world's freshwater. They have commercial
10 fishing, recreational fishing that are huge in
11 this area, as well as endangered species that
12 we're trying to protect.

13 Consequences of establishment, so
14 first off, what we do know, in the case of the
15 Asian carp, where they are established there is
16 an impact in the native species in those areas.
17 And then the carp have a larger mass, a biomass
18 in those areas. And there's impacts on the
19 plankton.

20 We also know that there's safety
21 concerns in the areas where Asian carp are
22 established, as well as recreational boating has

1 seen some decline in these areas where Asian carp
2 are established.

3 So NOAA conducted a model on Lake
4 Erie. And what they found is that the lake is
5 suitable for habitat for Asian carp and could
6 possibly be, 10 to 34 percent of the lake biomass
7 could be Asian carp if they were able to
8 establish there.

9 So that would clearly impact, you
10 know, what we just talked about for the Great
11 Lakes, the recreational and commercial fishing
12 and property values and safety and much more.

13 So the controls that the team has
14 looked at, the control measures, one of the first
15 things that we would implement is a non-
16 structural measure. And that is a key part of
17 our plan.

18 Currently, ongoing is the monitoring
19 and response work group that is conducting
20 research. And they monitor the species in the
21 river and know where they're at. And then they
22 also, through DOI funding from the Fish and

1 Wildlife Service and the State of Illinois, they
2 provide commercial fishing that keeps the
3 population of Asian carp lower below the Brandon
4 Road Lock.

5 And so that's a key part of any plan
6 that we would look at when we get to the
7 alternatives here in a moment. But keeping the
8 population low at our control points is key. So
9 we need a layer of defense. There's no one
10 measure here that's going to work by itself.

11 The engineered channel is a key
12 feature of our structural measure because it
13 allows us to enhance our structural technology
14 such as an electrical barrier or complex noise.

15 And it also provides a platform to do
16 further testing and research on newer
17 technologies that still need additional
18 development and also provides a platform that
19 when those new technologies come along, we have a
20 place to implement those.

21 The electric barrier is a deterrent
22 for swimmers. So it stuns or shocks the fish.

1 The flushing lock would provide a deterrent for
2 floaters utilizing the pool from upstream of
3 Brandon Road bringing water down through the
4 conduits that fill and empty the chamber,
5 bringing in extra water to the downstream gates
6 that would be open and allow fish, eggs, or
7 larval fish to move on out of the lock
8 downstream.

9 Complex noise would be underwater
10 speakers. And they would provide a sound
11 deterrent for swimmers. Sound or even the
12 vibrations of that sound would impact the fish
13 and deter them from coming into the channel.

14 And the water jets are designed to be
15 high pressure nozzles that would be under the
16 water shooting upward to dislodge fish that would
17 be carried in between barges or around vessels,
18 try to dislodge them and move them out of the
19 channel.

20 So we took those measures I just
21 talked about on the previous slide, and we
22 formulated alternatives with the idea in mind to

1 maximize the effectiveness of preventing species
2 from transferring upstream while minimizing
3 impacts to waterway uses and users.

4 So this is the layout of the
5 alternatives that we looked at all the way from
6 the do nothing option, where we would not
7 implement any project, then to a non-structural
8 alternative by itself. Then we had three
9 technological alternatives. It involved
10 structures in the waterway and lock closure. So
11 we evaluated these alternatives.

12 And we'll get to the next slide here.
13 So the evaluation criteria that we used, first
14 was effectiveness, so how effective was that
15 alternative in preventing the transfer of aquatic
16 nuisance species upstream to establish in the
17 Great Lakes.

18 Life safety was the next key issue we
19 looked at, how safe is it for those in the
20 waterway navigating and for those working around
21 the lock, impacts to waterway users and uses and
22 navigation, costs of construction, operations,

1 maintenance, the ability to cycle-in new
2 technologies that provide us the platform we need
3 for technologies that are still under
4 development, and the number of structural control
5 points, and then how effective was it against the
6 three modes of transport.

7 The Tentatively Selected Plan is a
8 technological alternative that includes complex
9 noise and the electric barrier. So this plan was
10 chosen because it reduces the risk of transfer of
11 aquatic nuisance species into the Great Lakes
12 while also at the same time minimizing impacts to
13 waterway users and uses.

14 It also allows for two structural
15 control points, so upstream in the CAWS, Chicago
16 Area Waterway System, there is the operating
17 electric barrier. Some of you may have heard of
18 it in Romeoville. And that would serve as a, so
19 the Brandon Road would serve as a second control
20 point in conjunction with that. So we have again
21 here a layered defense.

22 I guess one thing I did want to

1 mention on this slide of alternatives, as you can
2 see, we have multiple measures so that the way to
3 be able to defend against transfer is a layered
4 defense.

5 The cost to construct this alternative
6 is \$275 million. The estimated cost to operate
7 and maintain it on a yearly basis is \$8 million.
8 The yearly cost to carry out, implement the non-
9 structural measure, which would be continue the
10 public outreach, monitoring, and commercial
11 fishing and public education, would be \$11
12 million per year. The alternative could be
13 constructed within five years of appropriation by
14 Congress.

15 Implementation, this is a key part of
16 our plan of carrying this out in a safe manner so
17 it's safe for mariners and those operating the
18 lock system. So we'll continue to work with the
19 Coast Guard and industry and others to make sure
20 that the controls that we have put in are
21 operated safely.

22 And part of our plan, too, is to

1 adaptively manage the alternative as well. And
2 again, that goes back to having the engineered
3 channel. So we expect to be able to introduce
4 new technologies there, test them out, and
5 implement them. But also the control measures
6 that we have, the complex noise and the electric
7 barrier, we want to be able to optimize those

8 As we're operating them, we're going
9 to be continuing to learn how to dial them in to
10 be more effective, but also doing that with
11 safety in mind. So, clearly, adaptive management
12 is key to making this as effective as possible.

13 I want to make one key point. So the
14 alternative that is selected, the complex noise
15 with electric barrier, so because of safety
16 concerns, the electric barrier would operate only
17 when there are no vessels approaching the
18 approach channel or in the engineered channel or
19 in the lock chamber. Then at that point, complex
20 noise would be turned on as the swimmer deterrent
21 at that time when vessels are in that operating
22 area.

1 Study schedule, so we're in a five
2 phase planning process. And so we're in the
3 middle right now at phase three, which is a
4 public review and input.

5 So there are multiple reviews going
6 on. So we're looking to take the input and
7 feedback that we gather from you, the public.
8 And we'll utilize that as we go on to the final
9 feasibility phase. And that's the stage four of
10 our planning process.

11 Now, also going on right now is the
12 agency technical review. So there's experts from
13 around the Corps who are reviewing the
14 engineering and analysis that we have so far on
15 the Tentatively Selected Plan that are not part
16 of the planning team, separate from the team.

17 Later this fall we'll be conducting an
18 independent external peer review. That will be
19 conducted through contract. And we expect to get
20 those comments back late this fall.

21 So the next, well, as the Colonel
22 already mentioned too, a key part of this is the

1 comment period does end on November 16th. That
2 changed on Monday when we announced the extension
3 of the comment period to allow for additional
4 review and ability to --- we do have a very large
5 report. And so there's a lot there to look at.
6 So November 16th will be the end of the comment
7 period.

8 So today is one opportunity to provide
9 comments here orally. And we will accept them on
10 our website. And we'll also accept written
11 comments.

12 The next milestone is the agency
13 decision milestone where headquarters of USACE
14 Corps of Engineers, the team will provide a
15 recommendation to our senior leaders on what we
16 need to look at in the feasibility phase, taking
17 input that we have from the public and from the
18 other review teams and say this is where we need
19 to do additional study or analysis or close up
20 some gaps in that final feasibility phase process
21 to step four.

22 So step four phase, what will we be

1 doing then? Again, additional engineering and
2 planning analysis, also incorporating feedback
3 that we get from the public here as things that
4 we need to look at or address as we finish up our
5 final report.

6 We will also be conducting a value
7 engineering study, a cost schedule and risk
8 analysis. And then there will also be final
9 agency technical review. And then we'll provide
10 that to senior leaders at that time. That will
11 be the team's final report.

12 Then to get to a Chief's Report, which
13 is our recommendation to Congress, it goes
14 through additional review. So there's a state
15 and agency review, a legal certification,
16 planning and compliance review, and then also a
17 final independent external peer review.

18 In this case, we have an environmental
19 impact statement for this study. So we will also
20 need to have a Record of Decision, referred to as
21 a ROD, signed. And the Assistant Secretary of
22 the Army for Civil Works will sign that.

1 And then the Chief of Engineers will
2 be able to provide that report, which will then
3 be called the Chief's Report, a recommendation to
4 the Assistant Secretary of the Army for review.

5 Then it goes to the Office of
6 Management and Budget. And after their review,
7 they pass it up to Congress for authorization and
8 appropriation. So, again, the Chief's Report is
9 scheduled to be complete August of 2019.

10 PARTICIPANT: And what are the fish
11 doing during that time?

12 MR. LEICHTY: Well, we'll take some
13 questions here in a moment. All right. Thank
14 you.

15 So this is almost the last slide. So
16 this slide here ties in the overall project
17 schedule, so the planning phase, which I just
18 mentioned, the five main phases, and then the
19 authorization and appropriation phase.

20 So, just to note, we don't schedule
21 when that happens. There's administrative review
22 and congressional review that, for the purposes

1 of planning out and laying out a timeline, they
2 would make the assumptions. So we assume fall
3 2020 that we would have appropriation or funding.

4 At that time, we could immediately
5 implement the non-structural plan part of this
6 alternative. And then we would begin engineering
7 and design. We could begin construction, then,
8 in 2022 and complete construction in 2025.

9 So, again, I thank everyone for coming
10 out today. And we're looking forward to your
11 comments.

12 This is some ways that you can stay in
13 touch with us, or also if you have not had the
14 opportunity yet to review the report or review
15 more about the Brandon Road Study or how we got
16 to this point, you can go to the GLMRIS website.
17 You can also provide comments there as well. And
18 if you'd like to contact us, you can also do so
19 through Facebook, Twitter, or by email.

20 We do have one more public meeting
21 next Monday in Joliet, Illinois. And then that
22 will be the end of our public meetings. But,

1 again, our comment period will be open through
2 November 16th.

3 So I'll turn it over to Mr. Zuercher
4 here to start the comment period.

5 MR. ZUERCHER: Thanks, Andy. Before
6 we get going with the comments, which is a very
7 important part of this, we did want to give the
8 audience an opportunity to ask some clarifying
9 questions about anything that you've just seen.

10 We'll give you a chance to ask a
11 couple of questions. But because comments are so
12 important and we wanted to give you the chance to
13 voice your comments, we're going to cut it off
14 after a few questions. So, if anybody has a
15 question, the panel would take those now. Yes,
16 sir.

17 (Off-microphone comments.)

18 MR. ZUERCHER: Could you stand up and
19 use the mic up here, please?

20 PARTICIPANT: My question was, has
21 this plan ever been tested anywhere? What's the
22 effectiveness of the plan?

1 MR. CORNISH: Thank you for your
2 question. Electric barriers have been
3 implemented in the Chicago region now for over a
4 decade. We've learned a lot.

5 We started at a Demonstration Barrier
6 level building up to Barrier IIA and IIB, which
7 are currently operating in the Chicago Area
8 Waterway, culminating with Permanent Barrier I,
9 which will come online within the next year we're
10 hopeful.

11 The other technologies including sound
12 are being tested currently through a
13 collaborative effort with USGS and the Corps of
14 Engineers using money that was provided by the
15 EPA to conduct those studies.

16 We're also working with state agencies
17 to understand better how fish are moving so that
18 we can apply the non-structural measures, which
19 include commercial fishing. We're more
20 successful today than we've ever been with
21 commercial fishing to reduce the numbers of Asian
22 carp.

1 So the question is, has this ever been
2 done anywhere? It has never been done at Brandon
3 Road. But the techniques and technologies that
4 are being applied with this study are being
5 developed and have been developed over the last
6 couple of decades.

7 PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

8 MR. ZUERCHER: Yes, sir.

9 MR. STRECKER: Hi, I'm Mike Strecker
10 from Whitehall. If I understand correctly, I
11 thought I heard some say that the electric
12 barriers are shut down when the vessels come
13 through. How often does that happen on a daily
14 basis?

15 MR. JOERS: For the existing
16 electrical barriers up at Romeoville, they
17 operate continuously. And there is restrictions
18 for how boats and how recreation craft and
19 commercial vessels go through that area. But
20 those are operated all the time.

21 The proposed ones at Brandon Road
22 still need to be evaluated by the Coast Guard on

1 how the operations would go with vessels going
2 through. So that part is to be determined yet.

3 (Off-microphone comments.)

4 MS. POTTHOFF: And at this point, our
5 assumed operation of the TSP, in the flyer and
6 what Andy had showed you, is that the electric
7 barrier would be off when vessels are approaching
8 the electric barrier, when they're going through
9 the channel and when they're in the lock.

10 During that time, complex noise --
11 this plan has two features for swimmers, the
12 electric barrier and complex noise. Complex
13 noise would be on when the electric barrier is
14 turned off.

15 Our goal is to maximize the
16 effectiveness of this plan. And so we would be
17 working with the Coast Guard and the navigation
18 community and ourselves to figure out the best
19 way to operate the electric barrier so that it is
20 safe as well as effective.

21 MR. LEICHTY: One more question.

22 PARTICIPANT: So, if those are off,

1 how do the fish not get through, if those things
2 are off when the boats are there?

3 MS. POTTHOFF: Yes, ma'am. So the
4 plan, the Tentatively Selected Plan, proposes to
5 have two swimmer controls, the electric barrier
6 and then complex noise. So, if the electric
7 barrier is turned off, the complex noise will be
8 on. So those are two swimmer controls that are
9 going to be working together so that we have a
10 swimmer control on all the time.

11 PARTICIPANT: Okay. And the secondary
12 question, so you've now stopped the fish from
13 going there. And let's say they're just outside
14 the locks. What are you doing then? Are you
15 catching the fish? Are you getting rid of them?
16 Are they just going to try to get in again? What
17 are you doing at that point?

18 MS. POTTHOFF: So our goal is --

19 PARTICIPANT: Corralled or what?

20 MS. POTTHOFF: So our goal is to keep
21 them out of the approach channel. You see the --

22 (Off-microphone comments.)

1 MS. POTTHOFF: So the electric barrier
2 is at the downstream, you know, at the end, where
3 the complex noise there will be speakers
4 throughout the channel. And so our goal is to
5 keep the fish out of the approach. We wanted to
6 turn them around, deflect them into this area.
7 And so that's our design goals and operational
8 goals.

9 PARTICIPANT: If you're turning them
10 around and deflecting them, what are you doing
11 with them then, just leaving them there?

12 MS. POTTHOFF: Oh, okay. So part of
13 our plan, it includes the ANS controls, those
14 structural ones, but then also non-structural
15 ones. And those are the overfishing. So we
16 realize that the lower the population is right
17 below the lock, the more efficient our plan is
18 going to be and more effective. And so it
19 includes a robust overfishing and monitoring.

20 PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

21 PARTICIPANT: My question is how
22 effective is the flushing lock? As the boats go

1 through, you have a flushing system that's going
2 up from the bottom and going to flush out the
3 Asian carp. And then how effective is this? It
4 hasn't worked on the zebra mussels. I don't
5 know.

6 MR. CORNISH: The purpose of the
7 flushing lock is actually to get floating
8 organisms, things that might be in the water, out
9 of the lock chamber before the water rises in the
10 lock chamber and the upper end is opened and then
11 they can be released in the upper part.

12 So the idea is that the water will be
13 moved out of the chamber once the boat is in
14 there so that eggs which are floating in the
15 water, as well as plant material -- we haven't
16 talked much about plant, but the GLMRIS study is
17 not just for Asian carp.

18 We're looking towards the future and
19 thinking about other invasive species, which
20 include aquatic plants. Those would be moved
21 downstream and away from the Great Lakes entrance
22 as part of that flushing lock.

1 The flushing lock isn't powerful
2 enough to wash zebra mussels off the side of a
3 barge. It wouldn't do that. Nor is it powerful
4 enough to wash the scuds off the side of the
5 barge as well. But what it is, is for floating
6 material, including eggs and plant matter.

7 MR. ZUERCHER: All right. So thank
8 you for those questions. But in order to
9 conserve time and get to the public comments, we
10 really want to move on to that.

11 I will say that our experts that are
12 here at the table will be around after the
13 comment period to answer any more questions you
14 might have. So we encourage you, if you have
15 further questions, approach them after the
16 comments are concluded and ask them your
17 questions at that time. They'd be happy to talk
18 with you.

19 All right. So, to get to our comment
20 period, this is what we're going to do, because
21 we have a number of you signed up and a number of
22 you in the audience that may wish to make

1 comments that haven't signed up.

2 We would ask that you keep your
3 comment to three minutes. After your three
4 minutes are up, we're going to ask you to sit
5 down. But once everyone has had a chance to go,
6 you will get a chance to come up and speak again
7 if you would like to do so.

8 The other option is is if you don't
9 get to say everything that you want to, as we've
10 mentioned before, you can write us a letter and
11 mail that to us, or you can go on our website and
12 fill out the form there and enter that comment.

13 All comments, either online or mailed
14 or spoken at any of these meetings, are all the
15 same. They all get entered into the public
16 record.

17 Speaking of the public record, in
18 order to put you on the public record, we have
19 our court reporter over here that is listening
20 in.

21 We'd ask that you approach the
22 roundtable up here where the microphone will be

1 sitting, pick up the microphone. You need to
2 state your name. If you desire to, you can state
3 the organization that you're representing. And
4 then we also need your zip code. We need
5 definitely your name and your zip code in order
6 to be entered on the public record.

7 To help you with the three-minute time
8 limit, we have devised a system of slides. It
9 will start with a green slide. After two
10 minutes, it will move to a yellow slide. And it
11 will warn you after every 15 seconds are up
12 through that last minute. Once it turns red,
13 either wrap up your comments, or I'll ask you to
14 please give the opportunity to the next person.

15 So this is the order that we're going
16 to go in. And we are trying a few new things
17 today. We are on Facebook Live. We will not be
18 taking comments from there. But people are
19 watching you from Facebook. So welcome to the
20 21st century.

21 And we're also trying a webinar. And
22 so we are going to go to the phones. After our

1 pre-registered people have gotten a chance to
2 speak, we're going to go to the phones and ask if
3 anyone on the phone line would like to make a
4 comment.

5 Once that is done, then we will go to
6 anyone else who has not had a chance to register
7 or who wishes to finish their comment from
8 earlier.

9 So I would like at this time to invite
10 up to start their comment period the following
11 three individuals. If you would just line up,
12 this way we don't have to wait for too many
13 people. Tom Matych, Nathaniel Ross, and Drew
14 YoungeDyke, please come over to this table.

15 We'll start with Tom. You'll have
16 three minutes once we get the slides up. And
17 then we will listen to your comments.

18 MR. MATYCH: I had a stroke in May
19 when I tried to do this with the NRC. And so I
20 might have a problem. But everybody's been
21 pretty good on it. So, but the thing is --

22 MR. ZUERCHER: State your name and zip

1 code.

2 MR. MATYCH: Tom Matych, M-A-T-Y-C-H,
3 49457, Twin Lake, Michigan.

4 Okay. The thing with these Asian
5 carp, the conditions exist for them to spread
6 out, where if we had instead 95 percent Asian
7 carp and we restored the native fish just like
8 this USGS says so. It says it's critical to do
9 because they'll have just repetition.

10 The carp, if you take, Peter Sorensen
11 said and this is that studies, you take out the
12 carp, but if you don't restore the predators, you
13 just get more carp. And that's what's happening
14 now. They're just making the bigger, whatever.

15 They're taking the carp out by the
16 barrier. But there's no restrictions anywhere
17 else. And then we have Harvey and Irma spreading
18 who knows what with the floods.

19 So this says we can fix it. We can do
20 this tomorrow. We can start putting ponds up
21 tomorrow. You can do this thing all you want and
22 argue for money and -- but we can do this

1 tomorrow. This is, the USGS says we can do it.
2 So why aren't we doing it?

3 And it all makes sense. If we put
4 perch and bluegills and crappie -- and they'll
5 eat them before they get too big and smack you in
6 the head. And that's what everybody wants to do.

7 But we can't do it because you guys
8 need a permit. So give us a permit. You can do
9 this all you want. But I need a permit. That's
10 all.

11 MR. ZUERCHER: All right. Nathaniel
12 Ross.

13 MR. ROSS: Good afternoon. Nathaniel
14 Ross with the Illinois Marine Towing, zip code
15 60439.

16 I'm here today to represent Illinois
17 Marine Towing and the inland marine
18 transportation industry. Illinois Marine Towing
19 owns and operates 15 towboats in the Chicago Area
20 Waterway System. We also operate a shipyard that
21 completes repairing and services.

22 Our primary operating area is both

1 immediate downstream and immediate upstream of
2 the Brandon Road Lock and Dam. As such, our
3 ability to safely navigate this section of the
4 river and engage in commerce is essential to the
5 continuity and longevity of our business.

6 We transit this area multiple times a
7 day, seven days a week, every week of the year.
8 We are one of the 20 members of the American
9 Waterways Operators who rely upon the Illinois
10 Waterway not only for the livelihood of our
11 business but for the livelihood of our over 250
12 employees.

13 Before I go any further, I'd like to
14 thank you for extending the comment period to 90
15 days. On the other hand, we are disappointed
16 that there will not be additional locations for
17 public hearings due to the fact that this is a
18 national issue. The waterways to which Brandon
19 Road is a component of cross many boundaries,
20 serve many cities and many states.

21 Cities and ports like Houston, New
22 Orleans, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis to name a few

1 all have a vested interest, as structural
2 impediments could affect their individual
3 economies and prosperity.

4 We support a suite of nonstructural
5 efforts implemented by the Illinois DNR and
6 federal agencies that has significantly reduced
7 the leading edge of the Asian carp population.
8 Non-structural efforts have ensured that this
9 population has not moved in 25 years.

10 Continued application of these
11 efforts will provide the best economic and
12 environmental protection value for our nation.

13 There are a plethora of natural and
14 human influence actions, such as unaware
15 fisherman, migrating waterfowl and others, that
16 could cause aquatic nuisance species to be
17 introduced into non-natural habitats, and to
18 assume that any physical separation of these two
19 watersheds is a long-term solution is definitely
20 absurd.

21 After preliminary review of the
22 reports, I do not have a level of comfort that

1 the safety of our mariners was taken into
2 account.

3 One prime example, our mariners must
4 physically be on the decks of the barges when
5 transiting locks. This exposes them to all the
6 elements both natural and manmade.

7 Any structural efforts to alter the
8 lock and dam may have safety and efficiency
9 impacts. Our mariners may be forced to
10 reconfigure tows. This physically demanding work
11 could greatly increase the safety risks.

12 Navigation to the Chicago Area
13 Waterway System is difficult and congested
14 presently. And any structural changes could
15 increase time and cost to Illinois Marine Towing
16 and the industry as a whole.

17 Potential delays would impact our
18 ability to deliver cargos in a timely manner,
19 eventually possibly forcing some customers to
20 switch modes of transport. For us, clearly, this
21 would be devastating. But more so, it would take
22 a toll on society as a whole.

1 MR. ZUERCHER: I'm sorry, but your
2 time is up. If you'd like to finish later, I'll
3 invite you back up.

4 MR. ROSS: Sure. Thanks for your
5 time.

6 MR. ZUERCHER: Thank you. All right.
7 As Drew comes up, Drew YoungeDyke comes up to
8 talk, I'd like to invite Sean Hammond, August
9 Treu, and Ed Dombrowski to line up over here.

10 MR. YOUNGEDYKE: Hi. Thank you for
11 having us up. My name is Drew YoungeDyke. I'm
12 with the National Wildlife Federation. I
13 represent our organization, as well as our six
14 million members and supporters. You heard from
15 us in Chicago, so I'll try not to repeat too much
16 of that.

17 First of all, we'd like to address
18 what's at stake. It's a \$7 billion Great Lakes
19 sport fishery. In addition to fishing, we have a
20 \$26 billion outdoor recreation economy as well.
21 And here it's part of our way of life as well.

22 When we look at the risk, we look at

1 the carp that was found in June just nine miles
2 from Lake Michigan. We don't know how it got
3 past the barrier, but yet it did somehow.

4 So we can't afford to assume that our
5 current defenses are adequate without taking
6 additional measure to stop them. There's simply
7 too much at stake.

8 We do appreciate the plan. It looks
9 like you arranged a gauntlet for them to run
10 through. We appreciate that. Rather than
11 picking one or two technologies, you're really
12 throwing everything at them. Letting the
13 strengths of some of the technologies make up for
14 the weaknesses in the other.

15 We've waited a long time for a
16 concrete plan. And you guys have spent a long
17 time working on this and planning on that. We
18 appreciate that effort. So let's do it. Let's
19 go put something in place that reduces the risk
20 of Asian carp getting into the Great Lakes.

21 However, after this, this is a one-way
22 solution. We do still need a two-way long-term

1 solution, however that looks. So, while we move
2 forward with the TSP and we support that, let's
3 also look at ways to stop the two-way transfer of
4 invasives from the Great Lakes going the other
5 way as well.

6 This is a national issue. So we also
7 support a 100 percent federal cost share. There
8 is ways that that can be done.

9 When you look at the \$7 billion sport
10 fishery at risk, and that's annually, then \$275
11 million is well worth the cost to protect that
12 much larger investment.

13 This is a great plan. We're initially
14 very optimistic about it. We're excited that we
15 have the opportunity to get something in the
16 ground and stop Asian carp. If you can do it
17 sooner, that would be great.

18 But even if you can't, let's think
19 about it. If you complete this on time in 2025
20 and we could have stopped Asian carp that may not
21 get into lakes until 2026, we will regret not
22 taking that chance.

1 So we have a plan. Let's go do it.
2 Thank you very much.

3 MR. ZUERCHER: Could you state your
4 zip code?

5 MR. YOUNGEDYKE: Oh, yes, 48103.

6 MR. ZUERCHER: Thank you. Sean.

7 MR. HAMMOND: My name is Sean Hammond,
8 48915. I'm here representing the Michigan
9 Environmental Council. We're a statewide
10 coalition of approximately 70 environmental and
11 conservation groups. And we thank you for
12 putting this report together and for the
13 opportunity to have this hearing today.

14 And I will note we will be submitting
15 a formal comments at a later date. But I want to
16 give a brief overview of kind of our three main
17 points at this time.

18 First, we do support the taking action
19 here with this report. We think that anything
20 that will delay an Asian carp invasion in the
21 Great Lakes is a worthy effort. And we should be
22 pursuing this and this report fully. So please

1 don't take any other comments or criticism of the
2 report as saying that we don't want this to
3 continue.

4 However, we do have two major concerns
5 that we think this report has shortfalls. First
6 is the economic analysis of the potential impacts
7 of carp invasion in the Great Lakes.

8 We understand this modeling is lacking
9 at this point on some of these. But we know some
10 of the impacts, \$7 billion for fishing and
11 boating, \$62 billion in wages from Great Lakes in
12 Michigan alone. These are major impacts. And if
13 carp come in, we don't, we need a full analysis,
14 a full economic impact of what this is.

15 And we're trying to weigh an economic
16 case of impacts to the Great Lakes versus impacts
17 to navigation. We need to know a fully fleshed
18 out version of both of those numbers.

19 So we encourage that we cannot stop
20 here. We have to get that full impact and see
21 whether a lock closure, separation, whatever has
22 an economic case to prevent carp from getting

1 into the Great Lakes.

2 And lastly, we have questions and
3 concerns about the probability analysis included
4 in the report. We understand that this was used
5 only to determine kind of a relative risk
6 reduction and a cost benefit based on that.

7 However, in your own appendix and it
8 notes that the composite expert is a widely
9 debated piece, I will note we are still digging
10 into that and seeing exactly how that is debated
11 and if it's a good method for this particular
12 instance.

13 Secondly, we feel the elicitation may
14 have had a smaller than necessary sample size
15 with some of the subjective components of that.
16 As you increase sample size, of course, you
17 decrease the chances of major outliers.

18 And we feel that we need to have a
19 full blown probability analysis, making sure that
20 we truly know what an outlier prediction is of
21 carp establishment if we're going to have a true
22 cost benefit analysis here.

1 That's really where we're going is we
2 just want to make sure we're comparing apples to
3 apples, and we're really working both the
4 economic and the ecological case to keep Asian
5 carp out of the Great Lakes. Thank you.

6 MR. ZUERCHER: Could you make sure you
7 state your zip code for me? That was ---

8 MR. HAMMOND: 48915.

9 MR. ZUERCHER: Thank you. August.

10 MR. TREU: Thank you for the
11 opportunity to comment.

12 MR. ZUERCHER: Name and zip code,
13 please.

14 MR. TREU: Sorry. August Treu, 49506.
15 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

16 For my money, the Great Lakes isn't
17 worth risking invasive species, destruction of
18 this natural resource. For my money, you'd be
19 blocking off the lock completely. That's the way
20 I vote. Thank you.

21 MR. ZUERCHER: As Ed Dombrowski comes
22 up, I invite Harold DeHart, David Slikkers, and

1 David Williams. Please line up over here.

2 MR. DOMBROWSKI: Ed Dombrowski, 49461.

3 I think the program is a good starting point to
4 try to keep the Asian carp out. But I think we
5 also have to come up with some things to
6 eradicate the fish.

7 At some point in time, the system is
8 going to be bypassed. And we're going to get
9 some sort of introduction of fish into the Great
10 Lakes and the water basins associated with it.

11 And it gets to be even to the point
12 where somebody could potentially capture one and
13 intentionally release it into the waterways of
14 the Great Lakes, which could be disastrous. And
15 I think the plan has to somehow include a
16 reduction in the numbers of fish that are in the
17 Mississippi River.

18 And the economic impact isn't just --
19 and I think it's been emphasized to the boating
20 industry and the fishing industry, but you have
21 to remember the recreational industry, and
22 especially in the state of Michigan being a very

1 tourist based economy. So take a look at that,
2 as well as the property values of any house
3 that's along the tributaries of the Great Lakes
4 or on the waters that are closely related to the
5 Great Lakes.

6 So I think the whole plan could
7 incorporate some means of controlling and
8 reducing the number of Asian carp in the
9 Mississippi would be, again, a bonus to the plan.
10 Thank you for the opportunity.

11 MR. ZUERCHER: Harold DeHart is up
12 next.

13 MR. DeHART: Good afternoon. And
14 thanks for allowing us to make this comment. My
15 name is Harold DeHart. Zip code is 49445. I'm
16 Vice President of the Michigan Charter Boat
17 Association. And like the Colonel, I've spent my
18 whole life of 74 years in and around the
19 waterways, even having lived aboard full-time for
20 over 12 years.

21 Even though I'm retired, I stay
22 involved and have been involved with the Great

1 Lakes environmental impact effect and, certainly,
2 that effect that Asian carp would reap into the
3 Great Lakes.

4 I get a little bit tired of hearing
5 the --- I shouldn't say tired. I can appreciate
6 the commercial industry and their desire to keep
7 the Chicago waterway open to commercial traffic.

8 However, when you compare hundreds of
9 millions of dollars of impact to the Chicago area
10 and the industry, commercial industry, it's no
11 comparison to the tens of billions of dollars
12 that are affecting the Great Lakes, not only in
13 sport fishery, but, you know, it's exponential.

14 With any proposed remedy, which you
15 presented and presented very well, although we
16 all wish it was more in a timely basis, there
17 must be a multi-tiered redundancy built into it.
18 And I have not seen where that is really
19 addressed. You've got a layer of defense, but
20 it's not redundant.

21 If one of the tier, for example, the
22 electric part that goes down, you have a backup

1 for another electric to take its place. If the
2 jets go down, you have another redundancy to take
3 care of that.

4 Obviously, because of the extreme
5 environmental and economic ramifications, there
6 must be united support in stopping this Asian
7 carp menace from entering the Great Lakes en
8 masse.

9 So I ask all concerned parties to give
10 comment and put pressure on your state and
11 federal officials. This is too important to
12 ignore. Thank you.

13 MR. ROIBLES: My name is Dave Roibles,
14 48198 zip code. I don't represent any group
15 specifically, other than I was born in Chicago,
16 had great times fishing with my grandfather until
17 my dad moved here to Muskegon. And every day we
18 went fishing.

19 And then I heard about this Asian carp
20 thing almost a decade ago. And I'm looking at
21 it, all the things that we could have done,
22 should have done. But I think we survived before

1 the Sanitary Canal was built. But I know the
2 economic impact would be pretty -- I wouldn't
3 want to lose my job because of it.

4 And this is a great plan. But the
5 only thing that I'm concerned with is that from
6 2015 to 2021 to get it implemented I think is a
7 little long. We got to figure out a way to speed
8 things up to make sure that we don't let this get
9 into the Great Lakes, especially Lake Michigan.

10 The fishing industry, I have several
11 friends, and I just retired and bought some
12 property. And I would really like to have some
13 fishermen come up from Chicago and rent my cabin,
14 go out fishing.

15 But I do not want to jeopardize the
16 economics of other people. But I agree that, you
17 know, I don't think we should stop short of
18 building a dam, you know, because I know that
19 this is hard. But that's the only way I can see
20 it happening.

21 And just to give you an example, we
22 had a file in the barn. We had corn for the

1 chickens. And we tried to figure out how to keep
2 the damn mice out of them. And so grandpa said,
3 well, we're going to get metal cans. First we
4 tried wood. They ate through it. And then we
5 tried metal garbage cans. And I'll be darned.
6 Those little buggers would figure out some way to
7 get in there any way they could.

8 And that's the same way I feel about
9 the Asian carp. If they have a chance to get in
10 -- you got to open the door, and we are; we're
11 opening the door every time we turn the barrier
12 off -- they're going to get in. Thank you.

13 MR. ZUERCHER: As David comes up, I
14 would like Jon Allan, Angela Ayers, and Erika
15 Jensen to line up over here.

16 MR. SLIKKERS: Good afternoon. Thank
17 you. My name is David Slikkers, 49423.

18 I can appreciate the challenges that
19 this particular topic has brought to your team.
20 And I hope you can also appreciate what impact
21 this is potentially having on the Great Lakes.

22 We have a financial resource here that

1 is not like anything else in the world. It's
2 already been noted that over 20 percent of the
3 freshwater in the world is located right here.
4 And why we're considering anything that would put
5 this at risk is kind of mind-boggling.

6 So, as you continue to pursue the
7 journey that you outlined, which I must say that
8 in the corporate environment would be
9 unacceptable today, there's a lot more expedient
10 ways of getting this done.

11 So the sense of urgency is missing
12 from this plan. To think that, how long have we
13 known that Asian carp have been in this area, and
14 now it's another eight years away before we have
15 the solution in place. That seems to be careless
16 in my opinion as a corporate guy.

17 And you have the resources. You have
18 the talents. You have the means to get this
19 done. The \$275 million that's identified in the
20 cost is a pittance to what the economic
21 destruction would be if this was to fail or if
22 this was to take too long, which in my opinion

1 the plan is too long. Thank you for the
2 opportunity.

3 PARTICIPANT: Yes.

4 MR. ALLAN: Good evening or afternoon.
5 My name is Jon Allan. I'm the Director at the
6 Office of the Great Lakes for the State of
7 Michigan, zip 48909.

8 I have a quick statement I'd like to
9 read, and then Angela Ayers from the Governor's
10 office will be speaking. I know you heard from
11 Director Creagh earlier the last week and
12 continue. This is a matter of significance for
13 the state of Michigan, as you well know.
14 Colonel, good to see you again.

15 I do want to thank you for ongoing
16 work and partnerships in helping to keep invasive
17 carp out of the Great Lakes. Thank you, too, for
18 coming here to Muskegon. It's clearly important
19 to the community and to the state, and to take
20 public comments on the Corps' Tentatively
21 Selected Plan for Brandon Road.

22 I really have the great pleasure of

1 traveling around Michigan and giving a lot of
2 talks on a whole variety of natural resources.
3 And I can tell you one of the unifying things
4 that I hear from 9.8 million people across
5 Michigan and the collective piece is we do not
6 want Asian carp in the Great Lakes.

7 I think that's clear. That's loud.
8 And that's consistent. And that's in every
9 community that I visit whether it's in Muskegon,
10 stem to stern, top to bottom, left to right, up
11 and down, all the way through.

12 This and other meetings held across
13 the region provide important opportunities for
14 the public to be heard on how best to guard
15 against the imminent threat. And it is an
16 imminent threat of invasive carp entering Lake
17 Michigan.

18 We in the Great Lakes region have a
19 shared responsibility for this unique natural
20 resource. The answer to invasive carp threat
21 should be a shared one as well. Through
22 collaboration and regional cooperation, as we

1 have in the past, we've been able to successfully
2 address a number of big issues.

3 I'll give one example. The Great
4 Lakes Compact is a key example of the way states,
5 provinces, the region has come together to
6 protect, again, the lakes, in this case, against
7 unwanted withdrawals of water.

8 That kind of cooperation is essential
9 in the case of invasive carp. There are
10 solutions, and we will find those solutions
11 together. We need to find that for these
12 problems that pose threat to the Lake Michigan
13 and the entire Great Lakes Basin and beyond.

14 We have seen the damage that invasive
15 carp has caused in Illinois Waterway systems.
16 And we should do everything in our power, in our
17 collective power to make sure that problem does
18 not spread and certainly spread into the Great
19 Lakes.

20 We appreciate all the good work that
21 has been done to date by government and non-
22 government organizations with an interest in

1 protecting the Great Lakes. At the same time, we
2 know that we have not done enough, and we have
3 not gone far enough.

4 The recent finding of a silver carp in
5 the Chicago Area Waterway System just nine miles
6 from Lake Michigan illustrates that the current
7 safeguards are not working and that there are
8 current failures in the system. It is not
9 adequate to protect us, and we know that is the
10 case.

11 Because of this, Lake Michigan
12 strongly supports additional meaningful measures
13 at Brandon Road Lock and Dam. Those proposed
14 measures present another important step forward.

15 But we also believe that those are not
16 adequate over the long term. We believe those
17 are short and intermediate-term solutions that we
18 need to focus on.

19 We think the long-term solution for
20 Brandon Road and for the management of Asian carp
21 is a long-term path towards a two-way separation
22 of the Great Lakes and Mississippi Basin for the

1 protection of both flows of invasive species in
2 both directions as the national crisis that
3 invasive species are. This is deeply concerning
4 to us. And we know that we need to move ahead
5 together.

6 Thank you for the cooperation and the
7 opportunity to address an issue that's so vitally
8 important to all of us in the Great Lakes region.
9 The Office of the Great Lakes and the State of
10 Michigan will continue to work with you as we
11 have regularly to protect this natural resource
12 treasure for future generations. Thank you.

13 MS. AYERS: Angela Ayers, office of
14 Governor Rick Snyder, 48909. Governor Snyder
15 appreciates the opportunity for us to be here
16 today to provide input on the importance of
17 Brandon Road Lock and Dam for protecting the
18 Great Lakes from invasive carp. And we also
19 appreciate you hosting this meeting here in
20 Michigan, especially in the Muskegon community.

21 This issue is incredibly important to
22 Michiganders. Natural resources are a

1 cornerstone of our Pure Michigan way of life and
2 of the regional economies of our state.

3 Michigan has over 3,000 miles of Great
4 Lakes coastline, over 11,000 inland lakes, and
5 36,000 miles of rivers and streams. That
6 provides great opportunities for boaters,
7 kayakers, canoeists, naturalists, birders,
8 photographers, residents, and visitors to enjoy
9 these natural resources. It also represents a
10 lot of potential habitat for invasive carp.

11 We recognize the significant efforts
12 many agencies have taken to date with both
13 congressional and stakeholder support to further
14 study Brandon Road. It's taken tremendous time,
15 energy, and effort with experts from throughout
16 the country with many sources of funding to get
17 us to this critical point.

18 But now it's time for action. Taking
19 action at Brandon Road, the critical pinch point
20 for stopping invasive carp, is the next important
21 milestone.

22 To be successful, we must continue to

1 work collaboratively. Through our federal,
2 state, private, and non-profit stakeholder
3 partnerships, no single entity should bear this
4 burden alone.

5 The preferred alternative outlined in
6 the TSP is the step in the right direction,
7 offering a combination of solutions to reduce the
8 risk of invasive carp.

9 Michigan supports and applauds many
10 aspects of this plan, including the innovative
11 engineered channel to test future technologies.
12 This truly is a unique opportunity that could
13 serve as a national test bed for invasive species
14 control and the intermittent electric barrier
15 that could be active during the absence of barge
16 traffic.

17 Recognizing this comment period is the
18 starting point for these conversations, we also
19 see a few areas for additional study, such as
20 better detail on the total transit time for the
21 preferred alternative and an investigation of
22 others areas in the Illinois River system that

1 could be improved to offset any negative impacts
2 that might occur as a result of Brandon Road.

3 Governor Snyder supports the continued
4 work on the TSP. And as such, Michigan is ready
5 to step up and support these additional measures
6 at Brandon Road. We urge other Great Lakes
7 states and provinces to join us in providing this
8 support. Thank you.

9 MR. ZUERCHER: As Erika Jensen comes
10 up, I invite Dean Jessup, Greg VanWoerkom, and
11 Cheryl Kallio to line up over here, please.

12 MS. JENSEN: Hi, Erika Jensen, Great
13 Lakes Commission, 48104. Thank you to the Corps
14 for hosting these meetings and for the
15 opportunity to comment.

16 We at the Great Lakes Commission
17 recognize that Asian carp are a significant
18 threat and that preventing their spread is a
19 problem of national importance.

20 We are supportive of the current
21 control activities undertaken by the Corps, the
22 ACRCC, the Illinois DNR, and other partners. And

1 these efforts are critical while additional
2 control technologies are developed and evaluated.
3 And the GLC has consistently advocated for
4 federal funding to support these efforts.

5 The GLC has also been an active
6 partner on this issue working closely with our
7 eight member states and our two provinces that
8 have invested significantly in these activities
9 and also helping to convene a stakeholder
10 advisory committee that includes a diverse group
11 of interests that have provided input to the
12 Corps and other federal agencies on potential
13 prevention and control activities over the past
14 several years.

15 The release of this report is an
16 important milestone in the process to decide what
17 can and should be done to prevent further spread
18 of Asian carp and what the consequences of those
19 decisions are.

20 The GLC has been and will be reviewing
21 the report closely over the coming weeks. And in
22 addition, it will be a topic at our annual

1 meeting next week in Duluth, Minnesota. I now
2 want to thank the Corps for agreeing to attend
3 and speak directly to the commission at that
4 meeting.

5 And I'd just like to close by
6 encouraging the Corps and the other federal
7 agencies to continue dialogue and close work with
8 the states and provinces on these important
9 issues. Thank you.

10 MR. VANWOERKOM: Good afternoon. My
11 name is Greg VanWoerkom. I'm the District
12 Director for Congressman Bill Huizenga. Zip code
13 is 49444 right here in Muskegon County.

14 Welcome you to the 2nd District. Hope
15 you guys can stay. I hear it's going to be clear
16 skies tonight. So you'll have a beautiful sunset
17 over Lake Michigan.

18 I'm here to read a letter from
19 Congressman Huizenga. For the record, I'm also
20 here to submit. And here's the letter.

21 As Michiganders, we have a fundamental
22 understanding of the links between our state's

1 economic health and the environmental health of
2 the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes region provides
3 drinking water, jobs, nearly endless recreational
4 opportunities and, of course, countless memories.

5 The threat posed to the Great Lakes by
6 Asian carp both ecologically and economically is
7 clear. We must take action to protect our lakes
8 from these invasive species that threaten our
9 Great Lakes ecosystem and our entire blue
10 economy, which includes \$7 billion fishing
11 industry, \$7.4 billion boating industry, and over
12 58,000 jobs.

13 The Brandon Road plan provides a
14 potential solution for protecting the Great Lakes
15 and preventing Asian carp from reaching Lake
16 Michigan. With that, I would like to see further
17 explanation of the science and technology that
18 would be utilized to stop Asian carp from
19 advancing.

20 Just months ago, live Asian carp was
21 found beyond the electric barriers, only nine
22 miles from the Great Lakes. This discovery

1 demonstrates how the window of opportunity to
2 protect our lakes is rapidly closing. If Asian
3 carp are able to gain access and reproduce within
4 the Great Lakes region, the environmental and
5 economic damage will be severe.

6 Taking action at Brandon Road is an
7 essential next step in the process to safeguard
8 the Great Lakes from the inundation of this
9 highly destructive invasive species.

10 Moving forward, legislative leaders
11 must work together with the Army Corps and the
12 essential local, state, and federal partners to
13 craft policies, solutions that preserve our Great
14 Lakes ecosystem.

15 We must take action now because
16 failing to do so will needlessly jeopardize one
17 of our nation's greatest natural resources.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. KALLIO: My name is Cheryl Kallio.
20 Zip code is 49456, representing Freshwater
21 Future, a non-profit Great Lakes binational
22 organization.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to
2 present these comments on the Brandon Road Study.
3 And in particular, I want to thank everyone,
4 especially congressional members whose efforts
5 help to stop further delays, putting our Great
6 Lakes in even further risk.

7 As you've likely heard many times
8 over, with the discovery of an Asian carp just
9 nine miles from Lake Michigan, we are running out
10 of time to stop their invasion into our Great
11 Lakes.

12 The current electrical barrier is not
13 foolproof. And barges can pull fish through
14 these barriers. And young fish and eggs can move
15 through them. Additional protections are needed
16 at Brandon Road.

17 In general, we urge you to move
18 forward with increased protections quickly.
19 Something is better than nothing. And time is
20 running out.

21 As such, the August 2019 timeline is
22 too long to wait for the final recommendation to

1 Congress and the Chief's Report. This timeline
2 does not reflect the urgency of the situation.
3 And we ask you to work towards shortening that
4 timeline.

5 If the study's Tentatively Selected
6 Plan of creating an electrical barrier with the
7 addition of complex noise is selected, these
8 should be operated in tandem at all times.

9 As written, this option has
10 approximately a 13 percent probability that Asian
11 carp will establish themselves in our Great Lakes
12 in your report. And while it's better than doing
13 nothing, we do still think that probability is
14 too high.

15 As such, we urge you to consider
16 selecting the strongest plan identified, lock
17 closure. This plan has the lowest probability of
18 Asian carp establishing in our Great Lakes, such
19 as two percent.

20 And additionally, lock closure does
21 not pose the safety risk to people who are
22 traveling through the locks that are associated

1 with keeping an electrical current in the water.
2 Also, it is a fraction of the cost.

3 However, we do realize this plan will
4 cause headaches for the barge industry, who would
5 be pushed toward implementing 21st century
6 innovations that are used elsewhere around the
7 world.

8 However, those costs pale in
9 comparison to what is at risk. Our world-class,
10 several billion dollar Great Lakes fishery,
11 impacts to our \$16 billion boating economy, and
12 additional economies that are either wholly or
13 partially dependent on a healthy Great Lakes
14 ecosystem.

15 However, as I stated before, doing
16 something is imperative at this juncture. And
17 while we urge the strongest possible protection,
18 should you choose the electric barrier and
19 complex noise, we would support these efforts.

20 It's imperative to recognize this will
21 not stop Asian carp or prevent invasive species
22 from the Great Lakes entering the Mississippi

1 River Basin. And we need to remember that WRDA
2 2007 and accompanying guidance was to prevent the
3 transfer of ANS.

4 At this time, the only option
5 identified that would truly prevent this would be
6 to create barriers and restore the natural divide
7 between the two watersheds. Lock closure at
8 Brandon Road is a step in this direction. And
9 importantly, there's tremendous support around
10 this from the region.

11 There have been tens of thousands of
12 people who communicated their support for this to
13 members of Congress. And we actually have over
14 90 communities in the Great Lakes region who
15 passed a resolution in support of separating the
16 Great Lakes.

17 In closing, I want to urge you to move
18 forward, and thank you for your time.

19 MR. JESSUP: Good afternoon. Dean
20 Jessup, 49449 from Pentwater, Michigan. And I'm
21 President of the Pentwater Sportfishing
22 Association. We're a 80-member fishing group

1 within that community of amateur and charter boat
2 captains that operate out of Pentwater, Michigan.

3 We've talked about the fishing
4 industry. I had the enjoyment of a fishing trip
5 out on Lake Michigan this morning. And it's
6 enjoyable. And I want to make sure I can
7 continue that enjoyment without getting whacked
8 in the head with an Asian carp.

9 I want to challenge you. I'm not here
10 to be politically correct. I'm here to challenge
11 you as a Corps. It's time to take action.

12 This TSP plan has been stated as it
13 hopes to reduce or it may reduce or it may have
14 control measures. May and hope are not what we
15 need. We need action.

16 How many initial sea lamprey, how many
17 initial alewife, how many initial round gobies or
18 quagga or zebra mussels entered our lake that now
19 have an explosive population and causing us
20 challenges? What is that number of Asian carp
21 that needs to enter our Great Lakes to give us
22 this explosive population in the future? We

1 don't know.

2 That's why your plan needs one more
3 action measure, closing and total separation of
4 the two water bodies.

5 Implementing a plan in maybe eight
6 years -- and we all know governmental action.
7 Eight years probably, maybe turn into 12 to 15
8 years before implementation. Obviously, I don't
9 know. You don't know.

10 It's time to take this action and a
11 full closure plan. We don't know. Did a fish
12 enter today? Is a fish entering next year? Or
13 is a fish entering in eight years by the
14 potential implementation of your plan?

15 That is not good enough to give any
16 kind of protection to our Great Lakes and to our
17 fishing community that we all enjoy. I implore
18 you add full closure to your plan. Thank you.

19 MR. ZUERCHER: All right. At this
20 time, we had a few individuals that registered to
21 speak online but were not able to check in with
22 us for whatever reason. So just to make sure

1 that you get a chance, if you are here, I'd like
2 to call off your name. And if you are here,
3 please head over this way so that we can get you
4 a chance to speak.

5 That would be Tina Cook, Gary Derouin,
6 Eileen Hoogterp, Richard Hoogterp, Brian LaRue,
7 Walter Tamulis, or Al Woody. Are any of you
8 here?

9 All right. Well, now we get to the
10 fun of going to the phone. And the phone has
11 been on listen-only mode all this time.

12 (Operator speaking.)

13 MR. ZUERCHER: Hello, those of you
14 that are the phone. This is your chance to give
15 your public comments. One person that signed up
16 online that I believe may be online, Lynn Muench,
17 are you on the line? All right. Maybe not.

18 So is there anyone on the phone that
19 would like to make a public comment? All right.
20 At this time, we'll go to an open floor session
21 then. We're hearing, then, from those on the
22 phone.

1 So, if you have not signed up and
2 would like to come up and make a comment, I ask
3 you to queue up along the wall here. We have one
4 gentleman who is making his way up right now.
5 And, again, please remember, your name and your
6 zip code. And we will restart the time. So,
7 sir, you have your three minutes.

8 SEN. HANSEN: Thank you. I'm Senator
9 Goeff Hansen, 34th District. And my zip code is
10 49420.

11 First, thank you for being here. I
12 got to tell you, I was a little disappointed that
13 we should have been here ten years ago. We've
14 been asking for this and asking this. This has
15 been a huge part of the problem that we've had is
16 now we're going to wait another eight years.

17 We have Asian carp that have crept
18 their way up through the water body and are right
19 at our door. And we need to make sure that we
20 keep them from coming in because it will destroy
21 our economy. It will destroy the fishery that we
22 have.

1 So I implore you, stop waiting, start
2 working. And we really need to have a serious
3 look, which I don't believe has been looked at,
4 is the separation of the water bodies as we do
5 this.

6 Now, we talked about this. Our
7 legislature in Michigan has sent numerous
8 resolutions asking for the separation, asking for
9 looking at this, asking for getting this going.

10 It's just so imperative that the work
11 starts because we've already seen what happens.
12 We've got carp within nine miles of Lake
13 Michigan, if that's the only one that got
14 through.

15 PARTICIPANT: Right.

16 SEN. HANSEN: So I challenge you to
17 try and move this forward. Stop moving at the
18 speed of government, which I know exactly how it
19 goes. And start, you know, moving at the speed
20 of what the folks in the United States expect and
21 absolutely get this done.

22 So thank you for allowing me to give

1 this comment. And, please, let's get going.

2 MR. ROGERS: My name is Mark Rogers,
3 49456, Spring Lake, Michigan. And I agree with a
4 lot of the comments that have been made so far.

5 One thing that scares me is not only
6 this eight years. We're including Congress in
7 this. What is that going to lead to? I have
8 some fears on that.

9 But really I just have three things to
10 say. Number one, has anybody, you know, Canada
11 has a big part, is a big part of this, if they
12 get into the Great Lakes, Canada. Is anything
13 happening with Canada for input, for funding,
14 because if they get in there, it's going to
15 really impact them too?

16 Secondly, you know, there's other, you
17 know, if they're getting up through the
18 Mississippi, are they also going to get through
19 the Saint Lawrence Seaway or other ways? So this
20 is only just one aspect that I see of the
21 problem.

22 Thirdly, you know, I know you need

1 approval. But it would seem that the cheapest
2 thing that, from my standpoint, is complex noise.
3 That would be the cheapest, maybe fastest to
4 implement. You know, you don't have a lot of
5 brick and mortar stuff.

6 Could that be done before the rest of
7 this stuff to get this thing going, because like
8 everybody has said, nobody wants them in the
9 lake? We don't want them. Let's do what we can
10 to get them out. Thanks for the opportunity.

11 MR. ZUERCHER: We have someone
12 monitoring our webinar. Laura, do we have anybody
13 on the webinar that has indicated anything? No.
14 Okay. Anyone else that would like to speak?

15 MR. CALDERON: Cal Calderon, 49442-
16 2014. Why do you think the carp will come in
17 here? What made them come from Louisiana all the
18 way to here?

19 And if you look at this guy's map,
20 they're going wherever crops are grown. And
21 wherever crops are grown, there are farm workers
22 with no plumbing. The farm camps here in

1 Michigan, in particular, are all along the creeks
2 that lead to the Grand River or to the Muskegon
3 River.

4 And when I read about this problem and
5 if you look at the map that this man handed out,
6 you have to start down in Mississippi, not in
7 Chicago, to get all these fish taken care of.
8 And you're not doing that.

9 The interstate system crosses the
10 Mississippi at least ten times from Interstate 10
11 to Interstate 90. And there's ways to get the
12 fish out in the Mississippi River, not just in
13 the Chicago River or whatever river this is. And
14 we're not looking at the big picture of the whole
15 Mississippi River being flooded with these
16 animals.

17 And we could feed the poor with all
18 this fish. There's several problems that this
19 could, that this problem could solve if you had
20 evolution in your minds and not government
21 inertia.

22 And there are more ways to figure out

1 how to get these animals out of the rivers, the
2 Mississippi River in particular, like I say,
3 starting at Interstate 10, 30, 40, 50, 60, 80,
4 and 90.

5 And I talked to Mr. Baumgartner
6 earlier about some of the solutions that we're
7 not looking at as a nation and not looking at the
8 big picture overall.

9 I hope I'm not on this, because, like
10 I say, if we covered the interstates with solar
11 panel roofs and had water pipes leading to the
12 aquifer, we could pump all these fish out of the
13 Mississippi River and into the water at the
14 aquifer. And you could pump clean, nutritious
15 water to the wheat fields that are being pumped
16 dry by the farmers in the Ogallala aquifer area.

17 So we have to put all these problems
18 together to solve this problem, because we're not
19 stopping the fish right from where they started.
20 And now you think you can stop them just at this
21 one little point when you got to stop them the
22 whole way up. You got to take them out.

1 And there's ways to do that and, like
2 I say, with the solutions that I've talked about
3 to Mr. Baumgartner. And I haven't talked to
4 these two guys, but I'd love to.

5 Anyway, you're not looking at the
6 bigger problem, where it's starting and the whole
7 Mississippi River Valley or the whole Mississippi
8 River being included with these animals.

9 But we got to start taking them out at
10 Interstate 10 down below, not thinking we're
11 going to stop them here, because they're coming
12 here because all these migrants don't have
13 bathroom facilities.

14 And they're going to come to the Grand
15 River and the Muskegon River and clean out what
16 they originally were meant for, to clean out all
17 the E.coli that all the humans -- 46,000 humans
18 on this side of the state with no bathroom
19 facilities for six months of the year, that's
20 what they're coming for. And you're not going to
21 stop them.

22 They're coming here to clean out the

1 Grand River, the Muskegon River, the Kalamazoo
2 River because we don't know how to take care of
3 the crops from one end of the nation to the
4 other. Thank you very much.

5 MR. ZUERCHER: At this time, I'd also
6 like to invite anyone who did not get a chance to
7 finish their comments or anyone left who would
8 like to make a comment, feel free to come on up.
9 And, again, state your name and zip code.

10 MR. MATYCH: Tom Matych, 49457. I
11 just wanted to say you can spend all this money
12 to stop one spot. And if you look at those maps,
13 that's just one spot. And I understand we have
14 to do something because the barrier isn't working
15 that we have right now.

16 But by restoring the native fish, then
17 you make the entire water body -- you guys have
18 been really good. You make the entire water body
19 against Asian carp. The more native fish, it
20 gets healthier, then the less Asian carp you're
21 going to deal with.

22 But it's the whole water body becomes

1 -- I know the word, and I can't say the word.
2 But do you know what I mean? The water body is
3 oppressive to Asian carp, and that's what we
4 need. And we can start restoring native fish
5 tomorrow. But we need permission.

6 And that's all we got to do, just keep
7 putting it in. And when you take the adults out,
8 and then we have -- until we don't have to
9 anymore. It's very simple. It's just we have to
10 do it. Thank you.

11 MR. DeHART: Harold DeHart, 49444,
12 excuse me, 445. I don't want to beat this horse
13 to death. But the overwhelming comments that
14 have been made today is the time constraints or
15 the time limits or the timeframe that you're
16 putting on this.

17 Let me ask the panel, everybody up
18 there or anyone that can answer this question.
19 What can be done to move this ahead? What can be
20 done to put -- is there pressure to be put on a
21 group or particular area? What is the hold up?
22 Why is the time taking so long?

1 COL. BAUMGARTNER: Well, I'll start
2 off, with two points, and, of course, anybody can
3 jump on.

4 So one of the significant challenges
5 and it's highlighted in the Great Lakes
6 Mississippi River Interbasin Study that was
7 published in 2014 is that we were starting really
8 with technologies that were only concept in
9 nature.

10 And so that's why it's been critically
11 important when we've mentioned, in terms of our
12 interactions and communication collaboration with
13 our federal and state agencies, you know,
14 organizations like USGS, our state DNRs, U.S.
15 EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, non-
16 government organizations and others, to make
17 every attempt possible, under funding
18 constraints, to be honest, is part of the
19 challenge, to advance those control measures and
20 technologies as fast as possible.

21 So, you know, it's a complex
22 challenge. It's a complex threat. And so we're

1 basing those technologies from concept to
2 something we can actually implement in the water
3 and have the effectiveness necessary is an
4 important point.

5 The other thing that I will mention is
6 our planning process. Yes, we have shown a
7 timeline of that process and how we, and of the
8 planning process itself. I will tell you,
9 though, that there are multiple touch points
10 along that planning process that we look for
11 every opportunity to speed up.

12 And so, as we move through the process
13 and those multiple decision points and touch
14 points, we, of course, always have in mind to
15 move this as quickly as possible and will
16 continue to explore those opportunities as we
17 move through the process.

18 Just something just as important as
19 this is public comment. For example, we're
20 anticipating a lot of public comment and feedback
21 both by the different forums that we've talked
22 about here today. The magnitude of that input,

1 of course, you know, is very important. And the
2 quality of input is also extremely important.

3 But taking that all into consideration
4 takes time too, because we want to make sure that
5 quality input is taken under consideration as we
6 move forward.

7 If we find that there's opportunities
8 where we're more aligned, less aligned, that all
9 takes time, too, to take under consideration. It
10 may impact the study schedule itself.

11 But what I will tell you is that the
12 team, they know this because I'm continually
13 putting the pressure at these multiple touch
14 points in the planning process to explore those
15 opportunities to speed up. And when there's an
16 opportunity to speed up, they certainly can.

17 Beyond the study itself and the
18 Chief's Report, you know, we have an
19 authorization currently to move forward with the
20 study itself. It's 100 percent federally funded.

21 The authority to move beyond the
22 study, of course, requires congressional

1 authorization and then appropriation. And so
2 that's another means by which we will continue to
3 work with our congressional members.

4 And, of course, you all have a voice
5 there, too, that's extremely important, because
6 ultimately that's another part of that timeline
7 is the ability to seek or get authorization and
8 appropriation to move forward if we have a
9 Chief's Report and recommend something that
10 requires an authorization. Did I miss anything?

11 MR. HAMILTON: The only thing I might
12 add is, as the Colonel mentioned, authorization
13 by Congress is an extremely important part of
14 this.

15 And Congress and the administration
16 and the states all have an expectation that the
17 study is thorough, has covered all the bases as
18 best we can using the information available, and
19 that we can put together a recommendation that
20 can be relied on to support a broad range of
21 public interests.

22 And it has to be something that has

1 some sort of a consensus agreement or, as you
2 know, often those things won't make it through
3 Congress if they don't have that consensus.

4 And so that's the importance of
5 working through a study. It does take longer to
6 do that. But upon completion, then you have a
7 report that is actionable and can potentially
8 then result in a congressional authorization.

9 Without that consensus, you really
10 typically lack the ability to move forward at
11 all. And we can often see, then, just more
12 stalemate. So it makes it very important to do
13 the study right and to do it rigorously, to have
14 the right amount of public input and build that
15 collaboration as we go through the process.

16 PARTICIPANT: Is it possible to get
17 private industry involved in this in some aspect?
18 Does this just stay at the federal level?

19 MR. HAMILTON: There are many attempts
20 right now looking at ways to have public/private
21 partnerships and involve private industry in
22 this. There are some legal barriers right now.

1 All the legislation is not yet in place that
2 would allow that to happen in this current form.

3 And in order for that to work, you
4 have to have a mechanism where there's some
5 ability for making profit. Private firms want
6 to, need to have an ability to make some profit
7 off of their investment.

8 Those mechanisms do not currently
9 exist today. I believe Congress and the
10 administration are looking at potential ways that
11 that might happen in the future. But it isn't
12 that way today.

13 PARTICIPANT: So private industry,
14 then, could not just give a donation, so to
15 speak?

16 MR. HAMILTON: I believe they would be
17 allowed to provide a donation to a sponsor.
18 There still would have to be a local sponsor.
19 But their donations, under the right
20 circumstances, could potentially work.

21 NOTE: Kirksey likely
correct last name. MR. KIRKSTEIN: Answer back this way.

22 I know lots of squeal. I hadn't wrote any

1 thoughts down, so I'll try to just be brief. In
2 all fairness, respect --

3 MR. ZUERCHER: Name and --

NOTE: Kirksey likely
correct last name.

4 MR. KIRKSTEIN: Oh, Dennis Kirkstein,
5 49445. And I'm a resident here all my life.
6 I've been a Great Lakes Basin lover of the water,
7 and I actually chair the local watershed group.
8 So I'm not speaking on behalf of them. I'm
9 speaking more as an individual.

10 But, and all due respect to the Army
11 Corps and everybody involved, the Congress, our
12 government as a whole, it's too little too late.
13 Three, four years ago when the initial Brandon
14 Road Study came out, you had a meeting here in
15 Muskegon, as well as a lot of other locations for
16 feedback on that. And I think overwhelmingly
17 people said go, build it, start now.

18 Here we're talking about 2025 for
19 completion. It's not good enough, folks.
20 Appreciate all the work you've done. And I hear
21 you say you're going to have another study come
22 out in 2019. We got to do something now.

1 And, you know, suggestions from the
2 public saying that, you know, we could stock some
3 native species that will start to reduce this
4 flow and growth of the Asian carp, why can't we
5 get a permit? Why can't that happen?

6 Government has become too
7 bureaucratic, too politically correct. You know,
8 we've seen it in our election cycles. And, you
9 know, it's -- and I know it all got created for a
10 reason, but we all need to back up a few steps
11 and say let's get 'er done.

12 And so I appreciate Senator Hansen's
13 comments. If the real answer is closing it,
14 close it. I appreciate the shipping industry. I
15 have a commercial business myself. And I
16 understand that very well. But has anybody
17 considered a rail system to move these barges and
18 to wash them down and get rid of the invasives
19 like we do in the recreational industry?

20 So I guess, you know, what I'm saying
21 is let's do something. Let's do it now. Let's
22 not wait. Appreciate wanting to give everybody a

1 chance for input. But we got to take action.
2 And sooner is better than later. So thank you
3 for all you're doing and continue to do.

4 MR. ZUERCHER: Anyone else from the
5 audience? And let me check one more time.
6 Anyone on the phone who wants to make a comment?
7 All right. Well, it looks like that everyone has
8 had a chance to give their comments today. And
9 we appreciate you coming out and attending and
10 giving your feedback to us. The team will be
11 taking this back and looking at it and working on
12 it. We are glad that you are here.

13 And we want to thank all of our
14 partners. And we do work with a broad range of
15 partners, many states and state DNRs that do a
16 lot of work with us on all this, and Canada as
17 well, too. So we thank you. Thank you for
18 hosting us here in Muskegon. And I hope you all
19 have a good evening. The end of the meeting is
20 at 5:52. Thank you.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22 went off the record at 5:52 p.m.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript


In the matter of: GLMRIS-BRANDON ROAD

Before: US Army Corps of Engineers

Date: 09-14-17

Place: Muskegon, MI

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.



Court Reporter

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