

NEPA Public Scoping Meeting

Please note this document is a compilation of two transcripts, the afternoon session followed by the evening session of the NEPA Public Scoping meeting. Please use the Acrobat "Find" tool to perform key word searches within this document.

GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER
INTERBASIN STUDY

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PROCEEDINGS had beginning at 2:00
p.m., January 25, 2011, at the Northeast Wisconsin
Technical College, 2740 West Mason Street, Green Bay,
Wisconsin.

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 MR. KEVIN BLUHM, Moderator

3 PANEL MEMBERS:

4 MR. JOHN GOSS, Asian Carp Director, White House
5 Council on Environmental Quality.

6
7 LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID BERCZEK, Deputy Commander,
8 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District.

9
10 MR. DAVE WETHINGTON, GLMRIS Project Manager.

11 MR. MIKE SAFFRAN, Other Pathways Project Manager.

12 MR. JOHN ZIMMERMAN, Chief of Planning and Policy
13 Great Lakes & Ohio River Division

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

2 MR. BLUHM: Good afternoon, ladies and
3 gentlemen, and welcome to the Great Lakes and the
4 Mississippi River Interbasin Study, known as the GLMRIS
5 Study, NEPA Public Scoping Meeting.

6 I want to let you know a few things about the
7 meeting itself. And before that, though, I'll make
8 some introductions. My name is Kevin Bluhm. I'll be
9 the moderator for today's and tonight's meeting. I
10 work out of the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers
11 office, and I'm glad to be here.

12 Also, up here on the front table at the
13 panel, Mr. John Goss, Asian Carp Director from the
14 White House Council on Environmental Quality. Seated
15 next to him, Lieutenant Colonel David Berczek, the
16 Deputy Commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
17 Chicago District.

18 In the center of the table are Project
19 Manager for the GLMRIS Study, Dave Wethington, and next
20 to him, fourth in line, Mike Saffran, and he is the
21 Project Manager for Other Pathways Project, and you'll
22 hear more about that in the presentation. And on the

1 far side of the table, Mr. John Zimmerman. He is Chief
2 of Planning and Policy, Great Lakes and Ohio River
3 Division.

4 And then from our Hosting District, we're
5 actually in the Detroit District Area right now, Green
6 Bay is located in that, and representing the District
7 is Lieutenant Colonel Mike Derosier. Where is Mike?
8 Right over here. And he's hosting for us, and I want to
9 thank you for the hospitality and for the meeting
10 itself.

11 When you signed in, we have a packet of
12 information that we'd like to make sure that everybody
13 has. And the packet itself, if I can grab my packet
14 here, is this big colorful packet. If you don't have a
15 packet of information, would like the detailed
16 information, just raise your hand and we'll make sure
17 that somebody can get one for you, but in that has a
18 lot of the information, facts and background material
19 that will be very helpful for the meeting.

20 I'll kind of go through some of these things.
21 The green half-page piece here is the Study agenda, and
22 this will go through our process for today and

1 tonight's meeting. Following that we've got a small
2 brochure, as well as a larger, thicker brochure here,
3 that has a lot of information about the GLMRIS Study
4 and Program. We've also got a small little business
5 card here that has information on how to stay informed
6 and how to find our website.

7 The most important piece for today's meeting
8 and for this Scoping Hearing this is white half-sheet
9 of paper here. This is our comment card. This is the
10 piece of information that will allow you the various
11 techniques that you can comment and provide feedback to
12 us. The way it's set up, there's plenty of room on the
13 inside and the back panel to write any comments down,
14 and also instructions if you'd like to use the Internet
15 for making any comments for us as well.

16 Keep in mind because this is a Public Scoping
17 period, the deadline to put in any comments to us and
18 be considered as part of the recommendation is March
19 the 31st. So we've got plenty of time yet, but just
20 want to make you aware of that.

21 And then for the colored full-size sheets of
22 paper here, we've got a yellow sheet here that is the

1 oral comment registration form. If you're interested in
2 making an oral presentation to the panel today, we'd
3 ask that you fill this out and turn that into the back
4 table. That will give you a numbered place in line that
5 we'll use when we start the actual second part of the
6 meeting.

7 Also, for -- for paper we've got a frequently
8 asked question sheet. The purple sheet here has some
9 information that would answer potentially some of the
10 more frequent questions that were asked.

11 We've got a salmon-colored sheet here that
12 talks about questions for the Other Efforts Program
13 that's going on. You'll hear more about that in the
14 presentation. And then finally, the blue sheet of
15 paper here is a form that helps you understand how to
16 submit any comments that you'd have, if you have
17 anything written or prepared, that you'd like to turn
18 in and be part of the record. The blue sheet can help
19 assist with that.

20 Okay. If you preregistered on the project
21 website to give an oral comment and have not checked
22 in, you want to make sure that you want to check in at

1 the register-to-speak table in the lobby. And if you
2 want to make an oral comment, but did not preregister
3 on the website, you can do that as well at the same
4 table.

5 Our GLMRIS team has been organizing -- has
6 organized this public meeting to accomplish two goals
7 for you. First, to present information about the
8 Study, and then secondly, to solicit your comments on
9 the significant issues that should be included on -- in
10 the GLMRIS and on the insignificant issues that can be
11 eliminated from further study.

12 The Corps is hosting 12 meetings throughout
13 the Study area in an effort to provide opportunities to
14 those interested in the Study to learn more about the
15 Study and provide your oral comments. Please note the
16 NEPA Public Scoping period closes on March the 31st,
17 2011.

18 As indicated on the agenda, this public
19 meeting is organized in two sessions. An identical
20 session and presentation will be given at the beginning
21 of each of these sessions followed then by a second
22 portion, which is the oral comment period.

1 The first public comment period will end at 5
2 p.m., and then the second session will beginning at
3 5:30 p.m. There will be a 30-minute break in between
4 the two sessions. The second public period as well
5 will end at 7 p.m.

6 If you have any questions or concerns, the
7 staff can be found in the lobby or in the back of this
8 room after the meeting has been adjourned. If you would
9 like to ask any other questions, you can do so. Please
10 note, though, if you do talk to any of the panelists
11 offline in a private conversation, those comments will
12 not be presented as part of the written comment and
13 that part of the NEPA documentation.

14 So if what you have is important and you want
15 to make sure that it's submitted as part of the -- the
16 NEPA documentation, you'll want to make sure you use
17 either the open forum with the microphone, or submit
18 any of the comments you have via the website, or
19 through the written documentation process, and that way
20 it will be included as part of our NEPA documentation.

21 Okay. Let's see here. At this point we're
22 going to start the presentation, and I'd like to turn

1 it over to Mr. John Goss, the Asian Carp Director on
2 the White House Council for Environmental Quality.

3 MR. GOSS: Thank you all for taking the time
4 on a cold winter day to come out and talk to us about
5 this very important look at how we can stop invasive
6 species from moving from the Great Lakes to our river
7 systems and from our rivers into the Great Lakes.

8 When I heard we were coming to Green Bay in
9 January a few weeks ago I thought oh, couldn't we put
10 that off until May or June, it would be a lot more fun,
11 but actually, I'm really glad that we got here this
12 week because I had a chance to go over to Lambeau and
13 go to the Hall of Fame this morning and get some Packer
14 gear for my grandkids. So I'm going to be a hero when
15 I get home. So really, it's okay. Thanks.

16 What I want to talk to you for just a few
17 minutes about is the overall strategy to deal with the
18 Asian carp invasion of the Great Lakes that we're
19 stopping in the short-term and that we hope to find a
20 good solution for in the long term.

21 And I just want to start off with saying we
22 have an unprecedented effort to stop these fish.

1 They're very unusually voracious eaters, prolific
2 breeders, and can pose a danger, as -- as you have seen
3 from videos and pictures, to recreational boating and
4 to our sport fishing industry.

5 When it comes to protecting the Great Lakes,
6 the Obama Administration has taken an aggressive
7 approach. There's a strategy that has been put
8 together over a year ago, it's called the Strategic
9 Framework, and we're making sure that we are not going
10 to repeat the problems that we've had with significant
11 invasions of other invasive species over recent years.
12 Certainly the carp are the most important focus this
13 year, but we are also working on the solution that's
14 going to stop other species from moving in both
15 directions.

16 We have over 40 projects that are being put
17 together as Asian carp management strategies to help us
18 deal with that invasion in the rivers. There are not
19 significant populations yet in Wisconsin, but in my
20 home state in Indiana they are well established far up
21 each of our primary rivers, and as you've been hearing
22 for a few years they're very well established in the

1 State of Illinois, and we expect them to continue to
2 move.

3 The Chicago Area Waterway has been the
4 location for the largest concentration, but they
5 certainly are looking at other ways that they can
6 continue to move around the Great Lakes.

7 These carp, Asian carp, have left a trail of
8 destruction in the Mississippi River system already. It
9 has harmed the ecosystem, it has hurt the economy, and
10 it certainly has had a significant impact already on
11 recreation and commercial boating and on commercial
12 fishing. Commercial fishermen are telling us that the
13 only thing they're catching in many areas of the
14 Mississippi now are Asian carp.

15 Now we've got a true challenge for the Great
16 Lakes. The strategy is a multi billion dollar
17 coordinated effort of federal agencies and state
18 agencies. This framework originally identified \$78
19 million to be focused on this problem, and we just
20 announced an additional about \$20 million to that
21 effort to connect federal, state and local
22 organizations in this effort.

1 We formed what's been called -- what is
2 called the Regional Coordinating Committee, and we
3 recently added DNR staff and state government staff
4 from each of the eight Great Lake states to that
5 coordinating committee. So this is the group making
6 policy, reviewing plans, and working on the strategy as
7 we move forward.

8 It does include, of course, the Army Corps of
9 Engineers, the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.
10 Geological Survey, EPA, the Coast Guard, and some other
11 local organizations that are affected directly
12 including, around Chicago, the City of Chicago and the
13 Wastewater District there.

14 Last September I was recruited to be the
15 coordinator for this plan, and it actually is
16 coordinated out of the Environmental Policy Office in
17 the White House. So we have access in Washington to
18 the decision makers in each of these federal agencies,
19 also working with Congress for constant communication
20 on the progress, and certainly want to make sure that
21 Wisconsin representatives in Washington continue to be
22 informed and understand what these plans are and what

1 the impact is going to be.

2 Moving next, I want to talk about just a few
3 highlights of things that have happened just in the
4 last few months. First of all, a fish barrier, which
5 has been in place for really almost 10 years now. The
6 original plan to stop invasive fish from swimming each
7 direction was at this point, which is down the Chicago
8 Ship Canal. This is downtown Chicago, this is Navy
9 Pier, and this follows the old -- the Chicago River and
10 Des Plaines River, and this is the point where the
11 electric barriers are in place and have been holding
12 the carp back in the Illinois River. They were very
13 densely populated south of that in the Illinois River.

14 A third electric barrier is constructed, will
15 be full operating just in the next few weeks, and that
16 is providing the primary temporary and short-term
17 protection keeping the carp out of the lakes.

18 The other things that have been working on
19 just in the last few months is in that area just north
20 of the barrier the Des Plaines River and the Chicago
21 Ship Canal run parallel, and flood waters from the Des
22 Plaines River do cross over at different times into the

1 ship canal. A new fence, a fish barrier fence has been
2 constructed. The Corps of Engineers did a good job
3 getting it done this year, and we have protection up
4 three feet above the hundred-year flood level to keep
5 any fish that are in the Des Plaines from getting over
6 into the ship canal and bypassing the barrier on a path
7 to get to Lake Michigan.

8 Also, in Indiana in my home state, we have --
9 this fence went up also this fall where we found flood
10 waters connecting the Wabash River and Maumee where
11 they could go from the Wabash, which has an established
12 breeding population of Asian carp, all the way up to
13 Fort Wayne, Indiana, across that flood stage into the
14 upper Maumee and make their way to Lake Erie. And Mike
15 Saffran will talk about that some more in a minute.

16 There have been a total of about 18 other
17 sites, including several here in Wisconsin, that will
18 be checked to -- and analyzed to determine if at flood
19 stage they might pose a connection like we found in
20 Indiana.

21 And certainly -- we met with Department of
22 Natural Resources yesterday, and they are fully engaged

1 with us to make progress on analyzing all of those
2 points in Wisconsin and across the Continental Divide
3 across all the states this year. We're going to have
4 recommendations this year, very shortly.

5 The other things that we've been doing above
6 the electric barrier are to watch very closely to do
7 netting and electroshocking. If you're familiar with
8 how DNR checks the fish population, they use some
9 electrodes in the water and they're stunned
10 temporarily, brought up, and you do an identification
11 of what -- what fish are in that body of water.

12 This fall in the area north of the barrier
13 and between the barriers and Lake Michigan, over 10,000
14 fish were electroshocked and identified. No Asian carp
15 were found in that area. However, we have also done
16 water samples, and in the water samples there have been
17 a few traces of carp DNA. Less than two percent of the
18 over 1200 water samples. So I think it was 17 out of
19 the 1200 showed a trace of carp.

20 So that means there are a few fish that are
21 swimming above the barrier, but there's not an
22 established population. U.S. Fish and Wildlife,

1 Illinois DNR, the best fish biologists, cannot locate
2 live carp in that area.

3 The research projects that are being launched
4 and being funded that are going to help us develop the
5 long-term management strategy for these fish are also
6 very important. The environmental DNA indication is
7 just that. We do not know from a trace whether that
8 means that there have been fish there recently, whether
9 that might be fish scales from a -- a dead fish that
10 had been there sometime ago, or is that one fish
11 swimming around and leaving a lot of traces.

12 So that research is a key part of -- of the
13 effort this coming year to determine what is that
14 telling us if we have DNA markers from any waters.

15 Also, around the Great Lakes there are 14
16 other rivers that are going to be tested for
17 environmental DNA over the course of the next six
18 months, and that is going to hopefully tell us once
19 again that we do not have Asian carp established in our
20 major tributaries around Lake Michigan and Lake Erie,
21 which is our two primary areas of concern right now.

22 I'm going to move quickly because we're going

1 to cover those. Just wanted to show you once again
2 very, very quickly the electric barrier system now.
3 There are three different points where there's an
4 electric field of over a hundred feet wide with two
5 volts per inch, and if a fish tries to swim into that
6 area they are stunned and they float back downstream.
7 So this is the system that was lobbied for by all the
8 states in the Great Lakes to put a block in the Chicago
9 Ship Canal.

10 Also, commercial fisherman are taking a lot
11 of fish out of the Illinois River below the barrier.
12 Several hundred thousand pounds were removed this fall.
13 That effort's going to increase, multiplied several
14 times, in the coming here. The State of Illinois is
15 working on establishing commercial fish processing
16 plants. They already have a contract to export some
17 Asian carp to China, and there have been some stories
18 this week about potential for the market here in the
19 U.S. with various chefs and restaurants doing
20 experimentation on putting carp on the menu.

21 The Palmer House has served Asian carp, and
22 several other restaurants are looking at whether or not

1 we could create a market that would provide part of the
2 solution for managing this population in the long-term.

3 I think that's about all I need to talk about
4 because these guys are going into a lot more detail on
5 the rest. Just wanted to make one final comment that
6 we have, I think, a strong commitment from the federal
7 government from -- from the president on down. We have
8 the bipartisan support of our congressional delegations
9 from the Great Lake states to stay focused on this carp
10 problem and on this invasive species problem until we
11 come up with the solution.

12 That solution is going to come through a very
13 comprehensive study, and that's what the rest of the
14 team will be talking about today. A very deliberate
15 and very complete effort to come up with a long-term
16 solution.

17 So thank you for your attention on this, and
18 we'll be around all afternoon. If anybody would like
19 to talk, I'll be available later today.

20 Let me get the rest of the team going here.
21 Next, Colonel David Berczek is going to give you the
22 overview of this very significant effort to stop

1 invasive species in the Great Lakes led by the Corps of
2 Engineers. Thanks.

3 MR. BERCEK: Again, good afternoon everyone
4 and welcome here on behalf of the entire Study team. We
5 thank you for coming out today.

6 Gathering your comments and hearing your
7 concerns are a critical component of our Study process
8 and making sure we get things right and we're focused
9 in the right areas.

10 You heard Mr. Goss talk quite a bit about
11 some of the efforts that we're all doing at the
12 federal, state and local partners and other agencies to
13 deal with what is right now the looming threat on the
14 horizon, the Asian Carp, but when you hear about that
15 you talk Asian carp a little bit, but then throw out a
16 few other words that you might be familiar with, you
17 might not be. Kudzu, Hydrilla, Zebra Mussels, Sea
18 Lamprey, Snakehead Fish, Nutria.

19 Awareness of invasive species has grown
20 dramatically over the last decade. Invasive species
21 displace or otherwise harm native species. They can
22 alter ecosystems, transport disease, interfere with

1 crop production, or cause disease in animals or humans.

2 For these reasons invasive species are of
3 national and global concern. Those words came from the
4 National Invasive Species Management Plan 2008-2012
5 that was produced by the National Invasive Species
6 Council establish by Executive Order 1999. In that
7 document there are a number of efforts they list
8 throughout there with federal agencies and other
9 agencies that are their efforts on invasive species
10 management and control.

11 The Great Lakes and Mississippi River
12 Interbasin Study, the GLMRIS Study, would fall squarely
13 into their strategic goal number three, which is
14 control and management.

15 Congress recognized in the fact that we've
16 been doing a lot of efforts focusing on individual
17 species over the years to some degree of success, and
18 maybe not necessarily the degree of success envisioned.

19 So in 2007 in the Water Resources and
20 Development Act, Congress directed the Corps of
21 Engineers to conduct, at federal expense, in
22 collaboration with other entities, what you see up here

1 on the screen in front of you. A feasibility study to
2 look at the range of options and technologies available
3 to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species
4 between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins,
5 through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, and other
6 aquatic pathways.

7 And I wanted to make sure that I read that
8 directly to you from -- as it's written here on the
9 slide and as it's written in the legislation so that we
10 can talk a little bit about what this Study involves
11 and our approach to it and the inputs that we are
12 looking at from other agencies and from the public.

13 As part of this Study we'll go ahead and look
14 at the -- talks to a little bit the alternative
15 recommendations, a feasibility report, so what will
16 come out at the end of the Study period will be
17 recommendations that would go through the Corps process
18 and end up with a recommendation to Congress for
19 authority or legislation to go ahead and implement some
20 aspect of the Study recommendations.

21 We'll be looking at a number of options and
22 technologies, come up with what's out there looking at

1 the aquatic nuisance species that need to be controlled
2 and need to be prevented from transfer. What
3 technologies, what options are available to do that,
4 and analyze each one of those to come up with what the
5 cumulative affect that could be -- that we could attain
6 to prevent that transfer.

7 The -- The Study is, again, mentioned at the
8 bottom of the slide, there's 100 percent federally
9 funded. Normally a -- a feasibility type of study such
10 as this would normally have a non-federal cost sharing
11 sponsor in that. So it is significant. It's 100
12 percent federally funded.

13 The GLMRIS Study area is -- is large. You see
14 up here on the map roughly the -- The detailed Study
15 area is this area that is made up by 17 different
16 states. You can see up there, with the focus up in the
17 Great Lake states and the Upper Mississippi River
18 watershed.

19 What's significant about this -- this other
20 area that is highlighted here is these are the other
21 states that also contribute to the Mississippi River
22 watershed. That's the lower Mississippi River.

1 When you look at this map in total and you
2 start looking at the watersheds being evaluated and
3 looked at for this area, there's roughly 33 states that
4 are somehow involved in this area, but the detailed
5 Study will focus, as I said, with these states,
6 primarily looking along this dashed line here, which
7 represents a natural divide between the Great Lakes
8 Basin and the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Water
9 falling to the north of that will flow into the Great
10 Lakes. Water to the south will flow into the
11 Mississippi River.

12 What is the -- What's the Study going to look
13 at? We look at their -- We talked about, you see in
14 the authorization and the language it says through the
15 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Well, that area is
16 highlighted specifically because it's the only known
17 continually open waterway, pathway, between the
18 Mississippi River and the Great Lakes. It's a known
19 connection. It's a man-made canal open in 1902 for
20 water, 1907 for navigation, and makes the connection
21 between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River.

22 We're looking at, you can see there, too. Not

1 just fish. Swimmers, fish, floaters, hitchhikers.
2 Looking across the board at aquatic nuisance or
3 invasive species. Does not include terrestrial
4 transfer or airborne transfer. Does not include
5 looking at human release.

6 I mentioned on the map earlier talking about
7 the portions of the 17 states and that interconnect
8 between the two, the focus of the Study area. We're
9 not looking at the Atlantic Slope or the St. Lawrence
10 Seaway or into Canada.

11 The elements there, we are looking at a range
12 of those and options to include hydrologic separation
13 as one of the options to be considered, and will do a
14 study of each of those areas assessing the gain,
15 assessing their efficiency, and assessing, as well,
16 impacts and looking at mitigations for those impacts.

17 The end result of the Study will be not only
18 a feasibility report, but also an environmental impact
19 statement.

20 To take something on as big as this Mr. Goss
21 mentioned briefly there the Asian Carp Regional
22 Coordinating Committee and the collaboration done

1 between state, local, federal partners and everything.
2 That's a monumental effort. This just adds on top of
3 that to take those members of that group to expand that
4 to include state agencies, to include tribal interests,
5 to include all stakeholders. That means the general
6 public, to get your inputs and get your concerns and
7 help to scope this Study.

8 For the Corps of Engineers it's a challenge
9 as well because it goes across our division boundaries,
10 but as you will see in a number of different reports
11 all over, invasive species don't necessarily recognize
12 jurisdictional boundaries. So we can't either in this.

13 So we do have to organize for success. You
14 see there for the Corps of Engineers we've gathered
15 experts from across the Corps to include our
16 Engineering Research and Development Center to go ahead
17 and bear -- bring expertise to the problem, to looking
18 at what needs to be done and helping to evaluate and
19 assess control methodologies and impact.

20 Some of those other things are the Executive
21 Steering Committee, it's just a matter of how we're
22 organized to go ahead and manage this information flow.

1 Mr. Goss, being here as the Director from the
2 Council of Environmental Quality, of course, plays a
3 key role in facilitating the collaboration across
4 federal agencies. There's a lot of things where
5 certain federal agencies will have authorities that
6 others don't, and Mr. Goss's job is to help us all work
7 together in figuring out where those problems lie, who
8 can work on them and how do we get solutions.

9 So that's part of it, but then also we've got
10 to work as well with the leadership level and
11 understanding what's going on and how to work together
12 so that we can go ahead and incorporate the next group
13 down. We talk about the stakeholders. How to get the
14 input, who's got the input, what's out there, what
15 data's available. How do we gather all this
16 information together, bring it in in a timely enough
17 manner so that it comes in and it doesn't exceed the
18 good idea cutoff.

19 What I mean by that is once we get to the
20 point where we're starting to evaluate alternatives and
21 other methodologies, sometimes a good idea coming late
22 is just nice to know and may not have impact to bear.

1 That being said, the second bullet from the
2 bottom talks about the way we're trying to -- to
3 execute the Study and implement this, looking to adapt
4 to new and evolving information to the maximum extent
5 possible.

6 Mr. Goss mentioned a number of efforts by
7 other agencies. There might be something promising
8 that could come out as a technology or a control method
9 that doesn't exist today, but in the course of the
10 Study may come up and may show that it has some
11 percentage of reducing the risk. It has something it
12 can bring to the table. Like Patton said, give me an
13 80 percent plan I can execute today versus a 100
14 percent plan next week.

15 So if we can come to an 80 percent solution
16 that can help drive down the efforts of not only Asian
17 carp, but other species of concern, then we would, by
18 all means, try to bring that in and do the assessment
19 of that and analyze it.

20 Like all studies that we do under the Corps
21 of Engineers, we are authorized by law to do them. And
22 so, of course, we'll abide by all legal and regulatory

1 guidance in carrying out our Study.

2 The Study purpose is back to the authority,
3 to the language there, to look at the pathways, to look
4 at the transport of aquatic nuisance species, and the
5 Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal, that pathway identified by
6 name, and you'll here Mike Saffran, who's the project
7 manager looking at the other pathways and other
8 pathways that may exist.

9 There was a little bit of a black hole there.
10 There might be some other pathways that exist at
11 certain levels of flooding that aren't there naturally
12 in a normal daily occurrence. So those are the things
13 that we had to identify. What is really the extent of
14 the problem, where does that waterway go, what's the
15 network of connections, and identifying there.

16 Because there are two distinct pathways to be
17 looked at, we broke up the Study team to look at two
18 certain areas. The Chicago area waterways, being a
19 primary area of concern, of course, maybe have more
20 urgency than others because that's an existing pathway
21 at all times, and then the other focus area and the
22 other pathways.

1 What are we looking at. We're looking at
2 everything from fish to fleas, and so it's -- and
3 trying to identify as well what could be future
4 potential nuisance species. That's a quite daunting
5 task in and of itself in trying to gather literature
6 and gather together all the scientists and biologists
7 who have an idea of what's out there and what may be
8 coming, to try to wrap that in to -- take our best
9 guess at how to deal with all these threats through
10 this Study.

11 And, of course, once we identify what those
12 species are we've got to identify the means to control
13 them. Not everything works on -- on one specific
14 species. Not everything works sometimes on the same
15 species. Try to control cockroaches, if you're ever in
16 an area where you have cockroaches in your house. Your
17 pest man will alternate the chemicals every month
18 because they can get resistant to that.

19 So if that's a method of control, we've got
20 to identify how to do those sort of things. And again,
21 hydrologic separation is one of the methodologies being
22 considered.

1 This slide illustrates a little bit the Focus
2 Area of 1, the Chicago Area Waterway System. And what
3 you see on this slide are the Chicago Area Waterway
4 System coming up through the Illinois and the Chicago
5 Sanitary Ship Canal and then dumps into the Chicago
6 Rivers, and then five points of entry from these
7 riverways into the Great Lakes.

8 What I'm going to have a little bit here,
9 Dave Wethington, who's the project manager for the
10 Study overall and -- but also in this focus area is
11 going to explain to you a little bit more what's on
12 this slide.

13 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir. Again, thank
14 you all for coming today. My name is David Wethington.
15 I'm the overall GLMRIS project manager.

16 Spend just a couple minutes going over this
17 slide. As Lieutenant Berczek again, basically this is
18 -- on the right-hand is a conceptual drawing, is a map,
19 of the Chicago Area Waterway System, and I hope to kind
20 of explain to you some of the complexities maybe not
21 being familiar so much with Chicagoland, that -- that
22 the area provides.

1 As Colonel Berczek mentioned to begin with,
2 there are five points that the Great Lakes Basin and
3 Mississippi River Basin have the opportunity to mix
4 within the Chicagoland area.

5 Points 1 through 3 are wholly within the
6 State of Illinois and also have some type of water
7 control structure, whether it be a lock and dam, or
8 similar type of control structure.

9 Points 4 and 5 in the State of Indiana are
10 completely uncontrolled. When we say uncontrolled,
11 that means there's no blocking structure, no water
12 controlling structure. So some of the alternatives
13 that you may have heard in the media, in terms of
14 shutting the locks to stop the spread of Asian carp,
15 you know, may help with one part of the river system,
16 but would leave other portions that are completely
17 uncontrolled still open and passage of Asian carp.

18 On the left-hand side, I just want to spend a
19 couple minutes describing this is the Corps of
20 Engineers planning process. And where we are today are
21 basically steps 1 and 2. Step number 1, specify
22 problems and opportunities, is part of why you are all

1 here today. As you know, both of the speakers before
2 me mentioned we want to know what's significant to you
3 in scoping out the Study and just similarly
4 importantly, what may not have as much significance.

5 We're currently collecting an amount of data,
6 and that's where we are today is inventorying and
7 forecasting these conditions. And the reason for this
8 is we need to basically outline and identify what are
9 the waterway uses in the Chicagoland area.

10 You might have heard a lot about commercial
11 navigation and that's one, but there are many other
12 uses. Some of them do include recreation, water
13 supply, water discharge. For example, the Chicago
14 River is 70 to 80 percent municipal wastewater
15 discharge, 70 to 80 percent.

16

17 We also use the Chicago River and the Chicago
18 Area Waterway System significantly for flood risk
19 management. Doesn't happen very often, but every
20 couple years, every five years, we'll get a significant
21 enough rainfall event in the City of Chicago that we
22 need to open up that control structure, I believe it's

1 number 2 on the slide up there, at the Chicago Lock to
2 allow water to backflow, so flow backwards into Lake
3 Michigan, as well as flowing down towards the
4 Mississippi River System.

5 This very important valve allows flooding to
6 be prevented, over bank flooding into the City of
7 Chicago, as well as significant basement flooding as
8 sewers would back up throughout the entire Chicagoland
9 area affecting millions, literally millions of people.

10 Once we identify what those waterway uses are
11 we need to basically evaluate once we implement an
12 aquatic nuisance species control. So once we do
13 something, once we look at hydrologic separation, or
14 the implementation of some type of control, what will
15 be those impacts to waterway users. What are the
16 social impacts, the environmental impacts, and the
17 economic impacts. And just as importantly, if there are
18 adverse impacts what do we need to do, or what could be
19 suggested to do to mitigate for those negative impacts.

20 So basically, these steps that are outlined
21 on the left-hand side go through that process by
22 identifying who those users are, what the use is -- of

1 the waterway system is, and basically identify any type
2 of impacts and mitigation.

3 Again, as was mentioned previously, we are
4 working with federal and state agencies, we're working
5 with the tribal and other nongovernmental
6 organizations, including private industry.

7 Thank you for your time and attention. I'll
8 turn it back to Colonel Berczek.

9 MR. BERCEK: Thanks, David. This next slide
10 shows a little bit of the effort, and I'll have Mike
11 Saffran, who's a project manager, talk to you a little
12 bit. This is the second focus area. This is that
13 other pathway. The part of the Study that -- the
14 direction that we didn't quite know that much about.

15 So Mike's going to tell you a little bit
16 about what's been done so far in the last four to five
17 months.

18 MR. SAFFRAN: Thank you, sir. Welcome
19 everybody, and it's very nice to be in Green Bay after
20 a big win last weekend.

21 Just as Colonel Berczek said, when we started
22 into the GLMRIS there was a lot known about the Chicago

1 Sanitary and Ship Canal, a lot known about the risk,
2 and major investments had been made in trying to
3 prevent the transfer of nuisance species through that
4 specific pathway, but very little was known about the
5 other portion that was in that legislation, other
6 aquatic pathways.

7 And last year our Commanding General made a
8 visit to Portage, Wisconsin, and a became much more
9 aware, I guess, of the potential that there are other
10 locations where the investments that we've made in
11 Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal can be compromised if Asian
12 carp found other ways into the Great Lakes.

13 So he challenged us last summer to, within 60
14 days, produce a draft report that provided an inventory
15 of all of the potential aquatic pathways around almost
16 a 1500-mile-long divide that separates the basin, to
17 identify the locations and to conduct a preliminary
18 risk characterization to make sure we -- we identified
19 any significant vulnerabilities that we may have, and
20 really focusing on Asian carp, but looking at all of
21 the species, so -- all invasive species, as we're
22 required to, under GLMRIS.

1 So we -- we started into this effort. We
2 really relied very heavily on state DNRs, USGS, Fish
3 and Wildlife Service, but we got the best experts we
4 could from local and national to really help us to meet
5 this very challenging task.

6 Long story short is we identified a total of
7 about 36 different locations along the basin divide.
8 And that's what's shown in the figure there, are the
9 locations that we identified.

10 Very fortunately, only one of them really
11 jumped out as a really significant risk and a near-term
12 risk, and that was a location called Eagle Marsh, which
13 is in the Town of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

14 Fort Wayne sits on the basin divide between
15 what's called the Maumee Basin and the Wabash River
16 Basin. The -- At that location the maximum storm event
17 that you would expect to occur in any given year
18 generates water flow from the Maumee Basin back flowing
19 into the Little River, which is the headwater stream to
20 the Wabash River.

21 Once you have a larger event, a five or 10-
22 year event, a much more significant volume of water

1 flows from the Maumee Basin into the Wabash Basin. We
2 had a -- As one of the locations we were able to find
3 very good, current available information on the
4 hydrology, and the 2009 Flood Insurance Study indicated
5 that the depth of the water flow across the basin
6 divide at that location from a 10 percent annual return
7 frequency storm, or the kind of storm that you would
8 expect to occur no more than frequently than once every
9 10 years, showed a depth of four-and-a-half feet of
10 water across the basin divide at that location.

11 That, in concert with the fact that we had
12 observations of a significant population of Asian carp
13 downstream of the Wabash River, reportedly as close as
14 22 miles from the Town of Fort Wayne, really set off
15 the red light that we've got a significant issue here.

16 Toward the end of July we had a good meeting
17 on site, and we had the Indiana DNR, as well as a
18 number of other agencies, the NRCS, the USGS, the
19 Little River Wetlands Project, which is a
20 nongovernmental organization, county surveyors, we had
21 all the right people in the room, and we talked about -
22 - about the problem and what can we do to quickly

1 mitigate it.

2 And one of the things that -- that was
3 offered up very quickly was the similar solution that
4 Mr. Goss already talked about, to separate the Des
5 Plaines River from the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal, and
6 that is a mesh fence, a mesh barrier, that could be
7 erected relatively quickly, wouldn't induce any
8 flooding, but would provide a -- a strong prevention
9 from Asian carp being able to swim upstream or cross
10 that location.

11 Within less than 60 days of the time of that
12 meeting that fence was up and in place, and I think
13 it's a demonstration of -- of a lot of the -- what we
14 hoped would come out of this GLMRIS Study, which is
15 that there are resources and capabilities at all the
16 different levels and we're all going to have to
17 basically, at the local, state and federal level, all
18 play a role in how we -- we manage and prevent Asian
19 carp and other aquatic nuisance species from interbasin
20 transfer.

21 The other 17 locations, I would say that the
22 risk at the Eagle Marsh location are orders of

1 magnitude less than -- than the risk that's posed at
2 the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal because the Chicago
3 Sanitary and Ship Canal is always open. The Fort Wayne
4 connection is -- every year or so there might be water
5 flowing across.

6 The -- The other locations below Fort Wayne
7 or before the Eagle Marsh are probably orders of
8 magnitude less risk than those, but there was a
9 significant amount of uncertainty. We identified eight
10 locations in Wisconsin where it appears there's a
11 significant amount of water that can flow from a large
12 storm event across the basin divide.

13 Those locations, we're going back and doing a
14 more detailed risk assessment, a more detailed and --
15 going to have more time and do a better study, if you
16 will, to really characterize the hydrologic conditions,
17 and then based on the hydrologic conditions determine
18 whether those sites really do pose an unacceptable
19 risk.

20 That Study is underway right now. We have
21 met with just about each of the individual state DNRs,
22 we've had meetings with the federal partners in

1 discussing the draft plan to complete that Study, and
2 it's expected to be completed this year.

3 MR. BERCEK: Thanks, Mike. Where are we
4 today and where are we heading. You can see on here a
5 little bit off to the left-hand side talks about some
6 of the process so far. It is a -- a Study that we've
7 got to identify how to go ahead and do it and give
8 direction to the team. So we've got to have process
9 involved with doing that and getting to the point where
10 we are today, you know, coming out with these meetings
11 to gain your inputs.

12 But that's not all that has been going on.
13 You heard Mike talk a little bit about -- talking about
14 these other pathways and addressing something that's
15 out there and if the state has the authority and the
16 ability to act, taking action on that. And while
17 that's been going on we've been learning as well.

18 You see up at the top the Asian carp
19 literature review. We've talked about the Chicago
20 Sanitary and Ship Canal being that kind of most
21 immediate pathway. And, of course, the Study is beyond
22 and broader than Asian carp, but Asian carp is the most

1 immediate risk. So, of course, we've got to know what
2 -- what to do with them and how we're doing there.

3 In addition to -- to this, continuing to do
4 our efforts with the electrical dispersal barrier and
5 looking at means to address potential bypasses about
6 that and how to make that more effective as well. So
7 those efforts are going on, as well as these, and going
8 broader now with this, looking at the White paper,
9 looking at what's out there. What is out there with
10 the aquatic nuisance species, what do we need to be
11 concerned with, what's in the one basin, what's in the
12 other, what hasn't transferred already, and how do we
13 go ahead and address those. So that takes a lot of
14 effort. And how do we target those species.

15 Talked a little bit already about that
16 preliminary risk characterization in Eagle Marsh.
17 That's kind of the fast track, if you would. And you
18 can see here a little bit here with the timeline. This
19 project schedule has an asterisk at the top, so of
20 course there's a caveat to it. You see at the bottom
21 what that caveat is. This is the best case scenario.
22 This is the -- We can go ahead and we get the

1 information available that's out there and we can go
2 ahead and bring it in and process that data and go
3 ahead and -- again, I mentioned federally funded.

4 So that's -- Federally funded also comes with
5 budget cycles. So making sure that as we address
6 what's coming on and what can be done next, that we
7 adequately express that to Congress and that gets into
8 the budget so we have the money to continue on time, on
9 schedule.

10 The -- The other pathways focus you see on
11 the bottom of this timeline, you see the final risk
12 report that Mike mentioned would be out for a draft in
13 the spring, with final report into the -- into the fall
14 of this calendar year, 2011, and talking on -- looking
15 at some detailed project reports and actions to go
16 ahead with possible implementation coming out of that.

17 The Chicago Area Waterway System, we're
18 looking at a draft recommended plan, at the big star
19 here on the right-hand side, in the fall of 2014. We're
20 not just standing by, though, waiting. I mentioned
21 earlier Mr. Goss mentioned the efforts of the other
22 agencies involved and, as well, our efforts with the

1 electrical barrier and other means of dispersal are
2 ongoing. So we're not just sitting by waiting until
3 this Study informs what to do.

4 There's a lot of effort in how will you know
5 what's going on, and you saw there are arrows on there
6 in a little bit, and I wanted to come to this slide and
7 those about those arrows, talk about interim products
8 and updates. We don't just want to act in a black hole
9 and four years later, three years later, we come back
10 out and say here you are, here's what we found. Want
11 to share information.

12 As we go ahead and get that data and analyze
13 it and those reports mature, we'll go ahead and send
14 those out and release for review and comment and then
15 also, so that you be keep informed of -- of what
16 actions are ongoing and where the Study is headed.

17 Some of those interim products are listed
18 there, which you can see. An inventory of the nuisance
19 species and the transport mechanisms, some of the
20 control technologies being looked at. Talks about
21 navigation surveys and fishery surveys. There's a lot
22 of effort that's been done by other agencies, by their

1 organizations.

2 If it's older data, we want to bring it up
3 and take a look at it for -- with today, if it has a
4 dollar value associated with it, today's value also
5 projecting what is the future value of that. And then,
6 again, mentioning, as well, inter-updates, as far as
7 the pathways reports.

8 And we plan on quarterly, semiannually
9 getting out as much as possible with public meetings to
10 share the information and to go ahead and continue the
11 dialogue and continue the discussion.

12 Critical to this is in meetings such as
13 today. We talk about how can we help, how do things
14 get in, and talking about stakeholder inputs to -- to
15 go ahead and help us scope the Study, make sure we're
16 focused on the right areas and the right things.

17 And we talk -- You see a list of the agencies
18 down below that we're looking to to help provide some
19 inputs and draw on their expertise and their areas of
20 concern. And this just shows other ways to stay in
21 touch. This is the personal, the additional schedule
22 of meetings. You see where we are today, Green Bay on

1 the 25th. This is the fifth location, and we've got
2 another seven locations to go to hold meetings, and
3 this is the current schedule.

4 I say current because after the first meeting
5 it was recommended that we add a couple of cities, and
6 that's how a couple of cities got added to that -- to
7 the rotation.

8 And I'm just going to come to this last slide
9 and then I'm done talking, and then it's going to be
10 your turn to talk and let us hear what you have to
11 stay. This, I guess, in person, it's kind of an old-
12 fashion way to keep in touch, but it seems to be one of
13 the most effective means.

14 We are taking advantage of technology as
15 well, using web pages to go ahead and accept comments.
16 You see this first web page up here is a web page that
17 exists that has GLMRIS information on it, but also
18 exists for you to be able to access and provide your
19 comment.

20 If you don't have one yet today, and Kevin
21 will talk a little bit about the public comment and how
22 getting things into record. So that's critical to go

1 ahead and get your comments into the public record.

2 The -- Some of the information, the materials
3 you were handed out today, you see the little GLMRIS
4 business card. Brand recognition we're trying here.
5 You'll see on the Chicago District website a button
6 that looks like this that will take you to the GLMRIS
7 page. The business card looks the same way. You see
8 the logo at the top of all the banners so that when you
9 see this, you understand it's this Study, it's what
10 we're talking about, this bigger effort in conjunction.

11 And Facebook and Twitter. If you happen to
12 live and die by your smart phone, I'm getting into that
13 realm myself and I love the apps, well, go crazy. And
14 there's just a way to go ahead and keep touch and keep
15 up to minute things.

16 Dave Wethington, I'm glad today that he was
17 not tweeting while we were talking, but normally you'll
18 see him typing away. He's not paying attention, he's
19 sharing information. It's not that he's not paying
20 attention, he's sharing information with the public.

21 And I thank you for your time. I look
22 forward to hearing your comments and entertaining your

1 questions.

2 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Thank you, sir. Well, that
3 concludes Part 1 of this afternoon's meeting, and
4 before we begin Part 2, I want to note that the Study
5 website is a very good source of Study information.
6 Interested persons can subscribed to Study's e-mail
7 list through the project website, and the Corps will
8 use the GLMRIS e-mail list to distribute updates on
9 such things as documents that have been added to the
10 website, opportunities for additional public
11 involvement, and other important news and events.

12 The GLMRIS Project website address can be
13 found on the brochure, the comment form, and on the
14 GLMRIS business card that was just mentioned. And also,
15 the social media networking object is available as well
16 and can be used at any time.

17 Now moving into the oral comment period for
18 the meeting, those of you that have indicated on your
19 registration form that you want to make a brief formal
20 statement or ask a question, will have an opportunity
21 to do so. If a person wants to ask a question in
22 addition to making a comment, we request that you

1 manage your time to allow for the comment, question and
2 panelist response during your allowed time. The Corps
3 will take all efforts to answer any questions that are
4 answerable here today.

5 All forms of comments received during the
6 scope-in period will be weighted equally. So it's
7 important to note that you do not have to get up in
8 front of the crowd to have your comments heard and
9 weighted in the same respect for the document. The
10 website, written comments and oral statements will all
11 be equally proportioned.

12 If this were a little bit larger meeting I'd
13 now go into a set of slides that we'd use to help
14 manage our time. Looking at the number of people in
15 the room, and right now I've got a list with seven
16 names on it of people that have indicated that they'd
17 like to make a presentation, I'd like to ask if we can
18 alter the agenda and stray a little bit from the formal
19 guideline.

20 Our formal guidelines is showing that we're
21 going to allow three minutes for each person that's
22 indicated to make an oral comment. Given the fact that

1 we've got plenty of time, there's no rush to get
2 through today's meeting, I'd like to ask if it's okay
3 or allowable with everybody in the audience that we
4 allow people a reasonable amount of time rather than a
5 specific three minutes. And as long as that's okay
6 with everybody present, we'll go with that.

7 So at this time I'd like to ask if anybody is
8 opposed to altering the timeline and allowing a
9 reasonable amount of time for comments. If you're
10 opposed to that, I'd like to see a raise of hands. If
11 you're not opposed to that and are okay with that
12 proposed change, just keep your hands down, and I just
13 want to make sure that's going to be okay with
14 everybody. Is that all right?

15 Okay. I don't see any hands. I believe that
16 with the amount of people that have registered and the
17 number of people in the room, we've got plenty of time
18 to handle all the oral comments and questions that are
19 going to be presented without running too late or
20 cutting anybody short.

21 Main reason here, obviously, is we want to
22 make sure that we do allow ample and equal opportunity

1 for anybody that wants to ask a question or give a
2 comment to us, that fair time at the microphone.

3 Also, I'd like to mention that we have a
4 stenographer with us this afternoon, she's right in
5 front of me here, and she will be recording your
6 comments and questions that you have. We'd ask that
7 when you come to the microphone to make your comment or
8 question that you start with your name, your
9 organization if you're representing one, and a zip
10 code. Zip code will help us track where all the
11 persons are from that are providing us information. And
12 get close enough to the microphone so that you can be
13 heard, and we ask that you speak slowly.

14 We'll now start with those who have
15 preregistered to speak on the project website and
16 checked in on that yellow registration form when you
17 got here. And for those that are preregistered, we've
18 got two different lines set up. We've got a blue line
19 here right in the very center, and we've got a yellow
20 line off to the side.

21 Again, because we've got a relatively small
22 group here, I'd ask that you probably just use the blue

1 line here. I don't know that we have to use the yellow
2 line. If you'd be more comfortable with the yellow
3 line, feel free to use that.

4 Looking at the list, I've got Paul
5 Schumacher, Lia Montgomery, and Peter Petrouske as the
6 first three that have indicated they'd like to talk.
7 Paul, if you're ready, you can come to the microphone
8 first, and then followed by Lia and then Peter.

9 Take your time. Now with that one, we might
10 want to raise that microphone up. Do we have a helper
11 here? Just loosen the collar around the middle of the
12 stand and lift that up.

13 MR. SCHUMACHER: Thanks.

14 MR. BLUHM: And if you want to start with
15 your name and --

16 MR. SCHUMACHER: Paul Schumacher, and I'm
17 representing the Clark Lake Advancement Association,
18 and 54235 is my zip code. And I really appreciate the
19 opportunity this afternoon to provide input to the
20 Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study,
21 which is evaluating controls necessary to prevent the
22 spread of aquatic invasive species between the Great

1 Lakes and the Mississippi River.

2 Again, I'm Paul Schumacher, Registered
3 Professional Engineer, Entomologist, representing the
4 Clark Lake Advancement Association as their president.

5 Clark Lake is a 900-acre lake located in Door
6 County, Wisconsin, and directly connected to Lake
7 Michigan through the Whitefish Bay Creek. We've been at
8 the mercy of a variety of invasive species from Lake
9 Michigan, including Zebra Mussels, Phragmites, and
10 recently have been identified as a VHS suspect lake due
11 to migration of a Rainbow Trout from Lake Michigan into
12 our inland lake. We also have Roundhead Gobies found
13 in Whitefish Bay Creek literally knocking at our door
14 to get into Clark Lake.

15 My comments are on behalf of that Clark Lake
16 Advancement Association and its watershed, which
17 includes Logan Creek, a Class 1 trout stream and DNR
18 Outstanding Water Resource, and Lost Lake, a connected
19 wild and scenic 100-acre lake.

20 The thrust of my comments today is to urge
21 the federal government through the Corps of Engineers
22 to act swiftly and decisively to prevent the spread of

1 Asian carp and other invasive species found in the
2 Mississippi River from entering Lake Michigan, and
3 conversely, to prevent the spread of aquatic invasives
4 from Lake Michigan into the Mississippi River System.

5 The Asian carp species, including the Silver
6 and Bighead Carp, are moving towards and into Lake
7 Michigan as we speak. Evidence mounts through capture
8 of fish and through the presence of environmental DNA
9 that a limited number of fish have perhaps moved past
10 the electric dispersal barriers on the Des Plaines
11 River and into possible staging areas, such as Lake
12 Calumet, for eventual movement into Lake Michigan.

13 Once in the lake their movement towards Door
14 County is inevitable, and in short time they will move
15 into Clark Lake and other directly connected lakes and
16 streams. Once in these water bodies, these fish will
17 damage the ecosystems, especially plant life, which
18 native fish species depend on.

19 We request a heightened sense of urgency in
20 the actions of the agencies involved in this response.
21 I've reviewed the Study in its entirety, find it very
22 thorough, my compliments, but with a targeted

1 completion date which I believe will not provide the
2 actions necessary to prevent this new invasive species
3 from establishing itself in Lake Michigan.

4 Based on review of the problem in the GLMRIS
5 Study we recommend the following series of actions.
6 First and foremost, continue to focus actions in the
7 direct pathway to Lake Michigan forwarded by the Des
8 Plaines River by taking immediate temporary action to
9 achieve ecological separation of the two systems to
10 prevent the carp from entering Lake Michigan through
11 closure of appropriate locks and other flow control
12 devices. Continue the Study as presently scoped and
13 implement recommended actions as appropriate. At that
14 time, review the need for continued lock closure.
15 Finally, continue to review aquatic pathways for Focus
16 Area 2 and isolate these pathways as soon as possible.

17 To depart from these recommended actions,
18 continue the Study without taking immediate action, we
19 believe will surely enable Asian carp movement into
20 Lake Michigan and conversely, movement of invasives
21 from Lake Michigan into the Mississippi River.

22 Thanks again for this opportunity to provide

1 comments on this important issue. Appreciate your
2 effort.

3 MR. BLUHM: Any comments from the panel?

4 Okay. Very good. Thank you, Paul. Next, Lia
5 Montgomery. Is Lia ready?

6 MS. MONTGOMERY: As long as this isn't blue
7 and orange. Lia Montgomery, 54201, on Lake Michigan.

8 Since Ypsilanti almost a year ago, I've
9 watched in disbelief as you failed to respond to
10 warnings of disaster. You've let barge operators and
11 their lawyers muffle calls for urgency, and politics
12 and profit outweigh the protection of an entire
13 ecosystem.

14 You disregard the facts you don't like so
15 that you continue to study to find the ones you do. You
16 act as if you have the luxury of time. You don't. I
17 wonder what you need to hear from us now in order to
18 finally see this is a crisis.

19 Your timeframe of 2015 is irresponsible. I've
20 watched Congress fail to take the lead, even though the
21 ultimate decision for the canal is vested with them
22 under the constitution. The Great Lakes are on the

1 brink of an ecologic catastrophe, and if the pattern of
2 deterioration is not reversed immediately, the damage
3 could be irreparable.

4 A comprehensive restoration of the system is
5 needed to prevent the Great Lakes from collapsing.
6 Those are the words of 60 members of Congress and a
7 bill introduced in 2006. That bill never even came out
8 of Committee.

9 Over the 20 -- Over 25 bills introduced in
10 the past nine years to address invasive species, only
11 one was brought to the floor. That was late last year
12 stopping the importation of carp. Not the one swimming
13 towards our lakes.

14 Colonel Berczek, you've been quoted as saying
15 your job is challenging because fish experts still
16 don't know enough about Asian carp. Eight years ago
17 Mayor Daley's own summit of scientists recommended
18 physically separating the basin.

19 Nine years ago Jerry Rasmussen, the U.S. Fish
20 and Wildlife carp expert with 25 years of experience on
21 the rivers and the Mississippi River Basin, published a
22 26 comprehensive page study of Bighead and Silver Carp

1 and warned time was of the essence if we were to keep
2 Asian carp out of Lake Michigan, yet last February Jo-
3 Ellen Darcy still couldn't say the electric barrier was
4 a hundred percent effective, but boasted that we hadn't
5 found carp above the barrier. Four months later we
6 found carp above the barrier, and Chicagoans began
7 trading carp recipes.

8 In 2004 President Bush declared the Great
9 Lakes a national treasure. He was recognizing the 200
10 years it takes for one drop of water to go from Lake
11 Superior to the Atlantic Ocean. The 10,000 years it
12 took to create the world's largest body of fresh water.
13 The fact that they could cover the 48 states in nine
14 feet of water, yet only one percent is replaced each
15 year.

16 We must be guided by a higher calling when it
17 comes to these waters. Short-sided self-interest of
18 commerce or consumption should never trump the treasure
19 that are these lakes. If George Bush had declared the
20 Great Lakes a national park instead of a national
21 treasure, we wouldn't be here right now debating what
22 to do with Asian carp.

1 Here in Wisconsin we honor the legacy of the
2 college's Aldo Leopold who inspired us to see our
3 natural world as a community to which we belong, not as
4 a commodity that belongs to us. "For unnumbered
5 centuries of human history," he wrote, "the wilderness
6 has given way. The priority of industry has become
7 dogma. Are we as yet sufficiently enlightened to
8 realize that we must now challenge that dogma or do
9 without our wilderness?" That was 1925.

10 We know these lakes intimately in Wisconsin,
11 and we remind you of our inherent stewardship of this
12 perfect gift of life on this North American continent.
13 How will we be judged if blind ambition towards
14 material gain is our only leader.

15 The Corps with all its expertise, and
16 Congress with all its power, will never be able to
17 restore a dead lake or raise the water levels if, in
18 our selfish need for more, we drain our treasure away.
19 We've been warned over and over, and our children will
20 shame us for having turned our backs.

21 As long as these lakes are still living and
22 breathing, I will continue to hope that someone will

1 finally lead. That it's not too late, that there is
2 still time, and I will continue to speak for those that
3 can't; the Mergansers and Golden Eyes I see every day,
4 the sturgeon and salmon that only ask to live as a
5 community.

6 Let me end by quoting on a docket sheet, Oren
7 Lyons, in an address to the NGOs of the United Nations
8 in 1977. "I do not see a delegation for the four-
9 footed. I see no seed for the eagles. We forget and
10 we consider ourselves superior, but we, after all, a
11 mere part -- are a mere part of the creation, and we
12 must consider to understand where we are. And we stand
13 somewhere between the mountain and the ant, somewhere,
14 and only there, as part and parcel of the creation.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Any follow-up from
17 the panel? Very good. Thank you. Next, Peter
18 Petrouske, followed by George Guyant, and then Mary
19 Kinnunen will follow next.

20 MR. PETROUSKE: Thank you. You had it right
21 the first time.

22 MR. BLUHM: Did I have it right the first

1 time? I'm sorry. Can we raise the microphone up there
2 a little bit?

3 MR. PETROUSKE: I got a long note.

4 MR. BLUHM: That's okay. Can I start with
5 your name and zip code?

6 MR. PETROUSKE: Peter Petrouske, representing
7 Brown County Conservation Alliance, the De Pere
8 Sportsman's Club, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and
9 Great Bay Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen. I don't
10 know how to say no.

11 MR. BLUHM: That's fine. How about your zip
12 code?

13 MR. PETROUSKE: Oh. 54313 for the zip code.

14 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

15 MR. PETROUSKE: May I ask, please, don't
16 allow any crossing from the Mississippi River Basin to
17 the Lake Michigan Basin starting now because once it
18 gets started in there, it's too late. We seen that
19 with the -- with the Lamprey Eels and the little clams.
20 I mean, just -- Please, do it for the right reason. Do
21 your Study, but while you're doing the Study don't let
22 them -- let them in because once they're in there it's

1 -- it's too late.

2 And whoever violates this should be held
3 responsible for the cost to repair the tragedy. Make -
4 - If somebody opens the gate up or says no, a judge
5 says no, he's responsible for what happens then.
6 Otherwise, what can you do. Okay.

7 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Any
8 comments from the panel? Okay. Very good. Next.
9 Fourth person, George, and then Mary, followed by Denny
10 Caneff. Okay. When you're ready, go ahead.

11 MR. GUYANT: Okay. My name is George Guyant,
12 54407. I am representing the -- appearing here today
13 on behalf of the Wisconsin Division of the Izaak Walton
14 League of America. I'm also a member of the Great
15 Lakes Committee of the Izaak Walton League of America,
16 and I appreciate this opportunity.

17 The Wisconsin Division of the Izaak Walton
18 League of American at our annual meeting on April 10th
19 of 2010 passed a resolution urging the re-establishment
20 of the hydrologic separation of the Mississippi River
21 and the Great Lakes Basins.

22 At our July 2010 national convention in

1 Hershey, Pennsylvania, a similar resolution was passed.
2 These resolutions were not just intended to prevent the
3 spread of the Asian carp species into the Great Lakes,
4 but to halt the spread of all aquatic invasive species
5 from one basin to the other.

6 Asian carp are certainly the most visible and
7 publicly talked about aquatic invasive species
8 threatening the Great Lakes, but they are just one of
9 many. At last count, the Great Lakes have been
10 affected with over 180 aquatic invasive species, with a
11 new species being discovered at the rate of one every
12 eight months.

13 The Chicago Waterway is an open pathway to
14 spread AIS between these basins in both directions. Not
15 only can the Asian carp use this waterway to get into
16 the Great Lakes, but the same waterway can, and already
17 has, carried AIS into the Mississippi Basin.

18 The only sure way to stop this exchange is to
19 re-establish the hydrologic separation. The electric
20 barriers, when powered, may stop the spread of carp,
21 but I doubt these barriers can stop the spread of many
22 of the 180 plus species.

1 As we speak, the clock is ticking. The
2 current timeline by the Corps of Engineers of 2015 for
3 completion of the Study is unacceptable. The Corps
4 needs to condense the timeline for its Study and
5 produce final results for the Chicago portion of the
6 feasibility study within 18 months.

7 This timeline can be condensed by
8 incorporating results from the existing studies rather
9 than repeating work that has already been done on risk
10 assessment, wastewater and transportation, and economic
11 analysis by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the
12 Great Lakes Commission, and Great Lakes St. Lawrence
13 Cities Initiative.

14 We understand the stakes are high. The spread
15 of Asian carp in the Great Lakes runs a \$7 billion
16 fishing industry. We also realize that re-establishing
17 this natural barrier would come with economic
18 consequences to private industry and local governments.
19 As industry and local governments adjust to this
20 change, verifiable long or short-term laws should be
21 mitigated. The cost of waiting until it is too late
22 will come at a much higher cost.

1 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Any comments from the
2 panel? Okay. Very good. Thank you. All right. Next,
3 Mary, and followed by Denny, and then the last person
4 registered today is Tom O'Day. So that's the next
5 three.

6 MS. KINNUNEN: Hi. It's -- It's Kinnunen.

7 MR. BLUHM: Kinnunen, okay.

8 MS. KINNUNEN: I'm used to having it
9 mispronounced.

10 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Thank you.

11 MS. KINNUNEN: As my father used to say, it's
12 eight letters, and half of them are N's. I sail on the
13 bay of Green Bay --

14 MR. BLUHM: Can I get your zip code quick?

15 MS. KINNUNEN: Oh. 54501.

16 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

17 MS. KINNUNEN: -- and just want to say on
18 behalf of, I think, many, many recreational boaters, if
19 the Chicago Canal was closed, we'd be happy to have our
20 boats transferred over a little bit of land. We'd be
21 happy to do that. Any questions? All right. Thank
22 you for all your work. Do it good and do it fast.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Anything
3 from the panel? Okay. Very good. Thank you. Okay.
4 Next, our sixth person, Denny, and then last person
5 that has signed up for today is Tom O'Day.

6 MR. CANEFF: You got it. Thank you. Denny
7 Caneff, Executive Director, River Alliance of
8 Wisconsin, Madison, 53703. Thanks for coming our way
9 to hear our thoughts here in Wisconsin today.

10 I have formal comments I want to submit
11 online and I'm going to change since I've been here
12 given some of the information you conveyed today, but I
13 want to deliver a couple of points quickly.

14 You might ask why would a river organization
15 care about invasive species going from the Great Lakes
16 through the Mississippi Basin, or Asian carp getting
17 from the Illinois River to Lake Michigan when they have
18 an easy walk, or swim I guess, up the Wisconsin River
19 where they've been knocking on the door for a few
20 years.

21 Well, I -- I think people in Lake Michigan
22 and the rest of the Great Lakes Basin don't want any

1 more invasives. They suffered them for decades, and I
2 think it's worth the effort and the expense the
3 country's putting into this to -- to figure it out.

4 It's a sad history of invasives. We have a
5 poor record in this country. It would be nice to
6 change the history for once.

7 My organization is one of, well, several
8 around the Great Lakes Basin that were beneficiaries of
9 the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative money passed by
10 Congress the last couple of years to restore the Great
11 Lakes.

12 Our project has to do with passing sturgeon,
13 lake sturgeon, around hydro dams on the Menominee
14 River. We're happy to have that money, we want to do
15 well by the taxpayers of the country and -- and restore
16 that fish to the river and the Great Lakes, and it
17 would be sad to have that project and other restoration
18 projects set back by yet another invasive that gets
19 into the lakes.

20 Two suggestions about your -- about the
21 Study. I have others, but I want to zero in on these
22 two. The first is about the timing. You've -- I'm sure

1 you're going to hear all the way to Cincinnati about
2 how can this take to 2015. You have your reasons why.

3 It seems sensible to me to front load your
4 Study with the Asian carp and the Chicago Canals in the
5 first 18 months or two years, and take the rest of the
6 time you need to take for the more exhaustive Study
7 you're proposing. I just don't see how that can't be
8 pulled off.

9 Obviously, it's the biggest concern, that
10 species. The linchpin of the canals is obvious and
11 clear. You've stated it today. It -- It seems
12 possible to have the agency put its effort front and
13 center on that place, on that species, and give people
14 in this area the answers they're looking for.

15 Second, I don't know if this is part of your
16 Study. I hope it could be if it isn't. The, what can I
17 say? The excuse for not messing with the Chicago Canal
18 System is the commercial -- the impact it will have on
19 commerce in Chicago.

20 It would be nice, for the sake of prospective
21 and context, if the Study you were going to do about
22 Asian carp could look at the cost of mitigation,

1 prevention and damage control of -- pick any species
2 you want that has made a mess of the Great Lakes;
3 Quagga Mussel, Zebra Mussel, Goby, Lamprey.

4 I would think that there could be some cost
5 estimates put together by the Corps as part of the
6 Study to give all of us the sense of how expensive it
7 has been to mop up these species after they have gotten
8 here so we have -- we can compare that to what it might
9 cost Chicago to have the Canal System changed.

10 And finally, I know you have attempted to
11 redefine the word prevent, or I should say euphemize
12 it. I hope you really take seriously the word prevent
13 when it comes to keeping Asian carp and other exotics
14 out of the Great Lakes and vice versa. Thank you.

15 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Anything
16 from the panel? Okay. Very good. Last person that we
17 have signed up to speak today is Tom O'Day. Oh, I'm
18 sorry. Go ahead.

19 MR. WETHINGTON: I'm sorry to interrupt. I
20 just wanted to make sure this guy's on. Yeah.

21 Spend a couple minutes, maybe I'll say a
22 couple words and then Colonel Berczek can talk about

1 some of the efforts. I wanted to address just a couple
2 of the issues that the previous gentleman, Denny, I
3 believe it is, had in regard to the Study.

4 Yes, part of what we will be doing as part of
5 the larger Study is looking at those economic,
6 environmental and social impacts. You stated that
7 commercial navigation is what we use as the largest
8 kind of factor --

9 MR. BLUHM: Excuse me, Dave. I think your
10 microphone's off. You want to try the other one? Grab
11 the other one on the table.

12 MR. WETHINGTON: Sorry about that. It said
13 it was on. Anyway, what I kind of wanted to cover very
14 briefly, and I tried to kind of touch on during my
15 couple minutes I spoke earlier, is that really,
16 commercial navigation is one of the issues. There are
17 many issues, in terms of waterway users, and really,
18 that's kind of the breadth of what we're looking at
19 with the Interbasin Study in Focus Area 1 and the
20 Chicago Area Waterway System.

21 There are a multitude of uses, including some
22 recreation, including waterway water supply, water

1 discharge, flood risk management. There are a
2 multitude of different uses that have some type of
3 impact on the entire Chicagoland area. It's not just
4 the -- not just the navigation.

5 Part of what we'll be doing is collecting
6 information on the value of the fisheries; the value of
7 the fisheries in the Great Lakes, the value of the
8 fisheries in the Mississippi River Basin, looking at
9 that compared to -- and, you know, evaluating
10 commercial navigation, looking at the value of water
11 supply and water discharge.

12 So through our Study, that's what we plan to
13 do, is compile all that information so we can make some
14 sort of a rational, reasonable and have a basis for
15 making recommendation to Congress for some type of
16 implementation.

17 Again, I do want to call to the fact that our
18 Study authority is just that. We have an authority to
19 study these issues. We don't have an authority at this
20 point in time to make any changes. We don't have the
21 authority to construct anything.

22 So what we must do is we must put together a

1 study, must put together a report that will be given to
2 Congress, and it's basically up to your Congress
3 people, your senators, representatives, to legislate
4 and provide us with the authority to do something based
5 on that report.

6 I want to turn the microphone over to Colonel
7 Berczek and have him talk a little bit about some of
8 the current actions we do have. The gentleman who just
9 spoke, I don't want to kind of give the opinion or the
10 -- that we're not doing anything. So Colonel, if you
11 want to talk about some of the Asian carp efforts that
12 are currently going on.

13 MR. BERCEK: Thanks, Dave. Denny, thank you
14 for your comments and the -- I know -- yes, you're
15 right. We do hear a lot about the timeline, but again,
16 as Dave mentioned, I mentioned earlier as well, it's
17 not that -- that nothing is ongoing at this point. The
18 -- The timeline has some requirements in there with
19 review and other type of timing in them associated with
20 legislation. There are actions that, in conducting an
21 environmental impact statement, that we are required by
22 law to do.

1 We are working with members of Congress, with
2 Mr. Goss's office, with the Council on Environmental
3 Quality, on looking at how we might be able to combine
4 some efforts and look at some of these things to go
5 ahead and streamline some of the efforts.

6 Some of the process has involved -- Some of
7 the technical reviews that we're required to do as part
8 of our analysis are lengthy and, again, that's why I
9 mentioned that the timeline associated with this is
10 looking at that best case effort. That if we have
11 external agencies doing a technical review, that they
12 deliver it on time, that they, you know, go ahead and
13 follow through with that timeline and then we, as well,
14 can respond to those comments and act and incorporate
15 those. So there are a number of things that have to be
16 looked at and involved with this.

17 The one of the challenges, you mentioned the
18 number of invasive -- of species that are in the Great
19 Lakes, that are cataloged in the Great Lakes, and the
20 frequency with which new species occur and show up on
21 the register.

22 How do you deal with each one of those. I

1 mentioned the problem about cockroaches and changing
2 the pesticide. You don't treat -- If you're -- If you
3 lived in my neighborhood in Alabama and you treated
4 your yard for fire ants, you better not be the only one
5 on your block to do it because your neighbors are going
6 to hate you.

7 So it's how do we look at the technologies,
8 how do we look at doing this and accomplishing this.
9 You know, what's going to get that -- that prevent,
10 what is going to get that solution that we're after.
11 And what's going get that solution that we're after,
12 you mentioned -- you didn't mention that, Paul
13 mentioned that with Clark Lake, talking about being VHS
14 suspect.

15 Okay. That is one of the -- That's one of
16 the organisms that we also must consider as part of
17 this Study. So it's not just the fish and it's -- it's
18 the algae, it's the plants, it's everything. So it is
19 rather comprehensive. I don't think anything's been
20 done yet to this level. There might -- There have been
21 some other studies looking at individual organisms,
22 looking at individual actions. And you're right. The

1 cost of control afterwards is -- is greater than --
2 than before.

3 And I think right now we are ahead of the
4 game as far as with the Asian carp getting into the
5 point where they're establishing a population and --
6 and can go ahead and survive in that manner and
7 reproduce.

8 That being said, the electric barrier is not
9 the answer to all species. It is not selective for
10 fish. It's nonselective. It's nonspecific. It's
11 electricity in the water. Come in with a certain body
12 surface area. Come into the electrical field. Fish --
13 When we've tested in the lab to look at all sorts of
14 conductivity water of the levels, the velocities and
15 the temperatures, the settings are right right now. And
16 it's not just voltage. It's frequency. It's the
17 duration of the pulse.

18 The frequency and the settings right now, the
19 barrier are effective to fish about three, three-and-a-
20 half inches in size. All fish. The -- It -- It -- You
21 know, so, of course, if they're stunned, then they
22 float back downstream. So what does that do from the --

1 from the Great Lakes down. It's not the answer to
2 everything. So we do have to look beyond that, but
3 studies that we've done to look at improving the
4 efficiency of the barrier have resulted in the -- the
5 fence that we put in, that Mr. Goss mentioned earlier,
6 to separate the Des Plaines from the Chicago Sanitary
7 and Ship Canal during periods of flooding. Also, re-
8 establishing a natural break in the flow line in the
9 old Illinois/Michigan Canal.

10 So we are taking actions as they become
11 available and as there is an authority to act. In that
12 case there, we had a specific authority granted by
13 Congress under Section 126 of the National Defense
14 Authorization Act that allowed us, told us to look at
15 measures that could improve the efficiency of the
16 barrier and implement them. So we had that
17 implementation authority to go ahead and do those
18 actions.

19 So we are following the step as mandated by
20 law and we are taking the actions necessary and, I
21 believe, prudent to go ahead and address that immediate
22 risk, but then also look at that bigger picture and how

1 we address what's been directed by us -- by Congress
2 for us to do under the Study.

3 But I thank you, sir, for your comments, and
4 everyone, as well, for your concerns. And we are
5 moving as aggressively as we can through this Study.

6 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Anything else from the
7 panel?

8 MR. BERCEK: I've said enough.

9 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Very good. We'll resume
10 then. Tom, if you want to take your place at the
11 microphone.

12 MR. O'DAY: First of all, I've got to
13 apologize. I'm not very well prepared for a speech
14 here. I was eating a sandwich in Waupaca County and I
15 saw your meeting was mentioned on the noon news, so I
16 drove down.

17 MR. GOSS: Thanks for coming.

18 MR. O'DAY: I've got a bait shop on the Wolf
19 River.

20 MR. BLUHM: Can I get your zip code?

21 MR. O'DAY: Oh, yeah. 54407.

22 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Full name, please, also?

1 MR. O'DAY: Thomas O'Day.

2 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you.

3 MR. O'DAY: I've got a small bait shop on the
4 Wolf River at Gills Landing, Wisconsin. I'm open
5 seasonally for the walleye and white bass run, which is
6 approximately 10 weeks in the spring. During that time
7 I usually sell upwards of a thousand pounds of minnows,
8 okay.

9 A few years back the Department of Natural
10 Resources imposed bait harvesting restrictions to
11 prevent the spread of VHS, okay. So I wasn't allowed to
12 harvest minnows anymore.

13 Consequently, I'm buying from wholesalers,
14 large wholesalers, who used to collect bait in
15 Wisconsin, but with the removal of our Wisconsin waters
16 from bait harvesting we now import fish for bait from
17 Arkansas. And this is the original source for Asian
18 carp, isn't it? Yeah.

19 We can test for VHS, but when a tanker truck
20 comes up with 40,000 pounds of fish in it, there's
21 absolutely no way that as a bait salesman I can
22 guarantee that we don't have representatives of those

1 species in our bait. I look, I've looked online and -
2 - and, you know, I wanted to know what immature Asian
3 carp, Grass carp, big carp, whatever, what they look
4 like. Immature Grass carp, for instance, are almost
5 identical to a Golden shire, which is a real common
6 bait fish around here.

7 So we're stuck between trying to control
8 viral hemorrhage septicemia and -- and carp species. I
9 think we ought to roll back the restrictions on our
10 state-wide bait harvesting. There's going to be a risk
11 of spreading VHS, but I think that risk is outweighed
12 by relying on our own native species rather than
13 importing bait.

14 Now, I use a thousand pounds of bait a year.
15 I'm only open 10 weeks. There's multiple bait shops on
16 the Wolf River, not to mention the Fox River where
17 these fish run up and down the Winnebago system and all
18 over Wisconsin.

19 Now, the commercial harvest of bait in Lake
20 Winnebago before it was closed was, and don't quote me,
21 this is what I've heard from wholesalers, was 40 to
22 60,000 pounds. Now, without that bait available to

1 fishermen, we're going to be bringing that in as an
2 import, and that's a real bad idea. And if we don't
3 correct this, I don't want to be the vector for
4 bringing these fish in here, okay. So I think we have
5 to look long and hard, and it's a difficult choice, but
6 I think if you look at -- the effects that VHS has had
7 in Great Lake states has been -- I haven't been able to
8 find where it's eliminated a species, completely
9 eradicated a body of water from fish. And also when VHS
10 moves through a water body it doesn't reoccur, which
11 indicates that the fish are able to develop antibodies
12 for that virus, the surviving fish.

13 So I just wanted to get this off my chest,
14 and sorry I'm not better prepared, but that's what I --
15 I just want to give you my two cents worth. You got
16 any questions? Okay.

17 MR. BLUHM: Anything from the panel? Very
18 good. Thank you. That concludes the people that have
19 preregistered for asking any -- or presenting any
20 comments or questions for the panel.

21 I'd like to at this point in time ask if
22 anybody else has since then decided that you would like

1 to take an opportunity to come to the microphone now
2 and make a comment for us. Anybody that would like to,
3 either signify by raising your hand or make a movement
4 to the microphone. Now would be the right time.

5 Okay. I'm not seeing any movement. Then I'd
6 like to ask if anybody that has already come to the
7 microphone, one of the seven, if there's anything else
8 you would like to add to your comments or statement
9 that you made earlier, now would be the time to come
10 back to the microphone. Yes.

11 MS. KINNUNEN: I just have a question and --
12 This is great that all the units of government are
13 working together. What --

14 MR. BLUHM: I'm sorry. Can I get your name
15 again?

16 MS. KINNUNEN: Mary Kinnunen. Where is
17 Canada? Is Canada working with us on this?

18 MR. GOSS: The answer is yes. First of all,
19 Ontario did a risk assessment in 2004 for Asian carp,
20 and that information is being used right now to do an
21 update. And it's a joint effort, bi-national effort,
22 with the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission coordinating

1 this effort with Ontario and also with each of the
2 states on -- around the Great Lakes. So we're going to
3 have a new evaluation that includes all of Canada by
4 the end of this year.

5 MS. KINNUNEN: Okay. Are you working at all
6 with the International Joint Commission?

7 MR. GOSS: Go ahead, you guys.

8 MR. WETHINGTON: Yes. The International
9 Joint Commission is one of the partner agencies that we
10 have asked to work cooperatively with us on the Great
11 Lakes/Mississippi River Basin Study. They will be --
12 They have been asked to be a member of that Executive
13 Steering Committee. And so we do intend to work with
14 the IJC to involve our Canadian stakeholders.

15 MS. KINNUNEN: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Okay. Anyone else
17 that had made a comment earlier that would like to come
18 to the microphone? Yes. Go ahead.

19 MR. GUYANT: George Guyant. Just a question.
20 You were talking about these fences in Indiana and
21 Illinois that have been placed to stop the spread in
22 case of flooding.

1 Whenever I've seen a fence, even a three-
2 strand barbwire fence in a flood, it collects a lot of
3 debris. And I'm looking at these chain link fences and
4 I'm seeing a hell of a long dam that can be formed just
5 by the debris that's going to be flowing through these.
6 How effective and how strong are these fences?

7 MR. BERCEK: Let me -- You're right, sir,
8 and that was part of the evaluation whenever we had to
9 look at the size of the mesh. The one that Mike was
10 talking about that was installed in the Eagle Marsh, I
11 think you saw a picture of that, and that was pretty
12 much like a standard chain link fence because I believe
13 the threat there is more looking at for an adult Asian
14 carp.

15 Not knowing exactly what to expect in the Des
16 Plaines River, but knowing that we have Asian carp
17 present in that river, we were more concerned as well
18 with juveniles and getting across between the Des
19 Plaines River and the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal, and
20 we installed a fence that has about a quarter-inch mesh
21 opening in it.

22 And you're right there, the concern as well.

1 We had to do a lot of modeling and -- hydrologic
2 modeling. There are areas that have different types of
3 construction, some with like a -- forgot the term. Like
4 a floodwall type of thing, a Jersey barrier, and then
5 the other with the mesh to allow the maximum water flow
6 through so that we wouldn't induce additional flooding,
7 but it is now, as a result of that, we do have constant
8 maintenance to go along and make sure that there are no
9 breaks, no washouts, and clear debris. So it's a
10 constant maintenance issue with that as well, but we
11 had to do a lot of study to make sure that we didn't
12 back up additional water because of that and try to
13 take that into consideration.

14 MR. GUYANT: As we learned in Katrina, one
15 breach can cause a hell of a lot of problems.

16 MR. BERCEK: Yes, sir.

17 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

18 MR. SAFFRAN: The fence that the Indiana DNR
19 has built, they do have a very active ongoing
20 maintenance plan. Anytime that there's any water that
21 flows across they've got to do an inspection and do
22 maintenance. And it is designed to be more than just a

1 standard chain link fence. It's -- It's not -- I won't
2 go into the details because I don't know them that
3 well, but I do know the State of Indiana had a design
4 team who looked at it very closely and they -- it is a
5 very substantial fence, but it is a fence and it is, as
6 designed, to prevent adult Asian carp which, again, the
7 biologists that worked on it thought those were the
8 only -- that juveniles would not have the ability to --
9 to make the trek, the 20-mile trek it would take to get
10 up to the location where the divide is.

11 And most of the time there's not -- there's
12 very -- a water column about that deep in the stream.
13 So most times there's not water flow in that stream, or
14 it's very, very small. So anyway, it's not just a
15 chain link fence.

16 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Great. Thank you. All
17 right. I saw some movement right here. Go ahead.

18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Paul Schumacher, 54235. I
19 have here a Great Lakes Commission press release of
20 January 11th regarding their initiative to accelerate
21 this Study. "Completing the project by the end of
22 2011, presenting options for separation in 2012," just

1 to quote Tim Eder, the Director of Great Lakes
2 Commission.

3 Sounds like you guys are -- are coordinating
4 efforts, and if this is supported by a variety of
5 elected officials in Illinois, which is certainly a
6 good sign given the political overtones here, but, you
7 know, if -- if this effort is going to accelerate the
8 Study, or at least key aspects of it, can we get the
9 Study that we've been talking about today to -- to
10 similarly accelerate with results by calendar year
11 2011? If the Commission is doing it, let's -- let's
12 work together with them.

13 MR. WETHINGTON: We are working together with
14 the Great Lakes Commission. What the Great Lakes
15 Commission Study is doing is looking at a specific
16 alternative hydrologic separation and looking at the
17 potential, you know, impact -- not the potential, but
18 how to construct -- essentially, what's the best way to
19 construct hydrologic separation. You know, it's a very
20 detailed, focused type of study.

21 We can use the information that is created as
22 part of the Study, but the Corps of Engineers, being a

1 steward to the taxpayer dollars, has to remain
2 unbiased. We have to look at the variety of interests
3 that are, you know, the American taxpayer and folks who
4 are interested in the project. And basically, we must
5 evaluate all the potential impacts, all the
6 environmental, the economic, the social impacts
7 affecting waterway users.

8 So we can't predetermine an outcome at the
9 beginning of our Study. By saying, you know, the
10 Corp's only going to focus on hydrologic separation,
11 that would essentially be circumventing the purpose of
12 the Study. When I went over that slide that had the
13 steps of the Study and the Corps planning process, it
14 would -- it would circumvent that and basically lead us
15 down a specific path that may lead us to a solution or
16 a recommendation which may be different than hydrologic
17 separation, but would still fall within the
18 recommendation of Congress to prevent the spread of
19 aquatic nuisance species between the basins.

20 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Anything else from
22 the panel? Okay. I have a note here. I've got a

1 question -- Is Steve Urbaniak here? Steve, if you want
2 to come up to the microphone, feel free to ask your
3 question.

4 MR. URBANIAK: Sorry I missed the
5 presentation, but I had a question on the -- I'm from
6 up north, Marinette area, and the -- our shoreline is
7 constantly increasing because of the water table.

8 MR. BLUHM: Steve, before you go any further,
9 could I get your zip code, please?

10 MR. URBANIAK: 54143.

11 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

12 MR. URBANIAK: Sorry. And I was wondering
13 what -- if there's anything that will be happening
14 about the water table to be coming back to the normal
15 levels it used to be years ago, or is this going to a
16 permanent situation from waters being retained in the
17 Upper Basin area or -- you know.

18 MR. BLUHM: Can I ask then, so you're saying
19 that the water table right now is higher than it used
20 to be?

21 MR. URBANIAK: Lower. Lot lower. We got
22 swamp grass growing up in spots that never grew before.

1 Places where you used to go and you could put a boat
2 off you can't anymore. It's just --

3 MR. BLUHM: Can you give a time reference?
4 When you say before, how many years back are you going?

5 MR. URBANIAK: Six -- Five, six years ago. Me
6 and my brother used to be able to go out to this one --
7 it was called Peshtigo Point in the Peshtigo Wildlife
8 Area, we could go out there and walk 10 feet from the
9 car and you'd be right there at the beach and in the
10 water, and now it's almost a hundred feet. You walk
11 the 10 feet, then the rest is all that swamp rice, or
12 whatever they call it.

13 I was just wondering, you know, what -- what
14 -- I know it sounds stupid, but, you know, what's --
15 how is the water table working on that?

16 MR. BERCEK: Sir, I would say that -- I
17 mean, that question right now, I mean, that's beyond
18 the scope of this Study.

19 MR. URBANIAK: Okay. I just --

20 MR. BERCEK: That's not necessarily
21 something that this study is designed to look at. I --
22 I don't even -- I don't know if that's even --

1 MR. URBANIAK: Okay. Well, with the drop in
2 water level, that also affects the way the fish and
3 everything else react with the natural environment,
4 too. You know, the water becoming shallower, which --
5 and you have bigger areas of shallower water, which
6 allows more, like I said, plant life to grow, which
7 brings in more wildlife. It totally affects the whole
8 balance of the system.

9 MR. BLUHM: Right.

10 MR. SAFFRAN: Where is the location you're
11 referring to?

12 MR. URBANIAK: Marinette County.

13 MR. SAFFRAN: Okay.

14 MR. URBANIAK: About 60 miles north of here.

15 MS. MONTGOMERY: Lake Superior.

16 MR. URBANIAK: Lake Michigan. We're right up
17 on the very boundary of the UP and Wisconsin.

18 MR. SAFFRAN: Okay. I don't have any --

19 MR. BERCEK: Sorry, sir. I can't answer
20 your question.

21 MR. URBANIAK: Okay. The dumbest question is
22 the one never asked.

1 MR. BERCEK: It's not a dumb question.

2 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Okay.

3 Anybody else like to ask a question, make an additional
4 comment or statement, now would be the time. Yeah, go
5 ahead.

6 MS. MONTGOMERY: I have to, I'm sorry. Lia
7 Montgomery. I guess I just don't understand why we
8 can't take this incredible body of information that
9 we've had for 10, 15 years, and pick hydrologic
10 separation and go there.

11 You act like you have the luxury of time, and
12 we don't. I mean, you even said we have to pick an end
13 time. I mean, you could study for another 20 years to
14 find what would work for, you know, 20 years down the
15 road or whatever. I mean, we have -- this is a crisis.
16 And we have to decide one thing that -- that a lot of
17 people, a lot of scientists, a lot of biologists, for
18 years and years and years have been studying have told
19 you would work, and yet you don't want to just commit
20 to that. I just don't understand.

21 I don't understand where the body of -- of
22 research and expertise and recommendations, all of it

1 leads to one place. All of it leads to physical
2 separation, ecological separation, hydraulic
3 separation, and yet you stand here and you just seem
4 like you -- we have all the time in the world, and we
5 don't.

6 So again, I think -- It's just frustrating
7 for us to watch day after day after day and knowing
8 that these fish are swimming every minute of the day,
9 every minute of the hour, and yet we're trying to
10 decide of all the recommendations and studying into the
11 future five years, 10 years. You have to pick a time.
12 Why not 2011. Why not six months from now. Let's take
13 whatever -- Let's act like this is a crisis.

14 That's -- That's the only thing I'm saying,
15 and that's what is frustrating for us here as we watch
16 and watch. So, please just realize this -- this is an
17 emergency, and -- and if we wait too long, there is no
18 going back. Thank you.

19 MR. BLUHM: Thank you for your comment.

20 MR. BERCEK: Lia, thank you for that. I want
21 to again stress that -- may not reassure you or
22 anything else, and I just want to stress that we are

1 proceeding with this Study with some urgency, with some
2 aggressiveness, but don't overlook the fact that we
3 already have the dispersal barrier in place and there
4 are other efforts, and we did have -- you mentioned an
5 emergency. It was actually called an emergency
6 authority that the Secretary of the Army, Miss Darcy
7 had, to go ahead and implement solutions that were
8 looked at that would make the barrier more effective,
9 or would not lessen its effectiveness, and that's when
10 we addressed the bypasses.

11 And out of that there, too, you can see the
12 studies that have come out of that and the reports on
13 our website to mention other technologies, other
14 barriers that could be used in other places to herd
15 fish off and use eradication measures and to address
16 some of those other pathways along the Little Calumet
17 and Grand Calumet Rivers.

18 So there have been studies done and
19 additional implementation done that we did have
20 emergency authority from Congress, the Secretary did,
21 to implement.

22 That being said, the Study -- the language of

1 this authority does not say that to implement -- to
2 implement solutions. It does tell us to direct a
3 feasibility study to analyze the options and
4 technologies available to spread the aquatic -- spread
5 of aquatic nuisance species. So we are doing exactly
6 that, what's been directed to do. We are proceeding as
7 quickly as possible in conducting the Study.

8 It is somewhat -- You can see a little bit of
9 a -- a sense of urgency as well. If you are more
10 familiar with the Corps Study process and the planning
11 process, the first stage in coming up with an
12 implementation or authority is the reconnaissance phase
13 of a study. Well, we're beyond that. We're at the
14 next step, the feasibility. Congress told us to do a
15 feasibility study. Rather than going and finding a
16 local cost-share sponsor to do the Study with us, it's
17 100 percent federally funded. So there Congress
18 directed us Corps, do the Study, here's the money. So
19 we are doing that. I think that has sped up the
20 process a bit.

21 There again, there are other laws and
22 legislation in place that dictate how the Study is

1 conducted. As I mentioned earlier, we are working with
2 our planners and with the Assistant Secretary of the
3 Army and with Congress on how we might be able to
4 implement some streamlined techniques through that
5 without shortchanging any analysis, without not, you
6 know, not doing the due diligence that we have to look
7 at at each of these areas, and give Congress a solid
8 recommendation that they can tell us to go do.

9 So it is -- I think we are moving rapidly,
10 and this is not the only -- the only game in town
11 either. Mr. Goss mentioned about the Asian Carp
12 Regional Coordinating Committee and their strategic
13 framework. Dozens of actions are still ongoing. With
14 us, the Corps of Engineers, with monitoring and
15 telemetry efforts, with working with the Illinois
16 Department of Natural Resources on going ahead and
17 trying to find the fish and taking eradication measures
18 when necessary.

19 So I think there's still a lot going on. We
20 recognize the urgency there, so -- but I don't want you
21 to think that we're not -- we're not looking at the
22 fish at the doorway. We are focusing on that, but we

1 are also doing exactly what we're supposed to be doing
2 with this Study.

3 MR. BLUHM: Thank you, sir. Anybody else
4 from the panel with anything? Okay. It's about 4
5 o'clock now. We've been at this for about an hour and
6 45 minutes. You'll remember the first portion of our
7 meeting was about an hour in length. We talked a
8 little bit about why we're here and what the purpose of
9 our studies are, and now for the last 45 minutes we've
10 had a very great discussion from all of you about your
11 comments, questions and concerns that you have
12 regarding the work as we go forward, and we've got a
13 lot of work to do, it's very, very clear.

14 And I want to thank you all for your
15 comments, statements that you have and the questions,
16 the challenges that you've provided for us. Let me
17 remind you that if you have any prepared statements or
18 documents, be sure to turn those in with myself here or
19 at the registration table as you exit. And then also,
20 if you want to mail in anything, you can use our
21 website or you can physically mail it in. Just make
22 sure anything that you want to do is postmarked or

1 (Second Public Scoping meeting begins.)

2 MR. BLUHM: Good evening, ladies and
3 gentlemen, and welcome to the Great Lakes and
4 Mississippi River Interbasin Study, known as the GLMRIS
5 Study. This is our NEPA Public Scoping meeting.

6 When you arrived you received a packet of
7 materials. The materials themselves look like this. I
8 want to make sure you've got a packet. If you didn't
9 get a packet, raise your hand and we'll make sure that
10 we get a packet to you.

11 In that packet we've got some key pieces of
12 material that be will real helpful for you. There we
13 go. Green sheet here is the agenda. That's what we'll
14 be following as we go through our presentation and go
15 into the second portion of the oral comment period.

16 We've got a couple of overview pieces, a
17 little quarter sheet, and then a more detailed booklet
18 here that has a lot of detailed information about the
19 Study itself. Also got a half-sheet of white paper
20 here. This is our comment form. The comment form is a
21 real nice tool, gives you the opportunity, white space
22 in the center and on the backside, to leave any written

1 comments you'd like with us. You can take that home
2 with you and take time to make more comments, or you
3 can write them out and leave them here with us.

4 Couple of full size sheets of paper here. The
5 yellow one is what we put together if you'd like to
6 make an oral presentation or comment with us tonight.
7 The purple-ish color one has a lot of the frequently
8 asked questions and answers that we have put together
9 for the GLMRIS Study. The salmon-colored one has
10 information about the other efforts, and you'll see
11 more about that in our presentation.

12 And then blue sheet is a piece of
13 documentation that will help you and assist you in
14 putting together any formal documents that you'd like
15 to submit as part of the record.

16 If you have preregistered on the project
17 website to give an oral comment and have not checked
18 in, we'd ask that you do that at the table just outside
19 the doorway in the lobby. And don't worry if you did
20 not preregister and still would like to make an oral
21 comment, there will be opportunity to do that when we
22 enter into phase two of tonight's meeting.

1 Our GLMRIS team has organized this public
2 meeting to accomplish two goals. Our first goal is to
3 present information about the Study, and then the
4 second goal, to solicit your comments on the
5 significant issues that should be included in GLMRIS,
6 and on the insignificant issues that can be further
7 eliminated from our Study.

8 The Corps is hosting 12 public meetings. This
9 is the fifth of such throughout the Study area in an
10 effort to provide opportunities for those interested in
11 the Study and to learn more about the Study and provide
12 us with your oral comments.

13 Please note the NEPA Public Scoping process
14 has a specific closing period, and the time for this is
15 Marsh 31st, 2011. As indicated on our agenda, this
16 public meeting is organized -- Oh, did I already say
17 that? No. -- in two sessions. The beginning session
18 started at 2 o'clock today, and then the identical
19 period now starts at 5:30.

20 Our staff will be available after the meeting
21 adjourns. If you have any other questions of the staff
22 or the panelist members after the meeting has

1 adjourned, feel free to spend as much time with them as
2 you would like, and we will make sure that we answer
3 any questions that we can while we're here.

4 If you have other issues or concerns not
5 related to GLMRIS and we cannot answer those, please
6 work with us a little bit. We'll try to get your
7 information and do our best to answer any other
8 questions that you may have as well.

9 Please note that if you are speaking to any
10 of the panelists or staff members in the meeting in a
11 one-to-one conversation, those comments are very
12 welcome, but they will not be part of the formal
13 comment period or any of the NEPA documentation. So
14 it's important, if you want your comments to be part of
15 the record, that you use the opportunity to come to the
16 microphone, write those comments down on the comment
17 sheet, or put them on the website.

18 At this time I'd like to introduce our panel
19 of experts that we have with us. I'll start on this
20 side of the table here. Mr. John Goss, the Asian Carp
21 Director from the White House Council on Environmental
22 Quality. Sitting next to him, Lieutenant Colonel David

1 Berczek, Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of
2 Engineers in the Chicago District. Center of the
3 table, Dave Wethington. He's the GLMRIS Project
4 Manager. Fourth down on the table, Mike Saffran. Mike
5 is the Other Pathways Project Manager, and on the far
6 side of the table, John Zimmerman. He is the Chief of
7 Planning and Policy for the Great Lakes and Ohio River
8 Division.

9 Our host district, we are in the Detroit
10 District area, and our host Lieutenant Colonel here is
11 Mike Derosier, and he's sitting over on this side, and
12 Detroit District is hosting this meeting, and thank you
13 for letting us have this time.

14 At this time I'm going to turn the meeting
15 over to our first presentation, and we'll get started
16 with Mr. John Goss.

17 MR. GOSS: Thank you. And since we don't
18 have too many folks here, this is going to be very
19 abbreviated and we'll get to the discussion as quickly
20 as we can. I'll just give a quick overview of where we
21 are on the strategy for keeping Asian carp out of the
22 Great Lakes.

1 A little over a year ago the federal agencies
2 involved came together and put together a strategic
3 framework, and that is, in fact, a coordinated effort
4 with the federal agencies, the Corps of Engineers, the
5 Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and
6 also now this fall we have added the states very
7 directly in as partners in this organization. It's
8 called a Regional Coordinating Committee now that makes
9 policy decisions and reviews projects as we move along.

10 We did meet yesterday with Wisconsin DNR. I
11 think we have a good working relationship established
12 with them. As we go forward we'll have lots of input
13 from the state folks as we work on the solutions
14 particularly on the other pathways that Mike Saffran is
15 the project manager on.

16 The situation with carp trying to make their
17 way into Lake Michigan is that the electric barriers
18 have been in place for several years. That was the
19 interim shorter term measure that everyone worked on to
20 get funded to get it operating there in the Chicago
21 Ship Canal, and it does seem to be working.

22 We have evidence -- Excuse me. We have

1 results, I think, from looking at -- I'm trying to jump
2 fast through my projects here. The area above the
3 barrier and between the barrier and Lake Michigan has
4 been monitored very carefully this last year with water
5 sampling for eDNA, with shocking of fish by the fish
6 biologists to do fish counts and, in fact, in that area
7 over 10,000 fish were shocked and identified, and there
8 were no Asian carp in -- in that period in the fall
9 October to December.

10 Also, there's a new fence that has been
11 erected north of the barrier area to separate the ship
12 canal from the Des Plaines River. That was completed
13 this fall, and that's going to be an effective block
14 for flood water at any time that the Des Plaines might
15 be spilling over into the ship canal because there are
16 carp in the river, and we want to make sure that
17 they're not going to move into the ship canal and on
18 out into the lakes.

19 There's another location in Indiana, which
20 we'll talk about later, but that was identified this
21 summer as the other possible area that a flood could
22 make a connection between the river that we know has

1 carp in it, which is the Wabash in Indiana, and making
2 a connection over to the Maumee and out to Lake Erie.
3 And that also has an effective fish fence up now to
4 stop carp from moving in that direction.

5 Just mention a few other things that are
6 funded and moving ahead. The eDNA needs to be further
7 perfected. Right now it just indicates that there's a
8 trace from an Asian carp in that water sample, and we
9 don't know much beyond that, whether that's one fish,
10 multiple fish, or how recently they might have been
11 there, or whether or not for sure it's a live fish or -
12 - or a dead fish or whatever. So that -- that work
13 will continue.

14 Also, there's going to be investment here in
15 Wisconsin at the LaCrosse, Wisconsin Fish and Wildlife
16 Lab to become a new eDNA testing center, and that
17 equipment, training and investment will hopefully get
18 this -- this side of the Great Lakes prepared if we
19 want to continue to do eDNA monitoring on any of our
20 streams or any areas where we're concerned that there
21 could be carp migrating.

22 We're also continuing to look at ways that

1 might be able to block reproduction for Asian carp.
2 Scientists are working on various techniques that could
3 interfere with reproduction, that could interfere with
4 their digestive systems, possibly specific poisons that
5 might be directed to carp, and also looking at some
6 other techniques that we might use to manage fish.
7 Looking at sonic or shock wave underwater kinds of
8 techniques that might -- might be effective at herding
9 fish or getting fish to areas where we can trap them or
10 possibly eradicate them.

11 The other things that I want to mention
12 include commercial fishing below the barrier. Illinois,
13 State of Illinois, and Illinois DNR has been utilizing
14 commercial fishing to reduce the number of carp that
15 are coming up in the area of the electric barriers and
16 took out several hundred thousand pounds of Asian carp
17 this past fall. That's going to increase in the coming
18 year.

19 Also, have been inspecting bait shops in that
20 area of Illinois to make sure that we don't have
21 minnows that are going to be transported around the
22 region and possibly containing carp minnows in

1 unsuspecting bait is a problem. I think I've touched
2 on most -- most of those.

3 We do have a website, asiancarp.org, that
4 will continue to post any new developments and will be
5 the ongoing source for the coming year for any new
6 information that comes up as we continue to monitor
7 very closely there in Chicago and also on the other
8 pathway areas.

9 So that's the overview. I think in
10 conclusion I just want to say that I believe that the
11 interim measures are working. We have created a window
12 of time that we can now do the analysis for a long-term
13 solution to come up with a permanent barrier to
14 transfer aquatic invasive species from the lakes to the
15 rivers, or the rivers to the lakes, and that's the
16 purpose of the Study that we're here to talk about.

17 With the rest of the description I'm going to
18 turn it over to the Corps of Engineers team that have
19 laid out the plan and have the -- have the means to do
20 the analysis. It's funded, federally funded. We have
21 -- I think I just checked the number this afternoon, we
22 have over \$5 million now with the recent transfer for

1 this year. So we will move aggressively on this
2 project.

3 And with that I'm going to turn it over to
4 Colonel Berczek to give you an overview of their Study
5 project.

6 MR. BERCZEK: Good evening, and thanks for
7 coming tonight. We're glad you're here. Glad to --
8 that you've taken the time to come and we can hear your
9 comments and questions and provide answers as we can.

10 I wanted to take a little bit of your time to
11 explain to you a little bit what this Study is about.
12 What are the opportunities, what is it we're looking
13 at, what is the authority and what's been done so far
14 and where we're moving to in the future.

15 Invasive species inhabit every state and
16 every -- every nation in the world, and as such are a
17 global problem. And I think efforts in the past here
18 in the United States we've dealt with looking at
19 methods of controlling individual species.

20 That being the case, in 2007 Congress passed
21 the Water Resources and Development Act, in which you
22 can see up here in the report and also in the handouts

1 what the Study language is directing the Corps of
2 Engineers to do.

3 We are directed under this legislation to
4 conduct a feasibility study, and I'll just talk to the
5 blue highlighted areas there. To look at options and
6 technologies available to prevent the spread of aquatic
7 nuisance species between the Great Lakes and the
8 Mississippi River through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship
9 Canal and other aquatic pathways.

10 During the course of this Study we'll look at
11 a number of nuisance species, to look at how to prevent
12 transfer and their spread between the two river basins.
13 We'll look at a number of detailed aquatic nuisance
14 species controls, to include hydrologic separation. The
15 Study is 100 percent federally funded. You heard Mr.
16 Goss there just mention the amount that we have for
17 this year's efforts.

18 The GLMRIS Study area is rather large. It
19 encompasses, under the detailed Study area, primarily
20 these states that you see highlighted here in this
21 green and brown color. The 17 states, Great Lake
22 states, and states that make up the Upper Mississippi

1 River Watershed area.

2 One of the primary areas of focus when we
3 look at keeping these species in the one basin versus
4 the other, is what's -- is this dotted line here that
5 represents a natural flow line that exists between the
6 two basins. Water that falls north of that line will
7 collect and go into the Great Lakes. Water that falls
8 south of that line has a tendency then to collect and
9 go into the Mississippi River.

10 When Mr. Saffran, when Mike Saffran talks a
11 little bit about some of his work in characterizing
12 some of the other alternatives, some of the other
13 pathways, you'll hear him talk a little bit about some
14 of the challenges with that when dealing with the
15 terrain in that area.

16 So what is this Study all about, what are we
17 looking at. You see the includes and does not include
18 here. We're looking at waterways, looking at water
19 connections, aquatic pathways. Not looking necessarily
20 in the course of this Study at terrestrial transfer or
21 airborne transfer or human release. We are looking at,
22 you see on the left-hand side there, including

1 swimmers, floaters, hitchhikers.

2 The location I mentioned on the map and the
3 slide previous that talk about the interface there
4 between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, not
5 necessarily considering as part of this Study that
6 contributions made from the Atlantic slope, St.
7 Lawrence Seaway or Canada.

8 The analysis there, you see the elements of
9 the analysis. Analyze options and technologies
10 available, conduct an assessment of their efficiency,
11 look at the economic modeling, ecologic modeling, and
12 come out with a feasibility report, and also an
13 environmental impact statement.

14 The -- Mr. Goss mentioned a little bit about
15 the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee. So
16 we're no strangers to working together in collaboration
17 with state and federal and local partners. This Study
18 will be conducted in the same manner.

19 Go back to a little bit there, it talks about
20 the authority language. The Secretary in consultation
21 with the appropriate federal, state, local and
22 nongovernmental entities. So we are trying to -- to

1 work through that. And, of course, anytime you come up
2 with a study like this or any type of an endeavor that
3 it -- has this many contributors to it, you've got to
4 come up with a strategy and an approach.

5 The Study language, the authorization said to
6 look at two areas. The Chicago Sanitary and Ship
7 Channel, we've labeled that the Chicago Area Waterways,
8 or the CAWS, looking at a primary effort, and then
9 also, those other pathways.

10 To organize for the success to this you see
11 we established leadership and teams among the Corps of
12 Engineers. That's the acronym USACE, U.S. Army Corps
13 of Engineers. This Study, these watershed areas
14 encompass two of the nine divisions that the Corps has
15 set up worldwide for all operations, the way we are set
16 up. Two Divisions. The Mississippi Valley Division
17 and Great Lakes and Ohio River Division have span and
18 control over these areas.

19 So we had to identify who was in lead and how
20 we were going to do that, as well as setting up with
21 the other federal agencies and other -- an Executive
22 Steering Committee, go ahead and make sure for

1 information sharing and decision making we had the
2 right people involved and informed, involving as well
3 stakeholders, and here we have listed, you know,
4 federal, tribal, state, local I'd say so far as
5 individual persons involved and interested.

6 Part of their strategy as well is because it
7 is a lengthy study and there's a lot of analysis
8 involved with it and formulating alternatives, and we
9 will go ahead and cycle out interim products and
10 reports, and you see a couple examples there.

11 We want to remain flexible and adapt to new
12 technologies and evolving information to the maximum
13 extent possible. As it stands right now, we've
14 identified what rocks we need to turn over. There
15 might be another rock we find underneath one that kind
16 of shows itself and sees something else to look at and
17 investigate.

18 And, of course, as well being a Corps of
19 Engineers Study as authorized by Congress, we'll abide
20 by all legal and regulatory guidance in conducting the
21 Study.

22 In the Study purpose we have identified here

1 the aquatic pathways that exist. The focus area, the
2 one first, the Chicago Area Waterways, we're pretty
3 familiar with that. That's the distribution, the
4 network of rivers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship
5 Canal in and around the greater Chicagoland area to
6 include pathways that enter into Lake Michigan both in
7 Illinois and Indiana.

8 And the Focus Area 2 is the other pathways.
9 You see some pictures there across the screen that show
10 we're looking at everything from fish to fleas to go
11 ahead and try to meet the Study purpose on preventing
12 transfer.

13 Again, just a bullet there so we don't lose
14 focus that hydrologic separation is one of those
15 methodologies under consideration and will be
16 evaluated.

17 This slide here shows a map of a primary
18 focus area, Focus Area 1, Chicago Area Waterway System.
19 And I'm going to turn this over real quickly here to
20 Dave Wethington, the Project Manager, to explain to you
21 this map and some of the features and the information
22 on it.

1 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir. Thanks again
2 to everyone for coming out tonight. Spend just a couple
3 minutes talking about some of the unique features about
4 the Chicago Area Waterway System.

5 On the right-hand side you'll see a map of
6 the Chicago area. There are five points to which the
7 Chicago -- I'm sorry, to which the Great Lakes and
8 Mississippi River Basin have the opportunity to
9 intermix.

10 Points 1 through 3 are located within the
11 State of Illinois and have what we call water control
12 structures. So locks and dams, pumping stations, et
13 cetera, that basically are used to regulate the flow of
14 water between the two basins.

15 Points 4 and 5, located within the State of
16 Indiana, are what we call uncontrolled. That's mainly
17 because there are no specific physical control points
18 in between those -- those structures and Lake Michigan.

19 What's unique about the Chicago Area Waterway
20 System is that all these different points converge into
21 one stream. Where you see number 7 is where we have
22 constructed the electric barrier, referred to as a fish

1 barrier, and that's what the Corps continues to operate
2 and maintain to prevent the spread of Asian carp
3 specifically into the Great Lakes Basin.

4 On the left-hand side you'll kind of see an
5 outline of the Corps planning process, and there are a
6 number of steps we follow, and we're in Steps 1 and 2
7 right now.

8 Part of what we're doing here today is
9 getting your opinion to help us specify those problems
10 and opportunities. We're also actively out collecting
11 data, and the reason we're collecting data is we need
12 to identify what the uses of these waterways are.

13 You might have heard a lot about commercial
14 navigation as being a primary use, but there are also
15 many, many other use of these waterways. They include
16 recreation, water supply, water discharge. In fact,
17 the Chicagoland area has about 70 to 80 percent of the
18 composition of the Chicago River is wastewater
19 discharge from municipal wastewater treatment plants.

20 Additionally, the Chicagoland area, the river
21 system, acts as a flood gate or flood risk management
22 tool for the City of Chicago. The ability to open the

1 gate at Chicago Lock, which is structure number 2,
2 allows water during some high flow situations to be
3 discharged into Lake Michigan, as opposed to how it
4 regulates flows down toward the Mississippi River
5 Basin.

6 What we're going to do is evaluate what those
7 water uses are and evaluate what the impacts to those
8 waterway uses may be when or if certain aquatic
9 nuisance species controls were to be implemented.
10 Additionally, if there are any adverse impacts to
11 economics, social or environmental uses of these
12 waterways, the Corps of Engineers would look at ways to
13 mitigate or recommend ways to mitigate for those
14 alternative impacts.

15 Again, as the speakers before me have
16 mentioned, we are full collaboration with all of our
17 state, federal, tribal partners, nongovernmental
18 organizations, private industries and the like, and we
19 appreciate you being here tonight. Thank you, sir.

20 MR. BERCEK: Thanks, Dave. This map here
21 that shows the Focus Area 2 are the other pathways, and
22 to talk to this a little bit we'll turn it over to Mike

1 Saffran. He's the project manager for this aspect of
2 the Study.

3 MR. SAFFRAN: Thank you, Colonel Berczek.
4 Welcome everybody. I appreciate the opportunity to --
5 to share what's been part of my life for the last six,
6 eight months, which is the Other Pathway Study for the
7 Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study.

8 The -- There was a lot known about the
9 Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal and the risks relative to
10 aquatic nuisance species transfer through that aquatic
11 pathway between the basins when the GLMRIS started.
12 There was virtually nothing known about the potential
13 other aquatic pathways that exist or may form across
14 the basin to that.

15 Our commanding General, General Peabody, a
16 very smart person, he had a visit to Portage, Wisconsin
17 late last spring and became very sensitized, I guess,
18 to the likelihood that there are other pathways and
19 that the significant investments that have been made to
20 prevent carp transfer or other species transfer,
21 primarily carp, through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship
22 Canal, that they can be compromised by the carp finding

1 other locations that they get access to lakes.

2 So he tasked us to, within 60 days, go out
3 and produce a draft report that provided an inventory
4 of all the potential aquatic pathways that exist, which
5 stretches about 1500 miles long from New York up into
6 Minnesota, and to do a preliminary risk
7 characterization to determine if was there any
8 significant locations where we could be at risk that
9 Asian carp could make the trek across the basin through
10 the pathway.

11 We -- Going into this effort it was -- again,
12 not very much was known, so one of the first things we
13 did was contact individual state Departments of Natural
14 Resources, contacted U.S. Fish and Wildlife, USGS, and
15 got as much help from the best people we could find who
16 understood the local hydraulic conditions, as well as
17 an understanding of the aquatic nuisance species
18 issues.

19 We got great cooperation through that process
20 and were able to meet the tasking of within 60 days
21 producing a draft report.

22 What we -- The results of that report is we

1 identified 36 different locations outside the Chicago
2 Sanitary and Ship Canal where an aquatic pathway either
3 exists or can form across the basin divide. Almost all
4 of these were intermittent connections, locations where
5 you required a very significant storm event to make the
6 aquatic -- to make the connection, if you will, between
7 streams on either side of the basin divide.

8 One of those locations, though, jumped out as
9 a very important, very significant risk, and that was
10 at the Eagle Marsh in Fort Wayne Indiana. At that
11 location you've got two rivers on the Lake Erie side,
12 the St. Joseph's and the St. Mary's, that come together
13 in Fort Wayne and form the Maumee River.

14 When you have a significant rainfall event,
15 basically the largest event you'd expect to occur in
16 any one given year, flow in that basin backs up in Fort
17 Wayne and goes through an urban ditch into the Eagle
18 Marsh and then enters into the Wabash River Valley.

19 For a larger storm event, the kind of storm
20 event that you'd expect to occur once every 10 years,
21 we had a flood insurance study that indicated the depth
22 of flow across that basin divide was up to four-and-a-

1 half feet deep, which was -- is a very significant
2 amount of water flow across the divide, as well as a
3 significant water column for species transfer.

4 That, in conjunction with the fact that we
5 have a very significant population of Asian carp in the
6 Wabash River, about 20 miles or so -- at least 20 miles
7 or so downstream for the significant populations, but
8 those two circumstances made that -- that location jump
9 out, and we had a on-site meeting in Fort Wayne with
10 the National Resources Conservation Service, USGS, Fish
11 and Wildlife Service, Indiana DNR, the local county
12 surveyors, Little River Wetlands Project, a
13 nongovernmental organization, basically we had a good
14 meeting there with the right folks from all the
15 different agencies, and we did some brainstorming on
16 what can we do to mitigate the risk associated with
17 that location.

18 We very quickly jumped to that -- Well, back
19 up, I guess. First thing is, for the Corps, we
20 identified that it would be very difficult for us to
21 implement anything really quickly because the Corps,
22 number one, we have to have an authority to build or

1 construct something. The GLMRIS is just a Study
2 authority. It's not a construction authority.

3 And then secondly, for us to do anything we
4 also have to comply with the National Environmental
5 Policy Act, and that generally takes, at the minimum,
6 six, eight months to -- to get through the simplest
7 sorts of projects.

8 The Indiana DNR, on the other hand, didn't
9 have quite the same constraints. We identified that a
10 chain link fence or some sort of a mesh barrier across
11 the basin divide is something that could be implemented
12 quickly. There's a lot of concerns with flooding, so we
13 -- we didn't go with a solid barrier, we went something
14 mesh that wouldn't induce flooding, but that would be a
15 protection against adult carp being able to make the
16 migration from 20 miles down below that location,
17 across the basin divide the next time that we really
18 had a significant rainfall event that would make the
19 aquatic connection.

20 Within 60 days time the State of Indiana had
21 that fence up, and it's a -- called a chain link fence,
22 but it's a chain link fence on steroids. It has very

1 significant design features that will keep it in place,
2 and there's an operation of maintenance plan that calls
3 for every time there's a rainfall, there's water flow
4 across that basin divide, for the inspection and the
5 maintenance of the fence to -- to remove any debris or
6 anything that could compromise the integrity of it.

7 The other 17 locations generally are order of
8 magnitude lower risk, if you will, because generally
9 much less flow can occur across the basin divide. Each
10 of those locations, we're in the process right now of
11 visiting each of the state DNRs and reviewing a -- or,
12 well, producing a draft work plan for completing the
13 risk characterization at those other locations.

14 That study will be completed by the end of
15 this year and it -- well, at the end of this year we
16 will know whether there are any other significant
17 locations, besides the Eagle Marsh and Chicago Sanitary
18 Ship Canal, where invasive species transfer is -- is
19 likely or probable.

20 MR. BERCEK: Thanks, Mike. You've heard a
21 little bit about -- we talked about what we're doing,
22 what the Study purpose is, what it is we're after, and

1 a little bit about how we're doing it, how were set up
2 to succeed and organize.

3 So what's been done so far. You heard Mike
4 talk a little bit about the work being done that was
5 accomplished in Eagle Marsh. Down the left-hand side
6 you see what some of the Study process, some of the
7 activities done to go ahead and get where we are today
8 and be able to come out and have these public meetings
9 to have you review the scope of the Study and provide
10 your inputs so that we can capture what's significant
11 and what's not.

12 On the right-hand side you see that there has
13 been action being done. We haven't just been standing
14 by waiting until we got to this point.

15 There's been a lot of work done reviewing
16 literature and studies out there regarding Asian carp
17 specifically, but then also looking what else is out
18 there for aquatic nuisance species, what else has to be
19 considered, what else needs to be addressed in looking
20 at this -- at this Study. Talked about the risk
21 characterization a little bit and the work done at
22 Eagle Marsh in Fort Wayne.

1 So what's next, and when can you expect to
2 see it. Down on the bottom you see a little bit of the
3 timeline. Here we talk about the other pathways. It's
4 kind of on a little bit of a faster track. You got
5 that impression already with Mike's description,
6 looking at initial preliminary risk characterization of
7 60 days, 60 days to go ahead and implement a solution.

8 That's kind of the approach we're taking with
9 some of that because some of these pathways don't exist
10 continuously, and it takes some level of an event to
11 have them materialize. Working with the states and
12 others. You may have some authority and ability to go
13 ahead and implement some -- some solutions that come
14 out of those.

15 So Mike's on the path he mentioned already to
16 go ahead and get some sort of a final report out this
17 fall with that, and then looking at some
18 recommendations and some things that could potentially
19 be implemented.

20 The -- The top part is the Chicago Area
21 Waterways Study. And we talked a little bit here about
22 the timeline, and you see down here a draft recommended

1 plan in the fall of 2014. I've got to talk a little
2 about the asterisk at the top of this when we talk
3 about the project schedule, and follow down to the
4 bottom where it says this is best case scenario.

5 There's a lot of work and a lot of effort
6 being done, a lot of information that has to be
7 evaluated and analyzed and brought in, and we're
8 relying on a lot of other agencies and other partners
9 in this collaborative effort to go ahead and bring that
10 in. We're also relying on the funding being available
11 when we need it and showing up so that we can keep the
12 Study on track.

13 So if all the cards fall into place and
14 everything moves along as we would like to see it, then
15 this is an aggressive schedule to have something out as
16 a feasibility report, an EIS, or environmental impact
17 statement, at that time.

18 You see in there a little bit about these
19 little arrows, and on the next page I'll talk to that a
20 little bit, too. So interim updates. We don't want
21 you to stick around and just wait in the dark and think
22 nothing's going on, or not understand what's going on.

1 So as we develop the data and analyze and produce
2 reports that are mature enough to release, we plan on
3 putting those things out.

4 What are some of those things. We mentioned
5 looking at the nuisance species that will be under
6 consideration. What the species of concern, how do
7 they get between one basin and the other. Well, we'll
8 go ahead and we can produce a report that shows that so
9 that we understand what the focus is and what we're
10 evaluating. What are some of the control technologies.
11 Well, as we start to develop that and look at some of
12 those, we can put those things on as well.

13 I mentioned a few slides back about being
14 adaptive. Mr. Goss mentioned about some of the other
15 agencies looking at biologic controls and other
16 measures that could be brought into bear. Some of
17 those may mature during the course of this Study. So
18 we have to have a mechanism, an adaptable mechanism to
19 try to bring those in as well and see if that is
20 something that can be evaluated. So that's a way of
21 keeping everybody up to date with what we're looking
22 at.

1 Dave mentioned as far as these navigation and
2 fishery surveys and looking at the evaluation of
3 certain things. There's been a number of studies done
4 for a number of years. Some of the studies are dated.
5 Some of them aren't all inclusive. So we're looking at
6 those, bringing some of those studies and some of that
7 information up to date to look at the information and
8 evaluate to bring it into today's numbers and project a
9 future.

10 And then, of course, we mentioned again
11 already that interim pathway report coming out sometime
12 in the spring for -- as a draft and in the fall for a
13 final report.

14 How do we keep this moving. Part of this is
15 through the public meeting process like this where we
16 gain input and comments that we go ahead and apply
17 these and go ahead and bring things in -- directly into
18 the Study scope.

19 Other ways to keep things moving, I mentioned
20 everything falling into place, and you see a list there
21 of another -- other agencies that we are going to rely
22 on to assist us in bringing some of this information in

1 and do some assessment so that we can bring it in a
2 usable format so we don't have to do a whole lot of
3 additional work to it to put into the Study so we can
4 go ahead and analyze it and use it and address it
5 properly.

6 Another way to keep things moving is
7 additional meetings that we have scheduled like today.
8 To go ahead and continue to inform. Sometimes you might
9 not know if you have a comment or a question until you
10 hear somebody tell you what the study's all about, you
11 might not necessarily get the whole, big picture. So
12 we're trying to do that in these forums to go and
13 inform so that if you do have a comment either now or
14 later, that you can have access to the web or through
15 the comment card and go ahead and put that information
16 in. And here's other cities and dates on when we plan
17 on being in other locations.

18 And last, but by no means least, other ways
19 to stay in touch. Through the web, using the
20 technology that's out there. I think nowadays we all
21 Google things more than we look up in an encyclopedia,
22 so taking advantage of that and our -- everybody's

1 propensity to use the web, my own included, that you
2 can see there's some GLMRIS website, go to the Chicago
3 District website, Mr. Goss mentioned the asiancarp.org,
4 a number of different locations.

5 What we're trying to do, if it pertains to
6 this Study, it looks like this card, looks like this
7 button. So you see on the Chicago District website, if
8 you happen to go there, you'll see a button to click
9 that looks like this so that you -- you know you're
10 going to the GLMRIS Study. You know you're going to a
11 site that will have information about that, and you can
12 go ahead and submit comments.

13 If you're a little more advanced user of
14 social technology or social media, you can see there
15 where we do have a Facebook page and Twitter account to
16 go ahead and keep following up. We want to keep people
17 informed about what's going on and transparent in the
18 efforts here and enable the dialogue and discussion to
19 continue.

20 We thank you for your time, thank you for
21 allowing me to take some of your time to explain this a
22 little bit, and we look forward to your comments and

1 questions now.

2 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Thank you, sir. Well, that
3 concludes Part 1 of this evening's meeting. You've
4 just heard from some of our most knowledgeable folks,
5 provided a nice update of what we've got going on, what
6 we're planning on doing in the months and years ahead.

7 At this point in time in our scoping process,
8 though, we want to now take and turn the table over to
9 all of you, the public. Now it's time to find out what
10 you think of what we're doing, what your comments and
11 what your questions might be for us.

12 Before beginning, though, I'd like to note
13 that our Study website is a good source of information.
14 Interested persons can subscribe to the study's e-mail
15 list through the project website, and the Corps will
16 use the GLMRIS e-mail list to distribute updates on
17 such things as documents that have been added to the
18 website, opportunities for public involvement, and
19 other important news and events. The GLMRIS website
20 address can be found on the Study brochure, the written
21 comment form, as well as on this business card.

22 Another way to stay connected is through any

1 of the social media or more electronic things that the
2 Colonel just mentioned.

3 Now moving into the oral comment period for
4 this meeting. Anybody that has indicated on the
5 registration form that they'd like to make a brief
6 formal statement or ask any questions will have an
7 opportunity to do so. If a person wants to ask a
8 question in addition to making a comment, we ask that
9 you manage your time to allow for the comment question
10 and a response. The Corps will take every opportunity
11 to answer any questions that are, indeed, answerable.

12 All forms of comments received during the
13 scoping period will be weighted equally. So keep that
14 in mind. We want to make sure that if you'd like, you
15 can submit forms in a written format, electronically,
16 or you can talk to us at the meeting through the open
17 mike period and all have equal weight and equal
18 bearing.

19 If this were a larger meeting we'd have a
20 series of slides and I'd go there some rules and ground
21 rules for everybody to participate and make sure that
22 we all have an equal opportunity to be heard. When I

1 look around the room, I guess I'm not too concerned
2 that we're all going to have a chance to say our piece.

3 So I'd like to propose a slight amendment to
4 the plan, and instead of having a formal three minute
5 discussion allocated for every person that would like
6 to talk, I would like to make an amendment that would
7 allow us to use a reasonable amount of time for anybody
8 that would like to talk. And I'd just like to see if
9 anybody is opposed to that recommendation or change, if
10 you could just significant by showing your hand if you
11 oppose that. Otherwise, we will move forward without
12 having such a strict format and use a reasonable
13 timeframe for anybody that would like to make a comment
14 or a statement for us.

15 Also, I'd like to mention that we have a
16 stenographer with us tonight. She's right in front of
17 me here, and she'll be recording any comments,
18 questions that you have. I'd ask that you come to the
19 microphone in the center. Although we do have one off
20 to the side, the center one is much easier for the
21 panelists to see, and would ask that you get close
22 enough to the microphone. We'll make sure we adjust

1 the height so that everybody can hear. We'd ask that
2 you give your name, any organization or affiliation
3 that you have, as well as provide us with a zip code,
4 if you wouldn't mind, and then we'd ask, too, that you
5 speak slowly and close enough to the microphone so
6 everybody can hear you.

7 At this point in time I believe the list, I'm
8 going to look to the back of the room, the list of
9 people that are preregistered is still zero. Okay.
10 Seeing that we have nobody that has preregistered to
11 ask any questions, I'll skip another paragraph or two,
12 and I'll just ask anybody that is interested at this
13 point in time to make a question, comment, or statement
14 for us, just either indicate with a raise of a hand or
15 move your way to microphone whenever you're ready.

16 I've got one hand right here. So whenever
17 you're ready, sir, if you'd like to come on up.

18 MR. SKARE: I'm not going to read anything to
19 you. I just have a couple notes. My memory isn't the
20 best.

21 My name's Dick Skare. I'm from Door County,
22 Wisconsin. I live in Fish Creek. We're a resort area.

1 And if you look at the map of Wisconsin, we're the
2 thumb, and we live above the knuckle. So we are highly
3 reliant on tourism. I own a restaurant with my family
4 for about 35 years up there. We're highly tourist
5 oriented.

6 We have a -- Commercial fishing is important
7 in that part of the world as well. We're the county
8 that -- from what I hear, we have 30 miles of land and
9 250 plus miles of coast. And so we -- I think we have
10 the most coastline of any county in the United States.
11 So we're highly reliant on the Great Lakes.

12 So my initial concern, as I spoke with Mr.
13 Goss before the meeting started, was the short term,
14 the interim things that are being done because Asian
15 carp are not going to wait until 2015, was my concern.
16 And so -- And I ran for Assembly in the -- for the last
17 -- State Assembly in Wisconsin here as a democrat the
18 last two -- two sessions, and Kewaunee County was also
19 part of that, and they have a lot of coastline and
20 commercial fishing and recreational fishing as well.

21 And so I really know what it is like to -- I
22 was unsuccessful as a democrat. I know what it's like

1 to swim upstream. So -- So I thought you folks might
2 be able to relate to that a little bit.

3 But -- The one thing that I noticed in our
4 presentation tonight was, you know, we talk about the
5 Asian carp, and I'm assuming that's a threat from the
6 south moving up into our area, and -- but also, there's
7 a quite a bit of coastline on the Canadian side. And
8 we talk about other invasive species, and I wondered if
9 your plan would look at some of those things, if there
10 would be some recognition of that -- of that because we
11 got our northern flank exposed.

12 The other thing is that in Wisconsin we have
13 become members of the Great Lakes Compact, Water
14 Compact, and if you had considered using that as a
15 resource or an avenue to -- to work cooperatively with
16 the Canadians and -- in keeping invasive species out of
17 the lake system.

18 So those are my comments, and I appreciate
19 the time tonight.

20 MR. BLUHM: Can I ask one question?

21 MR. SKARE: Yes, sir.

22 MR. BLUHM: Can I get your zip code?

1 MR. SKARE: 54212.

2 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

3 MR. SKARE: Any other questions? I'd be
4 willing to --

5 MR. BLUHM: Anything from the panel?

6 MR. WETHINGTON: I'd say just very briefly we
7 are, in fact, working with our Canadian counterparts,
8 at least at a minimum, through the International Joint
9 Commission. We've been engaged with some of the folks
10 at the IJC.

11 And then your question of whether we would
12 consider aquatic nuisance species coming from the
13 Canadian side, we are looking at a wide breadth of
14 potential aquatic nuisance species that could be either
15 invasive from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River
16 Basin or vice versa. And those -- that -- that breadth
17 of organisms does include those that may not be fully
18 within the United States right now, but have a close
19 proximity.

20 MR. SKARE: I know another -- besides
21 invasive species of a, you know, aquatic type of fish
22 or that sort of thing, I know in our part of the world

1 we also are very concerned about plant species as well
2 and -- not just Zebra Mussels, but also -- and I can't
3 even remember the names of them, but do we have a
4 special volunteer group in our part of the world that
5 is out pulling stuff off beaches and this sort of
6 thing.

7 So I know that's another issue, and that
8 would be something we might get from the northern side
9 as opposed to an invasive carp of some sort or maybe
10 the tilapia or --

11 MR. WETHINGTON: Very much so, sir. The
12 Interbasin Study will address all aquatic nuisance
13 species, whether they are plants, fish, mollusks, et
14 cetera. So any type of species that would live
15 normally in the water would be addressed through this
16 Study.

17 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Let me go further on on that
18 because I think your question referred to an expansion
19 of this Study to look at the northern boundary along
20 the Canadian border to prevent any transfer that may
21 occur from that. And quite frankly, I have to tell you
22 the limits of our authority tell us that we are not

1 looking at that.

2 There are other -- You mentioned the Compact
3 and -- you didn't mention, but the IJC and some of the
4 other international organizations and commissions that
5 we have up there, they're all very much aware of that
6 and they are working collectively to prevent those
7 things, but the focus of this Study is to prevent
8 invasive species, aquatic invasive species transfer
9 that occur between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi
10 River System.

11 It does not look at the northern border, as
12 you described it. It does not look at the Atlantic
13 Slope or the St. Lawrence Seaway as possible venues for
14 additional invasive species. There are other activities
15 that go look at that. So just to clarify that in terms
16 of the expectation of --

17 MR. SKARE: I appreciate that. Thank you.
18 That was my -- my question. Very good. Thank you for
19 coming tonight. I appreciate you taking the time.

20 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Any other
21 comments from the panel?

22 MR. BERCEK: And sir, you had a -- was that

1 a question on the timeline, or a comment, just a
2 comment on the timeline? You said you had talked to
3 Mr. Goss a little bit.

4 MR. SKARE: A little bit beforehand my -- It
5 was just that, you know, you look at 2015 as the date
6 that we're going to have the Study done and, like I
7 said, the carp aren't going to wait, you know. And so
8 that's -- that was my concern because we do have these
9 vital parts of our economy and -- in my part of the
10 world, and we certainly would like to see some things
11 done.

12 And this is -- your presentation was -- was
13 informative for me and -- and that's what I wanted to
14 know.

15 MR. BERCEK: Okay. And I just wanted to be
16 clear that -- because this Study goes beyond the Asian
17 carp. It doesn't -- Has no impact on the activities
18 that we're already doing, as far as operating the
19 barriers and continuing to bring those online, and also
20 the efforts, especially from the Corps standpoint where
21 we're part of the greater regional group with looking
22 at the telemetry and the tracking and the monitoring of

1 the fish and all those activities to try to address the
2 Asian carp specifically, but then this Study now is
3 going the next step, what else.

4 MR. SKARE: I appreciate that. That answered
5 my question.

6 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Okay. Anyone else?
7 Who would like to be next? Either raise of the hand or
8 make your way to the microphone.

9 Okay. I'm not seeing too much movement. It's
10 currently 20 minutes after 6 o'clock, and I'll make a
11 second request. Anybody interested in coming to the
12 microphone either for a first time or a second time,
13 now would be to time to do so. It's looking like an
14 early evening, guys.

15 All right. Well, I do thank you all for your
16 -- your statements and comments. Very well taken. Let
17 me remind you that if you have anything prepared for us
18 in a statement form or any documents you'd like us to
19 have, you can turn them in with myself or at the
20 registration table in the hallway. And if you are
21 thinking of writing up any comments and submitting them
22 to us either on the website, using our comment form, or

1 just mailing them in, they do need to be stamped,
2 postmarked or received electronically by March the
3 31st. And the address is found in multiple locations
4 on the pieces of material given today.

5 And then lastly, I'd like to say in closing
6 any of the materials that you've received, if you're
7 through with them and would like to turn them in so we
8 can recycle them, we'd be glad to take them back. If
9 you need extra materials, if you have other people that
10 would enjoy reading on the materials, we do have extra
11 packets in the hallway. You can get extras on your way
12 out.

13 And I'd like to thank you for taking your
14 time tonight. It's a busy week in Green Bay with the
15 big Packer win. So with that, time now, 6:21. I'd
16 like to adjourn the meeting. Feel free to stay around
17 as long as you'd like to ask any additional questions
18 of the panel or any of the Corps members in the back of
19 the room. Thank you much, and have a good evening.

20 (At 6:21 p.m. the meeting adjourned.)

21

22

1 STATE OF WISCONSIN)

2) SS:

3 MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

4

5 I, KIM M. PETERSON, RPR, CM, Registered

6 Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the

7 State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that I reported

8 the foregoing proceedings taken on January 25, 2011,

9 and that the same is true and correct in accordance

10 with my original machine shorthand notes taken at said

11 time and place.

12

13

14 _____
KIM M. PETERSON

15 Notary Public in and for

16 the State of Wisconsin

17

18

19 Dated this 1st day of February, 2011, Milwaukee,

20 Wisconsin.

21 My commission expires March 9, 2014.

22

Capital Reporting Company
 Great Lakes and Mississippi Interbasin Study- Meeting 01-25-2011
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