

GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER
INTERBASIN STUDY

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings had beginning at 2:00
o'clock in the afternoon on February 15, 2011 at the
O'Donnell Park Complex, 910 East Michigan Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

MR. KEVIN, BLUHM, Moderator

PANEL MEMBERS:

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

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID BERCEK, Deputy Commander,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District.

MR. DAVE WETHINGTON, GLMRIS Project Manager.

MR. MIKE SAFFRAN, Other Pathways Project Manager.

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20 5:30 P.M. SESSION

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

2 MR. BLUHM: Can everybody hear me okay?

3 Well, it's about 2:00 o'clock and it's time to get
4 things started, and if I could have everybody have a
5 seat. We have plenty of extra seating here and we'll
6 begin our afternoon session.

7 Welcome everybody. My name is Kevin Bluhm.
8 I'm going to be the moderator for today and this
9 evening's session. I come from the St. Paul District
10 Corps of Engineers, and I'm glad that you're all here
11 with us today.

12 The meeting today is for the Great Lakes and
13 Mississippi River Interbasin Study, known as GLMRIS.
14 This is a NEPA public scoping meeting. And before we
15 begin, I'd like to just ask if you have a cell phone,
16 if you want to silence that or turn that off, that
17 would be helpful. At times we end up with a lot of
18 phones making noise and it can be a little disruptive.
19 And also if you feel that you need to use the restroom
20 during the meeting, you can excuse yourself at any
21 time. Restrooms are located out the doorway and to
22 your left.

23 I'll go over a few of the handout materials
24 for you. If you did not receive a packet of handout
25 materials when you arrived, you can just raise your

1 hand and we'll make sure you get one. In that packet
2 the green half sheet is an agenda that we'll be
3 following for today's session this afternoon as well as
4 this evening. They'll be identical sessions. We've got
5 a quarter sheet and then a booklet here that shows
6 background information and study information that can
7 be helpful to read up on the actual study and its
8 purpose. There's a small business card.

9 And then this piece here is going to be the
10 most important piece for what we're working on at this
11 point in time. This half white sheet is a comment
12 form. This comment form has room on the inside as well
13 on the back panel for you to write down, jot any notes
14 you have and leave us any comments tonight or during
15 the comment period. So keep this in mind if there's
16 anything you'd like to add for any comments that you
17 have.

18 And then also for supplemental information
19 we've got a purple sheet of paper here. This has
20 frequently asked questions, so there's some answers
21 here that might help understand some of the things that
22 people ask questions about. And then we've also got a
23 salmon-colored sheet here that has information on the
24 other study efforts, and you'll hear more about that in
25 our presentation following my introduction.

1 And then also if you want to speak today, the
2 gold or yellowish sheet is a form that we ask that you
3 fill out and leave with the registration table in the
4 back of the room. That helps get you in the order for
5 actually making an oral presentation today. And if
6 you'd rather leave documentation with us, if you have
7 anything you'd like to submit as part of the record,
8 this blue sheet of paper also on the back registration
9 table is what we'd like to have you fill out to deposit
10 any information with us for the scoping period.

11 Our GLMRIS team has organized this public
12 meeting to accomplish two goals. Our first goal is to
13 give you information about the actual study itself, and
14 then our second and the most important one for today's
15 meeting is to solicit your comments on the significant
16 issues that should be included in GLMRIS and on the
17 insignificant issues that can be eliminated from
18 further study.

19 The Corps is hosting 12 such public meetings
20 throughout the study area in an effort to provide
21 opportunities for those interested in the study and to
22 learn more about as well as provide your oral comments.
23 Please note that this is a NEPA public scoping meeting
24 and the period for comments does close on March the
25 31st, 2011.

1 As indicated on the agenda, this public
2 meeting is organized in two sessions. An identical
3 presentation will given at the beginning of each
4 session followed by an open comment period. The first
5 comment period will begin approximately one hour from
6 now and then the second session will begin at 5:30 with
7 a presentation identical to this.

8 There is a 30-minute break in between the two
9 meetings, and staff, panel members here from the front
10 will be available in the room here if you have any
11 additional questions that you would like to express or
12 talk to the team members. Please note, though, while
13 speaking to the panelists between sessions anything
14 that you have for conversation or comment will not be
15 recorded as part of the official record. So if you
16 have things, items that you feel are important and want
17 to make sure they're part of the record, we encourage
18 you to use the form itself or use the white comment
19 form to make sure that your comments and statements are
20 heard and part of the documentation.

21 I'd like to now introduce our panel members.
22 At the table here, to my left, Mr. John Goss is the
23 Asian carp director from the White House Council on
24 Environmental Quality. Seated next to him is Lieutenant
25 Colonel David Berczek. He's a deputy commander from

1 the Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In
2 the next position Dave Wethington. Dave is the GLMRIS
3 project manager. And on the far side of the table,
4 Mike Saffran, and he's the Other Pathways project
5 manager, and you'll hear from all of those men in just
6 a few minutes.

7 Okay. So that's my introductory remarks and
8 I want to keep the thing going, so I'm going to turn
9 the meeting right over to Mr. Goss at this point to
10 give you an update on the Asian carp efforts.

11 MR. GOSS: Good afternoon. Thanks for taking
12 the time to come and hopefully learn a little bit more
13 about the battle to stop the aquatic invasive species
14 from moving from our lakes to our rivers and from our
15 rivers to our lakes.

16 I am here representing the Council on
17 Environmental Quality. That's the environmental policy
18 office in the White House, and I was recruited last
19 fall to be a coordinator of all of the federal
20 agencies, the state and local entities, the stakeholder
21 groups across the Great Lakes, the business interests,
22 and to work with all of these different parties and
23 interested people to communicate and do our best to
24 come up with a permanent solution to stopping these
25 invasive species from moving.

1 We've all lived with the different waves of
2 problem species moving through the Great Lakes. We
3 have a unique opportunity with Asian carp to keep them
4 from becoming established, and I want to tell you that
5 I think the interim actions that have been taken and
6 will continue are doing a good job. They are working
7 to contain Asian carp at this time.

8 The third electric barrier that has recently
9 been turned on and will be fully operational soon is an
10 effective barrier to keep carp from moving from the
11 Illinois River up into Lake Michigan. We also have
12 some new fish barrier fences that are stopping Asian
13 carp from moving at flood times in different areas, and
14 we're going to talk about that quite a bit with the
15 Other Pathways discussion today.

16 Also the Lacey Act was adopted by Congress to
17 include a prohibition on the transportation of any live
18 Asian carp across state lines. That certainly will
19 stop the transfer of fish from areas in the South where
20 they were, in fact, being transported to some fish
21 markets and areas that we thought were a problem in
22 Canada and in some U.S. cities. So that is now totally
23 illegal.

24 Also there's a major risk assessment underway
25 with the Canadian government working with the Great

1 Lakes Fisheries Commission, and they're going to look
2 at a comprehensive analysis once again of what is the
3 threat of Asian carp to the Great Lakes and that will
4 progress in 2011. We hope to have their report within
5 about a year from now.

6 Let me run through just a few things to catch
7 you up on a little more of the specifics of what's
8 happening with the Asian carp project, the Asian carp
9 containment project. Certainly almost everyone across
10 the country has seen YouTube videos of silver carp
11 jumping when boats pass by. Actually this little video
12 clip and these kinds of pictures have helped us get
13 support for fighting invasive species in Congress.
14 This certainly has raised the awareness throughout the
15 country and it's helping get the focus on fighting a
16 better battle than we did with zebra mussels, quaggas
17 or sea lampreys that we continue to have to deal with.

18 This is a very voracious eater. They are
19 bottom feeders. They suck up a lot of plankton. They
20 are outcompeting our native fish in our rivers. I'm
21 from southern Indiana. We have Asian carp very thick
22 in the Wabash River, in the White River, and they are
23 depleting the catfish populations and the other native
24 fish populations already. So Wisconsin needs to be
25 prepared and we need to work together on the strategies

1 for reducing this carp population.

2 About a year ago a federal coordinated effort
3 was put together called the Control Strategy Framework,
4 and that joined the forces of EPA, the Great Lakes
5 Restoration Funds, Corps of Engineers, Fish and
6 Wildlife Service, USGS and Coast Guard, and also put
7 together almost \$40 million for projects to fight Asian
8 carp.

9 There's a coordinating committee that I chair
10 now with Cam Davis. Cam is in charge of the Great
11 Lakes Restoration Funding, and a lot of the money for
12 the carp projects come from the Great Lakes Restoration
13 Fund. You can see that we have federal agency people
14 who -- we talk to each other all the time, literally
15 daily, talking to each other, and we have a broader
16 group called the Regional Coordinating Committee that
17 now includes representatives from every state
18 government. So Wisconsin Department of Natural
19 Resources has active members now on this coordinating
20 group and we are working with advice and wisdom from
21 the people who know fish best in Wisconsin and from
22 each of the other Great Lakes states.

23 There's also a group meeting today in Chicago
24 called the Technical and Policy Committee and that's an
25 ongoing advisory group that will continue to look at

1 all of these techniques that we're examining for
2 stopping carp.

3 Just a little more background on where we're
4 doing most of this activity. You can see on the left
5 there, the Chicago River, originally up until about a
6 hundred years ago was a pretty short stream that came
7 out at Navy Pier, if you're familiar with Downtown
8 Michigan Avenue, and that was the original drainage,
9 and then the Calumet River's coming over from the
10 Indiana side and draining in there on the south side of
11 Chicago, and the Des Plaines River is farther out on
12 the western side of Chicago.

13 About a hundred years ago there was a problem
14 in Chicago they had from their own waste going into the
15 lake. They were contaminating their water system, and
16 so their drainage was redesigned to flow their
17 stormwater and their wastewater to the Des Plaines and
18 the Illinois River and keep it out of the lake. So
19 that is now what we're talking about.

20 When we talk about the Chicago Waterway, that
21 is the canal system that was built connecting both the
22 Downtown area of Chicago and the south side Calumet
23 areas and flowing to the Mississippi. The electric
24 barriers then are placed in that ship canal and we now
25 have three different locations close together for those

1 barriers.

2 Colonel Berczek and the Corps staff can talk
3 about any details, but I just wanted you to understand
4 that they are in close proximity down there where it's
5 all funneled down to one point, and that is the point
6 where the barriers are keeping the carp back in the
7 river.

8 Here's a bigger map. The star in the center
9 is the electric barriers again. Just below that's the
10 Lockport Dam and Locks, and just beyond that is where
11 we have a pretty thick population of Asian carp.
12 That's the -- basically the line of battle right now is
13 keeping them contained down there, and we continue to
14 monitor all of the other waters with DNA testing to
15 make sure that we don't have a carp population
16 developing up there and also commercial fishing and
17 electric shocking.

18 A few things that have been accomplished
19 recently that I just want to mention. This is in
20 Indiana. In my home state we have carp in the Wabash
21 River, breeding populations all the way up to Fort
22 Wayne, and at Fort Wayne there's a floodplain area that
23 intersects with the Maumee River that flows to Lake
24 Erie. And with the work of the Corps Risk Assessment
25 Project last year, we determined -- it was determined

1 that there is a problem. There's flood water
2 connecting there and a potential for carp to swim
3 across and go to Lake Erie. Mike Saffran will talk
4 about the details.

5 But this is a significant accomplishment.
6 Indiana Department of Natural Resources put up a fish
7 barrier already just a couple of months after they
8 figured out we had a problem. So the Corps can find
9 things that need to be dealt with in the short term and
10 we can act.

11 Also there's an identification all cross the
12 Continental Divide of our states finding other points
13 that might have resemblances to flood conditions in the
14 Fort Wayne area, and again, that's what we're calling
15 the Other Pathways part of this study. That was done
16 fairly quickly last summer also.

17 The fishing -- commercial fishing operations
18 took out over a hundred thousand pounds of Asian carp
19 just below the barrier this last year. That's going to
20 be increased over a million pounds as the target for
21 reducing the carp population below the electric
22 barriers. Also continue to do netting and
23 electrofishing up there above the barriers.

24 There are a number of research and
25 development projects that are progressing. Certainly we

1 need to do more work on the DNA testing process. We do
2 not know what it's telling us except that we're finding
3 a trace. So that's a trace of feces, mucus, fish
4 scales, leaving some DNA. Don't know if it's multiple
5 fish or a single fish. So we're going to continue to
6 work on that and refine that in the next year or two.

7 Also working with a number of projects hoping
8 to come up with a way to do some reproductive
9 interference, possibly dietary interference that would
10 slow down these hungry carp, and also possibly carp-
11 specific chemicals that would help us eradicate carp
12 populations.

13 I'm going to just keep going here. I already
14 talked about commercial fishing. Just wanted to
15 mention that the Coast Guard has a very important role
16 dealing with all the shipping traffic and recreational
17 boating traffic on the Chicago Waterway, and that is
18 another complication. There are a significant number
19 of boats that regularly move through these same waters
20 that are, in fact, Chicago's combined sewer overflow
21 system and also a shipping canal that we're dealing
22 with and trying to put barriers in to make sure that
23 not just big fat carp but that any invasive species
24 cannot go through.

25 So that's the real nature of the challenge

1 for the Corps of Engineers with this comprehensive
2 study, is to come up with a way to stop all invasive
3 species from moving through there. It is increasingly
4 difficult. I've already talked about the layout enough
5 there. I think we could go to that later. If you have
6 questions about it, we can come back to it. I just
7 want to make a couple of final comments and then we'll
8 move on with the Corps staff to talk to you about the
9 actual study process.

10 You can see this is a complicated problem.
11 It takes a comprehensive analysis. There are lots -- a
12 lot of questions that we're getting about the time
13 frame on this, and certainly we are working on ways to
14 reduce the total time it takes to get decisions made on
15 this permanent solution for stopping invasive species
16 from moving.

17 But this is not going to be able to be a snap
18 decision. It's not something that can be made today.
19 It is going to take a process and that's what we're
20 going to talk about some more today so that you'll
21 understand that process, and I think hopefully after we
22 have a good question-and-answer session that you will
23 have a better understanding.

24 So just in conclusion, we have some strong
25 carp barriers in place. We are proactively monitoring

1 the area between the carp barriers and Lake Michigan to
2 make certain that we do not have a carp population
3 establishing there. We're also looking at other points
4 around the Great Lakes over the next year to make sure
5 that we do not have a carp population developing, and
6 we're going to continue to implement this coordinated
7 effort to do everything that we can come up with to
8 protect the Great Lakes ecosystem and make sure that we
9 still have the Great Lakes that we all love. Thank you
10 and I look forward to questions and conversations as we
11 go on today. Thanks.

12 COLONEL BERCEK: Good afternoon and welcome
13 to this scoping meeting. We appreciate your time in
14 coming today to inform us and also to be informed.

15 Invasive species inhabit all regions of the
16 United States and every nation. Invasive species from
17 around the globe are affecting plant and animal
18 communities on our farms, ranches and coasts, parks,
19 waters, forests and backyards. Those two statements are
20 the opening statements in the 2005 report from the
21 National Invasive Species Council and also from the
22 National Invasive Species Management Plan, 2008 and
23 2012. It's a complex and accelerating problem.
24 Species of benefit in one area may be species of harm
25 or invasive species in others.

1 In 2007, Congress, under the Water Resources
2 and Development Act, directed the Corps of Engineers
3 and the secretary through the Corps of Engineers to
4 conduct in consultation -- you can see there primarily
5 I want to focus on these -- a feasibility study, focus
6 on these blue words here -- looking at the options and
7 technologies available to prevent the spread of aquatic
8 nuisance species between the Great Lakes and
9 Mississippi River basins through the Chicago Sanitary
10 and Ship Canal and other aquatic pathways.

11 Under this study, some of the special
12 considerations that you see that are mentioned are
13 we'll look at the recommendations. We'll include an
14 impact of the analysis on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship
15 Canal as part of this study. We'll include detailed
16 analysis of various aquatic nuisance species controls
17 to include hydrologic separation.

18 We'll look to prevent the spread of those
19 species from one basin to the other and vice-versa, and
20 as part of that we'll conduct a detailed risk
21 assessment and risk analysis of all options and
22 technologies, again to include the hydrologic
23 separation, to see which combination of those could go
24 ahead and achieve that 100 percent success rate.

25 The study is 100 percent federally funded,

1 which in a feasibility study is not typical. Typically
2 in a feasibility report the Corps of Engineers would
3 partner with a local sponsor or someone else to have a
4 cost share portion. So this is significant in the fact
5 that Congress, in telling us to conduct this study, has
6 also made available the funds from the federal budget
7 to go ahead and allow us to go forward with it.

8 The GLMRIS study area is very large and very
9 encompassing, and I'll just spend a little bit here to
10 show you these areas that are highlighted. Primarily
11 up here in the detailed study area are the Great Lakes
12 states and in these portions here that make up the
13 upper Mississippi River basins.

14 This dashed line here represents an area of
15 focus of primary concern because that is a -- the
16 natural flow divide. Water that lands to the north of
17 that region is part of the Great Lakes watershed basin;
18 water that lands to the south of that makes up the
19 upper Mississippi River watershed.

20 What does this study include? It takes a
21 look at the aquatic connections. We talked a little
22 bit already, you saw in the authorization language
23 taking a look at the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal
24 and the other aquatic pathways. We're looking at all
25 varieties of organisms, fish, plants, parasites.

1 And I showed you there with the map a little
2 bit some of the locations we're looking at, primarily
3 focusing on that interface between the two basins as
4 being a point of separation, a point of distinction on
5 keeping things on one side versus the other. And it's
6 a large study area. The states that were highlighted
7 with the detailed study area encompass roughly 16, 17
8 states, whereas you see there are portions of 31 other
9 states that contribute to those watersheds.

10 What's not being looked at as part of the
11 scope of this study you see on the right-hand side in
12 the pink area. It does not look at terrestrial
13 transfers or airborne transfers of nuisance species.
14 It is not looking at human release.

15 Mr. Goss talked a little bit about some of
16 the activities under the Asian Carp Regional
17 Coordinating Committee, and some of those areas there
18 looked to the human release, bait bucket transfers,
19 those sort of things, specifically with regards to
20 Asian carp. Those are beyond necessarily the scope of
21 this study. Not necessarily looking at the Atlantic
22 Slope and the St. Lawrence Seaway or into Canada. Mr.
23 Goss mentioned as well some of the Canadian efforts and
24 some of the other efforts that are ongoing.

25 The elements of this study you see there as

1 well, looking at options and technologies to prevent
2 the interbasin transfer, including hydrologic
3 separation and evaluation; and, of course, as part of
4 our studies we look at the regional economic modeling
5 and come up with a risk-based ecological decision-
6 making framework. This is a feasibility study that will
7 result in a feasibility report with recommendations to
8 Congress for implementation, but also this will include
9 an Environmental Impact Statement.

10 To go ahead and accomplish the study of this
11 magnitude and this complexity, we had to take a look
12 at, figure out a strategy on how best to proceed and go
13 down this path, and you can see here just a little bit
14 how we organized for success. Mr. Goss talked about
15 some of the committees that existed already as part of
16 the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, and
17 since that was in place and in effect, we kind of just
18 borrowed from that and continued to use those
19 committees and those agencies to go ahead and help with
20 the spread of information and the transfer of
21 information and also then if there's direction needed
22 as well.

23 So I think that's a good place to start, and
24 we talked as well about joining with all other
25 stakeholders. You see in the Congressional language

1 where we were told to collaborate with others, and
2 that's exactly what we're doing.

3 We're breaking down into two geographically
4 oriented areas. The study authorization language said
5 to look at the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and
6 other aquatic pathways, so it made sense to break that
7 out into two focus areas. Dave Wethington is the
8 overall GLMRIS project manager but he's also the
9 project manager for the Chicago Area Waterway System
10 and he'll talk to that piece of the study in a little
11 bit. And Mr. Mike Saffran, who was introduced earlier,
12 will talk a little bit about some of the efforts on the
13 other pathways.

14 Key to this entire process will be to go
15 ahead and keep the public informed and also to keep
16 ourselves informed of developing technologies, and Mr.
17 Goss mentioned as well part of the regional strategy,
18 the framework, 45 actions that are ongoing in 2011 as
19 part of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee.
20 If something comes out of there that can go ahead and
21 ought to be considered and wrapped into this report,
22 we've got to remain adaptive so that we can go ahead
23 and adjust to that and include that evolving technology
24 or that evolving information.

25 And that last bullet, of course, in the Corps

1 of Engineers, in all studies we do, we will abide by
2 all legal and regulatory guidance in carrying out the
3 study.

4 This here is just a little bit of the study
5 purpose. You see we've identified the aquatic
6 pathways. Some of that preliminary work has already
7 been done. Mr. Saffran will talk to that, and we're
8 looking at -- right now we're inventorying the current
9 and the future potential aquatic nuisance species.

10 The Asian carp, Mr. Goss mentioned, has
11 brought a lot of focus to this type of an effort, and
12 you see that in the past there were other laws and
13 other legislation that was passed that a lot of times
14 focused on zebra mussel or focused on other specific
15 species. In this case here Congress directed us to
16 look at all aquatic nuisance species. So we have some
17 pictures there. I like to say it's from fish to fleas,
18 and of course that's what's up there. The Asian carp,
19 the duckweed, the ruffe, the sea lamprey, and the spiny
20 water flea.

21 We're looking at all organisms, analyzing
22 possible controls that could be out there or that may
23 surface to go ahead and help us in this fight. And
24 again, mention so that we don't lose sight of the fact
25 that hydrologic separation of the basins will be one of

1 those options to be looked at.

2 This is the primary focus area and it's the
3 more urgent one because it represents the pathway that
4 we know exists and is always open. It doesn't rely on
5 certain flood conditions to be open. It is always open
6 and it's a navigable waterway. I'll let Dave talk to
7 this area a little bit for you.

8 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir. Good
9 afternoon. Again, my name is Dave Wethington. I'm the
10 project manager at the Chicago District, U.S. Army
11 Corps of Engineers, and I'm the project manager for the
12 Focus Area I.

13 I'll spend just a couple minutes this
14 afternoon going over the slide. I want to direct your
15 attention first to the map that's on the right-hand
16 side. What you'll see are five points numbered one
17 through five, starting at the top and going along the
18 Lake Michigan shoreline. Those five points represent
19 the areas in which the Great Lakes basin and the
20 Mississippi River basin have the opportunity to
21 interact within the Chicagoland area, within this
22 primary transfer area.

23 What's unique about this river system is that
24 just as you would imagine the five prongs of a fork
25 flowing into a handle of the fork, all five of these

1 waterways flow into a single Chicago Ship and Sanitary
2 Canal, which is where we have located our electric
3 barrier system. That's number seven on this map. So
4 that's kind of the reason for locating our fish barrier
5 system at this point is because it serves as an
6 effective choke point for addressing all five of these
7 potential pathways.

8 In addition, I'd like you to notice that
9 there are what we have -- what we call controlled and
10 uncontrolled waterways on here. Points one, two and
11 three are controlled by a physical structure, which is
12 the Wilmette Pumping Station, point number one; the
13 Chicago Lock, point number two; and actually point
14 number three is controlled by the physical structure in
15 number six, which is the O'Brien Lock and Dam. You'll
16 also note that points four and five are what we called
17 uncontrolled waterways, so there are basically no
18 physical structures that can block the movement of fish
19 or other aquatic species.

20 On the left-hand side is an outline of our
21 Corps planning process. This is how we were -- this is
22 how we are attacking essentially this problem. What
23 we're doing is we're in steps one and two right now.
24 We're specifying problems and opportunities. We've put
25 together a team of professionals with the Corps of

1 Engineers and also reached out to our federal partners,
2 state partners, regional agencies to identify what are
3 the problems and what are our potential opportunities.
4 That's also one of the reasons why we're here today is
5 to listen to you to give us an idea of what do you
6 think is significant or important as we move down and
7 scope this study.

8 We're also beginning the process of
9 inventorying and forecasting conditions, and what does
10 that mean? Basically what we're doing is we're
11 collecting information on how these waterways are used.
12 You might have heard a lot about how the Chicago Area
13 Waterway System is used for commercial navigation.
14 That's true. In addition though, the Chicago Area
15 Waterway System are used for recreational purposes, for
16 water supply, water discharge. The entire Chicagoland
17 area discharges their municipal wastewater into the
18 Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal. It comprises about 70
19 to 80 percent of the total volume of the flow of the
20 Chicago River.

21 Another very important use of the Chicago
22 Area Waterway System is flood risk management. It
23 doesn't happen very often but every couple years, every
24 five years we have a significant rainfall event in the
25 Chicagoland area that causes us to backflow or open

1 that lock structure at number two and number three to
2 backflow the water that normally flows toward the
3 Mississippi River out toward Lake Michigan to relieve
4 flood pressure. Basically this helps reduce economic
5 damages to -- via overbank flooding in the Chicagoland
6 area as well as significant economic damage that is
7 potential through basement flooding as the sewer system
8 throughout the entire Chicagoland area backs up. This
9 flood risk management tool also protects human health
10 and human life safety.

11 Once we've collected the information
12 describing what all the potential uses are for the
13 waterways, what we're going to do with that is analyze
14 the potential impacts that would be had when we
15 implement some aquatic nuisance species control
16 technology. You know, the technologies would include
17 anything from electric barriers, potential dead zones
18 or physical hydrologic separation of the basins. So we
19 need to figure out what are the economic, environmental
20 and social impacts to the waterway users of
21 implementing these aquatic nuisance species controls.

22 Our legislation and our guidance also told us
23 that we need to look at mitigation for adverse impacts
24 to those waterway uses. And again, as Mr. Goss and
25 Colonel Berczek have mentioned, we have been

1 collaborating wholeheartedly with other federal
2 agencies, state partners, Native American tribes,
3 regional and local agencies as well as non-governmental
4 organizations, the public and private industry.

5 Thank you for your time and attention. I'll
6 turn it back to you, Colonel Berczek. Thank you.

7 COLONEL BERCEK: Thanks, Dave. With that
8 I'll just introduce Mr. Saffran again. He's going to
9 talk a little bit and explain to you what this slide is
10 about with the other pathways.

11 MR. SAFFRAN: Thank you, Colonel. Again, my
12 name is Mike Saffran. I work for the Great Lakes and
13 Ohio River Division Office out of Cincinnati.

14 When we started into the GLMRIS study, a lot
15 was known about the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal,
16 but relatively little was known about that -- the three
17 little words at the end of that authority, the other
18 aquatic pathways.

19 About the 1st of June last year our
20 commanding general made a visit to Portage, Wisconsin,
21 at the end of a very intense springtime effort fighting
22 Asian carp in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, and
23 given all of the expenditure of federal resources,
24 time, labor and efforts that had gone into the Chicago
25 Sanitary and Ship Canal, he basically came back with a

1 real dilemma and which is that he was concerned that
2 there's a significant chance that all of that
3 investment could be bypassed, if you will, if the Asian
4 carp could find a way to outflank us and find another
5 location where they could access the Great Lakes, and
6 the trip to Portage helped him realize there are other
7 potential aquatic pathways.

8 And so he tasked the division staff to within
9 60 days go out and produce a draft report that provided
10 an inventory of all the potential aquatic pathways that
11 could develop anywhere along that 1500-mile long
12 drainage divide that extends from upper Minnesota over
13 to western New York. So a very tall order. We weren't
14 exactly sure how we could do it, but we knew we needed
15 to reach out to other partner agencies for help. And
16 so we immediately went to the USGS, the Fish and
17 Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
18 Administration folks as well as the state DNR's and
19 asked them for their help.

20 The Fish and Wildlife Service -- I'll go
21 through this fairly quick. I was going to cover a
22 number of things, but the Fish and Wildlife Service
23 helped us initially with developing a list of non-
24 indigenous aquatic species in the Great Lakes but not
25 yet known to exist in the river basin, and vice-versa,

1 a list of species in the Mississippi River basin that
2 are not indigenous that are not yet known to be in the
3 Great Lakes. There was about 121 species in the Great
4 Lakes, about 20 in the Mississippi River basin in those
5 initial two lists.

6 USGS helped us with point distribution maps
7 that illustrate the spatial locations of where those
8 aquatic nuisance species existed in either basin. A
9 team of biologists came together and helped whittle it
10 down to the species of most significant concern for the
11 GLMRIS.

12 And while the biologists were working,
13 hydrologists from the state DNR's and USGS and the U.S.
14 Army Corps of Engineers were all working together to
15 identify where are locations along the divide where
16 water can pass, and what we found was a total of about
17 the 36 locations where there seemed to be a significant
18 potential for an aquatic pathway to develop across the
19 drainage divide.

20 This was a mix of locations. Some locations
21 were remnants of old canal systems. Some are locations
22 of very rural areas where agricultural ditches have
23 been excavated across the drainage divide. Some are in
24 urban and suburban locations where drainage ways have
25 been developed, and some are just natural wetlands that

1 exist along the basin, along the divide.

2 Out of those 36 locations, 18 of them were
3 determined to pose a relatively significant risk for
4 the potential for ANS transfer across the basin divide.
5 Of those 18, there's only one that really jumped out
6 though as a very, very significant risk, and that's
7 what has already been mentioned today, which is the
8 Eagle Marsh in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

9 And if you'll notice there where the star is
10 for Fort Wayne, there's a part of the drainage basin
11 for the Maumee River that extends to the southeast from
12 that location and comes back up to Fort Wayne, and
13 again, that's the St. Mary's River. St. Joseph's River
14 originates in southeastern Michigan and flows southwest
15 into Fort Wayne, and then the Maumee River is formed
16 out of the junction of those two rivers and heads to
17 the northeast up to Lake Erie.

18 Well, when you have a significant rainfall
19 event in that basin, water backflows across the basin
20 divide through urban ditches in the town of Fort Wayne
21 into Eagle Marsh and over into the Wabash River basin.
22 When you have a 10 percent annual return frequency
23 storm or about the largest storm you'd expect to occur
24 in any ten-year period, the depth of the water across
25 the basin divide is up to four and a half feet deep.

1 The combination of that circumstance with
2 established populations of bighead and silver carp less
3 than 25 miles to the west in the Wabash River basin led
4 to a quick determination that something needed to be
5 done there relatively quick.

6 End of July we had an on-site meeting where
7 the Indiana DNR, the county surveyor, National Resource
8 Conservation Service, Little River Wetlands Project,
9 USGS, USEPA, Corps of Engineers, we all met and talked
10 about the circumstances, and everybody agreed there
11 needed to be some sort of a permanent remedy but we all
12 agreed that it would be very difficult for the federal
13 government to actually build something, build something
14 right away.

15 Indiana DNR stepped up and said, hey, we can
16 take the lead on this, and they developed a design and
17 constructed a temporary barrier across the Eagle Marsh
18 in less than 60 days. By the end of September we had a
19 temporary barrier up there that now is in place and is
20 protecting against Asian carp making the transfer next
21 time we have a really significant rainfall out there.

22 To tell you where the other pathways are
23 going, the other 17 locations we're now completing a
24 risk character -- well, let me back up. For Eagle
25 Marsh there is currently a feasibility report being

1 developed by the Corps of Engineers looking at
2 alternatives for a permanent fix for Fort Wayne. That
3 report is scheduled to be completed this year.

4 For the other 17 locations, we're also in the
5 process right now of having the internal draft plan
6 being reviewed and are going to complete the risk
7 characterization in the other locations this year, and
8 that report should be available before the end of this
9 calendar year as well. So that's it. Thank you.

10 COLONEL BERCEK: Thank you, Mike. So while
11 we are here today still in the public meeting, in the
12 public scoping period and gathering information, which
13 still is somewhat the beginning part of the process,
14 you've heard discussed already some things have been
15 done, some things have been accomplished, and you see
16 down here on this left side as we're talking about the
17 process itself and now we're into February conducting
18 the 10th of 12 meetings to begin this public scoping
19 period but at the same time looking at all of these
20 other areas.

21 Mike talked about the Eagle Marsh separation
22 there, talked about the preliminary risk
23 characterization and talked about as well some of the
24 aquatic nuisance species that are out there that ought
25 to be of concern, but at the same time not losing sight

1 of the fact that the big fish out there is the Asian
2 carp and keeping track on that and learning what others
3 are researching, what others are finding out.

4 So where are we headed? The schedule you see
5 in front of you right now is a best case scenario, an
6 aggressive schedule to go ahead and conduct a study of
7 this magnitude and this complexity with a draft
8 recommended plan to be put out again for public comment
9 period sometime in the fall of 2014.

10 You heard a little bit about what Mike was
11 talking about with these other pathways. We were
12 talking about some of the risk characterization reports
13 coming up in the fall of 2011 and looking for those
14 other opportunities that others might have the ability
15 to go ahead and put something into place in the
16 meantime.

17 This part here, this could be -- you'd think,
18 well, I'm not going to hear anything, I'm not going to
19 see what's going on with this report for the next three
20 years, so we have here some of these interim products
21 that we want to go ahead and cycle out as they're
22 available to help keep informed and help keep the
23 discussion and dialogue current, and you see here some
24 of those types of products.

25 As we're doing some of the data collections,

1 some of the research and analysis, some of those may
2 lend themselves to products and reports that could come
3 out that -- to share what we've found and how that's
4 influencing the study. And also again that Other
5 Pathways report down at the bottom that Mike mentioned
6 will be coming out in the fall. Those types of reports
7 will be coming out as well.

8 It's critical but as we continue down this
9 process that we continue sharing information with you
10 and getting information in return, and so there are
11 methods like today, like the Web site to go ahead and
12 provide your comments and provide input. We're looking
13 to others, you see down there some of the example
14 inputs, to go ahead and inform the GLMRIS study. We
15 are very heavily relying on the collaborations and the
16 expertise and authorities of other agencies and other
17 groups to go ahead and provide and take advantage of
18 what they normally do on a daily basis to help inform
19 this effort.

20 And again, this is just a schedule of the
21 public meetings other ways to provide input and stay in
22 touch, and you see we're here today. We've got another
23 meeting in New Orleans later this week and then again
24 the reschedule in Ann Arbor, Michigan on the 8th of
25 March.

1 This just highlights a little bit some of the
2 other means and methods to go ahead and keep in touch
3 through social media and other electronic means. I
4 believe we'll talk a little bit more to those. I'm
5 sorry. Kevin is back up here and I thank you for your
6 time and your attention today. We look forward to your
7 comments and your questions.

8 MR. BLUHM: Thank you, sir. Well, I just was
9 handed the list of people that have asked to speak.
10 We've got 11 speakers that are on our list, so we've
11 got a very robust group that are going to talk to us,
12 so I appreciate that.

13 And also before we start the second portion,
14 I'd like to mention to you all, geographically the
15 Corps of Engineers is broken up by different districts.
16 I mentioned in my opening remarks I'm from the St. Paul
17 District. Many of the people on the panel here are
18 from Chicago and down that way.

19 I want to let you know, though, that actually
20 where we're at today is in the Detroit District. So
21 Milwaukee's part of the Detroit District, and so
22 hosting our district and representing the Detroit
23 District, we've got Mr. Gary O'Keefe, the deputy for
24 project management. Gary's over here and I just want
25 to say thank you for hosting us at your city on the far

1 side of your district and appreciate your bringing the
2 good weather for us. Our road trip has been plagued
3 with some weather issues from time to time. So thank
4 you, sir.

5 Okay. So we've got 11 people lined up and I
6 don't want to waste any more time. Before we begin, I
7 want to let you know, though, that the study Web site
8 is a very good source for continued study information.
9 Interested persons can also subscribe to the study's e-
10 mail list through that project Web site, and the Corps
11 will use the e-mail list to distribute any updates on
12 such things as documents that have been added,
13 opportunities for public involvement, and other
14 important news and events. The GLMRIS project Web site
15 can be found on many of the different pieces of
16 information you've been given today as well as the
17 little business card. So keep that in mind if you're
18 looking for more opportunities as time goes on.

19 And then also as the slide shows and as the
20 colonel was mentioning, we've even got some social
21 media outlets for those that are so inclined, and my
22 son's really good at all that. He's got that little
23 thing going all the time. But anyway, we've got
24 ourselves positioned in many different varieties of
25 formats to find out more about this.

1 Okay. So now moving into the oral comment
2 period. We -- like I said, I've got a list of 11 here.
3 We'll go through those 11 and then once we're through
4 the list, then we'll give opportunities for others that
5 have changed their mind or decided they'd like to add a
6 comment as well and take as much time as it takes.

7 In the comment period we want to make sure
8 that you understand that all forms of comment are
9 welcome here and we can all agree to disagree on
10 comments that we hear. We want to mostly make sure
11 it's a friendly and open environment for people to say
12 their piece and to be able to be heard and have equal
13 opportunity.

14 Please keep in mind we've asked for people to
15 keep their comments to three minutes. If you're asking
16 a question as part of your comment, we'd ask that you
17 manage your time to allow for your comment, question
18 and a response, and then the panelists here will answer
19 any questions that, indeed, are answerable. So we'll
20 give that our best effort here.

21 And also I just want to let you know too you
22 do not have to get up in front of the crowd here to
23 have your comments heard or weighed in. All forms of
24 comments received during the public comment period are
25 weighted equally.

1 And then the last thing before we start, kind
2 of in the center here we have a stenographer with us
3 this afternoon. She'll be recording your comments and
4 questions that you have for us. In order to make sure
5 that they are entered correctly, we'd ask that you come
6 to one of the microphones. We've got microphones
7 positioned kind of front and center and then one
8 further back. You can pick either microphone, whatever
9 is the most comfortable for you. We'd ask that you
10 talk into the microphone so it can be picked up and
11 everybody can hear you.

12 When you start we'd ask that you give your
13 name, any organization or affiliation that you have if
14 you're representing any, and then if you can for
15 statistical reasons, give us your zip code. The zip
16 code would be very helpful. And ask that you remember
17 to speak slowly and take your time to give your
18 questions and comments that you have.

19 So with that, I've got, like I said, 11 names
20 here, and I'm going to start here with Dianne -- and
21 I'm going to probably not do real good with the last
22 names, and that's part of the reason why we ask you to
23 say your name. So it's Dagelen, and then second up
24 will be Patrick Brennan. So when you're all set,
25 Dianne, you can address the panel.

1 MS. DAGELEN: Thank you. My name is Dianne
2 Dagenen. I live in Wauwatosa. My zip code is 53226.
3 I'm here as a conservation chair for the Great Waters
4 Group of the Sierra Club. That's the Sierra Club group
5 of the southeastern Wisconsin area.

6 I'm also here as a member of the board for
7 the sailing club at UWM, of which I'm on the board and
8 an instructor in sailing here on Lake Michigan. I'm
9 also here as a member of the Milwaukee Sea Kayak Group.
10 We see kayaks here in Lake Michigan and also in Lake
11 Superior.

12 And I -- the idea of Asian carp being
13 hurtling out of the water at me while I'm paddling my
14 kayak because a motor boat happens to zoom on past me,
15 which is not unusual, is quite a harrowing thought that
16 I could be knocked from my kayak or knocked off a
17 sailboat as I'm sailing by.

18 As someone who cares deeply about the
19 environment, I'm concerned about Asian carp coming into
20 the Great Waters Group -- in the Great Lakes group.
21 Probably you've heard this before, but it's worth
22 mentioning again for many reasons, including the
23 industry here. There's a \$7 billion fishing industry
24 here on the Great Lakes annually that would be affected
25 by the Asian carp coming in and cleaning out the

1 plankton and other things that our local fish feed on.
2 In addition, it's just the water pollution problem in
3 carrying in other hitchhikers that come in to the Great
4 Lakes.

5 And I don't know if you're familiar with the
6 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and one of its journalists,
7 Dan Egan, who wrote a very comprehensive set of
8 articles this past summer in the Journal regarding
9 possible alternatives and solutions, which included
10 closing down the sanitation canal for Chicago and
11 redirecting their entire sanitation department
12 waterworks so that the wastewater would be purified and
13 returned to Lake Michigan rather than flushed down the
14 sanitation canal into the Mississippi River. And also
15 proposed another alternative of dealing with the barges
16 so that their business would not be lost but rather
17 could be actually enhanced by using the rail system
18 that runs parallel to the canal.

19 So there are many, many very good
20 alternatives out there, and that's a question that I
21 have for the group here is are you familiar with the
22 articles written by Dan Egan of the Milwaukee Journal
23 Sentinel. You're nodding yes.

24 MR. GOSS: Yes.

25 MS. DAGELEN: And I'm wondering what you

1 thought of them, what your opinion is of the articles.
2 Did you think they were viable alternatives or did they
3 not carry much water weight?

4 MR. WETHINGTON: I don't want to comment on
5 Mr. Egan's articles, but basically I just want to kind
6 of point out, the Corps of Engineers, we are the
7 steward of taxpayer dollars and we must be able to
8 follow a process to look at all potential options or
9 control technologies that could be implemented to
10 prevent the transfer of aquatic nuisance species. We
11 don't want to focus on any one single one and
12 predetermine the end of our study.

13 So the purpose of what we're doing here today
14 and what we're getting input on is to basically look at
15 all the potential -- look at all the ideas we can get
16 to look at all potential control technologies to
17 prevent the transfer of all aquatic nuisance species
18 between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River
19 basins.

20 MS. DAGELEN: I had to say that I really
21 admire your thoroughness and the way that you approach
22 this, but at the same time I'm a little bit puzzled
23 that it just seems to cry out that this is something
24 that needs ASAP attention pronto. And yet I'm looking
25 at the chart and we're looking at 2015 for a possible -

1 - just to complete the study.

2 And I think it's noble that you're being very
3 thorough about this. I don't want to discredit that,
4 but it just seems that balanced against, you know, the
5 loss of a \$7 billion annual fishing industry, the
6 public safety in using the waters, so that anyone -- so
7 that people just no longer feel safe to go out on the
8 water and not to mention the pollution problems, I
9 guess it kind of baffles me that if things are going to
10 be taking so long.

11 COLONEL BERCZEK: Ma'am, I can talk a little
12 bit to that. This study is not causing us to slow down
13 any of our efforts at all in focusing on the Asian
14 carp. We still remain very active as a part of the
15 Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee. We're
16 continuing to work with the barriers that are in place,
17 working with the other federal agencies and state
18 agencies as far as the monitoring and tracking of the
19 Asian carp, and all those efforts.

20 Mr. Goss mentioned earlier about the
21 strategic framework, and there are in here within the
22 most recent copy of the document 45 actions being
23 undertaken this calendar year by federal and state
24 agencies to go ahead and look at biologic controls of
25 Asian carp, look at other methods to go ahead and

1 identify, track and either control or eliminate Asian
2 carp, to include the efforts by Illinois with the
3 harvesting and commercial sale of those fish.

4 So a lot is still being done specifically
5 related to the Asian carp. The GLMRIS study is looking
6 beyond that, looking at those other nuisance species,
7 and so it's -- I like to say it's to Asian carp and
8 beyond kind of thing. It's looking at all those other
9 things that ought to be considered when we go ahead and
10 look at the healthy ecosystem and the environment. So
11 we are considering all those options and technologies,
12 but again, we're not waiting for this study to perform
13 our actions for today's fight with the Asian carp
14 specifically.

15 MS. DAGELEN: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Next we'll
17 hear from Mr. Brennan. Following will be Lia
18 Montgomery.

19 MR. BRENNAN: Good afternoon. My name's
20 Patrick Brennan. I'm the sustainability manager for
21 Ingram Barge Company. Ingram is a leading inland water
22 transportation company. We operate a fleet of over 130
23 tow boats and 4,000 barges on the Mississippi River.
24 We're an active member of the American Waterways
25 Association and we support comments that they have

1 submitted to your attention earlier.

2 The Chicago Waterway System is not just an
3 important thoroughfare for water-based transportation
4 around Chicago. It's a critical path for
5 transportation goods on the entire Mississippi River,
6 between that system and the Great Lakes. We appreciate
7 the Corps' willingness to public host meetings about
8 this issue in Milwaukee and other cities around the
9 country.

10 I will defer to the AWO and our other
11 industry partners on submissions for comments and I
12 just want to highlight a few points. We agree that the
13 Corps' studies should study the range of options and
14 technologies available to prevent spread of aquatic
15 nuisance species between Great Lakes and the
16 Mississippi River basin and the Chicago Sanitary and
17 Shipping Canal and other aquatic pathways. This is an
18 important Congressional mandate and our industry stands
19 by ready to support the Corps in their study process.

20 In addition, I understand the Corps has
21 identified certain focus areas for its study. Regarding
22 Focus Area I, it seems clear at this point that the
23 electronic barriers now in place in the focus area are
24 doing a good job in dealing with the Asian carp
25 problem. We agree with AWO's position that the Corps

1 should concentrate on Focus Area II, with certain other
2 pathways that will go around the Chicagoland Area
3 Waterway System, including the dozens of other
4 identified pathways of invasive species.

5 Finally, we would like to reiterate that the
6 closing of locks between the Great Lakes and the
7 Mississippi River system is not a valid option for the
8 economic of the nation. Closing locks, even if not
9 permanent, would cripple and affect the economy. We
10 believe the Corps should look at -- for solutions that
11 protect its mission to navigate -- to maintain
12 navigation while protecting the environment.

13 Ingram transports millions of tons of cargo
14 to customers with facilities located above and near
15 Chicago, including the O'Brien Lock and the Lockport
16 Lock. In 2009 Ingram transported over 600,000 tons of
17 outbound and inbound points above the O'Brien Lock,
18 including large volumes of ore, coal, steel, scrap
19 metal and other cargoes. The total dollar value of
20 these cargoes is estimated at over 800 million -- or
21 excuse me, \$80 million. Additional in 2009, Ingram
22 transported 900,000 tons of cargo with a total value of
23 over 100 million for outbound to inbound ports above
24 the Lockport Lock.

25 The Chicago canal is an important

1 thoroughfare for the nation connecting places like
2 Milwaukee to other magnets to New Orleans. Again,
3 thank you for the opportunity to speak today and for
4 holding a public forum meeting in Milwaukee.

5 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Next Miss Montgomery
6 and then following her Robert Wincek.

7 MS. MONTGOMERY: Lia Montgomery from Algoma,
8 54201. I don't want you to leave Wisconsin without
9 something. So it's not an autographed picture of Aaron
10 Rogers but -- or a team photo. But no, seriously, I
11 wanted to say thank you. I know this is tough. But I
12 just so appreciate President Obama's leadership and
13 your leadership in this, and I don't want you to leave
14 without knowing how much this means to all of us and to
15 the Great Lakes.

16 Just one comment real quick. Have you seen
17 the short video, The Fork In the River, Metropolitan
18 Planning Council? I saw it this morning and it's
19 great. It's the first positive thing I've seen out of
20 Chicago yet, and in it it says a great description of
21 what's going on and what can happen really basic, but
22 it says at the end for separation to work, we would
23 need to vastly improve water treatment standards --
24 sounds like a great idea -- manage most of our
25 rainwater where it falls -- sounds like a great idea --

1 move our water and boats in a new way, deal with Asian
2 carp now, and whatever invasives come next.

3 Then it says can we do it? And it says yes.
4 That simple. Can we do it? Yes. We built it; we can
5 redo it. Wow, you know, 1900, \$31 million back then.
6 They didn't do a study like this to do that amazing
7 Chicago thing. They did it. So here in this video
8 they're saying can we do it. Yes. But then they say
9 the question is should we do it, and that's how the
10 video ends.

11 And, you know, we need leadership on this
12 issue. We really need leadership. If back in 1900 if
13 the people or -- you know, barges or any other
14 industries were commissioned to find out whether it was
15 appropriate or not to change the water -- waterways
16 back then, I'm sure most people would say, have said at
17 the time, "\$31 million? It's going to cost \$31 million?
18 No, just let our sewage go in the lake." Okay. Figure
19 it out or whatever.

20 So leadership is really important right now
21 and I am just going to hope that you continue to think
22 big, think really big about this, and let's look at the
23 future in a whole new way. I understand there's barges
24 and all kinds of industry, but to work on this project
25 in the future, talk about jobs, talk about the kind of

1 future we could leave our children if we just do this
2 thing the right way.

3 So again, videos like this, changing the
4 attitude of people, getting them to realize that we can
5 do this, we can do it. So we just need leadership, and
6 I really appreciate what you've been doing and I thank
7 you.

8 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Okay. Next Mr.
9 Wincek and then following will be Todd Pollesch.

10 MR. WINCEK: Thank you. I'm Robert Wincek,
11 board member, Great Lakes Sport Fishermen Milwaukee
12 chapter. Great Lakes Sport Fisherman support the
13 salmon rite fishery up and down the shores of Lake
14 Michigan, both on this side and on the Michigan side.
15 Our hobby is to fish for salmon and trout, and like I
16 say, we have chapters on both sides of the lake. So we
17 want to keep the salmon fishery going. We do
18 everything we can to help the salmon fishery. At the
19 same time we add quite bit of money to the economy. We
20 have tournaments.

21 We have a -- I represent 200 members just in
22 the Milwaukee chapter, and we buy a lot of sporting
23 goods, and when we look at things, we're here
24 addressing the carp. If the carp get into the lake,
25 the salmon rite fishery will be gone. I've got some

1 friends that used to fish walleyes in the Illinois
2 River. That's gone. If it ever gets reclaimed, I
3 guess that would be something to see. It would be nice
4 but it's not there anymore and the impact has been
5 felt.

6 When I start looking at the Great Lakes sport
7 fishery, we're looking at millions of dollars just on
8 the sport fishery itself, but then in the residuals we
9 also have the Pittman Robertson Act where a portion of
10 all sporting goods sales gets siphoned off to go back
11 into the environment and back into outdoor recreational
12 activities, so that becomes an important thing.

13 One of the things -- you've heard a lot of
14 comments. I just want to thank you for giving us the
15 opportunity to make the comments. One of the things
16 that is pressing at this time is this morning President
17 Obama made a budget presentation and he's proposing to
18 cut \$50 million plus out of the Great Lakes restoration
19 budget. It doesn't say if it's going to affect your
20 efforts or not, but when I say here Great Lakes
21 restoration effort, it becomes important to me because
22 this is my hobby. This is something I want to leave to
23 my kids and the people, you know, the people of
24 Wisconsin, people of America. I do everything I can to
25 improve it and hopefully we can keep it going that way.

1 The other thing I heard is that you're
2 looking for input to help, and you mentioned the USFS;
3 you mentioned NOAA. I fished in Milwaukee now for over
4 30 years. I've never seen a NOAA person. I've never
5 seen a USFS person. I've seen the DNR. We work very,
6 very closely with the DNR. We would just like to be
7 part of that effort. You know, we've got, like I say,
8 clubs up and down the shores on both sides. We'd like
9 to be part of the solution to eradicate the carp
10 problem permanently.

11 One thing that I will say I retired from the
12 phone company after 30 years, and when I worked at the
13 phone company we had one thing to say, and that is if
14 you want to think about something a long time, you give
15 the project to somebody from AT&T or the government
16 because they'll study it to death. Well, in this case
17 we want to study it to death. We want to have death
18 but we want to bypass the long study period.

19 MR. GOSS: That's a pretty good line.

20 MR. WINCEK: Thank you.

21 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Next Mr. Pollesch and
22 then following will be Thomas Slawski.

23 MR. POLLESCH: Hi. My name is Todd Pollesch.
24 I am the sport fishing adviser for the Great Lakes
25 Fishery Commission. As a charter captain and adviser

1 for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, I have seen
2 what invasive species do to the ecosystem on a daily
3 basis. We cannot afford to let even one more invader
4 drastically affect the ecosystem like sea lampreys,
5 Dreissenid mussels and allies have done.

6 While the Corps studies, mine and other
7 businesses are at risk because Asian carp is at the
8 doorstep and could wipe out the desirable sport
9 commercial fisheries and native species. The
10 establishment of the Asian carp could cause great
11 economic impact to the Great Lakes commercial, tribal,
12 sport fisheries, to date valued at more than \$7
13 billion, which I'm sure you've heard quite a bit.

14 Reduced abundance of native fisheries will
15 result in reduced harvest by sport and commercial
16 fisheries. Reduced harvest will cause reduction in
17 quality and economic impact on those whose livelihood
18 depends on sport and commercial fisheries.

19 The Great Lakes food web has been
20 significantly degraded in recent decades by aquatic
21 invasive species. The migration of Asian carp through
22 the Chicago Area Waterway System, Wabash River, Grand
23 Calumet River and possibly other pathways that connect
24 to the Great Lakes to this outside world is the most
25 acute AIS threat facing the Great Lakes today. Asian

1 carp will affect the entire ecosystem, and if they
2 become established at nuisance levels, it will feed on
3 plankton, the base of the food web.

4 Six ballast water bills have been brought to
5 Congress and they refused to act on any of them. We
6 need Congress to pass ballast water legislation to the
7 U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes. Federal district courts
8 have ruled that the states have the right to protect
9 their waters. After 30 years New York passed
10 legislation, ballast bill in the country, tested in
11 court three times, goes into effect January 2012, which
12 no ship can pass without ballast water being treated.

13 I look -- you also need to look at lakers
14 within the Great Lakes to not spread the AIS. We need
15 the other states to also pass strict ballast water
16 legislation. Lawsuits pushed by the states that have
17 not proven concerns and the federal judge won't move on
18 any of the lawsuits. Time is of the essence. We don't
19 have time to wait. It is a study with all haste and
20 anything can happen in eight years.

21 If you look at what's happened with the
22 quagga mussels out here in the last two years, they've
23 completely bloomed. Two years, no more zebra mussels,
24 all quaggas, and now spreading basically all over.

25 The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is

1 concerned that the Corps study will be protracted and
2 the separation will be delayed and authorizations and
3 appropriations for the recommended project wind their
4 way through the legislative process. The Great Lakes
5 cannot wait. Ecological and hydrological separation
6 through CAWS is the only way to acceptably reduce the
7 risk of invasive species transfer between the basins.
8 This is not rocket science. Action now is necessary.
9 We need hydrological and ecological separation from the
10 Great Lakes.

11 We urge you to clearly express to the end of
12 the objective is ecological separation and not to
13 reduce the risk or to try and achieve separation while
14 maintaining the status quo. The goal must be
15 ecological separation.

16 In 2015, the end of the study, when will it
17 be implemented and how many more years will it take
18 after that? There are a lot of people that rely on the
19 lake not only for commercial and fishing, but the
20 ballast water and the AIS has got to be stopped. It's
21 time that Congress, legislators all come up and take
22 care of this problem. It's been way too long. So
23 thank you.

24 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Oh, sir, could we get
25 your zip code?

1 MR. POLLESCH: 53224.

2 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Okay. Next we have
3 Mr., is it Slawski?

4 MR. SLAWSKI: Yeah, that's good.

5 MR. BLUHM: And then following will be
6 Marcello Covelli.

7 MR. SLAWSKI: My name is Tom Slawski and I --
8 my zip code is 53151, and I've been asked to provide
9 some comments on behalf of the Wisconsin Chapter of
10 American Fisheries Society. I am currently the chair of
11 the environmental issues committee, and so I have a
12 statement that I'd like to provide.

13 As I've listened to the comments today and
14 looked over all the materials as provided by the Army
15 Corps of Engineers, I'd just like to state that I
16 believe the task as proposed in this Great Lakes and
17 Mississippi River Interbasin Study will not address the
18 real issues of public health and safety, protection of
19 jobs and the economy necessary to solve the problem.

20 And we understand that the Chicago and
21 Sanitary Ship Canal is intimately linked with the lives
22 and livelihoods of the Chicago metropolitan area in
23 terms of economics as well as public health and safety
24 issues such as flooding, stormwater and wastewater
25 treatment. Therefore, we recommend that the following

1 specific tasks be addressed as part of the proposed
2 Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study in
3 order to achieve the ultimate long-term goal of the
4 ecological separation of the Mississippi River basin
5 and the Great Lakes Basin, which we feel is really the
6 only solution, the only long-term viable solution,
7 monetarily and ecologically.

8 The bottom line is we can never know the end
9 of the potential invasive species nor can we ever
10 protect for pathways that we don't know about, and so
11 from a long term feasibility, that is truly the only
12 long-term solution that we feel is appropriate.

13 But in order to succeed, we need to consider
14 the separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi
15 basins farther downstream from the existing lock and
16 sluice gates along the Chicago Area Waterway System, or
17 the CAWS, probably somewhere near the south branch of
18 the Chicago River. This will allow continued access of
19 all the tourist boats in the lakefront and downtown
20 area. Small boats or yachts could feasibly be lifted
21 over the divide between the basins of the south branch.
22 The commercial traffic could then be redirected to the
23 Calumet harbor area where an intermodal transfer
24 station or terminal could be developed to allow cargo
25 transfer and redistribution across the physical

1 separation between the Great Lakes and Mississippi
2 basins.

3 Second, develop plans with the Metropolitan
4 Water Reclamation District to expand the deep tunnel or
5 reservoir capacity and other measures necessary to
6 control flooding.

7 Third, develop plans with the Metropolitan
8 Water Reclamation District to address necessary
9 operating and construction changes to address
10 stormwater and wastewater treatment plant improvements
11 to meet Lake Michigan water quality standards.

12 And fourth, develop plans to reroute shipping
13 commerce to the Calumet harbor area to address the
14 economic impacts associated with the separation of the
15 basins.

16 These actions should be geared toward
17 preservation of jobs and businesses and infrastructure
18 to protect the local economy. In addition, these plans
19 should include elements such as expanding fleeting
20 areas for barges, regulations, tourism, transportation
21 safety, and security, among others as necessary. We
22 feel that the focus on these elements will actually
23 provide answers necessary and the real dollars it's
24 going to take to make these changes.

25 The environmental impacts are important, but

1 the real only problem is the chronic open sore which is
2 that connection between the basins. We sever that, we
3 sever the need to continue to focus on and try to
4 continue to spend all our time and efforts battling
5 species that time and again have been shown to be
6 impossible to remove from our systems. Thank you.

7 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Next Mr.
8 Covelli and then following Mark Hasenberg.

9 MR. COVELLI: My name is Marcello Covelli. I
10 am -- my zip code is 53140, Kenosha, Wisconsin. I'm
11 the president of the Wisconsin Federation of the Great
12 Lakes Sport Fishery Clubs, and just to reiterate what
13 the environmental man, gentleman just said, I think
14 he's got the right idea, and Bob and Todd, the other
15 sport fishing clubs. I don't want to beat it over the
16 head. We're all pretty much on the same page of what's
17 going on.

18 I've been a fisherman and a conservationist
19 for the last 25 years, 30 years of my life, and I heard
20 the gentleman talking about the barges. He mentioned
21 \$80 million, a hundred million dollars. According to
22 what we have in our -- in our numbers as the fishery
23 impact -- fishing impacts on the sport fishermen, we've
24 got \$2.3 billion that people are spending between
25 boats, you know, fishing poles, fishing lures,

1 commercial fishermen. Like I said, we're at 2.3
2 billion. So it isn't a hundred eighty million.
3 There's got to be a better way of doing things.

4 And you're right, this problem is a lot worse
5 than what I expected. We were just thinking about just
6 the locks down there in Chicago Harbor there. When you
7 start talking 36 potential sites and 18 of them are
8 really dangerous, it really strikes a chord, and I hope
9 you guys can at least listen to what everybody's
10 saying, especially the environmental guy. I think he's
11 got the right idea. If we have to put some locks up.
12 What about a bounty on the fish? Even at 50 cents a
13 fish. We need money, people need money. They've got
14 to do something. With the money that we're spending,
15 I'm sure we could figure out something. Thank you very
16 much.

17 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Next we'll
18 hear from Mr. Hasenberg and then following Cliff
19 Dukowitz.

20 MR. HASENBERG: My name is Mark Hasenberg.
21 Zip code 53140. I'm from Kenosha, Wisconsin. I
22 represent the Kenosha Sport Fishing and Conservation
23 Association, and pretty much of what I had to say has
24 been already been said and said rather well.

25 The two things that I don't think have been

1 covered well enough are the economic impact of this.
2 Potentially the invasion of Asian carp could annihilate
3 the entire fishery in all of the Great Lakes. Nobody
4 really seems to be that concerned about it, and it kind
5 of scares me when I look at a study that is going to
6 take five years and probably another five years to
7 implement it.

8 I am very familiar with some of the problems
9 they've had with the electronic barrier, and it is my
10 understanding that there have been cases where it's
11 been totally shut off. If that type of thing is going
12 to continue, it is not a temporary solution. All it
13 would take is a matter of a short time for a number of
14 fish to follow a barge through when the barriers are
15 off and it's a whole new ballgame.

16 When you look at the effect on the Great
17 Lakes, we are talking well over \$6 billion just
18 connected with tourism, sport fishing and commercial
19 fishing. Regardless of what it costs to fix the
20 problems in Chicago, I think there's no way they are
21 ever going to reach a number that is anywhere near
22 that. And we have solved other major transportation
23 problems. I don't see this as a gigantic one. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Next we'll

1 hear from Mr. Dukowitz and then following will be John
2 Kindra.

3 MR. DUKOWITZ: About everything I had in mind
4 -- my name is Cliff Dukowitz. I'm sorry. 53168. About
5 everything I had planned on saying here has been
6 covered already. One of my concerns is why does it
7 take so many years for the bilges to be blown out in
8 the ocean instead of in the Great Lakes. They're
9 responsible for mostly all zebra mussels and so on and
10 so forth. Okay. I guess everything I had in mind has
11 been covered. I won't take up much time. Thank you.

12 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Next is
13 Mr. Kindra and then following Angelo Trentadue.

14 MR. KINDRA: Thank you. John Kindra. My zip
15 code is 60617. I'm the owner of Kindra Lake Towing.
16 We're a tugboat operation in Chicago, and also I speak
17 for the Illinois River Carriers Association, which is
18 an operational group of barge operators on the Illinois
19 River.

20 We have about 20 employees and six tow boats
21 that operate in Chicago. Our business operations is to
22 move barges that come up from New Orleans, St. Louis
23 and Pittsburgh that go across the electrical barrier in
24 Lockport and they come into Lemont and then up into
25 south Chicago where we take them across to all the

1 steel mills and docks in northern Indiana. Some of the
2 barges come here to Milwaukee. Some of them go up to
3 Marinette and Menominee. So Wisconsin is a beneficiary
4 of some of this barge transportation.

5 One of the things that when you do this
6 study, I know that you're going to address Asian carp.
7 That's obvious, but there's also other issues. There's
8 an area that's called the Focus Group II, and that's
9 everything not including the CAWS Focus Area I. That's
10 very important that you look at that. Chicago's not
11 the only pathway for these fish to get in there.

12 I also think that it's really important in
13 your study that as the study's taking place over the
14 multiple years, that you engage the industry, our
15 industry, the barge industry. There's a big component
16 of the waterways. We use it and therefore will be
17 affected by it.

18 I like the Corps of Engineers' description of
19 risk reduction as the most logical, practical and
20 realistic way to evaluate the appropriate actions that
21 you're going to be considering for this study.

22 We've heard a lot of people say that we need
23 physical separation and we need to do something with
24 Asian carp. I want the study to be -- and our industry
25 wants the study, I'm sure the public does -- to be an

1 independent study that's not driven to a conclusion,
2 that you guys do your work and the answer's the answer.
3 We don't want a foregone conclusion like someone spoke
4 earlier and said that the conclusion has to be physical
5 separation.

6 Physical separation is -- I don't believe
7 that's the answer at all. This isn't a regional
8 problem. It's a national problem. If we have physical
9 separation, we're going to affect the economy of
10 Illinois and that will affect Wisconsin. That will
11 affect the Great Lakes states. This is not a small
12 issue. It's difficult. I don't want to be in your
13 shoes, that's for sure.

14 Finally, why does Attachment F under the
15 navigation section include recreational and navigation
16 benefits but it does not include commercial navigation
17 benefits? So that's a question. I'd like you to
18 review that and just if you know the answer.

19 MR. WETHINGTON: Can you please verify
20 Attachment F on what document?

21 MR. KINDRA: I will. I'll have to get that
22 to you. In closing, I would like to state that the
23 Port of Indiana did a study and the -- that study with
24 the barge transportation in northwest Indiana account
25 for 17,000 jobs in northwest Indiana and over \$3

1 billion in economic activity. Now, there's all kinds
2 of numbers being floated around and I've heard just
3 here today there's 3.2 billion for the fishermen, 6
4 billion and 7 billion. I don't know what it is.

5 I think it's your job that you men need to
6 find out what that number is, both for the sports
7 fishermen, for the barging, for the recreational.
8 These numbers have to be known. All decisions are going
9 to be based on economics. Thanks a lot.

10 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Our last
11 speaker is Mr. Trentadue.

12 MR. TRENTADUE: Hi. My name's Angelo
13 Trentadue from Racine, Wisconsin. 53405. I'm a
14 charter captain, member of Port of Racine Charter
15 Captains, Fishing Charters of Racine, Fishermen Yacht
16 Club, Salmon Unlimited. I have first a question. The
17 barrier was put into effect in 2002, it became
18 operational? Is that correct? That was in your paper
19 anyhow.

20 COLONEL BERCEK: Yes, sir.

21 MR. TRENTADUE: And then how many years did
22 it take before -- from when you started it till when
23 you implemented it and put it in operation?

24 MR. WETHINGTON: If I remember correctly,
25 sir, it was 2002 is when the first barrier went in

1 operation and it was 2009 when the second one.

2 MR. TRENTADUE: When did they start building
3 the first barrier?

4 COLONEL BERCZEK: I'd have to through my
5 notes again, sir, but I think that barrier came about
6 as legislation in 1996 to go ahead and look at the
7 demonstration barrier. And then we went -- we had the
8 -- there was an advisory panel that looked at
9 technologies, looked at what was out there that could
10 be brought into play, and I believe it was about a
11 three- to four-year process of them getting that in and
12 getting it built and operational.

13 MR. TRENTADUE: Right. So it took the Corps
14 quite a few years before they were able to get it in
15 operation. We have lake water that's leaving through
16 the ship canal. We have the Corps also doing the
17 dredging, which we're having problems with that they
18 say we're getting more and more water is leaving, and
19 the last study I saw was where the lake water is down
20 and that could affect us also.

21 So by total separation, that would take care
22 of a couple of those problems, and the Corps hasn't
23 been too quick about getting anything done, and I sure
24 hope that you were -- would be able to get moving a lot
25 faster. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

1 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.

2 COLONEL BERCEK: Yes. One thing, sir, I do
3 want to mention I do have here. It was the National
4 Invasive Species Act of 1996 that authorized the
5 demonstration barrier.

6 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Well, that concludes
7 the 11 people that had indicated when they arrived that
8 they'd like to submit oral comments to us. At this
9 time I'd like to ask if there's anybody else in the
10 audience that has not had a chance to address the
11 panel, if they would now like to do so, please come to
12 the microphone. Go ahead, sir. If you want to start
13 with your name and information, that would be most
14 helpful.

15 MR. KAMERLING: My name is Garrett Kamerling
16 and 53217. I don't represent a large group as many
17 have already and very effectively, but I have a modest
18 20-foot sailboat in McKinley Marina, and so officially
19 maybe I represent the thousands and thousands of
20 recreational boaters on Lake Michigan.

21 And judging by my checkbook, there's a
22 considerable economic impact there, both here and in
23 Michigan. We have an incredible treasure in this great
24 fresh water lake and I hope that everything can be done
25 to protect it most expeditiously before it's too late.

1 I know a number of comments have been made
2 regarding the electric barrier. I had some engineering
3 background. I'm wondering whether that was very poorly
4 designed or it's just not operated correctly, but we
5 need some kind of a barrier that will protect the lake.
6 I don't want to -- some carp to jump up and push one of
7 my little grandsons off my sailboat while I'm out there
8 either, but there are many reasons to protect the lake
9 and thanks for the opportunity to speak.

10 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you, sir.
11 Anybody else that would like to take an opportunity to
12 address the panel and give us an oral comment? This
13 would be the time to raise your hand or approach the
14 microphone.

15 Seeing no activity that way, I'll ask then
16 anybody that has already made a comment, a statement
17 for us today, if you would like to have a second
18 opportunity to come to the microphone, now would be the
19 time to do so. Yes.

20 MR. POLLESCH: Todd Pollesch. 53224. I've
21 got a couple of questions. As far as the Eagle Marsh
22 and the Maumee River there, have they found Asian carp
23 in the Maumee River and do they believe that the Maumee
24 River could be the other and the second one as I saw
25 what you were showing that the Eagle Marsh was one of

1 the worst ones or another potential --

2 MR. SAFFRAN: I guess the first question is
3 have there been any Asian carp found in the Maumee
4 River or any evidence and the answer to that is no.
5 The Ohio DNR recently did eDNA sampling in the past
6 fall in the Maumee, in the St. Joseph's and in the St.
7 Mary's watersheds. So those have all been checked out.

8 There was also the Indiana DNR did eDNA
9 sampling this past fall in Eagle Marsh itself. I'll
10 start over again. The Ohio DNR has done eDNA sampling
11 and analysis this past fall in the St. Mary's, St.
12 Joseph's and Maumee River and -- well, in the St.
13 Mary's and in the Maumee. The Michigan DNR has done
14 eDNA sampling in the St. Joseph's River, and the
15 Indiana DNR has done eDNA sampling in Eagle Marsh
16 itself as well as to the west in the Wabash basin this
17 past fall. All of those samples have turned out
18 negative, no positive detections of Asian carp.

19 Now, below the Roush Dam, which is in
20 Huntington about 22 miles to the west of Fort Wayne,
21 Asian carp have been collected in the past. This past
22 fall water levels were very low, so it's believed that
23 the carp actually migrated farther downstream because
24 of low water levels. So there's plans for additional
25 sampling to occur this spring when the water levels are

1 starting to come back up again.

2 You had another question I forgot. Eagle
3 Marsh -- well, the concern I guess with that location
4 is that the Maumee River and Lake Erie are considered
5 to be very suitable habitat potentially for Asian carp
6 establishment. So again, that's another reason why
7 there's a strong concern there to keep them from having
8 the opportunity to even access that area.

9 MR. POLLESCH: I have another question. With
10 the Canadian government, have you guys had much talk
11 with them? I see that in the last week or so that
12 basically they're coming on board here with this and is
13 there any dialogue that you guys have had with that?

14 MR. GOSS: Yeah, I think there's no doubt
15 that the Canadian government is very committed to
16 working on the Asian carp threat and very, very closely
17 watching what we're going to be doing on the other
18 invasive species. The Ontario fisheries budget this
19 year has about \$500,000 for this appropriation.

20 So as we know, putting money in is a
21 commitment, which is great, and also they have been
22 working closely with the Great Lakes Fisheries
23 Commission as a partner and it will -- it will be a
24 very organized effort. They had a meeting with
25 probably about 50 people in Detroit a few weeks ago,

1 and they have all the right scientists doing their
2 different assignments this year to do that risk
3 assessment all the way around the Great Lakes. So I
4 think we're going to know a whole lot more by the end
5 of this year with the help of the Canadians but also
6 thanks to the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission.

7 MR. POLLESCH: The only other thing, I'd just
8 like to urge Congress again to, you know, keep you guys
9 funded here, and like I said, I won't repeat myself
10 again but haste is no waste. Thank you.

11 MR. GOSS: Todd, I can address the funding
12 thing very quickly. The president's budget that was
13 just announced for 2012 would put 350 million in the
14 Great Lakes Restoration Fund and that should keep us at
15 the level of carp fighting projects and the GLMRIS
16 study project funded. So if the president's budget
17 stands for 2012, there should be no reduction and we
18 should be able to continue everything.

19 We're still at the mercy of Congress for the
20 rest of 2011. We've been operating at the levels we
21 had in the 2010 budget. We still don't have an answer
22 on that. If you get a chance to speak to your
23 congressman, tell him we need that resolved ASAP.
24 Thanks.

25 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Anybody else that

1 would like to comment? Yes, go ahead.

2 MR. DUKOWITZ: Cliff Dukowitz, Kenosha
3 Charter Boat Association. I just wanted to say who I
4 represented here today. Thank you.

5 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Okay.
6 Anybody else that would like to comment? Yes, sir.

7 MR. GOSS: Let me volunteer one more
8 information piece. A couple of people mentioned
9 ballast water, which is obviously very significant and
10 closely related to these projects that we're dealing
11 with but is not part of this study that we're talking
12 about today.

13 The schedule for the Coast Guard to bring
14 forward the draft rule is for May or June to have the
15 federal draft rule out for public comment. So this
16 summer there will be significant discussion about the
17 rest of the story on ballast water and hopefully we'll
18 make progress on cutting off what we know to be the
19 source of many, if not most, of our aquatic invasive
20 species. Thanks.

21 MR. BLUHM: Okay. I had a hand here. Come on
22 up to the microphone when you're ready.

23 MR. HAMILTON: Thank you. Doug Hamilton.
24 I'm representing SHOWS. We are a -- zip code is 53070.
25 SHOWS is a group of shoreline property owners between

1 Port Washington and Sheboygan, seasonal and year-round
2 residents. We live right on Lake Michigan, and in Lake
3 Michigan we enjoy swimming, fishing, power boating,
4 sailboating, water-skiing and other water sports. The
5 potential of the Asian carp coming into the lake and
6 the impact that the Asian carp might have on those
7 activities could affect property values, and within
8 Sheboygan County and Ozaukee County we pay a good
9 portion of the property taxes because of the value of
10 those properties on the lake. The introduction of carp
11 into the lake could reduce those property values and
12 decrease tax revenue in that area.

13 And I think if you extrapolate and take that
14 all around Lake Michigan and all the Great Lakes, I
15 would ask that you study the impact of tax revenue, the
16 carp would have on property tax revenue if they're
17 introduced into the lake. Another point would be once
18 the carp are in the lake, what effect are they going to
19 have on the upstream rivers, Milwaukee River, Sheboygan
20 River where the salmon breed and all the other aquatic
21 creatures in those rivers. Thank you.

22 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

23 MR. GOSS: We know those impacts are going to
24 be looked at very closely and certainly there is
25 expected to be significant impact on the tributaries

1 and spawning grounds for our other fish. So that will
2 be a key part of the analysis.

3 MR. BLUHM: Anybody else? Yes, a hand here.

4 MR. TRENTADUE: Angelo Trentadue, 53405. I
5 just want to again stress that we need to go quick,
6 very quick. We've had an invasive species problem
7 going on on Lake Michigan from when, the fifties,
8 sixties, seventies? If this is how our government
9 works in the past, we can only expect you guys to do
10 the same, and I hope you really go a lot quicker.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Yes, go
13 ahead.

14 MS. FRANK: Barbara Frank, 53092, Green Tree
15 Garden Club. A question, what can you tell us about
16 the documented effects of the Asian carp in the
17 Mississippi River and coming up to Lake Michigan so
18 far?

19 MR. GOSS: I'll start. We may get some help
20 on this. Commercial fishermen tell us that there are
21 several areas of the Mississippi where the only fish
22 they can catch are Asian carp. I know in southern
23 Indiana in the Wabash in the last five to seven years
24 that the population of other fish has been greatly
25 diminished because of Asian carp.

1 Just one anecdotal story from a farmer who is
2 a friend who floods his fields for duck hunting along
3 the Wabash told me that in the last two years there's
4 only one species of fish that are coming in when he
5 opens up to the river to let water into his areas to
6 intentionally flood them. They're all silver carp, and
7 in the past there's been at least a half dozen of the
8 regular native fish there and he's not seeing native
9 fish.

10 So it happens pretty quickly. Their
11 concentration is moving up the Ohio system. We know
12 that they're all the way to Pennsylvania. We know that
13 they are moving to the west through the Missouri and
14 they're coming up the Mississippi into Wisconsin waters
15 and Minnesota waters in the future if we do not find
16 ways to slow them down.

17 So part of the benefit of this investment in
18 the carp weapon development is coming up with ways to
19 reduce those populations in all of our rivers where we
20 already have a significant problem.

21 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Anybody
22 else? We've still got a couple more hands. Go ahead.

23 MR. WINCEK: Bob Wincek, 53146, Great Lakes
24 Sport Fishermen Club. Just a quick question. We've
25 listened to a lot of things, cutting off, separating

1 the water, hydrologic separation, so forth.

2 Has anyone gone to the University of
3 Wisconsin-Madison and asked our genetic companies, our
4 engineers, the scholars, what do they think about the
5 situation? Is there something that could be done
6 genetically to, A, keep them from breeding; B, make
7 them go away? I've seen nothing that anyone's even
8 brought the question up, so I leave it with you.

9 MR. GOSS: USGS has 10 or 12 research
10 projects along that line, biological, genetic and other
11 ways that we hope we can slow down the carp breeding
12 population by reproductive interference, possibly
13 things that would cause them to not digest food
14 properly or otherwise, and slow them down.

15 So there are several different studies that
16 are underway. Most of them are led by USGS scientists
17 but they are also including academic folks as partners
18 in many of those studies. And that is approximately
19 six or eight million dollars of each year of the carp
20 money is going towards those kind of research projects.

21 MR. WINCEK: I only bring that up because
22 University of Wisconsin-Madison leads the nation in
23 obtaining licenses and so forth. So thank you.

24 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. And another hand over
25 here? Yes, sir.

1 MR. KOZAR: My name is Jerry Kozar and it's
2 53045, and I'm here as a Great Lakes sport fisherman,
3 which I love and have been doing since '76, before that
4 in Lake Superior.

5 And I just want to end with a sort of
6 anecdote and it sort of rings home on what we've been
7 talking about on how critical it is to make decisions
8 and do them fast. It's like what starts with an
9 engagement ring, the wedding ring and then the
10 suffering, and if this is not done, we're going to be
11 doing a lot of suffering all our lives. So that's what
12 I want you to remember, stop the suffering.

13 MR. BLUHM: That is a first at this meeting,
14 sir. Very good. At this point we've heard from 19
15 speakers at the microphone. Would anybody care to be
16 number 20? Okay. Last call. It's 3:45. Any last
17 opportunity to come to the microphone and make an oral
18 presentation or comment? Yes, go ahead.

19 MS MONTGOMERY: Lia Montgomery from Algoma.
20 Mr. Kindra got up and talked about barge traffic and
21 all that, and I do remember in that short video I was
22 just mentioning that they said one barge actually
23 replaces 80 truckloads maybe, somewhere around that,
24 and how environmentally conscious or friendly that was
25 to take by barge instead of those trucks.

1 But I'm wondering in your study, if that
2 becomes the future where we no longer see our Great
3 Lakes and our waterways as a highway and we do put
4 these salt and coal and everything else that's being
5 used on these barges in trucks, I see that as 80 jobs
6 per barge. If you've got -- if you're no longer
7 putting this material on barges and you're putting it
8 in trucks, I'm sure you're adding more gas or emissions
9 into the air, but isn't that going to be a beneficial
10 factor in terms of jobs? And is there always just way
11 to look at this whole barge industry? It's -- you
12 know, there might be something better by just changing
13 the way we've been doing business.

14 MR. WETHINGTON: Thanks for your comment.
15 I'm not going to kind of influence my own personal
16 thoughts on air pollution or whatever else, but
17 essentially the purpose of the study will be to look at
18 the economic, environmental and social impacts of what
19 these changes to the waterway uses will be. And so
20 what you're getting at, it will be addressed in this
21 study, and so that's pretty much the answer, it will be
22 addressed as part of the study.

23 MR. BLUHM: Next? One more.

24 MS. NENN: Hello. Good afternoon. My name
25 is Cheryl Nenn, N-E-N-N, and I work with a group called

1 Milwaukee River Keeper. We're 1845 North Farwell in
2 Milwaukee, 53202. We -- our mission is essentially to
3 protect the water quality and wildlife habitat of the
4 Milwaukee, Menominee, Kinnickinnic River watersheds.
5 We're very concerned about potential impacts from the
6 carp on our rivers. I don't think that anyone's
7 saluting themselves that if they get into the lake,
8 they're going to be up in the Root River and the
9 Milwaukee River in short order. I think there's some
10 questions about how viable the Asian carp will be in
11 the lake themselves but we know that the rivers will be
12 a very suitable habitat for them.

13 Our rivers already have grass carp, have a
14 lot of challenges, and so we're clearly worried about
15 the impacts of the carp on our native fisheries here in
16 Milwaukee, as well as our recreation and our quality of
17 life. We also have a motor boat downtown that we use
18 to patrol and to do water monitoring. Clearly we
19 concerned about impacts of the carp on motorized
20 recreation as well and also on paddlers that use the
21 river system.

22 And we'd just really encourage you to fast
23 track the study if at all possible. We're very
24 concerned about how long the process has been taking.
25 Clearly it's a very complicated issue and it's very

1 clear that there's going to be no easy solutions, but I
2 really do think that we need to come up with faster
3 short-term and long-term measures to ecologically
4 separate the Great Lakes and the Mississippi basins,
5 not only because we're worried about the carp getting
6 into the lake but conversely a lot of the invasives. I
7 think the estimate's now we're getting a new invasive
8 every eight months into the lakes, you know, from the
9 St. Lawrence and that system.

10 So clearly I think ecological separation is
11 in the best interests of both the Mississippi and the
12 Great Lakes Basin and we would just encourage you to
13 fast track this study as quickly as possible and get
14 some real solutions in place. Thank you.

15 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Okay.
16 We've got 21. Anybody want to be 22? Last call.
17 Well, we've had just a shade over one hour of testimony
18 that we've heard this afternoon and I want to thank you
19 all for the comments.

20 Let me remind you if you have any prepared
21 statements or documents for us, be sure to turn them in
22 with myself or at the front table here before you
23 leave. And keep in mind if you have any written
24 statements, any additional comments you want to put on
25 our comment form, those can be submitted to us via e-

1 mail through our Web site. We've got some computers
2 set up in the back of the room. If you'd like to jot
3 that down on that right now, that would be fine.
4 Otherwise this form and any other form of communication
5 you have for us needs to be turned in by March 31st,
6 2011 to be considered as part of the scoping process.
7 Anything on our Web site does help connect you to the
8 process that we're working on.

9 And then lastly, I'd like to mention that if
10 you wouldn't mind helping us recycle our materials. If
11 anything you've been given today is excess, you do not
12 need it any longer, you can leave it on your chair or
13 leave it on the table as you depart and we'll be glad
14 to recycle that.

15 If you need more copies or additional packets
16 of information, we'll also supply them to you as well.
17 Just go to the back table and we'll give you as many
18 extra copies that you need for anybody that may not
19 have had a chance to make it here today.

20 And then lastly, I'd like to mention that our
21 evening meeting will start at 5:30 sharp and that will
22 be a duplicate presentation of what you just saw.
23 Anybody that's here is welcome to sit for that as well
24 as the comment period that follows that.

25 With that said, the time is now 3:50 and

1 we'll adjourn this session. Thank you so much for your
2 time and have a safe trip home. Thank you.

3 (Recess taken.)

4 (Second Public Scoping meeting begins.)

5 MR. BLUHM: It's 5:30 and we will begin.

6 Good evening and welcome everybody. My name is Kevin
7 Bluhm. I am the facilitator for tonight's meeting. I
8 come from the St. Paul District Corps Office and thank
9 you all for attending our meeting.

10 This evening's meeting is our tenth meeting
11 for the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin
12 Study, otherwise known as the GLMRIS study, and this is
13 serving as a NEPA public scoping meeting.

14 I just want to let you know, the materials
15 that you received when you arrived, this is a picture
16 that shows what they are. If you don't have the packet
17 and would like to get a packet, just raise your hand
18 and we'll make sure that we get one to you, and I'll
19 just take a couple seconds to go through what's in
20 that.

21 The green half sheet is the agenda. This is
22 the same agenda we followed at all the other meetings
23 as well as earlier today. The quarter size sheet as
24 well as the little booklet are very good informational
25 pieces that tell you a little bit about the study

1 overview as well as details of our schedule here.

2 The half sheet of paper, the white piece here
3 is the most important part regarding our scoping
4 period. I want to make sure that everybody understands
5 that this is designed to allow you to write down any
6 comments you have on the inside or on the back.

7 There's plenty of room, as well as you can supplement
8 this at any time. Just know that any comments that you
9 want to mail in to us need to be to us by March the
10 31st.

11 A few other of the full size sheets, the
12 purple sheet here talks about some of the frequently
13 asked questions along with their answers. The salmon-
14 colored sheet here has information about other efforts
15 that are going on and you'll hear more about that in
16 our presentation to follow.

17 And then the yellow sheet is designed to help
18 us if you're interested in making an oral presentation
19 to the board here tonight, and then the blue sheet of
20 paper is designed to help us if you wish to submit
21 documents for record. This will help put the documents
22 in the proper order. And then lastly we've got a copy
23 of all the slides that we'll be showing from the Corps
24 of Engineers tonight. So these are materials that are
25 yours to take with you.

1 Our GLMRIS team has organized this public
2 meeting to accomplish two goals for you. Our first goal
3 is to present information about the study itself, and
4 then secondly, we want to be able to solicit your
5 comments on the significant issues that should be
6 included in GLMRIS and then those other issues that are
7 insignificant that can be eliminated from further
8 study.

9 The Corps is holding 12 of these such
10 meetings throughout the study area in an effort to
11 provide opportunities for those interested in the study
12 to learn more about the study itself and to provide
13 your oral comments. Again, please note the NEPA public
14 scoping period closes on March the 31st, 2011.

15 As indicated on the agenda, this public
16 meeting is organized in two sessions. The session this
17 afternoon was identical with the same presentation
18 followed by an oral comment period. The first meeting
19 started at 2:00 o'clock today and ended just shortly
20 before 4:00 o'clock. Our meeting starting now at 5:30
21 will conclude after we've heard from the last persons
22 interested in making oral comments to us.

23 If you have any concerns or questions, staff
24 will be able to be addressed individually after the
25 meeting itself in the lobby or in the room here. Just

1 keep in mind any conversations you have with panelists
2 or staff members while the meeting is not in session
3 will not be recorded as part of the public comment
4 period. So if you have things that you want to make
5 sure are included in our scoping process, it would be
6 important to write those down and submit them
7 officially or use the microphone during the meeting
8 before it's adjourned so those can be part of our NEPA
9 documentation.

10 I'd like to now introduce our panel members.
11 Starting at the table here on my left, first person
12 closest to me is Mr. John Goss. He is the Asian carp
13 director for the White House Council on Environmental
14 Quality. Next to him is Lieutenant Colonel David
15 Berczek. He is the deputy commander of the Chicago
16 District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Next to him,
17 Dave Wethington. Dave is the GLMRIS project manager.
18 And on the far side of the table Mr. Mike Saffran. Mike
19 is the Other Pathways project manager, and you'll hear
20 from each one of these gentlemen as soon as I'm done
21 and they have a chance to speak.

22 So with that, I'd like to turn the meeting
23 over to Mr. Goss and he can begin his presentation on
24 this portion of the meeting. Thank you.

25 MR. GOSS: Thanks, Kevin, and thanks for each

1 of you for taking some time to join us tonight.
2 Hopefully it's going to be educational for you and if
3 you have thoughts and comments about this process,
4 that's why we're here, and we want you to talk to us
5 about those ideas or concerns that you have on the
6 front end of this project.

7 This is a really important effort that is
8 part of a coordinated effort from federal agencies,
9 state agencies and local organizations, primarily to
10 stop the Asian carp but the additional benefit is that
11 this Great Lakes

12 Mississippi River Interbasin Study is
13 hopefully going to provide us with a permanent solution
14 to the ongoing problem we have: Wave after wave of
15 invasive species invasions in the Great Lakes.

16 I am working for the White House
17 Environmental Policy Office. It's called the Council
18 on Environmental Quality, and my job is to coordinate
19 all the resources and get everybody doing what they do
20 well, and that includes getting organizations around
21 the Great Lakes involved in this discussion, getting
22 business people who have interests to be involved,
23 getting conservation and environmental groups and
24 recreational boaters and sport fishermen and all of the
25 groups that are going to see an impact from -- if we

1 have another invasive species problem like Asian carp,
2 what's going to happen to our lake.

3 I want to tell you that there are interim
4 measures in the Chicago area that are working, in the
5 Chicago Ship Canal, which is the biggest concern area
6 that we'll be talking a lot about tonight. The
7 electric barriers are stopping carp from coming on up
8 the Illinois River toward Lake Michigan. We have now
9 redundant electric barriers there that are functioning
10 and also some other things have been done recently to
11 help make sure that carp are not invading the barrier.

12 There's a new fish fence along the Ship Canal
13 for 13 miles in areas where there have been some
14 flooding in the past, and so carp that might be in the
15 Des Plaines River that runs parallel to the Ship Canal
16 might have been able to escape, get around the barrier
17 and get into the Ship Canal and into the lakes, that's
18 been stopped. And I want to thank the Corps for
19 identifying that, getting that project funded and
20 completed, actually underbudget and ahead of schedule.

21 Some other things that have happened
22 recently, Congress passed the Lacey Act Amendment to
23 include a ban on the transport of live Asian carp
24 anywhere in the United States. That's going help us
25 make sure that no one is actively moving carp around.

1 It's going to be a federal offense or it is a federal
2 offense effective now.

3 Also there's some risk assessments that are
4 being conducted. The Canadian government is working
5 with the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission to look at
6 what they project to be the actual threat of Asian carp
7 to the Great Lakes, including Canadian waters, looking
8 at what is likely to happen if we should have an
9 outbreak of Asian carp, and we'll have that study
10 coming in about a year. So I think that's going to be
11 helpful to us to look at specific things that we need
12 to be concerned about around the Great Lakes or points
13 that might be particularly attractive to Asian carp
14 that we need to monitor very carefully and make sure
15 they're not establishing a population in those areas.

16 Also in the area between the barriers and the
17 Lake Michigan area we're going to continue what's been
18 going on for the past two years, which is very
19 aggressive monitoring. We've got fish biologists from
20 the Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers,
21 Illinois Department of Natural Resources out there
22 basically every day doing water sampling for DNA,
23 traces of DNA from carp, electrofishing, netting,
24 identifying fish.

25 And, in fact, this fall in a six- or eight-

1 week period, they did net and identify over 10,000 fish
2 in that area and found no Asian carp. So the guys that
3 know how to look for fish are not able to find Asian
4 carp there.

5 Commercial fishermen have also been used both
6 above the barrier with their large net techniques.
7 They haven't been finding any Asian carp. Below the
8 barrier there are a lot of Asian carp in the Illinois
9 River. Commercial fishing has taken out over a hundred
10 thousand pounds this past fall and they have a goal of
11 taking out over a million pounds in 2011. So we're
12 hoping to reduce the carp population that is
13 numerically a threat to moving on up the lake as much
14 as possible, push that -- push that line back south in
15 Illinois in the river and hopefully improve our chances
16 that we're not going to have any escape.

17 Just want to mention that this effort is
18 unprecedented in that we're working ahead of the
19 establishment of a new invasive species. It's very
20 important that we win this. The Obama administration
21 is very committed. We have over 45 individual actions
22 that are funded, including research and development,
23 looking at biological controls possibly for managing
24 carp, looking at all kinds of other techniques for
25 creating possible barriers that could be used in

1 addition to an electric barrier, looking at bait shops
2 to make sure that we don't have carp minnows that could
3 be transported to other bodies of water. In fact, I
4 think we just got some DNA test results this afternoon
5 on that from all the bait shops in the south Chicago
6 area, finding no evidence that any of those minnows are
7 Asian carp minnows in the bait shops, which is another
8 good news.

9 And all this is going to continue hopefully
10 if we have funding. The president announced the
11 proposed budget for Great Lakes restoration for 2012
12 today, and that includes \$350 million for Great Lakes
13 restoration projects. So if Congress agrees and that
14 gets approved, that will keep the Asian carp projects
15 most likely at the same level that we've been doing
16 this year.

17 There's still an ongoing discussion about the
18 budget for 2011 which they haven't approved yet. We've
19 been operating on 2010 levels, so hopefully we're going
20 to get that resolved in the next few weeks and be able
21 to continue this year with all the projects that are
22 underway.

23 The Corps of Engineers are really the lead
24 agency on this longer term analysis. There will be a
25 lot of roles for every other organization, and I think

1 that's part of what I hope you'll pick up on tonight,
2 that there are ways that each group can contribute to
3 this process, and it is a process for evaluating what
4 the long-term options are for stopping invasive species
5 from moving from the lakes to the rivers and the rivers
6 to the lakes.

7 It's pretty complicated. There are a lot of
8 things that need to be included in this analysis. It's
9 not going to be a quick turnaround. It is going to be
10 a pretty long discussion over the next three and a half
11 years or so. We are looking for ways to speed that up.
12 We will take advantage of information that's brought in
13 by other sources and, you know, seriously look at it
14 and hopefully the Corps will be able to use it in their
15 analysis process.

16 So the rest of the discussion, I just wanted
17 to give you that overview that things are in good shape
18 as far as keeping an eye on the carp in the Chicago
19 area and it's buying us some time while we do this
20 thorough analysis for the long-term solution.

21 And Colonel Berczek's going to take over and
22 walk you through the plan of how we're going to do this
23 full analysis.

24 COLONEL BERCEK: All right. Good evening
25 everyone. Welcome and thank you for attending. I just

1 want to talk to you a little bit about this GLMRIS
2 study, the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin
3 Study.

4 In a five-year review of Executive Order
5 13112 on invasive species, the National Invasive
6 Species Council in their opening statement in both the
7 executive summary and the main body of the text talked
8 to invasive species inhabit all regions of the United
9 States in every nation. For these reasons invasive
10 species are a great national and global concern.

11 In their National Invasive Species Management
12 Plan in 2008 to 2012, they talked to invasive species
13 from around the globe are affecting plant and animal
14 communities on our farms, ranches and coasts, parks,
15 waters, forests and backyards.

16 I'll mention a few and you can just envision
17 a little bit about the extent of this problem and the
18 challenge. We're heard a little bit about Asian carp
19 and we talk -- we hear about that on a daily basis and
20 we think about that all the time. Kudzu, hydrilla,
21 zebra mussels, sea lamprey, snakehead fish, nutria,
22 English sparrows, starlings, Burmese pythons. It is a
23 national problem; it is one of significance.

24 In 2007 Congress in the Water Resource and
25 Development Act authorized the Corps of Engineers to go

1 ahead and conduct a feasibility study to looks at the
2 options and technologies available to prevent the
3 spread of aquatic nuisance species between the Great
4 Lakes and the Mississippi River basins through the
5 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the other aquatic
6 pathways.

7 Those of you familiar with the way the Corps
8 of Engineers conducts studies recognize that the
9 feasibility study is not the first step in establishing
10 the federal interest in the study. This is further in
11 the process. So that is already advancing the study
12 along.

13 You see at the bottom there that last bullet
14 that the study is 100 percent federally funded.
15 Feasibility studies typically involve cost share with a
16 local sponsor. In this case here Congress has said in
17 doing this that this is enough of a significant
18 interest, this is enough of a priority that they are
19 fully funding us to go ahead and do this study.

20 This study will look at ranges of options and
21 technologies necessary to prevent the interbasin
22 transfer of invasive species. We will look at all
23 options and controls that are out there to include the
24 use of hydrologic separation. In looking at
25 technologies that are available, we'll look at --

1 obviously the intent will be to prevent but we'll look
2 at -- conduct a risk analysis, look at how each
3 technology, how each option will go ahead and reduce
4 that risk of transfer.

5 That term "prevent" and then the further
6 explanation a little bit there was kind of guidance in
7 our project management plan to our study team to not
8 exclude options if it didn't look like they would be
9 100 percent effective in and of themselves. So we are
10 looking through this study to look, to get to that 100
11 percent effectiveness.

12 The study area is large. It's very
13 encompassing you can see up here. The detailed study
14 area encompasses roughly these -- I believe about 17
15 states in the Great Lakes areas and those states that
16 contribute to the upper Mississippi watershed.

17 An area of concern especially, you see this
18 dashed line here, is a natural flow divide that exists,
19 and that's why the color code is a little bit
20 different. Water that flows, that falls north of this
21 line contributes to the Great Lakes watershed. Water
22 that lands south of this flow line contributes to the
23 upper Mississippi region. That flow line is
24 approximately 1500 miles. So when we start looking at
25 how to contain the transfer or how to contain species

1 in the Great Lakes and prevent them from getting into
2 the Mississippi River, we're looking across that entire
3 range.

4 What's included in this study? You see there
5 we talked about the aquatic connections. The study
6 authorization language said the Chicago Sanitary and
7 Ship Canal and other aquatic pathways. So we are
8 looking there. It's mentioned aquatic nuisance
9 species. So we're not just looking at a fish. We're
10 looking at algae and plants. We're looking at those
11 other parasites and other types of species.

12 Mr. Goss mentioned a little bit about looking
13 at the bait shops, and those are other activities that
14 are included in the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating
15 Committee in the strategic framework document.

16 Human release, one of those types of
17 introductory pathways, not part of the scope of this
18 study. We're looking at waterway pathways. Does not
19 include terrestrial or airborne transfer. We're looking
20 at the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin, that
21 interface between the two, not looking at the Atlantic
22 Slope or the St. Lawrence Seaway or Canadian
23 introductions.

24 We can see down here a list of elements of
25 what will be included in there. We will look at

1 options and technologies, and hydrologic separation,
2 that's one of those options. We'll conduct regional
3 economic modeling to understand the impacts of any type
4 of recommendation or any type of a course of action, as
5 well as looking at mitigating measures.

6 We will look at as well the risk-based
7 ecological decision-making process to come up with
8 benefits to each area, and this being a feasibility
9 study will result in a feasibility report with
10 recommendations to Congress for implementation but also
11 will include an Environmental Impact Statement.

12 You notice when Kevin introduced himself that
13 he's from St. Paul District. That's part of our
14 Mississippi Valley Division and part of the Chicago
15 District and part of the Great Lakes and Ohio River
16 Division. Right there as you start to look at this,
17 not only is this study looking across a number of
18 states, two very large watersheds and also a 1500-mile
19 flow divide line, it crosses the boundaries of two
20 Corps of Engineers divisions. So we have to look at
21 how we're going to organize for success.

22 The study language itself kind of gave us a
23 start-off point where it talked about these two areas,
24 the Chicago Area Waterways, and that represents our
25 primary effort. Not that it has any -- that it's any

1 more urgent than the other pathways that we don't want
2 to lose focus on, but that's the pathway that is
3 continuously open and continuously in use through the
4 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

5 We also had to figure out how to organize for
6 success, kind of using the Executive Steering
7 Committee, the body set up to cross the federal
8 agencies involved and the other agencies involved in
9 the ACRCC, which is the Asian Carp Regional
10 Coordinating Committee. We're using that as well as
11 including other groups, talking to the stakeholders,
12 and you'll see there's some of the lists of the groups
13 involved there as well as the public at large.

14 There's a lot of effort involved with the
15 study and there's a lot of analysis involved, so one of
16 our plans of attack would be to cycle out these interim
17 products in this report. As data is analyzed and is
18 mature enough and can be released, we plan to do that,
19 to keep everyone informed of the study progress and
20 what it is we're looking at and what kind of -- and
21 where it seems to be leading us.

22 Forty-five actions are being undertaken this
23 year in the 2011 strategic framework document, so we
24 have to be able to adapt to new and evolving
25 information to the greatest extent possible. We can't

1 just be following a process and be ignorant to
2 everything else that other agencies and other folks are
3 doing around us. So we have to be open and available
4 to be able to accept and incorporate that new
5 information, and as in everything that we do in the
6 Corps of Engineers, we'll abide by all legal and
7 regulatory guidance.

8 You see here a little bit of the study
9 purpose. We talked about some of the pathways we're
10 going to look at. The Focus Area I, Chicago Area
11 Waterways and other pathways, and we'll have a couple
12 slides in a little bit and I'll have the project
13 managers that were introduced earlier, Dave Wethington
14 and Mike Saffran, talk to you a little bit about the
15 efforts to date in those areas.

16 One of the first steps, of course, is
17 identifying those pathways. Mike will talk a little
18 bit about those and talk alternatives and the work done
19 in that, and also inventorying the current and future
20 potential aquatic invasive species. This is not just
21 an Asian carp study. We're not waiting for this GLMRIS
22 study to be complete to inform our actions on Asian
23 carp. We're already engaged in that fight and we've got
24 the barriers in operation. We're doing additional
25 efficacy studies on how to improve actions. We're very

1 much involved with the monitoring and other efforts
2 with regards to Asian carp.

3 This is beyond this. I like to look at these
4 pictures that you see up there and say this is from
5 fish to fleas. So we're looking at all sorts of
6 nuisance species and aquatic species. And again, you
7 see down there at the bottom we'll be looking at
8 controls available to include the hydrologic
9 separation. This map shows -- again you can see it's
10 titled the CAWS, the Chicago Area Waterway System, and
11 I'm going to let Dave Wethington explain to you a
12 little bit about this chart.

13 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank your, sir. My name is
14 Dave Wethington. I'm a project manager with the U.S.
15 Army Corps of Engineers in Chicago. Just spend a couple
16 minutes talking about the slide to familiarize yourself
17 with some of the complexities associated with this
18 Chicago Area Waterway System.

19 On the right-hand side you'll notice a map,
20 and the map lists five points numbered one to five
21 where the waters of the Great Lakes basin and the
22 waters of the Mississippi River basin have the
23 opportunity to interact. What's unique about this
24 watershed is that each of those five points flows into
25 a single channel. So imagine five prongs of a fork

1 flowing into the single handle of that fork, and that
2 is -- that single channel is the Chicago Sanitary and
3 Ship Canal, which is where we have placed the electric
4 -- the fish barrier dispersal system noted on number
5 seven in the map.

6 What's also a little bit unique about this
7 waterway system is that we have both controlled and
8 uncontrolled waterways in here. You'll see the red
9 dots, numbers one, two and six actually which provide
10 some type of physical structure that control those
11 interactions I spoke with regarding the Great Lakes and
12 Mississippi River basins. One is the Wilmette Pumping
13 Station, number two is the Chicago Lock, and number six
14 actually controls that point number three that is T.J.
15 O'Brien Lock and Dam.

16 You'll also notice that four and five are
17 completely uncontrolled, which means that basically
18 there is no physical structure or physical barrier that
19 separates those two watersheds.

20 On the left-hand side is basically an outline
21 of our Corps planning process. We're right now in
22 steps one and two. Number one, specifying problems and
23 opportunities, and we've put together a U.S. Army Corps
24 of Engineers team working with other federal agencies,
25 state agencies like DNR's, and basically we're looking

1 at what kind of problems, what kind of opportunities
2 are here, and that's part of the reason why you are
3 here this evening is to help us identify those problems
4 and opportunities.

5 We're also inventorying and forecasting
6 conditions. Well, what exactly does that mean? We
7 have to collect an amount of data to determine what are
8 the uses of the Chicago Area Waterway System. You
9 might have heard a lot about navigation, commercial
10 cargo navigation being used, but there is also
11 significant other uses such as recreation, water
12 supply, water discharge. The Metropolitan Water
13 Reclamation District basically discharges all the
14 treated wastewater, municipal discharge from the
15 Chicagoland area into the Chicago River and the Chicago
16 Sanitary and Ship Canal. About 70 to 80 percent of the
17 total flow of the Chicago River is that municipal
18 wastewater discharge.

19 Another very important use of the Chicago
20 Area Waterway System is for flood risk management. It
21 doesn't happen very often but every couple, maybe four,
22 five years you'll get a significant rainfall event in
23 the Chicagoland area where we need to open up that
24 structure at number two, the Chicago Lock, in order to
25 backflow so water will flow both toward Lake Michigan

1 and toward the Mississippi River basin. If we were not
2 able to do that, there would be significant damage
3 because of overbank flooding in downtown Chicago as
4 well as significant wastewater and stormwater backup
5 throughout the Chicagoland area, potentially affecting
6 millions of residents, businesses, industries.

7 So once we figure out what all those uses
8 are, we need to determine what the impacts are by
9 implementing our aquatic invasive species controls. So
10 what are the impacts of implementing the barrier system
11 or potentially hydrologic separation. How are those
12 waterway uses impacted, or if they're adversely
13 impacted, if there's some sort of negative impact to
14 them, what do we need to do to mitigate for those
15 adverse impacts.

16 Of course, as Mr. Goss and Colonel Berczek
17 mentioned earlier, we are collaborating across the
18 board with not only federal agencies but local and
19 state agencies, non-government organizations, Native
20 American tribes, as well as the public yourself, and I
21 appreciate you coming out this evening. With that,
22 I'll turn it back to you, Colonel Berczek. Thank you.

23 COLONEL BERCZEK: This next slide focuses a
24 little bit on the other area, the other pathways, and
25 Mike had the easy job of trying to identify where those

1 were. Part of the challenge with this is not knowing
2 where the species might transfer if we don't know some
3 of these areas exist and Mike's going to explain to you
4 a little bit about what he did.

5 MR. SAFFRAN: Thank you, sir. Pleasure to be
6 here this evening and thank you all for all coming out.

7 The other pathways, as Colonel Berczek said,
8 when we first started into the GLMRIS, we had a pretty
9 good knowledge base relative to the Chicago Sanitary
10 and Ship Canal and the history of invasive species
11 transfer that's occurred through that one particular
12 location. On the other hand, those last four words
13 that were in the authority, and other aquatic pathways,
14 we had very little knowledge of those locations, where
15 they existed and/or the relative risk of those
16 locations relative to the interbasin transfer of
17 aquatic nuisance species.

18 General Peabody, our commanding general in
19 the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, last summer,
20 realizing what a tremendous amount of investment has
21 been made in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to
22 construct the barriers, to do the very intense
23 monitoring, all of the work that's being done there,
24 realized that there could be a potential risk to the
25 Great Lakes through other potential aquatic pathways;

1 for instance, the Portage location in Wisconsin here
2 that was a former connection between the two basins.

3 He tasked us last summer to within 60 days
4 produce a draft report that provided an inventory of
5 all of the potential locations along that 1500-mile-
6 long basin divide that stretches from upper Minnesota
7 to western New York and to do a preliminary risk
8 characterization of each of those aquatic pathways
9 relative to the interbasin transfer of aquatic nuisance
10 species.

11 That was a very -- as Colonel Berczek said,
12 very challenging task because a lot of that basin
13 divide is very, very flat topography. It's not like
14 your typical continental divide where you've got a
15 mountain range that clearly distinguishes which way the
16 water flows. The areas in northern Ohio, Indiana,
17 Wisconsin, Minnesota, very flat topography and it has
18 very subtle changes in the way water, surface water
19 flows there.

20 To attack that problem, we established two
21 teams among -- well, that had multi-agency involvement.
22 A team of hydrologists, experts in surface water
23 hydrology that were from the Army Corps of Engineers,
24 from the state Departments of Natural Resources, the
25 U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Centers. They

1 were very influential in helping us identify the
2 locations where aquatic pathways may form, either exist
3 or may form, as well as procuring and collecting and
4 organizing the data to support that.

5 Also in parallel we had aquatic nuisance
6 species biologists working in parallel to develop a
7 list of all of the aquatic nuisance species that were
8 known to be in the Great Lakes but not yet located in
9 the river system and vice-versa, non-indigenous species
10 in the river system that have not been identified in
11 the Great Lakes.

12 We brought those two teams together basically
13 and did a risk characterization on each of the
14 locations. We identified a total of 36 across the
15 states, eight of them actually within the state of
16 Wisconsin. Eighteen of those 36 locations were
17 identified as posing some level of risk that was
18 unacceptable.

19 One of those locations, though, really posed
20 a very imminent risk, and that was the Eagle Marsh
21 location in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In the Eagle Marsh we
22 have a very special circumstance where a heavy
23 rainfall, generally a rain event that would be the
24 largest you'd expect to occur in any given year, causes
25 flow to occur across the basin divide from the Maumee

1 River basin which flows into Lake Erie, it causes a
2 backflow condition in the town of Fort Wayne and water,
3 flood waters will actually backflow into the Wabash
4 River basin, which drains to the Ohio River.

5 When you have a 10 percent annual return
6 frequency event, the largest storm you'd expect to
7 occur in any ten-year period, the depth of water across
8 that basin divide goes up to four and a half feet.
9 When you put that in context with the fact that there
10 are established populations of silver and bighead carp
11 about 25 miles downstream in the Wabash River, that
12 created a very special circumstance. We all understood
13 that.

14 We basically had a meeting at the end of last
15 July with the Indiana DNR; National Resources
16 Conservation Service, which has been very active in the
17 Eagle Marsh location; a non-governmental organization
18 called the Little River Wetlands Project. We had the
19 county surveyor, the USGS and all the Corps of
20 Engineers folk there, and long story short, we talked
21 about the problem, talked about potential solutions.
22 Everybody agreed that some sort of a permanent solution
23 needed to be implemented at this location, but we
24 didn't know if we had enough time to do that.

25 And so we started talking about interim

1 solutions, and a temporary barrier such as the one that
2 was used between the Des Plaines River and the Chicago
3 Sanitary and Ship Canal came up as a possible
4 alternative for an interim short-term remedy. The
5 Indiana DNR said we can take the lead on that, and they
6 stepped up to the plate and in less than 60 days did a
7 design and built that barrier across the Eagle Marsh
8 and it was in place before the end of September last
9 year, which I think is a very good testament to the way
10 things can work and can work quickly with government
11 agencies. I know that's not always the case, but this
12 is one case where it did really work well.

13 To wrap up on the other pathways, the Corps
14 of Engineers is right now preparing a feasibility study
15 for a long-term solution at the Eagle Marsh. That
16 report is scheduled to be completed before the end of
17 this calendar year, and likewise we are completing the
18 risk characterization at Eagle Marsh as well as the
19 other 17 locations where the risks were determined to
20 be unacceptable, and that report also is scheduled to
21 be completed before the end of this calendar year.

22 Sir, that's all.

23 COLONEL BERCEK: Thanks, Mike. So you just
24 heard a little bit of the discussion about where we are
25 today and we've done a lot of preparation and this time

1 that is being spent at the beginning part of the study
2 process in developing the scoping and gathering the
3 public input.

4 You've already heard that there's a lot that
5 has gone on, and you can see here down this left-hand
6 side, this is a complex study, so there's a lot of
7 thought that has to go into. We've talked about how to
8 go ahead and exchange information, how to work
9 together, how to collaborate with other state and
10 federal agencies and other partners.

11 And we began here in December the public
12 scoping and here we are in February. We have two more
13 meetings to go. So we're going to wrap up with this,
14 but we haven't just been standing by and waiting for
15 this to occur. You can see down here on the right-hand
16 side there's been a lot of work that's gone on to go
17 ahead and identify what the threat is and identify what
18 controls should be envisioned to take care of those.

19 You can see some of the work there. Part of
20 it is identifying, you know, still how we are going to
21 target further actions against Asian carp and how do we
22 target other aquatic nuisance species. We've got to
23 identify the right tools and the right measures. You
24 don't shoot skeet with a pistol. So we've got to make
25 sure that we have the right -- the right opportunity

1 and we take the right approach. And you can see down
2 there a little bit more information about Eagle Marsh
3 and we'll talk a little bit more about what's coming up
4 next.

5 This slide represents kind of a best case
6 scenario of where we anticipate this study going along,
7 and you can see the black star off here to the right,
8 the draft recommended plan with some recommendations
9 for implementation around the fall of 2014.

10 Concurrently, you see this timeline here and
11 this pathway for the other pathways focus that Mike
12 talked about a little bit there, with the preliminary
13 report and the risk characterization that's been done
14 and the efforts to go ahead and look at some more
15 detailed planning and detailed planning project
16 reports, and you can see the timeline that he's looking
17 at with some of those activities associated there.

18 So we're not just going to have you sit
19 around and wonder what's going on and talk about --
20 just figure out what's going on, so we want to talk a
21 little bit here about these interim products, what's
22 going to happen in the meantime, how you'll be kept up
23 to date.

24 There's a lot of efforts going on in
25 gathering data and doing analysis, and you can see that

1 as these reports are mature enough, that we might go
2 ahead and release some things like this, talk about the
3 types of aquatic nuisance species and the transport
4 mechanisms, how they'll get from point A to point B.

5 Some of the control technology is being
6 looked at as well. The navigation surveys, looking at
7 the value of the use of the waterways; looking at the
8 fishery surveys, looking at the value of the fisheries;
9 looking at potential and -- current and then potential
10 uses of the waterways; and again, talking about interim
11 updates, providing that information so that you can be
12 kept informed of what's been coming out of the study
13 and you see just what we are looking at.

14 A key to this process all along, I mentioned
15 about being adaptive and flexible in information, and
16 that includes the information we receive at meetings
17 such as this and then responses should some of those
18 other reports come out. And then at the top and the
19 bottom you see some of the example inputs. We talked
20 about the collaboration and talked about, in this case
21 here, to borrow a phrase from a book title, it really
22 does take a village. This is a large-scale effort.
23 There's a lot of work involved with this. A lot of
24 these other agencies represent levels, areas of
25 expertise that we need to draw upon and take into

1 consideration in looking at this study.

2 This just shows a schedule. Back in December
3 this schedule had a little more meaning where you could
4 maybe plan on where you might want to go next if you
5 wanted to show up at another one of these meetings, but
6 now here we are down here to February 15 and we've got
7 one or two left to do. But if anybody's interested in
8 going to New Orleans, I hear the parades start this
9 Saturday. We'll be down there before then. You may
10 have the same luck we found, that we had in trying to
11 find a hotel room down there with Mardi Gras
12 approaching.

13 And the Ann Arbor meeting you can was
14 rescheduled from the 3rd of February because of
15 weather, but those would be the last two meetings we
16 plan on having right now as far as for the public
17 comment period to keep things on track.

18 Other ways to provide inputs, you may have
19 already seen that there is a Web site dedicated to this
20 study. I'm trying to do a little bit of almost brand
21 recognition type thing. You see the button on there.
22 It looks very similar to the business card and the
23 materials that you have handed out earlier today. If
24 you go to the Chicago district Web site, you'll see a
25 button that looks like this. This will take you to the

1 Web site to keep you up to date and current with all
2 the information that's out there.

3 And then also you can see down there, I can't
4 talk much to social media because I'm still not in
5 Facebook and my family lets me know all the time, but
6 there are those options available as well. If you want
7 to keep up to date with Dave sitting over here on the
8 panel telling you what I'm saying, he'll tweet you up
9 with that.

10 Anyway, we thank you for your time today, and
11 now it's very critically important that we get the
12 opportunity to hear from you and receive your comments
13 and hear your questions, and we'll go ahead and answer
14 whatever we can. Thank you very much.

15 MR. GOSS: I just wanted to mention one
16 additional source of information on top of the Corps'
17 Web site. There is a Web site asiancarp.org that is a
18 constant update from all of the projects, the
19 coordinated strategy projects, and if you check that
20 every so often, you'll see what is new that we're
21 finding out from each of the other projects that we're
22 working on. So it's just asiancarp.org.

23 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Okay.
24 Well, that concludes part one of this evening's
25 meeting, and as the colonel mentioned, we've told you a

1 little bit about what we've been working on, the
2 efforts that are happening in the area regarding what
3 the Corps is doing, and now it's time to hear from you,
4 the public. We've had great success in these other
5 sessions throughout the first ten meetings and this
6 evening is going to be the same as the rest. We want
7 to give this opportunity to any persons in talking to
8 us. This would be the time.

9 Before we start that, I'd like to mention to
10 you that any persons that are interested to subscribe
11 to any e-mail list mailings, our Web site has a nice
12 function for that. You have an e-list service there
13 and that will be a link that will allow the Corps to e-
14 mail and distribute any updates on such things as
15 documents that have been added to our Web site, any
16 additional opportunities for public involvement and any
17 other important news or events regarding our study.
18 The GLMRIS project Web site can be found on the
19 brochure and on this little business card, and then
20 also we'll have information on some of the social media
21 things as well.

22 Moving into the comment period then, at this
23 point I've got one person that has registered to speak,
24 and so we will start with that person. So Mr. Meyer,
25 if you're available, we'll definitely start our second

1 portion here.

2 I would ask that our stenographer here
3 tonight is recording all of our information and we want
4 to make sure we utilize the microphones. If you could
5 start with your name and then any affiliation that you
6 represent as well as the zip code for us, we'd greatly
7 appreciate it, and with that, go ahead when you're
8 ready.

9 MR. MEYER: My name is George Meyer. I'm
10 representing the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and my
11 zip code is 53717.

12 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

13 MR. MEYER: And Mr. Goss and representatives
14 of the Corps of Engineers, thank you very much for this
15 opportunity to present our comments on the scoping
16 process for the Great Lakes and Mississippi River
17 Interbasin Study.

18 The Wildlife Federation is the largest
19 conservation organization in the state comprised of
20 over 160 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry
21 related groups with over 100,000 members. Among our
22 membership club affiliates are Great Lakes sports
23 fishing groups in virtually every port from Kenosha to
24 Marinette. In addition, we also represent the
25 Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes sport fishing

1 clubs. I understand there were representatives of some
2 of those clubs at the meeting here this afternoon.

3 Lastly, there are sportsmen and women in
4 virtually every group that we represent statewide that
5 fish on the Great Lakes during the course of one year.
6 Sports fishing in Lake Michigan and Lake Superior is a
7 multi-billion dollar economic enterprise, but just as
8 importantly, it forms a significant part of the culture
9 and tradition of many Wisconsin communities.

10 Let me indicate first that we are not
11 hydrologists or hydraulic engineers, so we cannot tell
12 you the exact solution to stop the interbasin migration
13 of invasive aquatic species, but our members can tell
14 you what's at stake. We have seen the major
15 degradation of fisheries and overall biomass of Lake
16 Michigan because of aquatic invasive species. We know
17 that the addition of the various invasive carp species
18 in the Illinois River system into Lake Michigan will
19 cause further serious degradation. We only have to
20 look at those water bodies where they are now and where
21 they're prevalent to see what the damages are.

22 The federation and it's members have been
23 fighting for stronger efforts by the federal and state
24 government for ballast water regulation for
25 international shipping on the Great Lakes for many

1 years. Also for many years we've been pushing the
2 federal government to deal with the open passageway to
3 Lake Michigan through the Chicago canal system, which
4 we are very -- which was shown on one of your exhibits.

5 We are very glad to see more sturdy electric
6 barriers in place along the system. We've taken a tour.
7 They're very impressive, and the one thing we're glad
8 is that we don't have to pay the electrical bills for
9 those. But we know that these are merely a non-
10 foolproof, temporary measure.

11 We have become familiar with the Chicago
12 Sanitary and Ship Canal, and for people who like to
13 spend their time in a little bit more pristine areas,
14 it's quite eye opening to see the hydrology and the
15 hydraulics and the close connections. We know this
16 isn't an easy task, but we can tell you our bottom line
17 is we're strong supporters for hydrologic separation.
18 It has to take place. It has to be a system that is
19 foolproof. There's too much at stake if, in fact,
20 these carp species and other aquatic species get into
21 the Great Lakes. We've seen the damage from the 185
22 previous species that have gotten there.

23 We appreciate the study is underway. We know
24 it's very complex. It's a lot to be studied, but we
25 are very dissatisfied with the long time frames

1 proposed to deal with this permanent solution to
2 invasive species transfers. It's hard to go back and
3 talk to average people about time frames where the
4 feasibility studies was shown. Just the feasibility
5 studies not getting done till 2015, it's hard for
6 people to understand that when there's such a feeling
7 of urgency.

8 Then we know that after that's done, and we
9 realize there's interim reports, but until that's done,
10 then it has to have agency approval, the Corps'
11 process, and then the chief of engineers report is sent
12 to Congress recommending authorization of a proposed
13 plan. Then Congressional action is taken, and that is
14 not always the fastest thing, but that's required for
15 further study authorization and appropriations for the
16 design and implementation of the recommended plan.

17 Then we assume there must be further studies,
18 design work, contracting and then if there's
19 construction, final construction. At a minimum, it
20 will be safe to estimate that, in fact, it is a
21 structural solution in places, especially in the
22 complexity of the Chicago basin, that this project will
23 not be completed until after 2020 and possibly
24 significantly later.

25 This lack of apparent urgency -- and I'm not

1 saying people aren't serious and doing a lot of hard
2 work. Obviously a lot of hard work has been done
3 already, but to the public it's hard for them to
4 understand especially when what we have at stake is
5 from the greatest water systems in the world and one
6 that is very important to our Wisconsin Great Lakes
7 sport fishermen. There's just so much at stake.

8 So please take the following message back to
9 those you're representing. First, this process for the
10 final solution of interbasin invasive species transfer
11 must be greatly expedited. And two, the temporary
12 measures to prevent the transfer of invasive species
13 from the Illinois River system into Lake Michigan must
14 be made 100 percent foolproof in the interim.

15 In conclusion, we are truly grateful that you
16 traveled to Milwaukee to listen to our concerns and we
17 greatly appreciate the work you've done and the work
18 you're going to do. Please let us know if there's
19 anything that we can do to help you protect the Great
20 Lakes in an expedited way. On behalf of the Wisconsin
21 Wildlife Federation, thank you very much.

22 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Appreciate it. Okay.
23 That concludes the list of people that have indicated
24 when they came into the room that they'd like to make a
25 comment. At this time I'd like to see if there's

1 anybody else that has since then in joining us that
2 would like to make a comment. If so, either raise your
3 hand or step to the microphone.

4 Okay. Just for your information, this
5 afternoon we had 21 such attempts to the microphone.
6 We had a discussion for more than an hour. We heard a
7 lot of very interesting and compelling statements. One
8 last call. Anybody like to go to the microphone, now
9 would be a good time to do so.

10 The time is 6:20 and with that I'd like to
11 make a motion to adjourn the meeting. I'd like to
12 thank you for your statements and let me remind you
13 that if you do have any materials prepared for us, turn
14 them in either to myself or to the front panel table.

15 In the back of the room we do have some
16 computers set up that are able -- they're online and
17 able to take comments if you'd like to enter them
18 online, as well as keep in mind the white comment sheet
19 and any of the mailing information to our Web site will
20 allow you future opportunities to comment on our
21 comment period, keeping in mind that the March 31st
22 date is the date for our deadline for any of the
23 comments to be considered as part of our NEPA scoping
24 process.

25 With that in mind and that said, help us

1 recycle our materials. If there is anything you've
2 been given tonight that you do not need any longer, you
3 can leave it on the chair with you or take it to the
4 back table and recycle that with us. We'll use it at
5 our future meetings. And if you need any additional
6 materials for others that were not here tonight, we can
7 supply some additional for you as well.

8 Thank you for your attendance and with that
9 we'll adjourn the meeting. Have a good night.

10 (At 6:21 p.m. the meeting concluded.)

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1 STATE OF WISCONSIN)
2 MILWAUKEE COUNTY) SS:

3

4 I, MICHELLE HAGEN, Registered Professional
5 Reporter with the firm of Halma-Jilek Reporting, Inc.,
6 207 East Michigan Street, Suite 404, Milwaukee,
7 Wisconsin 53202, do hereby certify that I reported the
8 foregoing proceedings taken on February 14, 2011, and
9 that the same is true and correct in accordance with my
10 original machine shorthand notes taken at said time and
11 place.

12

13

14

15 _____

16 Michelle Hagen
17 Registered Professional
18 Reporter.

19

20 Dated this 25th day of February, 2011, Milwaukee,
21 Wisconsin.

22

23

24

25

Capital Reporting Company
GLMRIS Public Scoping Meeting 02-15-2011

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