

NEPA Public Scoping Meeting

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

GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JANUARY 20, 2011

PANEL MEMBERS:

Dave Wethington, GLMRIS Project Manager
John Goss, Asian Carp Director, White House
Council on Environmental Quality
Lt. Colonel David Berczek, Deputy Commander,
Chicago District, US Army Corps of
Engineers
Michael Saffran, Other Pathways Project Manager
Hiroshi Eto, Interim Director of Programs,
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
Kevin Bluhm, Moderator, Corps of Engineers

Afternoon Session: 2:00 p.m.
Evening Session: 5:30 p.m.

McNamara Alumni Center
University of Minnesota
200 Oak Street Southeast
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55444

Court Reporter: Angela D. Sauro, RPR

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1 (Afternoon Session)

2 This transcript begins with the afternoon oral comment
3 period. The afternoon presentation was mistakenly not
4 transcribed. Please refer to page 47 for the transcript
5 of the evening presentation made by John Goss, Lt.
6 Colonel David Berczek, Dave Wethington, and Michael
7 Saffran.

8 MR. BLUHM: Thank you, sir. All right. Is
9 everybody still with us? Very good. That concludes our
10 first portion of the meeting this afternoon. Basically we
11 wanted to take the time, we felt it was necessary to give
12 you an update on really what the details were and what
13 the specifics are that we are talking about, and now we
14 are going to turn it over to you.

15 Given that we have got a relatively small group
16 of folks here, I would like to see if we can make an
17 amendment, and as long as that is okay with everybody
18 here I would like to propose such.

19 Typically I go through a couple of pages of
20 instructions on how we have got to have people lined up
21 at either the blue line or the yellow line and we need to
22 be courteous and only take our three minutes and not go
23 over our three minutes; but in this situation I have got
24 a list of three people that have asked to speak that pre-

1 registered with us, and given that we have only got 20
2 some odd people in the room, my proposal would be that we
3 amend our instructions that we printed to allow people
4 that have asked to speak or that would like to speak
5 after we have gone through the first three a reasonable
6 amount of time to speak and to ask any questions or
7 comments that you might have rather than specifically
8 limiting it.

9 If that is okay with everybody here, I would
10 like to make that proposal. If you object to that, if I
11 could just see a show of hands if you object to that
12 amendment or that change.

13 Really I just don't know that it's necessary to
14 limit people or constrain people to three minutes when
15 right now I am looking at a total of nine minutes of
16 speech. As long as nobody has a problem with that, I
17 would like to enter that into our meeting format and
18 proceed into the second portion of our meeting.

19 I would like to also mention that we have a
20 stenographer with us on this side of the room, and she
21 will be recording any of the comments, questions and
22 statements that come forth from this point on until we
23 adjourn. When you have any comments that you would like
24 to make, I would ask that you either go to the center

1 microphone or the side microphone, whichever is more
2 comfortable for you. I would ask that before you begin
3 any comments that you state your name, an organization or
4 any affiliation if you represent one, and then your zip
5 code, and the zip code is something that we use just for
6 a tracking purpose. After we are all said and done we
7 want to try and get a little bit of an idea of where the
8 folks come from that have talked and were heard at our
9 meetings.

10 We have a tool that was part of our pre-
11 registration on our website, and we did have the three
12 people that are going to speak so far were pre-registered
13 on that. Typically I would say you can go to the blue
14 line, but if the yellow line would work better for you,
15 you could do that as well.

16 I will just try to keep as informal as
17 possible. Keeping in mind too that if you think of
18 something as these folks are talking and decide that now
19 you would like to enter a comment or ask a question of
20 the panel, we will do that as soon as these first three
21 are taken care of.

22 Also, any of the other comments that you may
23 think of or come up with can be given to us today by
24 entering them on this white comment form.

1 Also, we have got some computer stations in the
2 hallway just on the back side of the lobby here, you are
3 free to sit down and log in any comments that way as
4 well.

5 Also, on the bottom of this and as well as
6 several other pieces is our mailing address for the
7 Chicago District, and anything that you would have that
8 you think of in the future you can also mail in as long
9 as we can have that postmarked by the closing time of
10 March 31st, so keep that in mind.

11 Okay. So with that, I would like to start with
12 the first person, Dave Zentner. Dave, if you're here.
13 When you are ready, you can go to either microphone. Do
14 you want to turn that on and make sure we have got a good
15 volume on that.

16 When you are ready, if you just want to give us
17 your name and any information with that, as well as a zip
18 code, we'd appreciate that.

19 MR. ZENTNER: I will try and do that.

20 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. ZENTNER: Good afternoon, everybody. My
22 name is Dave Zentner, and I live in Duluth, Minnesota,
23 and I represent the Izaak Walton League of America,
24 particularly the Izaak Walton League of America's Great

1 Lakes Committee, which I will briefly describe after
2 giving my zip code, which is 55803.

3 The Great Lakes Committee is active, very, very
4 active with members from New York to the State of
5 Minnesota. By the way, you don't need to worry about
6 polite, you're in Minnesota nice now this afternoon, and
7 we are good to guests and to each other, and generally
8 are above average.

9 I am going to be brief in spite of the paucity
10 of commenters that have signed up because I want to get
11 home as quickly as I can to celebrate the University of
12 Minnesota-Duluth's second national Division II football
13 championship in the last three years.

14 I am a layperson without technical expertise in
15 terms of academic preparation, a retired businessman. I
16 have been active as a volunteer conservationist since I
17 was in my 20s, so that does go back a bit.

18 A good deal of those decades have been spent
19 trying to get effective strategies to prevent the
20 continuous spread of aquatic invaders. The Corps
21 describes them as aquatic nuisance species. I grew up
22 around the idea that they were aquatic invasive species,
23 but we shouldn't try to debate the difference. We failed
24 to do that.

1 And I want to focus on three things this
2 afternoon. One is my understanding of why we've been so
3 unsuccessful. The final is what I think we need to do to
4 be successful going forward, and the second insert is to
5 describe a bit of support for permanent hydrologic
6 separation of these basins.

7 Our effort has failed largely at the Federal
8 level because, in my opinion, Congress has had a
9 proclivity to use a big word of sprinkling the
10 authorities and budgets amongst an amazingly large and
11 complex cast of players that have lacked the sense of
12 urgency, have lacked the sense of urgency to effectively
13 deal with these invaders.

14 Our niche on our committee the past several
15 years has been ballast water. We are not talking only
16 about ballast water this afternoon, but I can tell you
17 without equivocation that when our Izaak Walton League
18 Chapter in Duluth, Minnesota sued the United States Coast
19 Guard and APHIS, the arm of the USDA, in the Federal
20 Court in the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, we found out
21 that in the Judge's comments that a thing called the
22 Administrative Procedures Act giving agencies broad
23 discretion in whether or not to do what Federal
24 legislation told them to do in 1990 and amended again

1 1996 or '7, as a layperson reading that language it was
2 compelling, it was direct, it was clear; but it has been
3 absolutely obfuscated in terms of delivery by these
4 conflicted missions of protect the resource, promote
5 commerce; and that's been the drug of choice over and
6 over again in our national experience.

7 The result, as numerous university studies have
8 shown, is that in the case of the international shipping
9 that my town Duluth sees, frankly we love to see those
10 ships, but the net value added of those ships in the last
11 several decades has been exceeded many times over by the
12 cost of dealing with the invaders they bring to us.

13 I think the Colonel indicated 180 invaders a
14 few minutes ago, the last several years on average Duluth
15 has seen every eight months a new arrival. Not all of
16 them a disaster. The story has yet to be told with many,
17 but the consequences are clear.

18 Editorially I would like to mention that I
19 would love to see my friends and associate citizens who
20 are devoted fiscal conservatives to understand the
21 dollars off the table this afternoon for health, welfare,
22 education and other needed national goals because we
23 haven't taken care of these problems effectively on the
24 front end.

1 Based on what I think I know this afternoon,
2 permanent hydrologic separation not only is the most
3 effective option for the Asian carp, but will be
4 effective and enduring for the inevitable occurrence of
5 what will follow Asian carp up the Mississippi River.

6 I believe we need to change the model looking
7 forward. We need to center authority, we need to center
8 urgency, we need to center accountability.

9 In pleading on behalf of the Izaak Walton
10 League's position favoring a permanent hydrologic
11 separation let me recognize some things that we have
12 discussed and thought about, and I am going to read them
13 so that I save some time for everybody. We understand,
14 and there were comments supporting this a few months ago,
15 that permanent barrier separation will require a plan to
16 mitigate the negative impacts on other very legitimate
17 and important consequences, but there is no reason to
18 allow that to stop a nation as great as ours from
19 protecting the treasure that the Great Lakes are if, as
20 some science would project, we have Asian carp with the
21 worst case ultimate scenario being real.

22 We need to arrange as part of that mitigation
23 alternative pathways. We need to bring Chicago up to the
24 standards it should have been at long ago. My City of

1 Duluth discharges into one of the most precious resources
2 in the world, Lake Superior. We have had to meet our
3 responsibilities. Chicago has to meet its
4 responsibilities.

5 And let me close by attempting to share with
6 you how I think about our failed national policies, where
7 we're at this afternoon. We have several states in
8 litigation to close the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal.
9 We have people in opposition. What we have done is
10 pitted economic and political power blocks one against
11 each other in a win/loss box because for 30 years we have
12 watched Asian carp come up the system without dealing
13 with it.

14 My final comment is a question. In
15 underwriting the expenses of whatever mitigative measures
16 singly or in combination are derived best for our
17 resource, are the fish farms part of paying the bill? Is
18 the aquatic culture part of paying the bill? Will the
19 shipping industry pay their fair share of what they have
20 delivered to my estuary in Duluth?

21 Thank you very much. I will be happy to answer
22 any questions.

23 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

24 MR. ZENTNER: Thank you.

1 MR. BLUHM: I want to make sure I understand
2 the question. You're asking are the fish farms, are any
3 of the commercial interests or navigational interests,
4 are they going to be paying for any potential is it
5 solutions or potential future actions, is that what
6 you're asking?

7 MR. ZENTNER: Either or both, absolutely that
8 is what I am asking. You know, we have a -- as I said, I
9 am a retired businessman. I like entrepreneurship, I like
10 profits, I like hard work, I like small businesses; but
11 we have repeatedly seen with many of these projects
12 people make promises. Murphy's Law, I will mention it
13 for the second time this afternoon, does occur, and as a
14 result, you know who pays for the repair, the recovery?
15 It's the taxpayer. It's the general public. Not just in
16 dollars, but in loss of soul, food, loss of recreational
17 opportunity, and loss of commercial and economic good.

18 It seems to me that any long-term vision has
19 got to finally true up that if we are going to be
20 partners in using the resource, then all partners have to
21 pay for their mistakes.

22 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Anybody want to try to
23 attempt anything on that? It's kind of a spiny one. I
24 will start with this: Because we are at the very

1 beginning of our study process, obviously any type of a
2 pathway forward in who or what would be a potential
3 sponsor with us is very unclear at this time.

4 Do you guys want to add anything more to that
5 from just the details of what you have worked on so far?

6 MR. SAFFRAN: I guess I will start with one
7 thing. It's certainly not an answer, but the tragedy of
8 the commons is exactly what you're talking about, and
9 it's very facetious.

10 The national businessman is going to maximum
11 externalizing the cost versus internalizing it. I am not
12 sure that any of us sitting here at this table have a way
13 to require those industries that have not had to pay full
14 cost to be able to step up and pay the results.

15 The point you are raising was exactly raised
16 and was part of why the environmental movement got
17 started 25, 30 years ago.

18 MR. ZENTNER: Right, and in order to make
19 progress we have just got to be better at that thing
20 called externalities to have more of a level playing
21 field for what energy really costs and what economic
22 benefits. So often we throw figures out and they're just
23 simply not comparable, they are not comparable.

24 MR. BLUHM: Very good.

1 MR. SAFFRAN: Thank you.

2 MR. ZENTNER: Thank you.

3 MR. BLUHM: Thank you, Mr. Zentner.

4 Okay. The second person that has asked to
5 speak today is Jill Crafton. Is Jill ready? Does that
6 work for you right there?

7 MS. CRAFTON: I think so.

8 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Go ahead.

9 MS. CRAFTON: My name is Jill Crafton. I live
10 in Bloomington, Minnesota at the moment. My zip code is
11 55438, but I am a transient from Michigan, so I have
12 spent a whole lot of my time and we have a place in
13 Pentwater, Michigan, and that is 49449, and that is where
14 I have seen -- I remember the sealine freight and those
15 problems and what we have done, and we don't seem to be
16 making a whole lot of progress.

17 I am with the Izaak Walton League also. I
18 happen to chair the committee that Dave Zentner was just
19 speaking about, and we've had a lot of concerns because
20 since we formed in late 2005 there have been times when
21 the electric barrier was turned off. There have been
22 times when we were on the phone clamoring for support to
23 make sure that the funding for that barrier was going to
24 be in place, and so we are just totally concerned about

1 the threat of the Asian carp.

2 My statement is this: The Great Lakes
3 Committee -- or the Great Lakes and Mississippi River
4 Interbasin Study authorized by Congress mandating the
5 Army Corps of Engineers to prevent invasive species from
6 moving through the Chicago Waterway is important because
7 without it there will be no authorization of funding for
8 a permanent barrier.

9 However, given the threat to the \$7 billion
10 Great Lakes fishery and the existing available research
11 that has already been done, the current timeline for the
12 Corps' study with the Chicago portion not expected to be
13 done until 2015 is way too long.

14 Asian carp would threaten the more than 7
15 billion Great Lakes fisheries. The U.S. Environmental
16 Protection Agency and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission
17 agree that the Asian carp are a significant threat to the
18 Great Lakes because of their size, ability to reproduce,
19 and proclivity in that area, and ability to consume large
20 amounts of food.

21 They are well-suited to the climate of the
22 Great Lakes region. If they enter the Great Lakes they
23 will likely become a dominant species and would compete
24 for food with the valuable sport and commercial fish.

1 Asian carp are an immediate threat and require
2 immediate action. They are already present in the
3 Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal that connects the
4 Mississippi River to the Great Lakes, including above the
5 Great Lakes barriers, the DNA issue, that have been
6 installed to prevent the carp from reaching the lake.

7 The Corps needs to condense the timeline for
8 its study and produce final results for the Chicago
9 portion of the feasibility study within 18 months. The
10 current timeline can be condensed by incorporating
11 results from existing studies rather than repeating work
12 that has already been done on risk assessment, wastewater
13 and transportation, and economic analysis of the U.S.
14 Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Lakes Commission and
15 Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

16 We would hope that you can incorporate that and
17 would be talking to each other. We are glad to hear
18 you're trying to talk.

19 The Great Lakes and Mississippi River are not
20 naturally connected. Moreover, the occurrence of more
21 intense rainstorm events increases the likely of flooding
22 in this area and the potential for Asian carp to gain
23 entry to Lake Michigan.

24 The study is intended to prevent invasive

1 species, including Asian carp, from moving between the
2 Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. It is not
3 acceptable to wait until Asian carp are already present
4 in the Great Lakes before considering physical separation
5 of the two basins.

6 Clearly the electric barriers are not enough to
7 prevent aquatic invasive species from moving between the
8 Mississippi and Great Lakes, therefore a permanent
9 hydrologic separation is needed. Physical separation
10 must include mitigation to those with long-, short-term
11 economic losses, if those losses can be verified.

12 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you very much.
13 Okay. That is our second. Thank you, Ms. Crafton.

14 Next, our third person is Trilby Becker. Is
15 Trilby here? When you are ready, go to the microphone
16 that you like. When you are ready, go ahead.

17 MS. BECKER: My name is Trilby Becker, I am
18 from the National Wildlife Federation in Ann Arbor,
19 Michigan. My zip code is 48103.

20 Some of the points that I would have made were
21 made very eloquently by others before me, so I will think
22 of some other points that might enhance what has been
23 said already.

24 I wanted to address some of the economic

1 concerns that you're so good to consider, and it's so
2 important that you incorporate those concerns into your
3 risk assessment of the potential impact of invasive
4 species, particularly the Asian carp, entering the Great
5 Lakes; and I understand that lots of damage could be
6 caused by flooding and that jobs will indeed be lost by
7 preventing the shipping industry from using the CAWS to
8 enter the Great Lakes and move transport goods between
9 the Great Lakes Basin and the Mississippi Basin, but I
10 also ask to keep that in perspective when you consider
11 that only 1 percent of Chicago's total economy is
12 actually moved in terms of goods through the CAWS.

13 While some jobs in shipping would be lost,
14 other jobs would be created by trying to improve the CAWS
15 and by devising light rail and other systems for
16 transporting goods around the Basin.

17 Also, you know, we have attached a \$700 billion
18 figure to the value of the fishery, but that is really
19 just an imaginary number. We don't know the true value
20 of the fishery. It's really beyond dollar value, isn't
21 it? I mean when you think of the value of fishing trout
22 with your grandkids or the value of being able to eat
23 fish that are native to your region, you know, fishing in
24 your own waters fish that have been there for 10,000

1 years, that is really worth a lot more than money, and I
2 feel like the priority should really be placed on how can
3 we prevent this from happening, not weighing the checks
4 and balances in economic terms.

5 I feel like it's sort of a false argument in a
6 way. That is why I feel, and my colleagues at NWF feel,
7 that permanent hydrological separation is really the only
8 viable option that is really going to be satisfying to
9 everybody, and history will judge us for it if we don't
10 take the necessary steps to make sure that that happens.

11 I also wanted to ask specifically Mr. Saffran
12 about some of the other potential aquatic pathways in
13 Minnesota, and I know that some of the most acute
14 potential pathways are here in the State and involve the
15 Swan River and Tamarack Lowlands, and I understand it's
16 very complicated to address those because there is so
17 many potential points of transfer of the ANS between both
18 basins, and that it's very important to collaborate with
19 the DNR here to address those, and being a State agency
20 it might be more agile and more able to react. I wonder,
21 you know, how you can -- if you can explain to me at all
22 like your strategy for trying to address those other
23 aquatic pathways, and how we might learn from the
24 relative facility of thought process on the State level

1 and perhaps apply that to the situation in the CAWS in
2 Chicago that seems to involve so many Federal agencies,
3 and it's just difficult to really move forward.

4 I also wanted to encourage you again to take
5 advantage of other risk assessments that have already
6 been done about the potential impact of aquatic invasive
7 species, particularly the Asian carp, into the Great
8 Lakes done by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, by DFO, a new
9 study that is going to be done by DFO now and completed
10 in a year with the collaboration of the Great Lakes
11 Fishery Commission, so, you know, perhaps taking advance
12 of some of these other research -- some of this other
13 research to expedite your process. Thank you very much.

14 MR. BLUHM: Can I ask one question quickly.
15 You used the acronym DFO.

16 MS. BECKER: Department of Fisheries and
17 Oceans.

18 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Anything for Ms.
19 Becker?

20 MR. SAFFRAN: Yes, I guess the short answer is
21 yes. We had a meeting yesterday with the Minnesota
22 Department of Natural Resources folks, discussed our plan
23 for completing the risk characterization. We told them
24 we really need your help. Got very positive response

1 that they very much want to participate in the process.

2 So, yes, that has begun.

3 We are in the process right now of completing
4 the draft plan to complete the study. We are going to
5 solicit the input and comments on the plan before we
6 finalize it from the Minnesota DNR, as well as the other
7 state DNRs because, you're correct, having the knowledge
8 of the people who live in the area is -- you can't get
9 that from afar, and we really do need for this to be
10 successful to have the best folks from the state DNRs.

11 We also had a meeting this morning with the
12 Fish & Wildlife Service office at Fort Snelling where we
13 also had USGS and NOAA on the line.

14 We are attempting to also coordinate with DFO
15 in that there is a little -- some State park type things
16 that are going to have to occur to make sure that there
17 isn't any problems there.

18 The answer is yes, we are very much trying to
19 collaborate. We are very much trying to utilize the
20 results of prior studies to able to advance what we are
21 doing as quickly as possible.

22 MR. BLUHM: Excellent. Thanks, Mike.

23 MR. WETHINGTON: I did want to add one thing as
24 well. We are, like Mike was saying, we are trying to use

1 information that is already out there. We are not trying
2 to reinvent the wheel.

3 Just to kind of add a little more clarity to
4 that, the Great Lakes Commission study, that is a partner
5 with the St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, are looking
6 specifically at hydrologic separation, and the
7 information that is generated as part of that study will
8 be included and very easily be included as part of the
9 larger GLMRIS study.

10 However, as a Federal government, as a steward
11 of your tax dollars, and as passionate as we speak for
12 the environment, there are others who communicate as
13 passionately for dry basins or for economic shipping, et
14 cetera; so we must, as the Corps of Engineers we must
15 remain unbiased so we can use all of this. We will use
16 the information as it's presented to us.

17 I just wanted to let you know we are -- we have
18 to remain unbiased in our analysis of this problem, of
19 this situation.

20 MR. BLUHM: Thank you, Dave. Any last
21 comments?

22 MS. BECKER: I guess I might wonder when you
23 say being unbiased, would it be biased of you to
24 incorporate the results of a study that was produced with

1 non-government dollars?

2 MR. WETHINGTON: No, not at all. As we have
3 our process that we outlined, you know, previously, we
4 have a Project Management Plan that was posted on our
5 website which outlines the specific process we go about
6 doing. We can use information that is submitted to us,
7 provided that it falls within those guidelines and it
8 falls within the Corps of Engineers' guidelines for
9 acceptability into, you know, this process. We will be
10 more than happy to look at anything that is provided to
11 us and kind of get feedback and evaluation.

12 We are partnering with the Great Lakes
13 Commission study early on so that hopefully what they
14 generate is very easy to kind of incorporate into the
15 larger study.

16 MS. BECKER: Would that enable you to expedite
17 your own study by substituting research that you would
18 have done on your own with research that is being done by
19 others?

20 MR. WETHINGTON: As Colonel Berczek mentioned,
21 the timeline that has been presented is a very aggressive
22 timeline. That is assuming everything goes well in terms
23 of we get the requisite funding, we get all of the
24 information we need. I am not sure if it would expedite

1 it greatly. So it's kind of unknown at this point in
2 time without completely defining our --

3 MS. BECKER: I guess that is a concern in that
4 there is already DNA evidence to indicate that the Asian
5 carp are already crossing the electric barriers, and so,
6 you know, the horse is already leaving the barn as we
7 speak, and, you know, they don't, you know, they don't
8 care how long, you know, we think it should take. Five
9 years is a long time. Look how far they have come in
10 five years.

11 So I wonder like if that is really an
12 aggressive timeline in terms of ecology. I mean it might
13 be an aggressive timeline in terms of the Corps and in
14 terms of government certainly, but yeah.

15 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you. I mean we'll do
16 what we can. Thank you for your comments.

17 LT. COL. BERCEK: I just want to make one
18 comment on that. I thank you for your comments, as well
19 as your concerns.

20 One of the things too that I don't want people
21 to walk out of here today thinking that nothing is being
22 done and we are waiting to complete the study before we
23 continue to work with Asian carp. We have the barrier in
24 place right now. We have already -- we've done some

1 studies, efficacy studies that look at methods and
2 improve the efficiency of that barrier. We are
3 continuing to test the settings for the barrier to make
4 sure that they are continuing to be effective in all
5 water conductivity levels, in all flow rates and things
6 like that and to go ahead and make sure what we have got
7 in there is doing what it's supposed to be doing and
8 continuing to adjust, especially that fight against the
9 Asian carp specifically.

10 The GLMRIS study goes beyond the Asian carp, so
11 we are looking at those other things, and it may take
12 some time to look at those other species and figure out
13 how to do that, but there is a lot of work, as Mr. Goss
14 mentioned earlier, by ourselves at the Corps of Engineers
15 and other agencies that continue looking at Asian carp as
16 a whole, to include the Illinois Department of Natural
17 Resources fishing thousands of pounds of Asian carp out
18 of the Illinois River downstream, to go ahead and relieve
19 a lot of the pressure potentially on the barrier itself.

20 So there are other things we can investigate
21 and look at, other potential technology and barriers used
22 in other locations to deflect the fish into areas where
23 we can capture or eradicate them.

24 So there is additional work. We are not

1 waiting for this study to be done to tell us what to do
2 specifically that reference Asian carp. There are still
3 a number of activities that are ongoing. I mean the fact
4 that the barrier is on right now as we speak, and the
5 next rendition is to add some redundancy to the barrier
6 that is in place right now. As Mr. Goss mentioned
7 earlier, within a few weeks, a month and a half or so we
8 will have that operational. We can turn it on today. We
9 haven't completed all of the safety testing required to
10 add the additional electric field in the water.

11 So it's operational and ready to function. So
12 we just continue to do the diligence necessary to go
13 ahead and make sure that we understand the effects of
14 adding additional electricity to the water.

15 We are not just waiting, especially with Asian
16 carp, we have got a lot going on and continue to go on,
17 and now we are looking at broadening what else and how do
18 we address that. So thank you.

19 MR. BLUHM: Thank you, sir. And thank you, Ms.
20 Becker, for the comments.

21 Since we started our comment session we have
22 had two additional persons that have indicated that they
23 would like to make a comment.

24 I want to make sure I let everybody know too

1 that if you decide after we are through with the ones
2 that have registered at the front desk, if something
3 comes to your mind or if you would like to get up and
4 talk to us again, we will keep going until the closing
5 time of 5:00 for this session. So if you do think of
6 anything else that you would like to say or if you
7 haven't said anything yet but would like to now, there is
8 always time to do that. As long as we are here, we will
9 make sure we take the time to talk.

10 So the fourth person, Karen Rylander. Is Ms.
11 Rylander here? When you are ready, come on up to the
12 microphone. Make sure it's adjusted. It looks like it's
13 pretty close. Whenever you are ready, go ahead.

14 MS. RYLANDER: I am Karen Rylander, and I drove
15 up from Eden Prairie, Minnesota, 55347, today to hear
16 this and speak here because I think it's something that
17 is a very good use of my tax money to fight, and
18 something -- I guess I consider the Great Lakes, you
19 know, a great national or great certainly regional
20 treasure and something to be protected at all costs.

21 Some of my talking points were addressed by
22 other people, but I guess I still want to say, you know,
23 I pay a lot in taxes, and I am privileged to pay a lot in
24 taxes, and this is a good way to spend my money. You

1 should put forth your strongest effort to stop this.

2 This will affect a lot of people. If it's not stopped
3 effectively, this will, you know, it's going to upset a
4 lot of people even though they are not here speaking.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Any
7 comments from the panel? Okay. Thank you Ms. Rylander.

8 Our fifth person that has indicated they would
9 like to make a statement is Bill Barton. Is Mr. Barton
10 here?

11 MR. BARTON: Yes, I am. Thank you.

12 MR. BLUHM: If you are ready, go ahead.

13 MR. BARTON: Yes, Bill Barton, I live in St.
14 Paul, Minnesota here, and I made an online comment
15 yesterday too.

16 MR. BLUHM: Can I ask for a zip code?

17 MR. BARTON: 55116. I appreciate the
18 opportunity to speak to you today. It's an issues that I
19 am very concerned about living in St. Paul with the Asian
20 carp coming up the river. You know, we don't see them
21 jumping out of the water here because that is the Silver
22 carp, but the Big Heads are already here being caught in
23 Hastings and on the St. Croix, and they're on their way.

24 The Hastings lock is an anchor gate underflow,

1 which I am sure the Corps knows that there is only five
2 locks on the whole river that are overflow locks, and
3 three of them are right here in the Twin Cities.

4 Minneapolis and St. Paul both get their water
5 from the Mississippi River; and St. Paul is especially
6 vulnerable, we pump the water out of the river into a
7 chain of lakes, five lakes, and then it goes through a
8 treatment plant, but those lakes that are part of our
9 treatment system if they become contaminated and the
10 ecosystem in them is upset and the water chemistry is
11 upset, if it doesn't hurt me, it's going to cost me
12 money, which we have talked about here earlier.

13 I think some of the progress I've seen in the
14 Michigan situation really scares me. You know, when
15 everybody got all upset when they found the carp or the
16 DNA in the lake and had all you guys together with a big
17 online meeting, and what was that, about a year or two
18 ago and we're doing more studies. We have built another
19 barrier that doesn't work. It floods out. It goes out
20 of service. One of those carp, one female carp lays
21 millions of eggs, so you have to have a fool-proof
22 system.

23 Now, back to my water supply problem. What is
24 happening here in Minnesota is we have something called

1 the Coon Rapids Dam, which is above the Twin Cities, it's
2 above our water supply, and it is old and it needs some
3 money. There is some people promoting it for a carp
4 barrier, which it could well be a carp barrier; but if
5 you go up there and look at it right now, the drop over
6 the dam is only about 3 or 4 feet because they bring the
7 water down because the ice damages the dam if they don't
8 keep it up. So I don't know that we can change that,
9 which they are talking about doing.

10 Anyway, I am concerned about my water supply.

11 To get into the problem with the shipping,
12 which you mentioned earlier, and the economic impact,
13 which if you take a look at the shipping in the Twin
14 Cities, it's been dropping for the last five years. We
15 have closed the coal plant in North Minneapolis, that
16 took about 90,000 tons out. I think the total for 2009
17 was 686,000 sum ton, so we are down below 600,000 tons
18 without coal.

19 Traditionally the Corps evaluated the economic
20 viability of the locks at a million tons a year, so you
21 take a look at what is that costing us, I haven't been
22 able to get any numbers out of the Corps in their
23 operating data. I guess they think it's a national
24 security issue nowadays. There is some old data around

1 that I found that we were talking about \$3 million for
2 operating those locks back about ten years ago, and there
3 is maintenance. I don't know if the maintenance is
4 there, I don't have a good reference for that.

5 My calculations just looking at the number of
6 people in the District and the number of sites and what
7 the overall costs were was more like 50 million a year.

8 You look at that and you look at what we are
9 shipping through the locks, there is no oil, no coal, no
10 chemicals, a little bit of equipment maybe, some scrap
11 iron, and a lot of sand and gravel that we are moving
12 from one place in the river to another that we could just
13 as well get nearby where we're using it. They are
14 closing the Port of Minneapolis here is the plan. So we
15 are paying what I figure is about \$5 a ton to ship sand
16 and gravel from one part of the Twin Cities to another.
17 I don't think that is a subsidy I want to be paying, and
18 if you close the Ford lock and the St. Anthony or not, I
19 don't know, you would have one 100 percent physical
20 barrier right there to keep those carp away from my water
21 supply. If you close the St. Anthony locks also, you
22 have got three physical barriers in a row to keep carp
23 away from my water supply.

24 So I really appreciate your time today, and

1 hopefully you will consider that for the future. Thank
2 you.

3 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you, sir. Any
4 questions from the panel or comments? Very good. Thank
5 you, Mr. Barton.

6 Next I have Dave Olson. Is Mr. Olson here?
7 When you are ready, feel free to come forward. Also,
8 there was a cell phone left at the registration table.
9 If this looks like yours, I will have it up here, and
10 when we adjourn the meeting you can come and get it.

11 Go ahead when you are ready.

12 MR. OLSON: I am Dave Olson, 55421. I do
13 belong to a couple of sea kayaking organizations. The
14 sea kayakers they would be horrified if I presented to be
15 representing what they think or what their position is.

16 I have been going up to Lake Superior since I
17 was about six years old, and that was the early '60s.
18 Towns like Port Wing, Herbster, Bayfield, Cornucopia were
19 basically dead. The Lake Trout were gone.

20 About the same time I took the car ferry across
21 Lake Michigan, and from Waduken, Michigan to Kewaunee it
22 was solid dead alewife, another invader from the
23 Atlantic.

24 This fall I kayaked a stretch of islands from

1 Grand Portage up to Thunder Bay, we call them the Sound
2 Islands, and it was a fall what looked like Cottonwood
3 fluff was on a number of the beaches, but that wasn't
4 what it was. It was dead spiny water fleas, which are
5 another thing.

6 Having encountered that for most of my life, I
7 would really like to see it not happen again with the
8 Asian carp because the other thing I really enjoy is
9 fishing those big salmon and trout out of my kayak in the
10 spring and fall when you can catch them flatlining. I
11 think that would really impact the situation if the carp
12 made it through.

13 Lampreys, I have only encountered two lampreys,
14 and that was at the mouth of the Rural River below the
15 weir swimming around. I saw them in the water, but I
16 have never caught a fish with lamprey scars on it, and I
17 have caught a lot of fish out in that lake.

18 Lampreys are kind of the success story of
19 invasives, if you call it a success story. You know,
20 when they first came here basically they wiped out lake
21 trout fishery in the lake, but what happened was, as far
22 as I can tell from reading, was that the Canadian and
23 U.S.

24 government jumped on the problem, came up with

1 a team to study what happened, and then put somebody in
2 charge. A pretty simple task, kill the lamprey.

3 Even though it's costing, I don't know what the
4 last figure you guys heard, 7 million, 8 million a year
5 to keep them under control with the poisoning of the
6 weirs and all of other stuff. Is that a real number
7 close, close?

8 MR. GOSS: It's a little higher.

9 MS. BECKER: 20 to 25 a year.

10 MR. OLSON: 20 to 25 a year. I must have had
11 old data as well. Anyway, the Great Lakes Fishery
12 Commission pretty much did it, and the two things they
13 had was real authority and accountability were the
14 things.

15 I was heartened I guess, if that is the word,
16 in September when Mr. Goss was appointed the Asian carp
17 czar, and I was kind of surprised to see him here. I
18 would hope and wish that he actually is the Asian carp
19 czar versus the Asian carp apparatchik, as long as we are
20 using Russian words, there is another one, and actually
21 is able to muster the authority and get all of these
22 competing groups together to help solve the problem.

23 I was actually encouraged to hear the
24 explanation of the barriers and how they work.

1 Information is spotty, and as you all know, the news
2 outlets aren't always super accurate when they report
3 stuff.

4 It just -- the 2015 thing, like a lot of
5 people, makes me a little nervous. The fact that we are
6 doing stuff along the way is a good thing. The Milwaukee
7 Journal published an article a while ago, they had a memo
8 from 1975 that the EPA District 4 manager from, I jotted
9 it down here, from the fishing farming experimental
10 station in Arkansas, 25 February 1975 titled silver carp
11 threat, local rivers and warning potential threat to
12 native fish. That was 35 years ago. That is a lot.

13 The fact that we are doing something is
14 encouraging, but the fact that we didn't do something 10
15 years, 20, 25 years ago is a little discouraging.

16 The someone in charge thing is huge, and just
17 between the State EPAs, the Federal EPAs, State AGs suing
18 other states, the parties involved kind of a microcosm of
19 the whole thing. When I was researching and trying to
20 find out more information on this, I looked at the
21 Wisconsin Attorney General's website, J.B. Van Hollen's
22 commentary on this stuff, I clicked on the link and it
23 didn't work. You know, nothing happened.

24 So I guess I would hope that something does

1 happen, that Mr. Goss can become the czar like we would
2 hope.

3 I also write a little blog about Lake Superior.
4 I am a kayak instructor, and I fish and taught all around
5 the lake, and I write a little blog called The Lake is
6 the Boss. In the case of commercial -- or of invasive
7 species it really isn't. It's just kind of waiting there
8 for us to take care of that I guess.

9 So I guess in the end I would hope that we can
10 get the real czar, that we can take the bull by the horn,
11 and the real authority to unify this crazy number of
12 parties that are involved and be accountable to Congress
13 for the effort. It worked for the lamprey, I don't see
14 why it couldn't work here.

15 The ballast water study thing, I was wondering
16 is that part of -- is that even on the table, ballast
17 water treatment? I guess that is my last question or
18 comment. I know Michigan Tech has done some studies, you
19 know, with salt that comes in from Hamburg, you know,
20 full of ballast water, either dumps it or treats it, is
21 that anything -- I mean that would be possibly the route
22 of the problem.

23 MR. GOSS: Dave, just looking forward to this
24 spring, the Coast Guard will have their draft rule out, I

1 think it's probably in April or May, so that is the next
2 step with the Coast Guard taking a lead on what we are
3 going to do naturally on ballast water.

4 The EPA is also looking at the water quality
5 standard for the ballast water, and I don't know the
6 schedule. I think it's also tentatively for next summer
7 that they are going to propose a rule.

8 So hang on to your kayak paddle, we are going
9 to have a lot of ballast water discussion this summer.

10 MR. OLSON: Okay. Thank you for your time.

11 MR. BLUHM: Thank you, sir. Any other comments
12 from the table? Very good. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
13 Olson.

14 We have now heard from all five of the folks
15 that had pre-registered at the desk and said they would
16 like to make a comment. At this time I would like to ask
17 if anybody that has not had a chance to make a comment,
18 if you have decided that you now would like to do so to
19 raise your hand. Okay. Come on up to the microphone.
20 If you can start with name, rank, serial number, that
21 whole thing, that would be great, and give us a zip code
22 that would be wonderful.

23 MR. RENDALL: This must be for the hockey
24 players, the blue line. Well, I met with many of you

1 yesterday, thank you for that opportunity. I am Jay
2 Rendall, I am from zip code 55110, and I have been -- I
3 do work at the DNR. I have been the chair of the Great
4 Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, I have been the
5 chair of the Mississippi River Basin on Aquatic Nuisance
6 Species, I have been part of the team that drafted the
7 National Asian Carp Plan, and I am the co-chair of the
8 Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council.

9 I am not here to speak on behalf of any of
10 them. I have come here to monitor what was going on. The
11 DNR will be sending its official comments in to the
12 website, so I am not commenting for them, but I just
13 thought I had some observations that I would try and
14 make.

15 First, I want to thank you all for working on
16 something that is very much needed and long overdue.
17 Obviously this is a huge issue for the country. It
18 affects more than half the states, probably 2/3 of the
19 states in the country. I know we as government employees
20 don't always get thanks, but I do want to thank you for
21 working on this.

22 One of the things I noticed in the presentation
23 was that you did not mention the origin of the connection
24 in Chicago and the purpose and the history, so I think

1 that is important for people to understand why that was
2 created in the first place was to benefit Chicago so that
3 the water and all the sewage that was treated, or
4 probably in the beginning untreated, went down to all the
5 other states in the Mississippi River Basin rather than
6 to Lake Michigan where it caused lots of people to die
7 because of disease. So I think that is important.

8 This is an artificial connection. It's not a
9 natural thing. It's artificial. It was created to
10 benefit the local people, not to benefit the entire
11 country. So as you know, there is lots of local
12 benefits, whether it's recreational use of the locks,
13 whether it's the flood control you mentioned, whether
14 it's running the sub-Great Lakes sewage down to the other
15 states, all those things, and I know I have been, I have
16 seen it, it's very complicated and there is lots of local
17 benefits, but they are coming at the expense, as some
18 other people pointed out, lots of negative externalities
19 to over half the country. So I think that is important
20 to note.

21 Probably the primary things that I want to
22 mention is you were talking about the species you are
23 going to look at that could move between the two basins,
24 and I did not hear anyone mention the fact that there is

1 a lot more that can get here.

2 The ballast water issue that was just brought
3 up, that is not a closed door. There could be a new
4 species that show up in Chicago or Indiana tomorrow that
5 aren't even on our radar screen, so if you're going to be
6 looking at this as a futuristic issue, we need to look at
7 all of those potential problems that can come in both
8 sides of the divide.

9 It's not just whatever X number here or X
10 number there. There are species all over the country
11 that have already identified as potential ones to get
12 here in risk assessments, and those aren't on your list,
13 so we need to factor that in as well.

14 Things that can go, not just fish, but other
15 organisms that can go downstream in the water or
16 upstream, and, of course, the electric barrier right now
17 does really not address the downstream movement
18 thoroughly.

19 So that is it. Thank you for the opportunity
20 to meet with you yesterday and listening to you today.

21 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Anybody at
22 the table have anything?

23 MR. SAFFRAN: I guess I will just offer one
24 thing, we were talking with Michael Hoff of the U.S. Fish

1 & Wildlife Service today, and he has done a lot of
2 research about the other species, so we are making
3 efforts to address that.

4 MR. RENDALL: I can probably send you some
5 lists, if you would like.

6 MR. SAFFRAN: Very much would like that.

7 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thanks, Mike. Anything
8 else from the table? Very good. Let's see, Jay was
9 Number 6. Do we have a Number 7 that would like to come
10 up and speak to the group that has not had a chance to do
11 so yet? Yes, go ahead.

12 MS. NARAMORE: Barb Naramore, I am the
13 Executive Director of the Upper Mississippi River Basin
14 Association, 55102. The Basin Association is an entity
15 formed by the governors of the five Upper Mississippi
16 states to represent the common water resources.

17 I won't speak this afternoon. I am really here
18 in the listening mode offering substantive perspectives
19 on the scoping endeavor. I certainly hope that we will
20 be offering you some joint five-state comments a little
21 later in the comment period.

22 As you can imagine, given that our states
23 include Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and
24 Missouri, we have some diverse interests on this issue

1 that may make the hydrology of it all actually look a
2 little simple.

3 The one thing I did want to ask, it's primarily
4 a question, I know I have talked with Dave informally on
5 this point, as you stand up the Executive Steering
6 Committee Council, I am sorry, the nomenclature escapes
7 me, but to make sure that you are reaching out to all of
8 the Upper Miss Basin states, not just those that we share
9 in common with the Great Lakes. I don't know what kind
10 of response and level of participation you will get from
11 Iowa and Missouri. I am sure there are probably some
12 states on the Ohio River who are non-Great Lakes states
13 as well who really both want and need to plan this
14 process given the complexity of the issues, and so really
15 primarily a reminder, as I say, I don't know where you
16 are in the process, Dave, of standing that group, but I
17 just want to get in on that to make sure they are not
18 forgot.

19 MR. WETHINGTON: Thanks, Barb. We are still in
20 the process of standing that group up. We anticipate the
21 Executive Steering Committee to be comprised of State and
22 Federal Agencies who will come together and meet on a
23 regular basis in regard to the progress of the interbasin
24 study.

1 We also hope to have a component of those
2 Executive Steering Committee meetings where it will be a
3 larger kind of opportunity for the general public, other
4 industry stakeholders to participate. As that group
5 comes together, as we start having meetings, whether it's
6 biannually or quarterly, we hope to basically develop
7 some kind of regular communication that will allow not
8 only the members of the group to come together, but also
9 allow other stakeholders to listen in and have the
10 opportunity to have their say on how the project is being
11 implemented.

12 MS. NARAMORE: Absolutely, that will be very
13 helpful for the broader stakeholder committee.

14 So a final word would be if there is anything I
15 can just do personally as you reach out to some of those
16 other states in standing that up, I am certainly happy to
17 do that.

18 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you.

19 MR. BLUHM: Thank you, Barb. Anything else
20 from the panel? Very good.

21 We have just heard from our seventh person. Do
22 we have an eighth? I feel like an auctioneer. Anybody
23 else who has not had a chance to come to the microphone
24 that would now like to do so, this would be your

1 opportunity.

2 Thank you. My watch is telling me it's about
3 3:50. We have been at this for almost an hour now, and I
4 would like to ask then for any of the seven that have
5 made a comment, if since you have made your comment if
6 you have thought of anything else that you would like to
7 ask or enter into the comment period, now would be your
8 chance to do so.

9 Yes, first here, and then we will go there.
10 Thank you. If you just want to start with your name, we
11 don't need a zip code again.

12 MS. CRAFTON: Jill Crafton. The Great Lakes
13 Committee of the Izaak Walton League that I have been
14 working on, I mean our niche has been ANS and ballast
15 water has been primarily what we have been focused on.

16 I would urge you, I am so glad you're here,
17 that we need some comprehensive -- we need a strategic
18 plan for ballast water. The Izaak Walton League, along
19 with the National Wildlife Federation and several other
20 groups, have come together and we are part of a Healing
21 Our Waters Coalition, Cam Davis has spoken to us on
22 numerous occasions, but at the last meeting that we had
23 they had a captain, and his name escapes me, I think he
24 was from the 9th Region of some sort, and he said at that

1 point that the Coast Guard would not be able to identify
2 any kind of biocide for ballast treatment for three to
3 five years.

4 So I would urge you that there is a woman who
5 has been doing a lot of research, Phylis Green at Isle
6 Royal, she has put forth, she has worked with other
7 groups, and she's been talking to the Coast Guard and
8 shippers for quite a while. She has got a shipper
9 willing to voluntarily treat, but she has put together,
10 with other people, a strategic plan to deal with ballast
11 water, and so I would encourage you please.

12 MR. GOSS: If you want to send me some of that
13 stuff, that would be helpful.

14 MS. CRAFTON: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Any
16 comments from the panel? And then, yes, go ahead.

17 MR. RENDALL: I just had a question, what is
18 the Dotted Duckweed? It was on the PowerPoint. I have
19 never heard of it. I don't need to know right now, but
20 if you could send me something, that is fine, but I would
21 like to know.

22 MR. WETHINGTON: We will. Thank you.

23 MR. RENDALL: Where it is and what the problem
24 is.

1 MR. BLUHM: We have got a note of Dotted
2 Duckweed, we'll check into that for you. Thank you.
3 Anybody else that has thought of something since they
4 were first at the microphone and would like to speak,
5 this will be the time? Okay, I am not seeing any forward
6 motions to the microphone.

7 The time now is 3:53. That will conclude our
8 comment period. I would like to thank you all for your
9 statements. Let me remind you that if you have any
10 prepared statements or documents that you would like to
11 leave with us, be sure to turn them into myself, the
12 front table, or at the registration table on your way
13 out.

14 If you wish to mail in any written statements,
15 you must have them postmarked by the March 31, 2011
16 closing date, and the address is located on several
17 pieces of the information that you have been provided.

18 Help us again recycle any materials that you
19 are through with. If there is anything that we have
20 provided to you that you will not need anymore, leave
21 them either on your chair or on the table on your way
22 out.

23 If you think you would like another packet of
24 information, we have got plenty prepared, feel free to

1 grab extras on your way out as well.

2 Our panel, as well as all of the other Corps
3 team members, will stay here. Most of them have either a
4 name badge on or a red lanyard, if you have any questions
5 once we adjourn the meeting, feel free to stay as long as
6 you would like, we will hang our here to pretty close to
7 the beginning of the next section at 5:30 before we will
8 pull them back away from you. If you have any questions,
9 feel free to stay as long as you like.

10 With that said, at 3:54 we will adjourn the
11 first session of today's meeting. Thank you for your
12 patience.

13 (Whereupon, at 3:54 p.m. the afternoon
14 session was adjourned.)

15 (Whereupon, at 5:30 p.m. the evening
16 session was called to order.)

17 MR. BLUHM: My name is Kevin Bluhm, I will be
18 the moderator for tonight's meeting. I work out of the
19 St. Paul District Office, Corps of Engineers, and so this
20 is my home turf. I want to thank you all for taking the
21 time to come out this evening.

22 This is the second meeting today that we have
23 hosted here in this location, and materials that you will
24 see will be identical today, as well as any of the other

1 presentations that we are having throughout the comment
2 period.

3 When you arrived you received a packet of
4 information with some materials that looked like this
5 (indicating); and if you did not get those materials but
6 would like them, just let us know, raise your hand now
7 and we can make sure that we get a packet to you. In
8 that packet it has several key things that will help you
9 study up and have some reference material to take home
10 with you about our process here.

11 First off, the green sheet is the agenda that
12 we will be following for this evening's presentation,
13 followed by a couple of pieces of information that we are
14 using as a brochure to give you some brief details and
15 study points about the process.

16 The half sheet, the white page here is a
17 comment form. This is a real valuable piece that will
18 give a chance to understand the comment process, give you
19 suggested ways of making comments for us, and then
20 allowing you the address to mail in those comments,
21 website to put them in electronically, or space provided
22 that you can leave with us tonight before you leave. So
23 I encourage you as part of our process to keep this piece
24 handy if there is anything that you would like to comment

1 on and leave with us.

2 If you have decided that you would like to
3 speak in front of the panel, the yellow sheet is the
4 sheet that we are asking you to fill out to make your
5 presentation with us.

6 We have also got a purple sheet here that has
7 frequently asked questions. This is designed to give you
8 some base information on some of the things that we hear
9 most often on the program.

10 We have got a salmon-colored piece here that
11 has information about other efforts that are going on,
12 and you will hear in the presentation what those are as
13 well.

14 Then the last piece here, this blue sheet of
15 paper gives a little bit more information about how to
16 submit any documents during our formal comment period,
17 keeping in mind that the comment period is open until the
18 end of March this year.

19 And then lastly, the larger stapled sheet here
20 shows a copy of all the slides that will be presented
21 tonight.

22 If you pre-registered on our project website to
23 give an oral comment and have not checked in yet, you
24 want to make sure that you do so at this time. If you

1 would like to make an oral comment and have not
2 registered, it's okay, we have got a fairly small group
3 tonight, we will be sure to accommodate you.

4 Our GLMRIS team has been organized -- has
5 organized this public meeting to accomplish two goals.
6 Our first goal is to present information about the study
7 itself, and the second is to solicit your comments on the
8 significant issues that should be included in GLMRIS or
9 any insignificant issues that can be eliminated from
10 further study.

11 The Corps of Engineers is hosting 12 public
12 meetings, this is the fourth of such, throughout the
13 study area in an effort to provide opportunities for
14 those interested in the study to learn about the study
15 and to provide any oral comments that you have.

16 Again, please note that the NEPA scoping public
17 process will close on March 31, 2011.

18 As indicated by the agenda, this public meeting
19 is organized in two sessions. Identical presentations
20 are given at both in the beginning, and followed by the
21 oral comment period.

22 The first comment session ended at 5:00, just a
23 little while ago, and a second session now starting at
24 5:30 and will end at 8:00 if people are still interested.

1 We can stay as long as we need. 8:00 is just the
2 advertised time. Then we just had a 30 minute break in
3 between those.

4 Our staff is available in the hallway right now
5 and after the meeting adjourns, if you have any questions
6 at all, all the panel members, as well as anybody from
7 the Corps of Engineers that is present will stay around
8 to answer any questions that you may have.

9 If you have other concerns or questions, other
10 staff from the local District office are here as well,
11 and you can see myself or anybody at the lobby if you
12 have questions that are not related to the study. We
13 will do our best to either answer the questions on the
14 spot, or give you a chance to have somebody get back to
15 you.

16 I would like to introduce the panelist members
17 as well as the host District here today. Sitting right
18 to my left side here is Mr. John Goss, the Asian Carp
19 Director from the White House Council of Environmental
20 Quality. Next to him, Lieutenant Colonel David Berczek,
21 the Deputy Commander for the Chicago District. I see
22 Dave Wethington, the project manager for GLMRIS, has been
23 excused.

24 Next to him is Mike Saffran, the Other Pathways

1 Project Manager. Then on the far side of the table from
2 myself is, I have to make sure I say this right, is
3 Hiroshi Eto. Did I get that right?

4 MR. ETO: Yes.

5 MR. BLUHM: Interim Director of Programs for
6 the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. From the host
7 District in St. Paul here, we have Deputy District
8 Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Kendall Bergman, and he is
9 from the St. Paul Office.

10 So with that, we will begin the meeting. I
11 would like to thank everybody for your time. Like I
12 said, we will get through this in about 45 minutes, and
13 then go right into the meat and potatoes of really
14 wanting to know and hearing what you have to say.

15 So please note that you are welcome to speak to
16 any of our panelists and staff members during the
17 meeting, but any comments that are not presented during
18 the oral comment period, submitted as a written statement
19 or submitted on the website will not become part of the
20 NEPA documentation. So if things that you have to say
21 are important to you and you would like to make sure that
22 they are part of our official record, you would want to
23 make sure you use one of those three forms to get your
24 public comments recorded and documented.

1 So with that, I will move to the next slide,
2 and I would like to turn the floor then over to John Goss
3 so he can talk about the Asian carp program. Thank you.

4 MR. GOSS: Good evening. Thank you for taking
5 the time to join us. This is an educational project, as
6 well as a public comment and input on what is really the
7 heart of the effort to stop the Asian carp invasion into
8 the Great Lakes.

9 I am here on behalf of the Council on
10 Environmental Quality, and that is the office within the
11 White House for environmental policy coordination. My
12 job is to connect all the Federal agency people who are
13 working on this. Originally the Federal agencies were
14 doing most of work. That has expanded to State agencies
15 in the last couple of months, and we had a good meeting
16 with the Minnesota DNR folks yesterday, and certainly are
17 going to get their expertise plugged into this big team
18 effort. It is a large team of people working all around
19 the Great Lakes and also out in Washington to come up
20 with a good permanent solution to finally get us to a
21 point where we can block the transfer of aquatic invasive
22 species from the lakes to the rivers and from the rivers
23 to the lakes.

24 We have all had to live with the different

1 invasions over the past decades, and we are really at a
2 point where we are approaching a way to come up with a
3 permanent solution. That is the purpose of this study.
4 That is the purpose of what we are here to talk about.

5 I would just like to give you a little overview
6 about what is happening with the Asian carp containment
7 efforts, and I want to start off on that by saying I am
8 increasingly confident that the containment efforts are
9 working, that we have not had a number of carp moving
10 into the Great Lakes at this point that are going to
11 become an established population.

12 Having said that, I am going to give you a
13 little detail on that, but that buys us some time to do
14 this study properly. There has been a lot of concern
15 that the timeframe for this study over several years is
16 not going to be quick enough to stop the carp. I believe
17 that the measures that we have in place and the things
18 that we are going to continue to do very aggressively,
19 actively watching that area between the electrical
20 barriers and Lake Michigan will be adequate and will
21 continue to get us this window of time so that we can
22 complete the project that is going to be described.

23 Just a couple of things that I want to share
24 with you, and most of the people were here this

1 afternoon, the folks that weren't here are you familiar
2 with the electric barriers at all? Do you have any
3 background on that? I didn't know if I needed to go into
4 great deal.

5 The third electric barrier is now ready to be
6 operational, so we have three different fields of
7 electricity where a carp would have to swim through to
8 get to Lake Michigan, and that I think gives us an
9 increasing confidence that that population that is down
10 in the Illinois River, which is a significant and growing
11 population, is not going to be moving into Lake Michigan
12 as long as we have those barriers functioning.

13 In addition to the increased barrier
14 protection, we also now have a fence. There is a 13-mile
15 stretch of the Des Plaines River and the Ship Canal where
16 you can basically throw a rock between the two, and flood
17 water has moved historically into the Ship Canal from the
18 river. That fence will prevent carp from coming up the
19 river, bypassing the electrical barrier, getting into a
20 path to the lake. That got done very quickly this fall.
21 I want to thank the Corps for finishing that project
22 because that gives us another layer of confidence that we
23 have some time to keep working on this permanently.

24 Also this last summer in a risk assessment of

1 all the other points along the state Continental Divide
2 between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi drainage, we
3 identified points that might have a possibility for
4 transfer. The Number 1 point was in my home state in
5 Indiana near Fort Wayne. Mike Saffran will give some
6 details on that in a minute, but very quickly within two
7 months the action was identified to create at least a
8 short-term fish barrier so Asian carp won't be swimming
9 from the Wabash River, where they are pretty thick right
10 now in Indiana, over into the Maumee and going into Lake
11 Erie.

12 Everyone is concerned about the big picture and
13 the timeframe, but I'm telling you that short-term
14 actions are being taken, effective things are being done.
15 Our credibility I think with the barrier is increasing
16 that we are not allowing any fish through the ship canal
17 in the barrier zone, and we are going to continue a very
18 aggressive water sampling with eDNA testing to make sure
19 that we don't have a growing population beyond the
20 barrier.

21 Also there are eDNA tests being run around
22 other areas in Indiana in the areas leading up to Lake
23 Michigan. Just completed testing of all of those waters
24 this fall and found zero positive for Asian carp moving

1 on that side.

2 Also, in the Fort Wayne area in the Eagle Marsh
3 area they tested for eDNA, no traces for carp having been
4 up in that marsh area recently or currently there, and
5 they are going to do it again next spring.

6 That is going to continue at key points around
7 Lake Michigan looking at the mouth of the tributary areas
8 to make sure that we don't have a population of carp that
9 either got by the barriers years ago and are out there or
10 are congregating and forming a breeding and spawning
11 population that we are all greatly concerned about.

12 So we have an opportunity with this project to
13 stop the species from becoming established. That is
14 unique in the invasive species battle of the Great Lakes.
15 We have to seize that opportunity. I believe that we are
16 doing a good job with the interim measures, and the rest
17 of the discussions tonight is how are we going to reach
18 the permanent solution to make sure that we are able to
19 contain invasive species in the future.

20 Thank you for your interest. Thanks to
21 everyone that has prepared comments for us, and we look
22 forward to a discussion. After the three-minute comment
23 period it's really open discussion, so we are here to
24 talk with you and hope we get a chance to talk with

1 everybody before you leave. Thanks.

2 Lead-off man for the team of people assigned to
3 pull off this large study of the basins is Lieutenant
4 Colonel David Berczek, and he is going to walk you
5 through a pretty complicated and definitely challenging
6 project that we are launching here this week. So thanks.

7 LT. COL. BERCEK: There's a test on all of
8 this afterwards, so I hope everyone is familiar.

9 MR. GOSS: You guys missed about ten minutes of
10 my talk.

11 LT. COL. BERCEK: As the risk of sounding
12 redundant, I am going to again welcome everyone and say
13 good evening, and thank you for expressing your interest
14 in this today by being here. We appreciate your time.
15 We will take a little bit of your time, if you would
16 allow me to explain a little bit what this study is all
17 about, what is this GLMRIS, this Great Lakes and
18 Mississippi River Interbasin Study, and how does it fit
19 into what Mr. Goss talked about a little bit with the
20 Asian carp efforts, and how does it supplement those
21 efforts and go beyond that as well.

22 On my flight up here this morning I was reading
23 a document that was produced in 2005 by the National
24 Invasive Species Council in response to an executive

1 board issue in 1999 on invasive species control, and it
2 kind of ties together a little bit all of this when we
3 start walking about Asian carp and going into the GLMRIS
4 study and going beyond in other species of concern. They
5 talk in here about the number of invasive species that
6 are prevalent throughout. Their opening statement in
7 their executive summary in the main body of the report
8 talks to -- it says this, "Invasive species have been in
9 all regions of the United States and every nation. The
10 problem is complex and accelerated."

11 Then they talk a little bit too about part of
12 the complexity of trying to contain or control invasive
13 species to the fact that what might be beneficial in one
14 area or in one application may be an invasive if it
15 escapes that environment and goes to another region, and
16 they also talk too that only a small percentage of non-
17 native species are invasive. However, even a single
18 invasive species can cause great harm.

19 The report talks to again as well years,
20 potentially decades of legislation that talks to control
21 or prevention of the spread or the movement of invasive
22 species, and I think that is one of the reasons too for
23 this authority that Congress has given us, the Corps of
24 Engineers, under the Water Resources and Development Act

1 of 2007 where you can see there is specifically what the
2 authority states is that the Corps of Engineers, in this
3 case here it references the Secretary, who will then
4 direct the Corps of Engineers, in consultation with the
5 appropriate Federal partners, State, local and non-
6 governmental entities, so we are not doing this alone. We
7 are working together under the framework as Mr. Goss has
8 talked to you earlier, the Asian Carp Regional
9 Coordinating Committee that has been in effect for a
10 number of years looking at the Asian carp specifically,
11 but also going broader than that.

12 It talked about the partnerships now being
13 established with State Department of Natural Resources
14 and other entities and the general public.

15 Why? We are looking at options and
16 technologies available to prevent spread of aquatic
17 nuisance species between the Great Lakes and the
18 Mississippi River Basin through those channels mentioned
19 there, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and other
20 aquatic pathways.

21 As we are conducting this study we will look at
22 all options and alternatives that are out there,
23 including hydrologic separation, looking to prevent that
24 spread of species from one basin to the other.

1 We haven't made the assumption that one
2 approach will work to the exclusion of all others. We
3 will do this study and look at that. That is why we talk
4 a little bit there about saying prevent and reduction of
5 risk to the maximum extent possible. If an option or
6 technology and alternative is out there that doesn't
7 necessarily provide 100 percent prevention in and of
8 itself, should it be disregarded, or should it brought
9 into place if somebody can do it or if there is an
10 existing authority that can be done, should we do that
11 and buy down risks and continue to work forward with the
12 overall objective being that prevention in its entirety?

13 The study is 100 percent Federally funded,
14 which is somewhat unique to a feasibility study.
15 Feasibility studies typically in our planning stage and
16 our planning process are shared with a co-share sponsor.
17 In this case here the study is 100 percent Federally
18 funded.

19 The GLMRIS study area is rather large. You see
20 here the main detailed study area is primarily the Great
21 Lakes states and those states that constitute the Upper
22 Mississippi Watershed. The first time I looked at this
23 slide I started looking around and I was going to count
24 the number of states that are touched because if you

1 start to go beyond the Lower Mississippi Watershed you
2 are talking everything from east of the Continental
3 Divide and the Rocky Mountains.

4 So I started looking trying to count the number
5 of states that were colored or touched, and it was easier
6 to count the states that the colors did not touch. There
7 are 17 states that are not necessarily included in the
8 scope of this study.

9 What does the study look at? It looks at the
10 aquatic connections, waterways, waterborne carrier, water
11 borne methods to go between the two basins, looking at
12 swimmers, floaters and hikers.

13 We are not necessarily looking to evaluate
14 terrestrial, over-the-land type of transfer or airborne
15 transfer or those types of transfer of species that can
16 be done by human release.

17 I mentioned a little bit there the location. I
18 need to back up, I went a little too fast through this
19 one slide. The significance of this little dashed line,
20 it's going to come up again later and you are going to
21 see it in other slides, and John mentioned kind of the
22 Continental Divide between the two water basins, this is
23 an area of primary focus of the study. Because we are
24 going back to the authority, we are looking at preventing

1 the spread of aquatic nuisance species between the Great
2 Lakes Basin and the Mississippi River Basin, so this is
3 the point at which water north of this will flow into the
4 Great Lakes, water south of this line flows and feeds the
5 Mississippi River, so that is kind of the obvious point
6 to look at putting things into place to prevent going to
7 and from.

8 The reason I went back to that is because it's
9 a little bit easier for you to visualize when we start
10 talking about that interface. You will see what is not
11 included in that, the Atlantic Slope, the St. Lawrence
12 Seaway, and looking at Canada.

13 The elements of the study will look at options
14 and technologies that are out there to prevent interbasin
15 transfer of aquatic nuisance species. It does not
16 include the biological research on those species of
17 concern.

18 We will look at evaluating hydrologic
19 separation as one of those methodologies. We will
20 conduct all of the things that are normally required of
21 our studies, economic modeling, ecological decision-
22 making process.

23 This study will result in not only a
24 feasibility report with actions that are suitable for

1 Congress to implement or to give us authorization to
2 implement, but also in a detailed Environmental Impact
3 Statement.

4 Henry Ford said that nothing is particularly
5 hard if you break it down into manageable pieces, so you
6 see here that one of the things that we had to do in
7 identifying how we were going to address a study of this
8 magnitude is we kind of looked at what the study language
9 or what the authority said to look at. Again, prevent
10 the spread of aquatic nuisance species between the Great
11 Lakes and Mississippi River Basin. How? Through the
12 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and other aquatic
13 pathways.

14 So we have broken this down into two primary
15 study areas. The primary effort being the Chicago Area
16 Waterway and then the other pathways.

17 Why is the Chicago Area Waterway the primary
18 effort? That right now is the open pathway, that is the
19 pipe, so to speak, that always has water in it that is
20 always open through which right now the main species of
21 concern, Asian carp, can gain entry into Lake Michigan
22 and the other Great Lakes.

23 Going back to Henry Ford and breaking that into
24 smaller parts, we had to organize for success. We had to

1 look at the team members, had to look at how to execute
2 this study, how to go ahead and make this coordination
3 across agencies, how to go ahead and make sure that we
4 are communicating with each other and sharing ideas back
5 and forth, so we have established an Executive Steering
6 Committee that holds some of the senior leadership of the
7 agencies and the entities involved with the study, and
8 also through meetings like this and other types of focus
9 meetings dealing with Departments of Natural Resources
10 and others, to go ahead and solicit input from the public
11 at large, from agencies and other groups and
12 organizations.

13 That is kind of talking in to us and getting
14 information in and engaging the study and kind of guiding
15 the scope a little bit.

16 Part of this as well there is a cycle of
17 interim products and reports. This is a long-term study.
18 It is going to be very detailed. It has a lot of
19 complexity to it and a lot of parts and pieces.

20 As data is developed and analyzed and we have
21 things that are mature enough to be released for review
22 and release, we will do that. I will talk to that in a
23 little bit.

24 One of the other challenges is right now we

1 have identified and we are working through identifying
2 what aquatic nuisance species that exist now or could be
3 present in the future. What are the uses now? What are
4 the uses in the future? How do we take and look at what
5 we know today and be able to try to forecast a little bit
6 and apply it to tomorrow?

7 By the way, other agencies are looking at other
8 information, other studies being done, how do we adapt to
9 that new and evolving information and allowing the study
10 team to be flexible enough to bring that in. Part of it
11 is things like this now, in advance we are working with
12 these teams and some of these other groups that are
13 looking at other information, sharing with them our
14 information requirements so that as that is developed and
15 they have something out that is usable, we can
16 incorporate that into our process as much as possible,
17 and we can all, you know, all work together in that.
18 It's that whole 1,000 people doing one pound worth of
19 effort versus one person doing 1,000 pounds of effort
20 slowly.

21 Again, as in all things that we do at the Corps
22 of Engineers, we are authorized to do things by law, we
23 will abide by all legal and regulatory guidance.

24 The study purpose is to look at those pathways.

1 We have identified some. We have done some work already,
2 and Mike Saffran will talk to some of those other
3 pathways. We are all pretty familiar with the Chicago
4 Area Waterway and what is going on there. You just saw a
5 little example of the fish barrier there that John just
6 plugged that into the wall with a good spark there.

7 Part of it too is to inventory the current and
8 future potential aquatic nuisance species. I think
9 someone this morning spoke to areas of the lake roughly
10 every eight months having the appearance of another non-
11 native species. That is the challenge. That is part of
12 what has got to be out there. We have got to look and
13 really be plugged into what is happening in the
14 environment around us.

15 Because we are not just looking at the Asian
16 carp. We are looking at things like the Dotted Duckweed
17 up there starting out as a problem down in the Georgia
18 area, and now just through being carried through other
19 ways is in some areas in southern Indiana and southern
20 Illinois. The Ruffe, of course, and Sea Lamprey and
21 Spiny Water Flea are some of the other examples of things
22 that we have got to look at in this study.

23 Then again we have got to look at what possible
24 controls are out there for those things. I used the

1 analogy this morning that you don't shoot skeet with a
2 pistol. You have got to get the right weapon. You have
3 got to get the right technology and the right method for
4 the right species. Some things might not work on all
5 things.

6 If you have ever tried to get rid of
7 cockroaches in your house you know what I am talking
8 about, and you have your pest man come in every month and
9 vary what pesticide he uses because they will develop a
10 resistance to it. I was stationed in Alabama, I had the
11 big ones.

12 Part of then what we did is breaking this out
13 into focus areas and everything, the Chicago Area
14 Waterways, this is a map representing this primary Focus
15 Area I; and just to walk you through the map a little bit
16 here you see these are labeled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Those
17 are primarily the five entryways through the Chicago Area
18 Waterway System into Lake Michigan. This is the
19 Willmette Pumping Station, the Chicago Harbor down
20 through this area coming into Calumet Harbor, and these
21 three pathways or locations are in Illinois, and then
22 Indiana Harbor and Burns Harbor in Indiana.

23 Each one of these in itself is a little bit
24 different too to add to the complexity. The Willmette

1 Pumping Station has sluice gates there, so it's a
2 controlled -- kind of a controlled entryway.

3 The Chicago Lock exists here. T.J. O'Brien
4 Lock exists down here, so there is somewhat of a
5 controlling or a gait, so to speak, on those waterways.

6 These two entryways here coming off of the
7 riverways have no structure or features there that
8 control their access into Lake Michigan. All of these
9 come together and will all funnel back down through the
10 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, you know, of course, a
11 man-made canal finished in 1902, opened to navigation in
12 1907 that reverts the flow of the Chicago River from
13 emptying into Lake Michigan down into the Mississippi
14 River.

15 This item here Number 7 is key. That is down
16 the river in Illinois, that is the location of the
17 electric barrier, so there is a choke point that makes
18 sense that is still a valid point for defense with the
19 Asian carp moving up into Lake Michigan.

20 On the left-hand side here you see somewhat of
21 a little bit of an outline of what the Corps study
22 process is, when we start looking at areas to make sure
23 that we are on the right track. This specifies the
24 problems and opportunities. That is kind of where we are

1 today, looking at what is out there, looking at the uses
2 of the waterways, looking at the uses of the structures
3 as well.

4 The reason I say the structures, you think of
5 the Chicago Harbor Lock and you think, well, that is
6 recreational vessels passing through there, emergency
7 vessels, primarily for navigation or otherwise, but in
8 July when the rain came down, 6 billion gallons of water
9 went through those lock gates back into Lake Michigan to
10 prevent flooding into the Downtown Chicago area and some
11 of the areas just to the west, so they use these to
12 revert flow back into Lake Michigan. It is used as a
13 flood risk management type technique. Water will come
14 through there to make up water for navigation to fill
15 these channels.

16 So a lot of these structures, a lot of these
17 features all have different components to them that all
18 have to be part of when we start here formulating
19 alternative plans, looking at the effects and comparing
20 the alternatives and looking for a recommendation to
21 provide to Congress for implementation.

22 You can see down here at the bottom it talks a
23 little bit about the collaboration. We are not doing it
24 by ourselves. We are relying on lot of other people to

1 do a lot of work, a lot of legwork to help the system and
2 the study.

3 The other pathways, Focus Area II, you can see
4 here a little bit some of the things around here. Since
5 we have Mike Saffran here, the project manager,
6 available, I am going to let Mike talk to this slide a
7 little bit and explain it to you. Mike.

8 MR. SAFFRAN: Thank you, sir. Good evening,
9 everybody. When we started into the GLMRIS there was a
10 lot already known about the Chicago Sanitary and Ship
11 Canal and a lot of the risks that were posed by the
12 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, but we did not have a
13 very good understanding of what the scope of the other
14 pathways, the other aquatic pathways actually meant.

15 Back in the summer our Commanding General gave
16 us the task to complete a very rapid preliminary risk
17 characterization that had two primary goals to it. Number
18 1, develop an inventory of all of the other potential
19 aquatic pathways that may form across that 1,500-mile
20 long drainage divide, that it's been referred to as a
21 Continental Divide, but it's not a Continental Divide
22 like in the Rocky Mountains. This is a very, very subtle
23 divide over very flat ground.

24 We had tasking to develop the inventory and

1 then to perform a preliminary risk characterization to
2 make sure through any significant -- any locations where
3 there really was a significant risk for ANS transfer that
4 we identify those very quickly, so that was our charge.

5 We got the draft report done in less than 60
6 days, and it took us about another 45 days actually to
7 get it finalized and publish it.

8 What we found was that we identified about 36
9 locations or we identified 36 locations within the report
10 that we had examined, about half of those or half of them
11 we determined did not pose any significant risk. They
12 were locations where it took something greater than a
13 100-year level sort of flood to even initiate an aquatic
14 pathway across the basin divide.

15 However, at 18 other locations we identified
16 that there was a reasonable probability that the pathway
17 could form, and that there was risk of ANS transfer
18 there.

19 There was one location that really jumped out
20 that was very significant, and that was the Eagle Marsh
21 location in Fort Wayne, and it was one of the locations
22 where we had much better data than some of the others,
23 especially we had a recent flood insurance study, and one
24 of the things that that flood insurance study pointed

1 out, as well as observations from some of the locals, is
2 that with the largest storm that you expect to occur in
3 any one given year, that flow goes from the Maumee River
4 Basin into the Wabash River Basin. Basically that
5 anything larger than that generates more flow across the
6 basin divide.

7 The flood insurance study indicated that a ten-
8 year level event, which is a rarer event, but a much
9 larger storm, you actually end up with a 4 1/2-foot depth
10 of water across the basin divide.

11 Well, we found that out, in combination with
12 observations that the Corps folks have had, as well as
13 Indiana DNR folks, significant populations of Asian carp
14 20 miles below that point, that is an automatic red flag.
15 We convened a meeting on-site and had a good array of the
16 right representatives from all of those interested
17 stakeholders, Indiana DNR, the USGS, the National
18 Resources Conservation Service, a non-governmental
19 organization called the Little River Wetland Project, we
20 had the local county surveyor, we had all of the right
21 folks in the room, and we talked through all of the
22 issues and the problems and then the opportunities there.

23 What we came up with is that we needed some
24 sort of an interim fix. This is not something that we

1 could -- we couldn't design or build anything quick
2 enough to really address the risk within the Corps's
3 process, and so the Indiana DNR -- well, we went to a
4 concept that had been applied in the Chicago Sanitary and
5 Ship Canal area of a barrier that has since been erected
6 there that separates the Des Plaines River from the
7 Chicago Sanitary, basically a mesh fence. The Indiana
8 DNR took the lead on that, and in less than 60 days they
9 got a fence erected across the marsh that goes to about
10 the 500-level storm event that we are very confident will
11 provide a barrier to prevent adult Asian carp from being
12 able to swim about 20 miles from where they have been
13 located in the Wabash up and going across the Eagle Marsh
14 the next time we had a really significant rainstorm.

15 So that was a very significant accomplishment,
16 and it showed that getting the right folks at the table
17 at the right time that we really could find ways to move
18 quickly. So I think that was a good illustration of the
19 type of things that potentially will come out of the rest
20 of this study.

21 The other thing I guess I would like to say is
22 that the copy of our report, which I don't want to go
23 into a lot of detail here, but this report, it's a
24 relatively small report, it's not too difficult to read,

1 it's available on the Chicago District website, on the
2 GLMRIS website. One thing that is not available though
3 is the appendix matter. The size of the file was very
4 large and not easily downloadable. I have a CD. If
5 anybody here would like a copy of the complete report
6 that includes the appendix matter, I can provide you with
7 a CD, or you can send me an e-mail request and I will
8 mail you one.

9 LT. COL. BERCEK: Thank you. So far what we
10 have talked about is we have talked a little bit about
11 what we are looking at as far as the study is concerned.
12 We have talked a little bit about where we are looking in
13 the project study area and how we are going to be
14 organizing it.

15 Now we are going to talk a little bit about
16 what we are doing and what has been done. Mike had an
17 example there of a short-term success. You can see down
18 the left side some of the projects, the study-related
19 activities, where we are receiving funds, kind of working
20 through the details. We have got to have a plan before
21 you go out to do any type of a study. Regardless of the
22 magnitude and the complexity of the study, you have got
23 to have a study guide put together, especially something
24 like this it's critical. We are meeting with partners

1 and others, especially if we want people to be involved
2 we have got to let them know upfront, and we have been
3 doing that.

4 We haven't been sitting around waiting to put
5 together a plan or document telling us what to do. In
6 addition to all of the other activities that are ongoing
7 related to the barrier and Asian carp specifically,
8 looking here at this study we have been doing a review,
9 looking at what it is about there. We have got to
10 understand more about what it is we are targeting to
11 understand what methodologies and what might be done to
12 prevent transfer of these species.

13 Drafting the White Paper, looking at what is
14 out there. Again, I refer back to that National Invasive
15 Species Council, talking about sometimes the difficulty
16 in identifying a beneficial species from a non-native
17 from an invasive and looking at that definition and
18 trying to identify and making sure we are looking at the
19 right things, and that is being done as well.

20 We talked about the preliminary risk
21 characterization and report for the other pathways, and
22 Mike talked about the timeline on that, and we are going
23 to show that on the next slide with a little bit of a
24 calendar.

1 Then he talked a little bit about a real short
2 success story there where we've identified that someone
3 could do something where the State had the authority to
4 do something, it could be done to accomplish the goal and
5 buy down some risk.

6 This is a project schedule. We have got to
7 state right off the bat that it's got an asterisks, and
8 that always makes me kind of question why. That is going
9 draw you here. It talks about the timeline here with the
10 draft recommended plan out for public review in the fall
11 of 2014, and that is the best case scenario. That is on
12 things moving -- everybody working together, things
13 moving well, we will deliver the information necessary.

14 Did I mention about Federally funding this
15 study? Federal funding falls into Federal appropriation
16 cycles, so we have got to express the need and have it
17 delivered on time and when necessary to go ahead and keep
18 things moving along.

19 So, again, this is somewhat of an aggressive
20 schedule for a study, especially one as complex as this,
21 but that is why too we want to take the time to highlight
22 some of the other pathways where Mike talked to his
23 efforts. You see that the final or the characterization
24 report out in the fall 2011, so this fall, coming out

1 looking at those 18 pathways and looking at things that
2 could be done. We are already spinning out a project
3 that has been implemented in Eagle Marsh. So we are not
4 just waiting until this study informs us as to what can
5 be done next or what we should be doing.

6 As things appear in the approach we are going
7 to spin that out and find who can do that activity and
8 make something happen.

9 But it's also not going to be worked on in a
10 vacuum or in a black hole. Again, I mentioned the
11 feedback coming back out, and I will talk a little bit
12 about some of these here when we talk about interim
13 products.

14 What are we talking about? You see there,
15 there is a lot of information I mentioned that we are
16 gathering, and things coming up, things that we have to
17 analyze. We are going to share that as it comes up and
18 we analyze it, get that out to people so you understand
19 what it is that we are looking at, what we have found so
20 far to keep you involved, keep you involved and up-to-
21 date with the process and where things are headed and the
22 direction that the study is taking.

23 I am just looking -- I talked a little bit
24 already about the complexity of looking at the nuisance

1 species, looking at their transport mechanism. We talked
2 about waterways and ways that they can being carried.

3 Control technologies, those are being
4 developed. I know this Asian carp is just really taking
5 off and getting the highlight or the focus right now.
6 There are a number of industries and folks out there that
7 are looking at things like barriers, using other types of
8 things, not just electricity, but acoustics and light and
9 other types of methodologies. Looking at biological
10 controls and things that are in development.

11 So as those become available, we can look at
12 those and analyze those, or it might be something that,
13 for example, Fish and Wildlife or USGS might come up with
14 that is totally within their authority to execute and
15 they will put that into the fight.

16 Navigation surveys, a lot of information, a lot
17 of surveys have been done, statistics and studies on use
18 of the waterways. Some of them are dated, and now it's
19 just a matter of grabbing that research and bringing the
20 numbers up-to-date so that we can go ahead and then
21 project that value into the future.

22 The same thing with fishery surveys, there is a
23 number of other agencies that are doing some work, and
24 it's doing good work, and we will make every effort to

1 work with those groups and bring that information into
2 the study.

3 We talked a little bit earlier about input, how
4 can we help, how can we provide information. Here is
5 Step 1, you're in the room, that is great. Tell us what
6 you're thinking, tell us -- you know, help look at areas
7 of significance that we might not be focused on. Give us
8 your thoughts on areas that maybe should not be
9 emphasized so much so that we can go ahead and bring this
10 study to a decision point sooner rather than later.

11 I talked again about working together with
12 other agencies and potential authorities that they may
13 have or things that they are working on already, and here
14 is just an example of some of the things down here of who
15 we would go to to look for that type of information
16 because it's within their authority, it's within their
17 area of expertise. We are trying to take advantage of
18 all of that.

19 I mentioned again about the meeting way to
20 provide input, and you can see here where we are headed
21 next. This is up here in St. Paul, and we have got a
22 number of other meetings. If anybody wants to travel
23 around a little bit and follow us around, that is great.
24 I hear the rest of all of these northern cities are going

1 to be great in the next couple of weeks, so it's fun. I
2 invite anybody to come with us to New Orleans, the Mardi
3 Gras parades start two days after that, so that will make
4 it a little bit of fun. I think Zulu is up first, then
5 Krewe. I have family in that area, so I like to know
6 those things.

7 Then, again, other ways, we are taking
8 advantage of technology. This is something that for the
9 Federal government especially sometimes we are a little
10 bit slower to come along on board with some of these
11 other types of technologies. We have got to make sure
12 that we use them the right way, and I think we are doing
13 that. We are taking extensive advantage of the websites
14 that are out there. You can go to either the Chicago
15 District website and you will see a little button that
16 looks like this little business card that looks like that
17 right there (indicating).

18 We are trying to do a little brand recognition
19 as well, so if you happen to see this you will think,
20 well, that is not an app store, that is the GLMRIS study.
21 But, again, recognition. There are probably apps that
22 look like that on your cell phone, so if that is
23 something that sparks something in your mind that you
24 want to take a look at it, I might be interested in this,

1 then by all mean please join in.

2 We are using as well social media, Facebook and
3 Twitter. I haven't yet cracked the code on those, but I
4 have seen Dave Wethington go ahead and Tweet messages
5 while we are doing conversations and topics and
6 everything. I am not sure if he's paying attention to me
7 what I am saying or if he is paying attention to who he
8 is sending it to. Regardless if it's you, I'm glad he's
9 sending you a Tweet.

10 Anyway, I want to thank you for your time and
11 your interest in this, and we look forward to your
12 comments and also entertaining any questions.

13 MR. BLUHM: All right. Thank you, sir. Well,
14 that concludes Part 1 of our meeting, and before we begin
15 Part 2 we want to note that the study website is a very
16 good source for information, as the Colonel pointed out.

17 Also, any interested persons can subscribe to
18 the study's e-mail list through the project website. The
19 Corps will be using the GLMRIS e-mail list to distribute
20 updates on things such as documents that have been added
21 to the website, opportunities for additional public
22 involvement, and other personal news and events. The
23 GLMRIS project website can be found on the study
24 brochure, the written comment form, as well as the

1 business card that the Colonel talked about.

2 Another way to stay current about the study is
3 through any of that social media stuff, if you're into
4 that. The GLMRIS project can be found on Facebook and
5 Twitter, and also on the these business cards that we
6 have got.

7 So, we are going to move into the oral comment
8 period. I want to check, anybody registered? That will
9 make it interesting.

10 Given that we have got nobody registered, I
11 will propose that we make a slight alteration to the
12 agenda. The agenda specifically says that we are going to
13 give anybody that has asked or signed up to speak a
14 three-minute block, and because we, Number 1, don't have
15 anybody at this point and we want to make it as informal
16 as possible for all of those that are here, I would ask
17 that we make an amendment and see if anybody objects to
18 this. My amendment would be that we allow anybody a
19 chance to speak their peace within a reasonable timeframe
20 and not put a three-minute constraint on that.

21 With that said, if anybody objects to that, if
22 I could just see a show of hands if you do not feel that
23 that is fair. Okay. I don't see any hands, which is
24 good.

1 With that said, then what I would like to do is
2 ask if you have decided without registering that you
3 would like to make a statement, ask a question or a
4 comment to the panel members here. The Corps will take
5 every opportunity we can to answer any questions that you
6 have that are answerable. If you would like to get that
7 opportunity to talk right now, feel free to let us know.

8 Also, keep in mind that any form of opportunity
9 to comment, whether it's at the microphone here, through
10 the comment forms that we have, or on the web page, will
11 be all equally considered as we go through this comment
12 period, so you do not have to get up in front of the
13 group if you would rather submit in other forms, they are
14 all weighted equally. Okay.

15 Then also if you do make a comment for us, we
16 have a stenographer with us here tonight. She will be
17 recording any comments or questions that are brought to
18 our attention. We would ask that you speak clearly into
19 the microphone, use your name, any affiliation you have
20 with an organization or agency, and then also give us
21 your zip code so we have a chance to do a little tracking
22 for statistical reasons.

23 So going through that and knowing that we don't
24 have anybody pre-signed up, would anybody now like to

1 take an opportunity to address the panel with any
2 questions, comments that you might have, this would be
3 the time to show a hand. Okay. I don't see a hand, this
4 will be a first. Here we go. Come on up.

5 MS. BECKER: This is going to be a very quick
6 comment. I was here earlier, so I won't bore you with
7 repeating my earlier questions. There were many good
8 questions that were asked this afternoon, so I feel the
9 bases have been covered in the discussions in the
10 previous one. I --

11 MR. BLUHM: I am sorry, can you start with your
12 name again.

13 MS. BECKER: Sure. It's Trilby Becker, and I
14 am with the National Wildlife Federation in Ann Arbor,
15 Michigan. My zip code is 48013.

16 I recognize that this is not entirely well
17 attended. I wonder what can be done to increase
18 attendance? The NWF has done outreach, but apparently
19 not very effective outreach. I am sure others have also
20 done outreach. What can we do to increase public
21 awareness of these hearings and encourage people to come
22 out?

23 How might we engage the public in the future?
24 Perhaps through other meetings, opportunities to meet

1 with the GLMRIS technical staff to ask questions as the
2 study progresses to continue to engage the public and
3 solicit feedback as we meet different goals. So
4 something just to toss out there to think about.

5 We are here to promote these meetings as much
6 as possible and would like to work with you, and any
7 opportunity to talk that through we'd be very happy to
8 collaborate. Thank you.

9 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Any comments from the
10 panel? Very good. Thank you. All right. After Ms.
11 Becker, anybody else that would like to come to the
12 microphone? Okay. I am not seeing -- oh, yes, go ahead.

13 MR. WEBB: I am Paul Webb, I am the
14 superintendent here for the National Park Service at the
15 Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. My zip
16 code is 55101.

17 Just a comment, maybe a request, is that as the
18 focus on Asian carp and other aquatic nuisance species
19 goes on, as I think about the fishery here in this part
20 of the Upper Mississippi, which is a pretty substantial
21 recreation resource, in addition to the migratory bird
22 flyway, just a lot of great natural resource values, it
23 would be great as this process moved forward that maybe
24 there be some findings that would help us solve or at

1 least address the common carp, the European carp that has
2 been here for 100 years. That would be great to not just
3 focus on this imminent threat, but some of the existing
4 threats that have actually almost become naturalized and
5 acceptable when, in fact, they create a fairly
6 substantial problem for the natural systems that a
7 variety of groups are trying to restore.

8 It's great that you are here. I agree with the
9 previous comment about coordination. On our part here in
10 the Metro along 72 miles of the river, as a Federal
11 agency the legislation that established our park was to
12 require all Federal agencies to coordinate anything that
13 would impact the Mississippi River here in the Metro, and
14 we just didn't find out about the meeting until just a
15 couple of days ago.

16 I know the challenge, being a Federal guy
17 myself, but we have a major fish and wildlife refuge here
18 in the Minnesota River, a national park with the
19 Mississippi River, and a regional office of the Fish and
20 Wildlife Service, and not a lot of us knew about this
21 until the very last minute. We would love to be involved
22 and help, that is the nature of that. Thanks.

23 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Anything from the
24 panel?

1 MR. SAFFRAN: I guess I will just offer that in
2 the preliminary risk characterization, the Grass carp was
3 one of the most significant fish species that we
4 identified of concern in the Great Lakes.

5 MR. BLUHM: Very good, Mike. Thank you.
6 Anybody else? Anybody like to be Number 3? Okay.
7 Second call, we would like to see if anybody would like
8 to take this opportunity to address the panel.

9 Okay. I am not seeing any movement, so with
10 that I am going to move to close the period for comments.
11 It is 6:25 by my clock. We will close the comment
12 period, and that concludes the comment period for this
13 time.

14 I want to thank you for the comments and
15 information that we have received. I would like to
16 remind you if you have any prepared statements or
17 documents that you like to leave with us, be sure to turn
18 those in at the registration table or with myself before
19 you leave.

20 If you decide that you would like to add any
21 additional comments or statements after this evening, you
22 have until March 31st to do so. You can use our website,
23 or you can use the comment form that you were provided
24 tonight to mail in any information you have. Any and all

1 information will be recorded that we receive.

2 Then, lastly here, if you would like to help us
3 recycle our materials, anything that you have received
4 tonight that you do not wish to use any further, we would
5 ask that you leave them either in your chair or as you
6 exit so we can reuse those in our following meetings.

7 I would like to thank you all for attending the
8 meeting and your continued interest in this study. Our
9 panel and the Corps of Engineers members that are here
10 this evening will stick around here as long as we need to
11 to answer any questions that you may have on an informal
12 one-to-one basis.

13 So with that, I would like to thank you all for
14 your comments, questions and your attention for this
15 evening. The time being 6:26, I would like to adjourn
16 the meeting. Thank you very much, and have a good night.

17 (Whereupon, at 6:26 p.m., Thursday,
18 January 20, 2011 the Meeting was adjourned.)

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1 STATE OF MINNESOTA)

2)

3 COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

4 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

5 I, Angela D. Sauro, do hereby certify that the
6 above and foregoing transcript, consisting of the
7 preceding 88 pages is a correct transcript of my
8 stenograph notes, and is a full, true and complete
9 transcript of the proceedings to the best of my
10 ability.

11

12 Dated February 2, 2011

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Angela D. Sauro, RPR

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Court Reporter

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