Appendix B

Coordination

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Contents

1. Draft Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act Report 26 May 2017

United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Southern Illinois Sub-Office (ES)
8588 Route 148
Marion, Illinois 62959

FWS/MISO

May 26, 2017

Colonel Anthony P. Mitchell
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

Attn: Dr. Kathryn McCain, CEMVP-PD-P

Dear Colonel Mitchell:

This letter constitutes our Draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report (Report) for the Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) located in Madison and Jersey Counties, Illinois. This report is intended to provide partial compliance with Subsection 2(b) of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*); and, the National Environmental Policy Act (83 Stat. 852, as amended P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). This Report has been reviewed by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and their concurrence is noted.

Introduction

The Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands HREP is a component of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program (UMRR), authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986. The vision of the UMRR is "A healthier and more resilient Upper Mississippi River ecosystem that sustains the river's multiple uses". The Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands Project consists of the two islands and associated side channel and backwater habitats. Piasa and Eagle's Nest islands are federally controlled lands and are managed in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The Project area is located in Pool 26 between Upper Mississippi River Miles 207.5 and 211.5 and is comprised of approximately 1,381 acres of side channel, main channel, island, and backwater habitat.

Threatened and Endangered Species

We have reviewed the Biological Assessment (BA) for this project provided on December 15, 2016. In responding to the BA, we concurred that with implementation of the conservation measures discussed in the BA, the project is not likely to adversely affect any known federally listed threatened or endangered species.

Resource Problems and Opportunities

Human activity over the past two centuries within the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) has altered the hydrology, topography, and biotic communities historically present within the project area. Lock and dam construction has had the greatest effect in the lower half of each navigation pool where the floodplain was inundated by the increased water surface elevation. Inundation caused an immediate change in the land-water distribution followed by a long-term change that included the gradual loss of land (e.g., islands). The physical changes created by lock and dam construction produced a significant change in the biological community in the lower reaches of the navigation pools. The original floodplain, which consisted of floodplain forest, wetlands, and isolated lakes, was converted into a large permanently submerged aquatic system that is often categorized as impounded. Since impoundment, the patterns of river habitats have been greatly modified due to sedimentation of backwaters, island loss, and loss of side channels. These alterations have reduced the diversity and quality of aquatic side channel and backwater habitats and caused a decline in the quantity of island habitat.

Within the project area, the side channel habitat has decreased in depth and flow resulting in degraded aquatic habitat, the backwater located within Piasa Island has decreased in depth resulting in loss of connectivity with the main channel during most of the year, and island habitat has been degraded primarily as a result of direct inundation resulting from lock and dam construction. Without action, it is anticipated that the aquatic habitat within Piasa Chute would continue to degrade with sedimentation and reduced flow, the Piasa Island backwater would continue to lose depth and be disconnected from the Mississippi River, and historic islands within the proposed project would continue to be submerged reducing the availability of this habitat for aquatic and wildlife species.

The degraded state of the project area, however, provides a significant opportunity to improve the quality and diversity of aquatic habitats within the proposed project area for the benefit of riverine fish, migratory birds, and other wildlife resources. The primary problems to be addressed by this project include: the loss of depth and flow within Piasa Chute, the loss of depth and connectivity within the Piasa Island backwater, and the loss of island habitat within this portion of the river. Restoring depth and flow within the side channel and restoring depth and connectivity of the Piasa Island Backwater would improve habitat conditions for a large variety of native riverine fish species and restoring island habitat would create additional habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands Project is to restore and improve the quality and diversity of aquatic and island ecosystem resources within the project area to benefit fish and

wildlife resources. To achieve this goal a planning team of biologists from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Service developed the objectives for the project. The objectives include the following:

- Objective 1: Restore depth (> 8 feet) and increase velocity over existing conditions to improve sediment transport and geomorphic processes within Piasa Chute
- Objective 2: Increase the depth and connectivity between the Piasa Backwater and the Mississippi River, as measured by acres of deep water habitat (>5 feet) and % of year connected.
- Objective 3: Increase the spatial coverage of islands, as measured in acres.

The goals and objectives of the Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands Project fit well into the system wide objectives for the Upper Mississippi River System (Galat et al., 2007). The system wide objectives include management for:

- a more natural hydrologic regime (hydrology and hydraulics)
- processes that shape a diverse and dynamic river channel (geomorphology)
- processes that input, transport, assimilate, and output materials within UMR basin river-floodplains: water quality, sediments, and nutrients (biogeochemistry)
- a diverse and dynamic pattern of habitats to support native biota (habitat)
- viable populations of native species and diverse plant and animal communities (biota)

Proposed Project Features

To achieve the project objectives, a number of project plans/features were evaluated. The recommended plan (alternative 4) consists of the following:

- Increasing aquatic diversity in Piasa Chute, by constructing a 200-ft braided dredge cut.
- Enhancing aquatic diversity in Piasa Island Backwater by dredging the entrance and reconnecting the backwater to Mississippi River.
- Constructing a notched rock structure between Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands to enhance flow and sediment transport through Piasa Chute without negatively impacting overall flow within the entire Project Area.
- Restoring islands by beneficially re-using the dredged material and placing stone protection to maintain the islands and promote scour when islands are overtopped.

This plan restores approximately 76 acres of island habitat, enhances approximately 49 acres of backwater by increasing connectivity and depth, and improves depth and flow for approximately 485 acres of side channel habitat within the Project Area.

Methodology to Evaluate Alternatives

The Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands HREP was analyzed using the Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP). The target species for the HEP included the smallmouth buffalo for the backwater aquatic habitat, the striped bass for the side channel aquatic habitat, and the least tern for the island habitat. Existing conditions, future without project conditions and future with project conditions were examined. This analysis was conducted with team members representing the Corps, IDNR, and Service.

The utilized evaluation models produced a rating of habitat quality for each respective habitat type. This rating is referred to as a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI). The HSI, a value ranging from 0.1 to 1.0, measures the existing and future habitat conditions compared to optimum habitat which is 1.0. This value, when multiplied by the available habitat within the project area, will provide a measure of available habitat quality and quantity known as habitat units (HUs). Average annual habitat units (AAHUs) for each species are typically calculated to reflect expected habitat conditions over a 50-year project life.

Existing, Future without, and Future with Project Conditions

A number of general and site specific assumptions were made as to what the project area and vicinity would be like 50 years in the future with and without the project and can be found in Appendix B of this report.

Side Channel

The habitat suitability for the striped bass improved with the project, while without the project the habitat suitability declined and became unsuitable (Table 1). Habitat quality for the striped bass improved with the project due to increased current velocity during the spawning time period. Over time it was assumed that the quality of habitat with the project would eventually decline due to sedimentation and reduced flow but would remain suitable. Without the project, Piasa Chute would continue to decline due to sedimentation and lack of flow. This will cause the water temperatures and the current velocity during the spawning time period to become unsuitable and result in a lower HSI scores. The proposed project results in a net increase of 18,267.93 habitat units (Table 2)

Backwater

The habitat suitability for the smallmouth buffalo improved with the project, while without the project the habitat suitability declined and became unsuitable (Table 1). Habitat quality for the smallmouth buffalo improved with the project due to improved water temperatures and increased flow/connectivity to the main channel during the summer time period. Over time it was assumed that the quality of habitat would decline due to sedimentation and reduced connectivity to the main channel but would remain suitable. Without the project, the Piasa Island backwater would

likely become disconnected from the main channel and loose depth over time. This will cause the water temperatures during the summer time period to become unsuitable and cause the dissolved oxygen levels during the spring and summer to decline resulting in a lower HSI scores. The proposed project results in a net increase of 474.41 habitat units (Table 2)

Island

The habitat suitability for the least tern improved with the project, while without the project the habitat remains limited (Table 1). Habitat quality for the least tern improved with the project due to increased availability of island/sand bar habitat and improved vegetation cover and quality of nesting substrate. Over time it was assumed that the quality of habitat would decline due to flooding impacts. Without the project, the lack of available nesting habitat and reduced quality of habitat resulted in a low HSI score. The proposed project increases the amount of available habitat from 0.5 to 86 acres and is the primary reason for the difference in habitat units (Table 2).

Summary

The HEP analysis indicates that the side channel dredging results in a net increase of 365.36 AAHUs over the no action alternative and that the backwater dredging results in a net increase of 9.49 AAHUs over the no action alternative. In addition, the creation of the island habitat results in a net increase of 55.26 AAHU over the no action alternative. The combination of habitat features in the preferred alternative will yield a net increase of 430.11AAHUs over the future without project condition.

Conclusions and Recommendations

According to the Incremental Cost Analysis, the preferred alternative ranks 2 out of 9 in costs per AAHU output compared to the other alternatives including the no action alternative. A large portion of the cost for the preferred alternative is attributable to the side channel dredging and subsequent island creation. There are currently limited opportunities to implement side channel restoration and island creation projects in this portion of the UMR. Pool 26 has approximately 3% of the total aquatic and floodplain habitat classified as side channel habitat and approximately 5% of the existing aquatic and floodplain habitat as island habitat (Theiling, et al., 2000). Restoring side channel habitat and island habitats have been identified as habitat needs for Pool 26 (Theiling, et al., 2000) and the loss of side channel connectivity is a major stressor affecting the riverine hydrologic regime and the pattern of riverine habitats. This plan restores approximately 76 acres of island habitat, enhances approximately 49 acres of backwater by increasing connectivity and depth, and improves depth and flow for approximately 485 acres of side channel habitat within the project area. Additionally, it is very difficult to capture the full benefits associated with side channel projects. For purposes of the Incremental Cost Analysis, the model was only able to capture habitat unit benefits associated with the acreage within the immediate project area. However, we believe that the ecosystem benefits of side channel restoration and island creation extend beyond the project area for both aquatic and terrestrial species. Although the preferred alternative has a high cost, we fully support the alternative because it would restore a large component of habitat diversity in this portion of the Upper Mississippi River.

Overall, the proposed project (Alternative 4) will be beneficial to the Mississippi River and biota dependent upon the river by improving habitat quality in this portion of river. The project will improve the quality and diversity of side channel and backwater habitats and will restore island habitat within the project area. Large river fish and other aquatic organisms will gain improved access to important habitats for several life stages, such as spawning, rearing and over wintering. Migratory birds and other terrestrial organisms will have access to improved habitat for resting, feeding, nesting, and escape cover. These areas will also provide an important feeding area for aquatic organisms and serve as a production area for small fish and invertebrates that other terrestrial organisms feed upon. The proposed Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands HREP will be beneficial to a variety of fish and wildlife resources. The Service fully supports the proposed Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands HREP.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this Draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report. If you have questions, please contact me at (618) 997-3344, ext. 345.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew T. Mangan

Matthew T. Mangan
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

cc: IDNR (Atwood)
MDC (Vitello)

Attachments: Table 1
Table 2
Appendix A – Literature Cited
Appendix B – Assumptions

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Table 1. Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) scores for Existing, Future with Project (Year 1,5,25 and 50) and Future without Project (Year 1,5,25 and 50), Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands HREP.

Habitat Type	Species	Existing	Future With				Future Without			
		0	1	5	25	50	1	5	25	50
Side Channel	Striped Bass	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.84	0.72	0.57	0.00	0.00
Backwater	Smallmouth buffalo	0.80	0.85	0.85	0.80	0.65	0.80	0.80	0.68	0.00
Island	Least Tern	0.80	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.30	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 2. Habitat Units for Future with Project (Year 50) and Future without Project (Year 50), Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands HREP. Net change is the difference between Future with Project and Future without Project.

Habitat Type	Species	Future With	Future Without	Net
Side Channel	Striped Bass	23,297.18	5,029.17	18,267.93
Backwater	Smallmouth buffalo	1,631.41	1,157.00	474.41
Island	Least Tern	3,134.21	1.20	3,133.01

APPENDIX A

LITERATURE CITED

Galat , D., Barko, J., Bartell, S., Davis, M., Johnson, B., Lubinski, K., . . . Wilcox, D. (2007). *Environmental Science Panel Report: Establishing System-wide Goals and Objectives for the Upper Mississippi River System.* U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, St. Louis District, St. Paul District: Rock Island, Illinois, St. Louis, Missouri, St. Paul, Minnesota

Theiling, C. H., Korschgen, C., DeHaan, H., Fox, T., Rohweder, J., & Robinson, L. (2000). *Habitat Needs Assessment for the Upper Mississippi River System Technical Report.* La Crosse, WI: U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center.

USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). 2017. Upper Mississippi River Restoration, Feasibility Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment, Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, St. Louis, MO.

APPENDIX B
ASSUMPTIONS

General and site specific assumptions used in the habitat evaluation. Taken from Appendix G (Habitat Evaluation & Quantification) of the Definite Project Report.

General Assumptions

- It was assumed that target years of 0 (existing condition), 1, 5, 25, and 50 (future without and future with project conditions) are sufficient to analyze HUs and characterize habitat changes over the estimated period of analysis. The period of analysis was determined to be 50 years based on the prediction that some project features (e.g., development of key ecological processes needed to restore ecosystem structure and function) would need a longer period of time to reach maximum benefits; and the accrual of benefits were predicted to level off after 50 years.
- The team assumed that the main channel habitat (as defined by the UMRR-LTRM stratum) would not be affected by the proposed alternatives; therefore, these acres of main channel habitat within he Project Area were not evaluated for habitat benefits.
- The team assumed that existing forested island habitat within the Project Area would not be affected by the proposed alternatives; therefore these acres of forested island habitat within the Project Area were not evaluated for habitat benefits.

Site Specific Assumptions

Side Channel Habitat (*Striped Bass HSI Model*)

The striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), in the family Moronidae, has been successfully stocked throughout the United States. This fluvial dependent species prefers cool, well-oxygenated water and cannot tolerate poor water quality. Water current is an attractant for striped bass preparing to spawn.

- **Baseline Condition:** Detailed water quality data were collected by the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program Long Term Resource Monitoring (UMRR-LTRM) element from 1993 to present. These data are randomly stratified and collected throughout the year; therefore, it was assumed that data collected was representative of the entire side channel.
- **Future without Project Condition:** Future conditions of the side channel were based on the average sedimentation rate calculated from an ISOPACH analysis. This analysis estimated that Piasa Chute has lost 0.14 feet per year between 2006 and 2013; therefore, it was assumed this sedimentation rate would continue during the period of analysis. In terms of surface area extent of the side channel, based on historic imagery it was assumed the surface area of the side channel would remain the same throughout the period of analysis, but the quality of the habitat would change through time.
- **Future with Project Condition:** The proposed final depth of Piasa Chute is 10 feet below minimum pool. The team took a conservative approach and assumed the same sedimentation rate of 0.14 feet/year; however, the dredging the side channel is estimated to increase the average depth of Piasa Chute by 6 feet. The team used existing UMRR-LTRM data collected from the Project with the same depth as what is expected with

proposed project depths. These data were used to forecast dissolved oxygen levels and water temperature during the period of analysis. Results from the 2D numeric hydraulic modeling effort (at 159,000 cfs) were used to estimate the average current velocity of the project alternatives. The 2D numerical model results showed that the notched rock structure would provide more velocity within Piasa Chute as compared to alternatives without the rock structure. Rock used to build the notched rock structure would increase habitat structure for fish and macroinvertebrate habitat as well. Most importantly perhaps is the continued structure and function of the side channel complex. With the Proposed Project, some acres of existing side channel habitat would be converted to island habitat (varies between considered action alternatives), depending on the amount of dredge disposal material available to build islands.

Backwater Habitat (*Smallmouth buffalo HSI Model*)

The smallmouth buffalo (*Ictiobus bubalus*), in the family Catostomidae, is an important commercial fish in the Mississippi River drainage basin. This species occurs in deep, flowing water, as well as sloughs, oxbow lakes and other backwaters for resting, spawning, and rearing. They feed on organisms in the substrate of large rivers and backwater lakes. This species was selected because it requires backwaters and off-channel areas to complete important life history stages.

- **Baseline Condition:** Detailed water quality data were collected by the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Long Term Resource Monitoring element from 1993 to present. These data are randomly stratified and collected throughout the year; therefore, it was assumed that data collected was representative of the entire backwater. Using UMRR-LTRM the average depth of the backwater is 1.25-3.5 feet.
- **Future without Project Condition:** Future conditions of Piasa Island Backwater were based on calculated sedimentation rates from a nearby backwater and from historic aerial imagery. The sedimentation rate was calculated by the Corps at Brickhouse Slough/Dresser Island HREP within Pool 26 at 0.5 inches/year (Placeholder2). However, using this sedimentation rate to forecast into the future seems a bit unreasonable based on historic imagery analysis which shows the backwater persisting for more than 25 years with minimal change in surface area. Therefore, the team assumed a more conservative loss of backwater acres over time. From 1993-2013, 37% of all samples collected by UMRR-LTRM were less than 2.0 feet in the backwater. With this information the team assumed that by year 50, 37% of the backwater would be lost (areas less than 2 feet) or approximately 18 acres (or 0.36 acres per year). Consequently, available habitat structure and cover, food production, and potential spawning and rearing habitat for fish would be reduced.
- **Future with Project Condition:** The proposed depth of Piasa Island Backwater is 10 feet below minimum pool, which would provide adequate depths to be present for overwintering fish habitat. The team assumed that dredging the entrance of the backwater would increase circulation of water throughout the backwater improving temperature, slightly increasing velocity, and reducing sedimentation. The team assumed the loss of backwater acres during the period of analysis would be less as compared to the FWOP. Most importantly perhaps is the continued structure and function of the backwater complex.

Island Habitat (*Least tern HSI Model*)

The interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*) is a federally endangered bird species. Least terns nest on barren to sparsely vegetated sandbars along rivers, sand and gravel pits, lake and reservoir shorelines, and occasionally gravel rooftops. They hover over and dive into standing or flowing water to catch small fish. This species was selected because it requires bare or sparsely vegetated sandbars and islands for nesting habitat, and they are known to nest on artificial habitat within Pool 26.

- **Baseline Condition:** The Project and surrounding areas have numerous different types of wetlands, including forested wetland, emergent wetland, and shallow water areas. Within the Project, Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands are forested islands with areas of emergent wetlands, and small sand bar islands are currently forming within Piasa Chute. Prior to the construction of lock and dam 26, several islands were present within the complex, but are now inundated. The existing sandbar islands are at low elevations and are comprised primarily of sand, with some silt and larger fragmentary material. One island has established woody vegetation. The head of Piasa Island is at an average elevation of 420.57 feet NAVD88. The team decided to use this existing elevation as the basis for the target elevation of the proposed island restorations. Currently, 0.5 acres of sandbar island habitat exists at > 420.57 feet NAVD88. Based on historic aerial imagery it appears that the sandbar island habitat within Piasa Chute builds up vegetation, but then flood events remove the vegetation periodically.
- **Future without Project Condition:** Without the project, the team assumed that the historic islands would remain inundated; therefore, the Project area would provide minimal sandbar island habitat into the future. The team assumed the existing sandbar islands would remain into the future but be subject to degradation and aggradation based on flood events; but overall it was assumed the total number of acres situated higher than 420.57 feet NAVD88 would remain at that elevation into the future. The team assumed that overtime, the existing vegetated island would continue to capture organic material, and the substrate would become more silt/clay, which is less suitable substrate for least tern nesting activity.
- **Future with Project Condition:** With the project, additional acreage of sandbar island habitat would be constructed at elevation 420.57 feet NAVD88. These islands would be restored to historic locations and in areas of existing low shear stress based on the hydraulic model outputs. Building of the islands would convert existing open water habitat to sandbar island habitat. The team assumed that these newly restored islands would be bare and made of sand. It was recognized that through time vegetation may become established on the islands, but the team assumed periodic flooding and/or physical removal through vegetation management would retain the target characteristics of the islands (e.g., bare, sandy, low vegetation height). The team did assume that some silt and clay would collect on the islands through time. The team assumed that the stone protection on the restored islands would lock the islands in place and allow for the total acres of island habitat to be maintained throughout the period of analysis. Acres of island habitat restored would vary among considered action alternatives based on the amount of dredge disposal material available to build islands.

2. SHPO Coordination

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

October 17, 2016

Engineering and Construction Division
Curation and Archives Analysis Branch (EC-Z)

Ms. Rachel Leibowitz
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507

Subject: Eagles Nest and Piasa Islands Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project

Dear Ms. Leibowitz:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is presently planning the Eagles Nest and Piasa Islands Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP). The proposed project includes the Mississippi River islands and the surrounding channel in Madison and Jersey counties, Illinois (Figure 1). The project area is in Upper Mississippi River Pool 26 near Alton, IL. We are contacting your office to initiate consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), and its implementing regulation 36 CFR 800.

Authority

This project is being carried out under the auspices of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program (UMRR), formally known as the Environmental Management Program (EMP), originally authorized by the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986. Over the course of its first 13 years, UMRR-EMP proved to be one of this country's premier ecosystem restoration programs, combining close collaboration between Federal and State partners, an effective planning process, and a built-in monitoring process. This success led Congress to reauthorize UMRR-EMP in WRDA 1999 (Public Law 106-53). Section 509 of the 1999 Act made several adjustments to the program and established the following two elements as continuing authorities:

- Planning, construction, and evaluation of fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement projects (known as Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects (HREPs)).
- Long-term resource monitoring, computerized data inventory and analysis, and applied research (known collectively as Long Term Resource Monitoring Program (LTRMP)).

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Project Background

The Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands HREP covers approximately 1,350 acres of backwaters, side channels, and island habitats. These islands and the surrounding channel are owned by the Corps of Engineers and managed by the Illinois Department of Conservation (IDNR) through a cooperative agreement. They are part of the Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Area.

The primary resource problems include: sedimentation resulting in loss of depth in the side channels, altered river hydrology, loss of emergent wetlands, and loss of islands and island area within Pool 26 of the Upper Mississippi River. These problems have led to degraded aquatic and wetland ecosystem structures and functions. Potential project features examined to address these problems included: river training structures including, but not limited to, chevron dikes, closure structures, alternating hard points, bullnose dikes, trail dikes, stub dikes, in-stream habitat structure, dredging, beneficial dredge material placement, and revetment.

The overall project goal is to restore and improve the quality and diversity of aquatic and island ecosystem resources within the Project Area. Three main objectives are:

- Restore depth and flow of the side channel to improve sediment transport and geomorphic processes within Piasa Chute
- Increase the depth and connectivity between the Piasa Backwater and the Mississippi River, as measured by acres of deep water habitat and number of days connected
- Increase the areal coverage of islands, as measured in acres

The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) includes a notched rock structure located between the two islands, along with dredging of the Piasa Chute and the Piasa Backwater (Figure 1). The dredge material will be used to restore islands within project area. No material is being deposited on either existing island (i.e., Eagles Nest or Piasa).

Project Area History

There is no known prehistoric occupation of the project islands, but they have not been archaeologically surveyed. While Eagle's Nest Island formed in the historical period, Piasa Island is somewhat remarkable as, unlike most islands in the Mississippi River, its location has remained relatively stable since first Euroamerican contact. Archaeological sites are abundant on the floodplain of the Mississippi and its tributaries, and it would not be unlikely that they exist, or once exited, on long-standing islands.

The first Euroamerican claimant to what became known as Piasa Island was Toussaint Cerré. Toussaint was probably the nephew of Jean-Gabriel Cerré. Jean-Gabriel was born in Montreal in 1734 and established a fur trading post at Kaskaskia by the mid-1770s. He quickly became a successful merchant acquiring additional property in both Ste. Genevieve and St. Louis. It's unknown when Toussaint joined his uncle in the area, but in his petition to the French lieutenant governor in January of 1800 for the island he describes himself as "father of a family, ancient inhabitant of this county, and residing at the village of St. Charles of the Missouri" (House Doc. n.d.:71). He asked the governor to grant him the "great island of Payse" given the difficult of

raising cattle in the settlements and the growing scarcity of wood in the region. He assures him that the island is on the Spanish side of the river as the main channel passes between the island and the American side. The governor, Carlos Dehault, granted Cerré and his heirs the island "to possess and enjoy, and dispose of it as their own property" the same day (House Doc. n.d.:71).

After the United States acquired the Louisiana territory in 1803, congress created a board of land commissioners to reject or confirm the French and Spanish colonial grants. On September 13, 1806, Auguste Chouteau went before the board to claim Piasa Island, producing a certified copy of a deed of conveyance from Toussant (House Doc. n.d.:72). Apparently, the board was not convinced and the issue was presented again in 1810, 1832, and finally on November 1, 1833 when their unanimously opinion was the island be confirmed to Toussaint Cerré, or his legal representative.

In 1818 the western portion of Piasa Island was platted as three tracts in T6N R11W S25 (Figure 2). The corresponding map for R6N R10W does not show the eastern portion of the island. Notably, the island was mapped in Illinois, in contrast to Toussaint Cerré's contention that it was on the Missouri side of the river. In 1841 the surveyor's office specifically mapped the island again along with Little Piasa Island (Figure 3). A notation in the margin states that the survey was provided to the Commission of the Land Grants Officer and identifies the islands as No. 60 and No. 61. Again, the western portion of Piasa, in Jersey County, is shown as three tracks, and now the eastern portion in Madison County is shown as two tracks.

Auguste Chouteau died in 1829, but it was 1839 before his probate was filed with the court. In April 1839 there was a St. Charles Circuit Court case for "the Partition of land of Auguste Chouteau, deceased; Piasa Island, also known as Isle de Paysa, in Mississippi River opposite Alton." Seven plaintiffs of the Paul and De Breuil families and eleven defendants of the Chouteau, Lawless, Smith, and Paul families are named. The outcome of the case is unknown, but at some point the island reverted to the Federal Government. Perhaps the initial Cerré claim was disallowed given the island's location in Illinois verses Missouri as he initially contended. Alternately, the Chouteau claim as Cerré's assignee may not have been upheld. It is tempting to associate the 1841 plat's notation about being sent to the Commission of the Land Grants Officer with the land's reversion to Federal ownership.

Three sale-cash patents under the Land Act of 1820 were issued for Piasa (i.e., Island No. 60). The first was for Track 2 in Jersey County to Joel Foster (12/1/1845), the second was for Tracks 1 and 3 in Jersey County to Peter Gutzweller (4/10/1848), and the third was to Lewis Moore for the rest of the island in Madison County (4/25/1871). There is also a patent for Little Piasa Island to Louis Stritz (3/19/1874).

One of the earliest topographic maps of the Middle Mississippi is the 1866 Warren map series. Sheet No. 18 shows the two Piasa Islands along with a small, perhaps nascent, Eagle's Nest Island (Sheet No. 18) (Figure 4). The earliest detailed topographic representation and hydrographic chart of the project area is that of the Mississippi River Commission (1890 hydrology) (Figure 5).

By the end of the 19th century Piasa island was better known locally as "Scotch Jimmy's Island," sometimes spelled "Scotch Jimmie's Island" (e.g., Alton Evening Telegraph, May 17, 1906). Less frequently, it was also known as "Silver Island" (Alton Evening Telegraph, October 29, 1930:20). Scotch Jimmy was the nickname of James Powrie, a civil war veteran who had served in the 144 Illinois Infantry. The 1870 census for Jersey County lists him living with Ellen and Jane Powrie in Township 6N, Range 11W, which includes Piasa Island.

Piasa Island was the location of considerable Corps of Engineers work during the last quarter of the 19th century. Between 1875 and 1877 a submergible dam was built between the island and the Missouri shore (Report of the Chief 1881:1566). The intent was to force waterflow into the northern chute and thus create a good navigation channel during all flood stages. The presence of rock in the upper part of the chute prevented the necessary scour, however, and the structure was a failure (Report of the Chief 1895:1677). Moreover, the northern chute became increasingly difficult to navigate and eventually, during the high water of 1882, a large bar moved over its mouth and closed it off completely (Report of the Chief 1883:1183).

Steamboats were forced to use the southern chute by finding any depression that existed over the dam. In an emergency effort, using funding originally intended for the improvement of Alton Harbor, the Corps decided to breach the dam next to the Missouri shore. An initial effort using a hydraulic excavator failed, but a second with a conventional dredge was successful. A 385 foot cut was made to a depth of six feet at low water. These efforts cost the government $2,750. Ironically, it was another break in the dam caused by winter ice that opened and became the main channel. In 1889, the Corps raised the remaining dike to six feet above low water, but left the two gaps in the hope that scour would further deepen the channel. For that effort, 2,505 cubic yards of stone was placed and $5,580 spent (Report of the Chief 1890:1966).

Accumulations of sand behind the dam, however, continued to make navigation dangerous and in 1893 1600 feet of dam structure was removed entirely, with the rock being used to create a number of wing dams and for shoreline reinforcement (Report of the Chief 1895:1678). Additional work was performed to raise and repair the wing dams and to expand the shoreline revetment in subsequent years (e.g., Report of the Chief 1907:1562).

The 1880 MRC map shows that approximately 26 acres of Piasa Island were under cultivation, while the remainder was forested (Figure 5). Interestingly, the same lot is still under cultivation in 1930 (Figure 6). In 1880 Eagle's nest island is mainly mud and sand flats. Its landmass, however, grows in size and the island becomes forested by 1931. There is no indication it was ever cultivated.

While Piasa Island has existed in relatively the same place since at least the 19th century, it has undergone changes in extend and shape. The current backwater (which will be dredged during this project) only formed during the middle of the 20th century. Previously, its location was covered by landmass.

As part of the construction of Lock and Dam 26 and the creation of Pool 26, Piasa and the other islands in the project area were acquired by the government (Figure 7).

Potential Effect on Cultural Resources

The notched structure will be constructed and modified/removed via barge, without recourse to land access; therefore, any effects are limited to submerged cultural resources (as are the dredge and dredge placement activities). Primary among these are historic period shipwrecks. Given the continual river flow and associated sedimentary erosion, deposition, and reworking, it is highly unlikely that any more ephemeral cultural material remains on the river bed.

Shipwrecks

Between July and December of 1988, when the Mississippi River was at its lowest level on record, the St. Louis District Corps of Engineers conducted aerial surveys of exposed wrecks between Saverton, Missouri, and the mouth of the Ohio River. Thirty four (34) historic wrecks were documented at that time. Since then, the Corps database has been updated several times when new wrecks are reported or when research provides new information on wreck location. A separate database of modern (i.e., metal) wrecks which may pose a risk to navigation is also maintained by the Corps. The combined total of mapped locations is ninety (90). The nearest known historic wreck is over nineteen (19) miles from the project area. The nearest known modern wreck is over twelve (12) miles away.

The river bed in the project area is surveyed every year or two, with the latest processed survey having been completed in 2015. The single-beam survey was conducted with range lines spacing of 250 feet. No topographic anomalies suggesting wrecks are visible on the resulting bathymetric map (Figure 8). Additional, pre-construction bathometry will also be examined when available.

Conclusion

Given the project features' location and construction/excavation method (with no land impact), the previous disturbance of the riverbed outlined above, the channel geomorphic history, and the lack of any survey evidence for extant wrecks, it is our opinion that the proposed undertaking will have no significant effect on cultural resources.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (314) 331-8466 or Dr. Mark Smith at (314) 331-8831 (e-mail: mark.a.smith4@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely yours,

FOR
Michael K. Trimble, Ph.D.
Chief, Curation and Archives
Analysis Branch

Enclosure

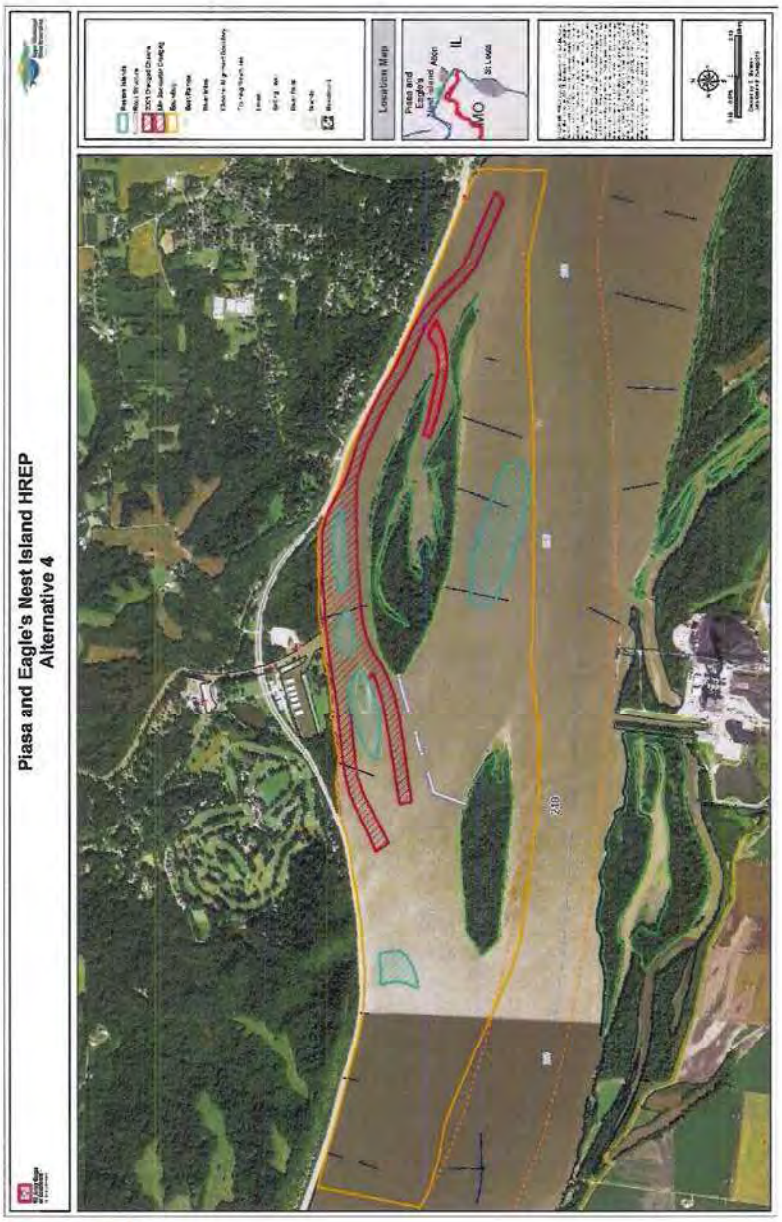


Figure 1. TSP features.

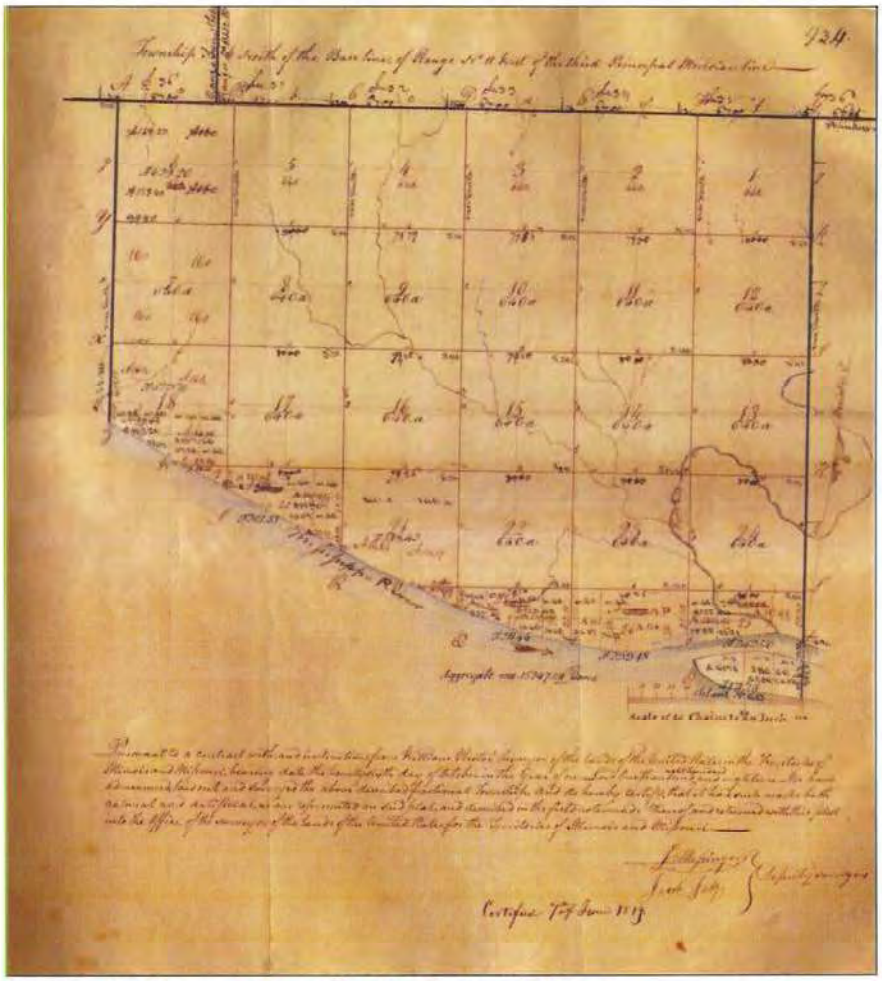


Figure 2. 1818 Plat map of Township 6 North, Range 11 West.

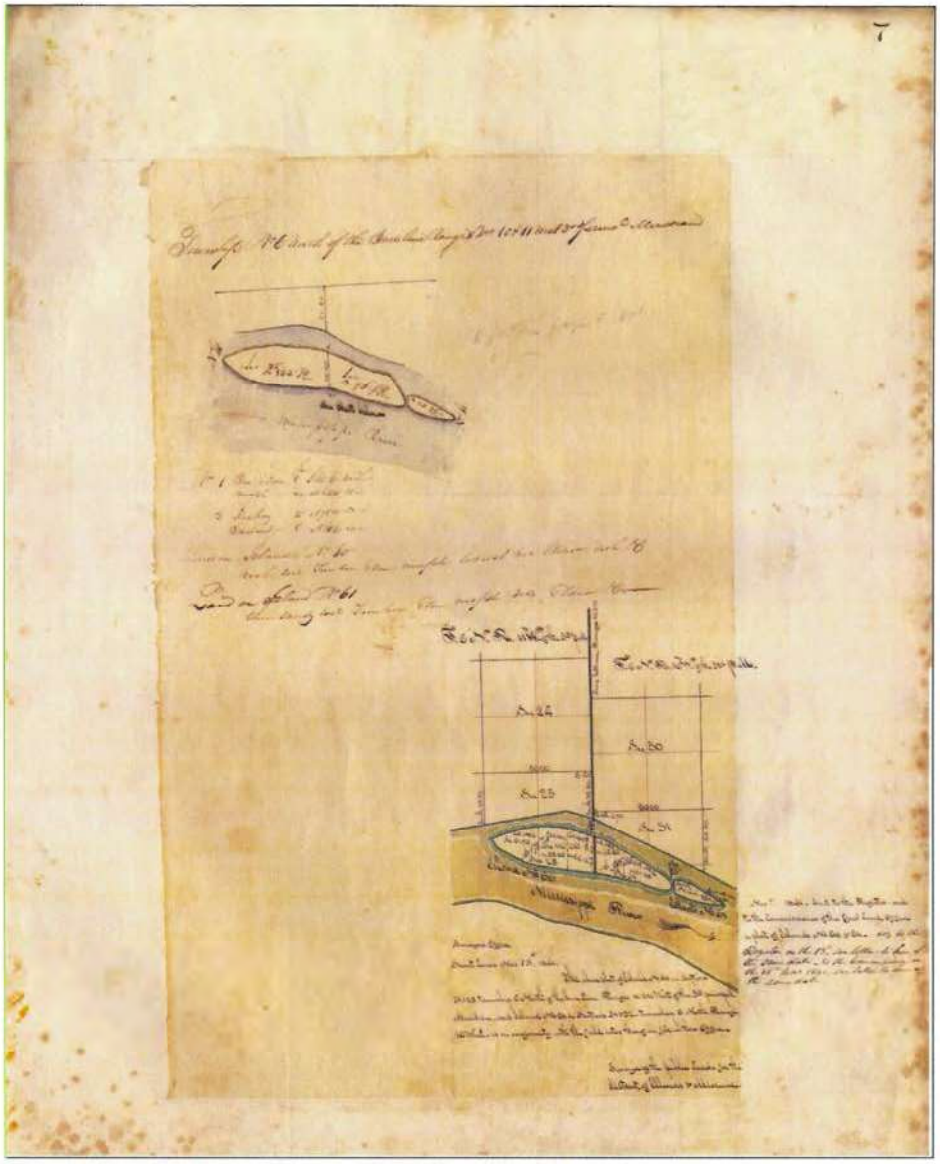


Figure 3. 1844 detail plat of Piasa and Little Piasa Islands.

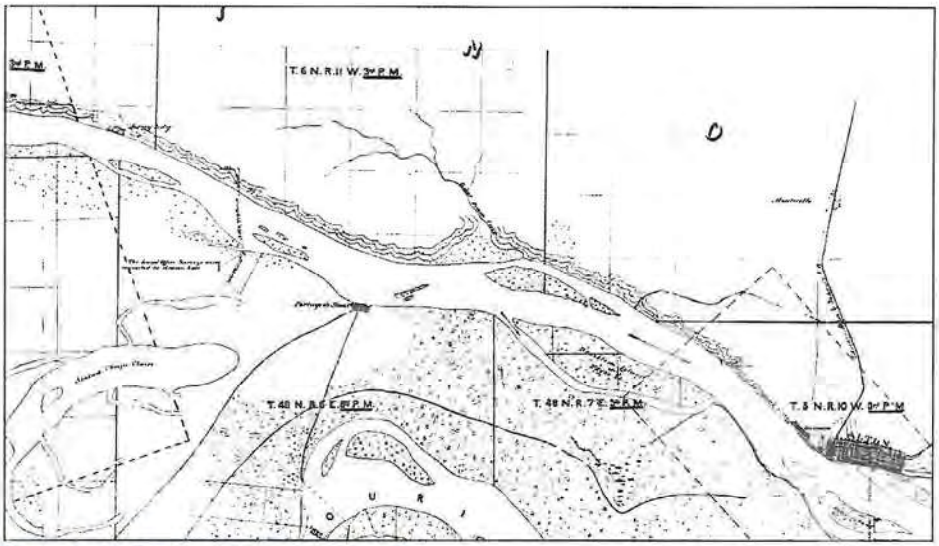


Figure 4. 1866 Warren map, Sheet No. 18.

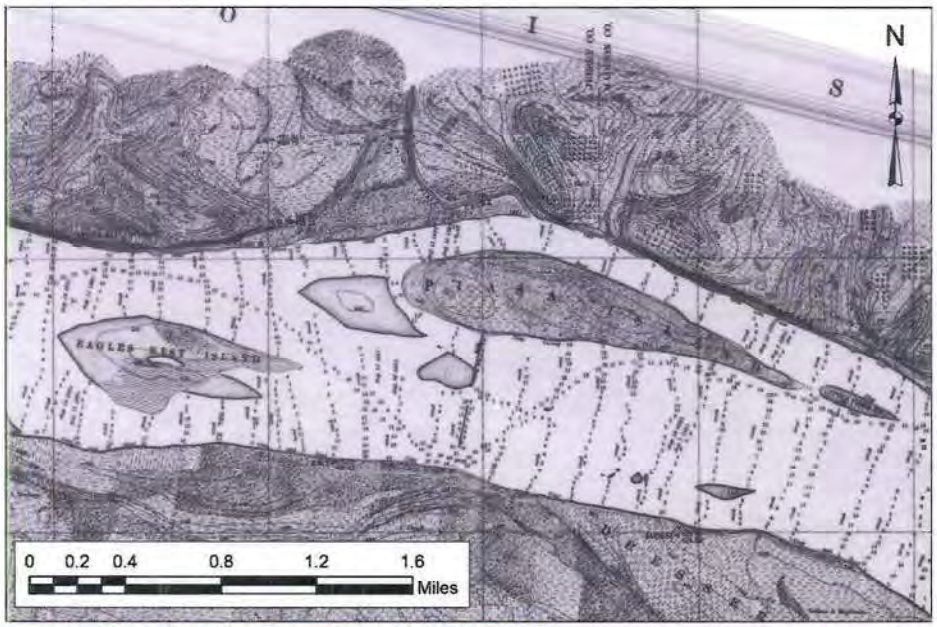


Figure 5. Mississippi River Commission, 1890, Chart 118.

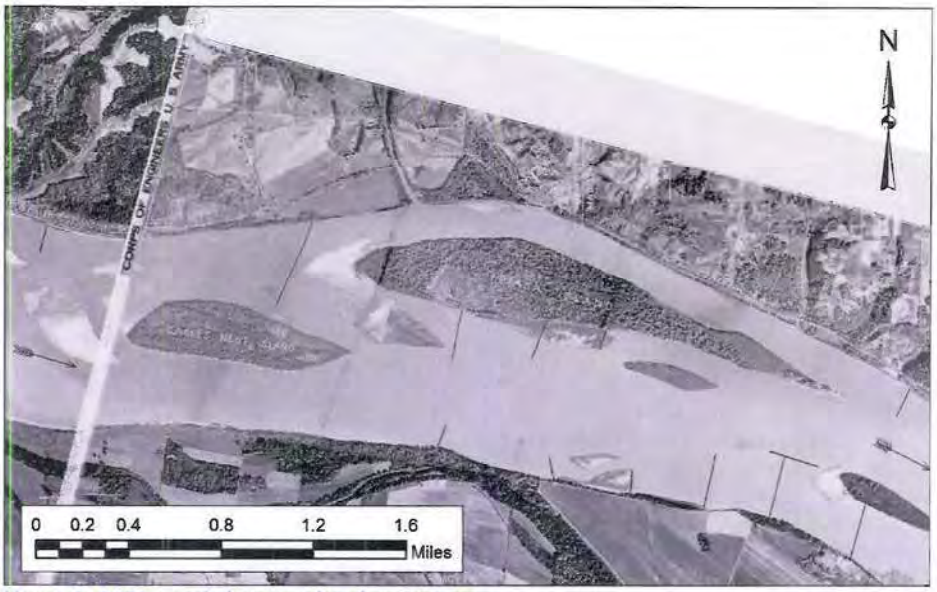


Figure 6. 1931 aerial photographs of project area.

Figure 7. 1942 Corps of Engineer map showing land acquisition (hatches indicate title vested in federal government).

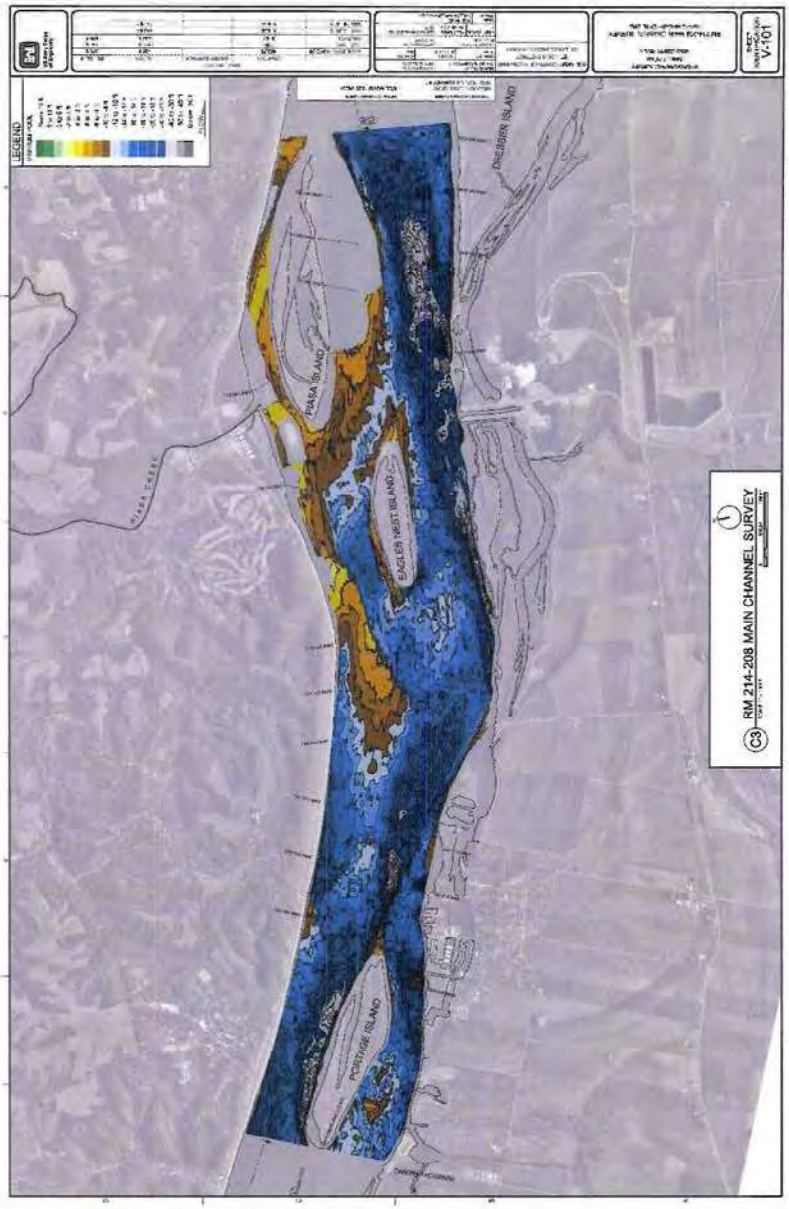


Figure 8. 2015 Bathymetric model of project area.

11

References Cited

House Document, Otherwise Publ. as Executive Documents: 13th Congress, 2d Session-49 Congress, 1st Session. n.d. "Private Land Claims in Missouri (Doc. No. 79)" Government Publishing, Washington D.C.

Report of the Chief of Engineers. 1881. Appendices. Government Printing Office, Washington.

Report of the Chief of Engineers. 1883. Appendices. Government Printing Office, Washington.

Report of the Chief of Engineers. 1890. Appendices. Government Printing Office, Washington.

Report of the Chief of Engineers. 1895. Appendices. Government Printing Office, Washington.

Report of the Chief of Engineers. 1907. Appendices. Government Printing Office, Washington.

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1512

FAX 217/524-7525
www.illinoishistory.gov

Various County
Alton
Mississippi River Pool 26, Madison & Jersey Counties
COESTL
Habitat Rehabilitation & Enhancement - Eagles Nest & Piasa Islands

PLEASE REFER TO: IHPA LOG #005101916

November 2, 2016

Michael K. Trimble, Ph.D., Chief
Department of the Army
St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers
Curation and Archives Analysis Branch (EC-Z)
1222 Spruce St.
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Dear Chief Trimble:

We have reviewed the documentation submitted for the referenced project(s) in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4. Based upon the information provided, no historic properties are affected. We, therefore, have no objection to the undertaking proceeding as planned.

Please retain this letter in your files as evidence of compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This clearance remains in effect for two (2) years from date of issuance. It does not pertain to any discovery during construction, nor is it a clearance for purposes of the Illinois Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440).

If you are an applicant, please submit a copy of this letter to the state or federal agency from which you obtain any permit, license, grant, or other assistance.

Sincerely,

Rachel Leibowitz, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

For TTY communication, dial 888-440-9009. It is not a voice or fax line.

3. Tribal Coordination

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

December 2, 2014

Engineering and Construction Division
Curation and Archives Analysis Branch

COPY

Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74810-9381

Dear Governor Butler-Wolfe:

This letter addresses the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project at Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands. These two islands are located in Mississippi River, Pool 26, between River Miles 208 and 211 (see Attachment). Both islands are on the Illinois side of the main channel and located in Madison and Jersey Counties. The affected properties are located solely on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers fee-title property and are managed by the St. Louis District Rivers Project Office, with a portion of the land being managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources under a partnership agreement.

The 1890 Mississippi River Commission Map of the Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands area shows two isolated sand bars at the head of Piasa Island and small vegetated islands on the riverside and at the tail end of Piasa Island. The imagery from 1941 (post-Lock 26 construction) shows only the two islands, and the imagery from 2012 show the two islands in the same location as the 1890 map.

The existing habitat conditions, future needs and proposed general actions that are being proposed for habitat restoration on the Upper Mississippi River calls for restoration of secondary channel habitat, island habitat, and contiguous backwater in Pool 26. An opportunity exists to restore depth, reduce erosion, enhance aquatic habitat diversity, and restore some of the historic islands and sand bars. The goals of this project are to restore and improve the quality and diversity of aquatic, island, and wetland ecosystem resources within the project area. This proposed project will seek to enhance secondary channel depth and restore flow diversity, restore a more diverse island complex, enhance backwater depth diversity, and restore emergent aquatic vegetation. The following are some of the potential measures that could be implemented.

Dredging—Dredge channels in the interior backwater of Piasa Island.

Structures—Chevrons and rock dikes.

COPY

Island/Sand bar formation—The dredge material would be placed behind constructed chevrons on the riverside of Piasa Island and between Eagle's Nest and Piasa Islands.

Erosion protection structures—Off-bank rock structures at the head of Eagle's Nest and Piasa Islands to prevent erosion and create.

The place, number, and type of structures, islands, and sand bars is contingent on the results of more testing. A Hydraulic Sediment Response Model will be developed during the remainder of Fiscal Year 2015, which will determine the best location of any river training structures needed to meet the project goal and objectives. Historically, there have been eagles' nests on the two islands. Two mussel beds have been identified during a 2014 mussel survey, and there is a known heron rookery at the head of Eagle's Nest Island. Proposed project features will take into consideration the location of these resources, and all construction guidelines provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be followed.

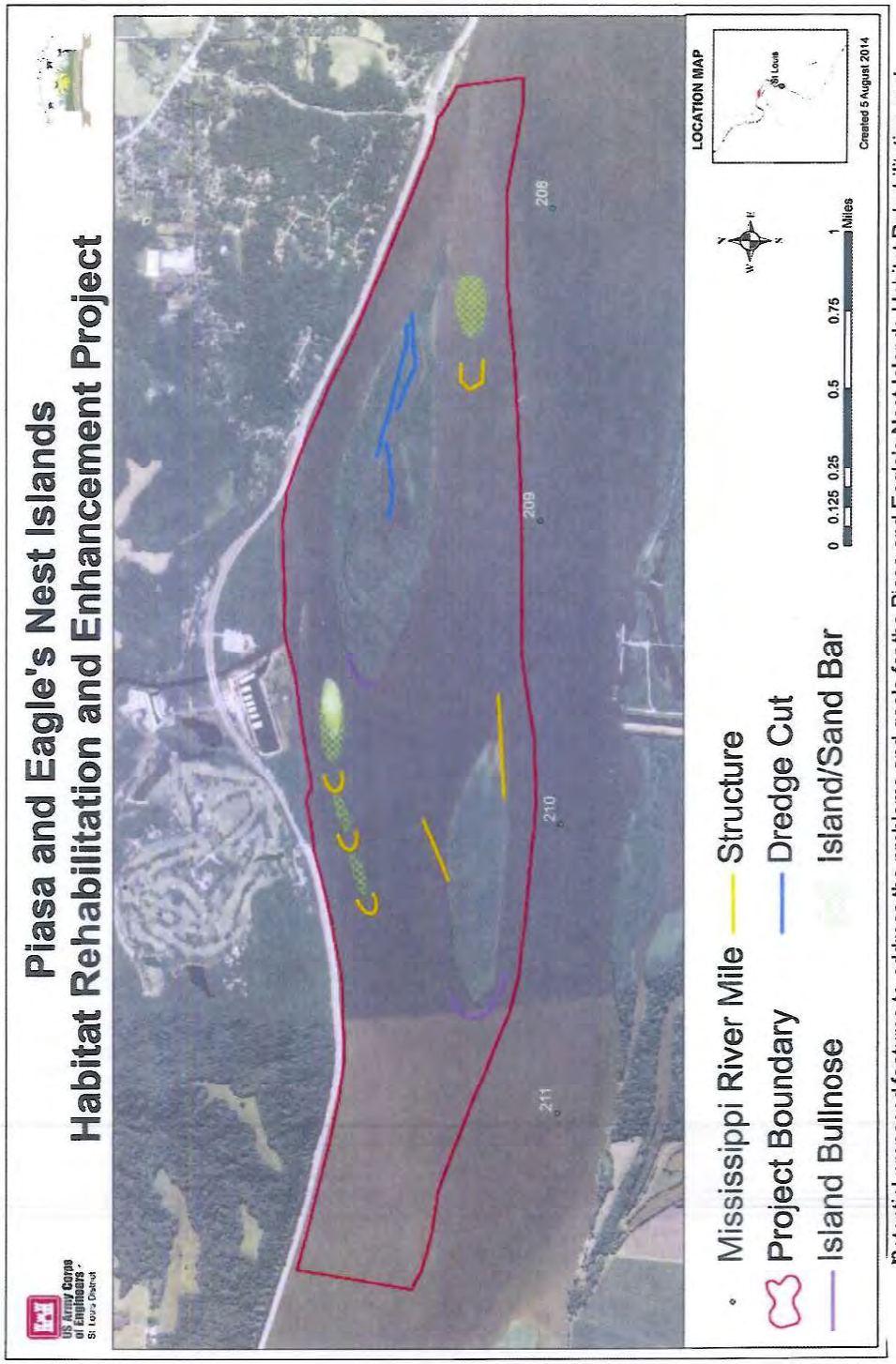
No on-site field inspection of the islands has been conducted as the current plans calls for all work to be conducted from the water. Archaeological site files have been researched, and no sites are listed for the islands. If the plan changes and work will take place on the island, then on-site field inspection of the islands will take place and any potentially significant archaeological properties will be evaluated for National Register eligibility. Should an inadvertent discovery of human remains occur, during dredging or any other activities associated with this project, all work will cease and the St. Louis District will make sure that all laws are followed.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District is requesting that you review the map and information about the project and notify our office if you have any concerns about traditional cultural properties, sacred sites, or other resources that many be located on the islands or on the shores near the islands. Please notify our office no later than January 26, 2015, if you have any areas of concern. If you have questions regarding this matter place contact Ms. Roberta L. Hayworth, Native American Coordinator at (314) 331-8833, or by electronic mail at Roberta.l.hayworth@usace.army.mil. Thank you in advance for your timely review of this request. A copy of this letter has been furnished to Mr. Joseph Blanchard.

Sincerely,

for Michael K. Trimble, Ph.D.
Chief, Curation and Archives
Analysis Branch

Attachment



Potential proposed features to address the problems and goals for the Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project.

Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 70
407 N. Hwy 102
McLoud, Oklahoma 74851

Administration Department
Phone: 405-964-7053; Fax: 405-964-7065
Email: kwilson@kickapootribeofoklahoma.com

January 8, 2015

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District
ATTN: Ms. Roberta L. Hayworth
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

RE: Upper Mississippi River Restoration Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project at Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands; Madison and Jersey Counties, Illinois

Dear Ms. Hayworth:

Thank you for consulting with the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma in regard to the above referenced site(s). At this time, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma has no objections to the proposed project at the intended site(s). However, in the event burial remains and/or artifacts are discovered during the development or construction process, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma would ask for immediate notification of such findings.

Should I be of any further assistance, please contact me at (405) 964-4227.

Sincerely,

Kent Collier
NAGPRA Contact
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

Cc: File

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Date: January 15, 2015 **File: 1415-1128IL-1**

RE: DOD, Upper Mississippi River Restoration Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projecct at Piasa and Eagle's Nest Island, Madison and Jersey Counties

St. Louis District, USACE
Roberta Hayworth
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Dear Ms. Hayworth,

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office has evaluated your submission regarding the proposed DOD, Upper Mississippi River Restoration Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projecct at Piasa and Eagle's Nest Island, Madison and Jersey Counties and determined that the proposed project most likely **will not adversely affect properties of cultural or sacred significance to the Osage Nation. The finding of this NHPA Section 106 review has resulted in a determination of "No Properties."**

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, (NHPA) [54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.] 1966, undertakings subject to the review process are referred to in 54 U.S.C. § 302706 (a), which clarifies that historic properties may have religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes. Additionally, Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties (36 CFR Part 800) as does the National Environmental Policy Act (43 U.S.C. 4321 and 4331-35 and 40 CFR 1501.7(a) of 1969). **The Osage Nation concurs that as a part of the scoping process the Department of Defense fulfilled NHPA and NEPA compliance by consulting with the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office in regard to the proposed project referenced as DOD, Upper Mississippi River Restoration Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projecct at Piasa and Eagle's Nest Island, Madison and Jersey Counties .**

The Osage Nation has vital interests in protecting its historic and ancestral cultural resources. We do not anticipate that this project will adversely impact any cultural resources or human remains protected under the NHPA, NEPA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or Osage law. **If, however, artifacts or human remains are discovered during project construction, we ask that work cease immediately and the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office be contacted.**

Should you have any questions or need any additional information please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for consulting with the Osage Nation on this matter.

Andrea A. Hunter, Ph.D.
Director, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

John Fox
Archaeologist

627 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056, (918) 287-5328, Fax (918) 287-5376

4. Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

a. 09 September 2014

Attendees:
Brian Markert (USACE – PM)
Tim Eagan (USACE – PM)
Kat McCain (USACE – Planning)
Charlie Deutsch (USACE – RPO)
John Gineris – Migratory Waterfowl Hunters Inc.
Scott Bryant – Illinois Federation of Outdoor Resources
Butch Atwood – IL DNR Fisheries
Kim Postelwait – IL DNR MRA
Randy Holbrook – IL DNR
Butch Rister – Alton Motorboat Club
Brett Stawar – Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau
Ali Ringhauser – Great Rivers Land Trust

After introductions, Brian Markert provided a brief historical perspective of the Project Area including showing historic aerial images. Historically, the area had a lot more islands. Markert also provided background information from the approved fact sheet.

A tentative project timeline was provided to the group of a 2 year planning effort, and 3-5 years before construction is started.

Since the Project Area is highly visible to the public, this HREP could be an opportunity to educate the public and become an educational point of interest along the Great River Road.

Lower end of Piasa side channel is very shallow. Source of sediment was discussed by the group. Previously sediment from Piase Creek Watershed upland erosion was a source, but large effort of 300+ structures has substantially reduced sediment input from upland erosion. 2007 computer model by Jasen Brown attributed bigger load of sediment coming from up river. Piasa Creek Watershed Study found that main erosion problem within the watershed is from field edge gully erosion. Great Rivers Land Trust has additional information on sediment reduction.

Stakeholder Discussion and Comments

- Historically, Piasa Island was referred to Scott's Jimmy Island
- In the 2007 aerial, what time of year?
- Currently, small sand island within Piasa side channel has willows becoming established
- Stakeholders expressed interest in the HSR Model. As the model is moved forward stakeholders will be asked to participate during model development.
- Maintain flow between islands – do not want a complete closure between the islands; not opposed to a notch structure to maintain flow for mussels and fish
- No concern with moving duck blinds
- Piasa Island Slough:
    - Even in low pool still 2-3 feet deep
    - Sand plug
    - High ridge through middle of island
    - Flocculent/silty bottom at upper end
    - No need for dredge cut through entire island
- Look at idea of placing structures on Piasa Island IL side at lower end of side channel to keep flow ; in terms of recreational access – width at lower end of side channel only needs to be wide enough to maintain boat access
- Prefer chevron idea for island creation and flow diversity

- Use of geotubes was mentioned
- Stakeholders preferred a phased approach for feature construction
- Stakeholders preferred having an adaptive management plan/approach

b. 14 October 2014

Attendees: Randy Holbrook (IDNR), Rob Maher (IDNR), Butch Atwood (IDNR), Kim Postlewait (IDNR), Ashley Cox (USACE – river engineer), Katy Fechter (USACE-RPO), Brian Markert (USACE – UMRR Program Manager), Tim Eagan (USACE – UMRR Project Manager), and Kat McCain (USACE – biologist/planner)

Purpose: Project Delivery Team seeking concurrence from stakeholders on project goals and objectives.

Introduction:

- USACE shared with stakeholders that a Hydraulic Sediment Response model will be conducted during FY15
- Project Sponsor: IDNR

Problem Identification: Ideas shared by stakeholders:

- Within Piasa Island slough, loss/lack of slackwater habitat
- Loss of depth in Piasa side channel
- Loss of diverse island complex
- Loss of emergent wetlands

Opportunities:

- Maintain/enhance existing mussel resources
- Improve flow and depth of Piasa side channel
- Improve slackwater habitat of Piasa Island by providing year-round connectivity with main channel
- Maintain/increase extent of emergent vegetation along island borders
- Increase island/sandbar habitat

Desired Conditions:

- Maintain existing deepwater habitat within side channel along Illinois bankline
- Maintain deepwater between islands
- Increased flow into side channel
- Utilize phased construction
- Year-round connectivity between Piasa Island slough and main channel

Other:

- Mussel beds are good indicators of good fish habitat (Maher)
- If dredging of slough occurs, then disposal should occur behind chevrons or other rock feature—not on islands
- Some discussion on location of historic mussel beds along IL side of Eagle's Nest. This area was not surveyed in the 2014 mussel survey. IDNR looked up historic mussel bed locations…. Past IDNR surveys did not indicate mussel bed along that area (Atwood)
    - Partners desire to have a mussel objective (see below Objective 1.d)
    - Look up other HREP projects from up north in terms of mussel objectives (Kat)
        - Objective 1.d. below is from Bertom McCartney HREP
- 3 cabins still exist on Piasa
- Desire to have low O&M
- North end of Eagle's Nest slightly eroding, but not a major concern
- Maintain unique habitat on lower end of Eagle's Nest
- Other interested stakeholder to be included in the future: Alton Water Ski Club (Eagan will contact)

- In terms of overwintering habitat, Piasa Island slough currently does not have overwintering habitat, but partners desire year-round connectivity. Need to look at Brown's Lake project for parameters used for overwintering habitat (Kat)

Potential Features Discussion:

- Cox provided an introduction on the path forward for the HSR model for the project area
- Some potential features were discussed
    - Bullnose on Eagle's Nest
    - Side Channel Enhancement Dike (SCED)
    - No continuous rock structure between islands
    - Dredging to cut plug out within Piasa Island slough
    - Interior chevron dike on Piasa similar to Bolters Island
- At this point, no potential features have been eliminated from consideration

DRAFT Problem Statements and objectives

Project Goal: To restore and improve the quality and diversity of aquatic, island, and wetland ecosystem resources within the Project Area

Problem 1: Loss of depth and flow in Piasa side channel.

Objective 1a: During normal pool elevation, provide XXXX acre-feet of deep aquatic habitat greater than 6 feet in depth by Year 50.

Objective 1b: Decrease sedimentation rate to XXX inches per year by Year 50

Objective 1c: Provide a diversity of water velocities within the side channel by Year 50 (NEED specific desired velocities listed)

Objective 1d. Ensure adequate water flow over freshwater mussel beds throughout period of analysis.

Problem 2: Loss of year-round connectivity between Piasa Island slough and main channel of Mississippi River

Objective 2. Provide year-round connectivity with a diversity of water velocities (including <1 cm/sec flow during low flow) and adequate water depths (>5 feet) by Year 50.

Problem 3: Loss of diverse island complex.

Objective 3a: Maintain existing acreage of island habitat with Project Area throughout period of analysis.

Objective 3b. Restore XXX acres of new island habitat within Project Area by Year 50.

Problem 4: Loss of emergent wetland

Objective 4a. Maintain existing acreage of emergent vegetation within the Project Area throughout the period of analysis.

Objective 4b. Restores XXX acres of emergent vegetation habitat by Year 50.

c. 11 March 2015

Meeting Purpose: I The St. Louis District is currently developing a HSR model to study the area as part of the project. The goal of this meeting is to coordinate with all parties during the model development and gain insight on the project site.

Attendees:

USACE: Brian Markert (PM), Tim Eagan (PM), Ashley Cox (AREC), Kat McCain (PD), Dawn Lamm (H&H), Robert Cosgriff (RPO); Ben McGuire (RPO); Charlie Deutsch (RPO)

USFWS: Matt Mangan, Jason Wilson, Ken Dalrymple

INHS: Ben Lubinski, Eric Ratcliff, Eric Gittinger
IDNR: Butch Atwood, Rob Maher, Tim Krumwiede, Kim Postelwaite, Kenny Scott, Randy Holbrook
MWHI: John Gineris
Alton Motorboat Club: Butch Rister
Alton Waterski Club: Jonathon Wolff
Great Rivers Land Trust: Alley Ringhausen (+ 2 board members)
IFOR: Scotty Bryant
Brad Mahrer
Brett Stawar
Bernie Heroff

Meeting Notes

Eagan provided a brief overview of the project

McCain provided a brief overview of the status of the project in terms of the feasibility study

Cox provided an overview of the status the HSR model . She also provided the status the of existing structures in the project area (most were not found with side-scan survey; see last page for field notes)

Large Group discussed the problems that have been identified thus far, and had group concurrence that these problems are the ones this project will look to address:

1) Loss of depth and flow in paisa chute
2) Loss of year-round connectivity and depth within Piasa Island Backwater
3) Loss of diverse island complex
4) Loss of wetlands

Large group discussed the goal and objectives identified thus far, and had group concurrence that the overall project goal and objectives (which still need a bit more fine tuning to make SMART) were correct

Small Breakout Group Discussion: After large group discussions, each table brainstormed on what types of features could be used to help solve the identified problems and meet the project goal and objectives. Below are the summaries by table:

<u>INHS TABLE/Eagan :</u>

- Want to increase flow and depth of Piasa Chute
- Want increased connectivity of the Piasa Island Backwater
- One question: where did the sediment come from? Past 8 years high flows = pool on tilt = so what is the source of sediment?
- Should buried structures be completely discounted? (Ashley has these in the model but they are buried, so they are accounted for in the model)
- Potential features:

<u>Bryant/Gineris/Atwood/Lamm/Mangan/McCain Table:</u>

1) Something to keep flow going through Piasa Chute
2) Keep access/flow into Piasa Island Backwater
3) Maintain the existing mussel/fish habitat
4) Maintain the "horseshoe" wetland on Eagle's Nest Island
5) Maintain deep habitat along Eagle's Nest Island
6) Keep other deep water habitat along MO bank (even though outside of scoped Project Area)

7) Should constructability be a constraint? Construction needs 9 feet… most likely will need to dredge for access
8) Throat of Piasa harbor has an eddy development that could be influencing sedimentation
9) What are the impacts of the Piasa Creek flooding? Hillside sedimentation?

IDNR/RPO/USFWS Table (McGuire):

- Increase flow and depth of Piasa Chute
- J Hook/chevrons on Piasa to increase emergent wetlands
- Dredge paisa backwater

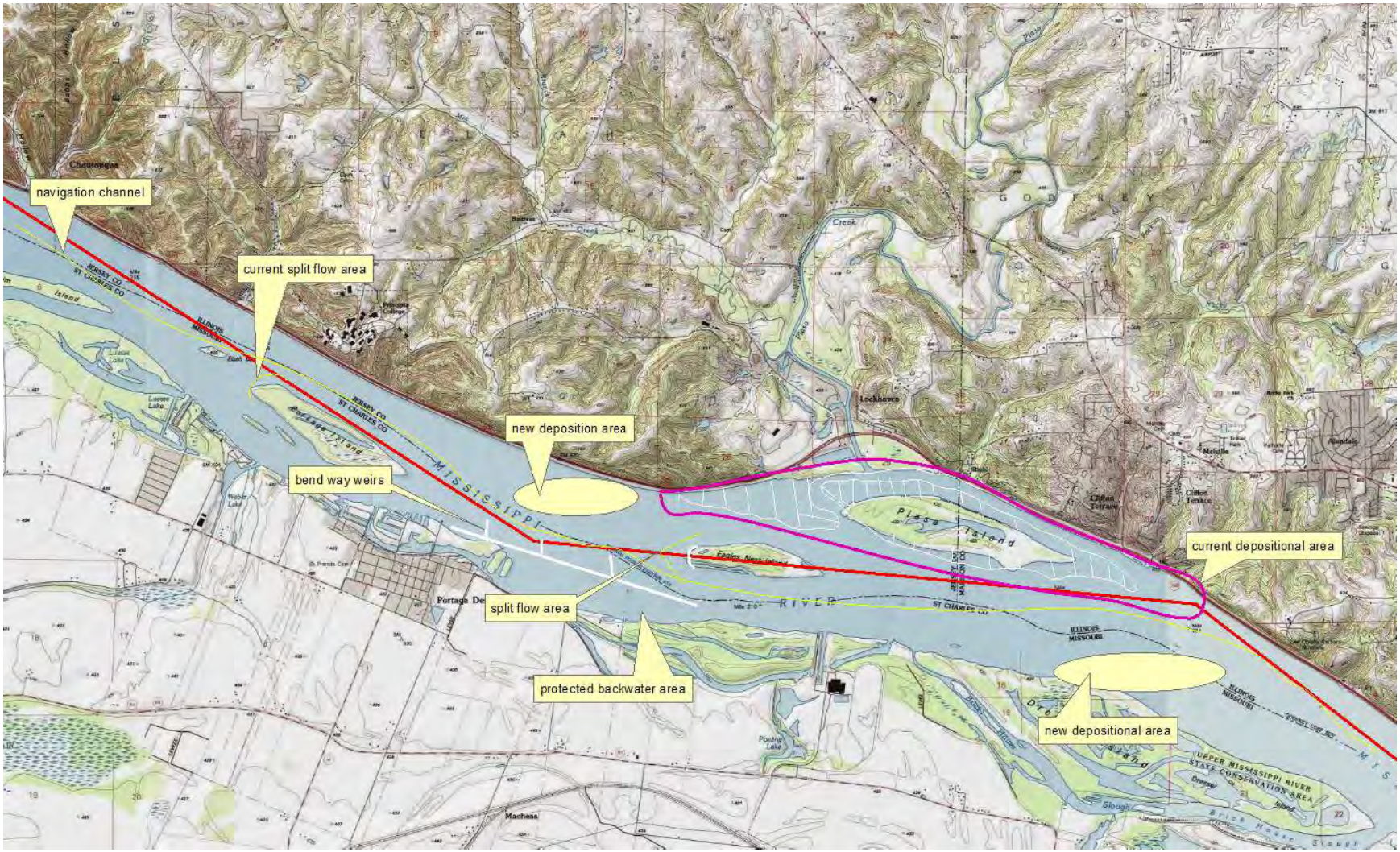
Overall small group discussions on features to look at for the HSR:

1) Chevrons for habitat and flow
2) Use of pile dikes vs. rock
3) Possibly use a chevron/bullnose on Piasa Island to protect and deflect flow
4) J-hooks on outside/main channel side of Piasa Island to increase island diversity
5) Hard points in Piasa Chute
6) Potential rock ledge that goes upstream around RM 211.2L – may be how the water had maintained the depth around Eagle's Nest Island Bullnose on islands
7) Piasa Island slough enhancement
8) Restore island diversity on nav side of Piasa
9) Consider raising existing structures

Additional Notes from Matt Mangan (USFWS) email; dated 11 March 2015

* Modifying Dikes from 211 to 212 RM - Recommend using rootless dikes or offset dikes to direct flow to the side channel. These structures may be more likely to create an additional island/bar while still getting flow to the side channel. May be some risk about pushing material into the side channel but the model should give us a good idea. Otherwise could look at MRS's which may create more fish habitat and direct the flow to the side channel?
* If bullnose structures are proposed for either island I would recommend that they be off bank to allow fish access behind the structures. In addition, if there are opportunities to incorporate woody debris into the structures that would be beneficial also.
* There may be opportunity to do something adjacent to Piasa Island at river mile 209ish (shallow water habitat or island). A chevron was mentioned for this location; however, I have concerns that a chevron may have the opposite effect. i.e. blow out the sand bar. Recommend looking at a rootless dike in this location also.
* Side channel structure (s) at 208.5 to maintain opening to backwater of Piasa Island. Would a small MRS work here? Otherwise recommend incorporating woody debris into structure if possible. This is where it would be good to still have the pile dike capability. This would be a good location for one or a pile/rock combo dike

Additional ideas from Ken Dalrymple (USFWS)



Site Visit/Side Scan: Feb 11, 2015, Max Pool

River Mile	Primary Material	Dike Type/ID	Length	Field Notes
212.90R	Rock	Spur	800	Saw it at the bank all the way to the end, was about 8-9 ft tall and tapered off to about 5 ft towards the end
212.70L		Spur	265	Couldn't see
212.40R	Rock	Spur	435	saw it all the way, was approximately 10 ft tall
212.20R	Rock	Trail	980	found it all the way
212.30L	Rock	Spur	960	This was a wide dike, approximately 10-11 ft tall, goes all the way to the end
212.00L	Rock	Spur	1330	This dike was not straight, exists all the way to the end,not very wide
211.60L	Rock	Spur	800	on the bankline side, dike was about 18 ft wide, there was about a 2.5-3 ft height difference between the dikes (one notch) - the riverward portion was short and covered in sediment at end toward main channel (this was notched more than once in old ENC)
211.60L	Rock	Spur	465	
211.30L	Rock	Spur	770	Not very long (maybe 100 ft?), approximately 13 ft deep and was about 2.5 ft higher than the bar/bed
211.20L		Spur	165	Couldn't see
210.00L		Spur	820	Couldn't see
210.00L		Spur	1315	Couldn't see
209.20R	Pile/Rock	Spur	640	couldn't tell how deep/high it was - in deep scour
209.20L		Closure	945	never found - lots of fish around that spot
209.30L		Spur	1240	Couldn't see
208.90L		Spur	1020	Couldn't see
208.80R	Rock	Spur	700	It was notched on the ENC, hard to tell if it was in field, approximately 10 ft off bed
208.50L		Spur	1200	Couldn't see
208.40R	Rock	Spur	950	approximately 6 ft off bed
208.30L		Spur	240	Couldn't see
208.00R	Rock	Spur	1370	it was notched on the ENC, about 4-4.5 ft off the bed
207.60R	Rock	Spur	620	exists by the bankside, but towards channel does not

*Note: No rock was seen above the water surface: compared to the EGIS Dike shapefile
-Structures more accurate according to the old ENC charts that survey group had on computer

d. 26 August 2015

Meeting Purpose: The US Army Corps of Engineers – St. Louis District has finished calibrating the Hydraulic Sediment Response Model and will be presenting the model to the partners and stakeholders. The team will also

present findings from the development of the model. Lastly, the St. Louis District will solicit ideas for potential measures for the problems and opportunities of the project

Location: Applied River Engineering Center

Attendees:

USACE: Tim Eagan (PM), Kat McCain (PD), Dawn Lamm ,(H&H), Charlie Deutsch (RPO), Brad Krischel (AREC), Jasen Brown (H&H), Rob Davinroy (AREC), Mike Rodgers (H&H), Monique Savage (PD)
USFWS: Ken Dalrymple
INHS: Ben Lubinski, Eric Ratcliff
IDNR: Butch Atwood, Rob Maher, Kenny Scott, Randy Holbrook, Regan Ramsey
MWHI: John Gineris
MDC: Sarah Peper
Alton Motorboat Club: Butch Rister
Alton Waterski Club: Jonathon Wolff, Norm Rhea
Great Rivers Land Trust: Alley Ringhausen

Agenda

1) Introductions
2) Project Brief
3) HSR Discussion
4) Project Timeline
5) Questions

Meeting Notes

Eagan provided a brief overview of the project

The problems and opportunities as outlined in the draft report were shared with the group again, and the group concurred that these are still the problems and opportunities the project should address.

Krischel provided brief on HSR model:

- Background on what an HSR model is
- Discussed how the model was calibrated
- Shared new data that was collected to assist in calibrating the model
- Group had some discussion on what the unknown "mystery" feature just upstream of Eagle's Nest Island. Thus far have had no luck collecting sediment grabs in this area. Davinroy shared that this "mystery" structure is acting like a river training structure and appears to be holding material back. No one present knew what the "mystery" structure is. There is an abrupt drop so that should mean there is something there – not just sand deposition. This "mystery" structure appears to be a dominant feature influencing the project area.
- Krischel discussed the additional historical records that were found that showed additional river training structures that were not in USACE's historic database. The 1932 georeferenced map was shown to the group. Multi-beam survey does confirm that these structures do exist.
- ADCP of the Project Area was also shown to the group. Piasa Chute has minimal flow at all depths. In terms of the "mystery" structure the deeper ADCP readings did show a flow split around the structure
- In terms of the 2015 bathymetry surveys, Eagan shared that areas with no data does not necessarily mean it was too shallow to survey. The survey boat was unable to survey some of these areas due to large amounts of woody debris.
- Krischel shared the prototype scans, model replication scans, and one "EXTREME" alternative scan. The "Extreme" alternative consisted of an appx 2 mile long SCED just downstream of the "mystery " structure.

This alternative was able to get some energy back into Piasa Chute, but shared that the cost of constructing a 2 mile long rock structure would be expensive.

Group Discussed Potential Ideas to be ran in the HSR Model:

1) Diverter Dike
2) Traditional Structures
3) Remove "mystery" structure
4) Simulated dredge cuts (how long would these last?)
5) Manipulate existing structures
6) Use of wood pile dikes
7) Use of flexible dredge pipe and beneficial use of dredged material to restore sand bar islands
8) Island bullnoses
9) Mimic "St. Paul" islands
10) Desired depth of side channel 5-6 feet during drawdown
11) Dredge Piasa backwater slough area

The following were things identified that the team shared that will be kept in mind as we move forward:

1) Location of existing mussel beds
2) Constructability – will most likely have to dig a channel for construction access, even to dredge

Project timeline was briefly shared with a target of the HSR model complete in October. HSR alternative meeting with the partners in November. TSP in March 2016. Public Review in 2017. Approved report in July 2017, and potential construction in 2018.

e. 9 September 2016 (Tentatively Selected Plan Discussion with Sponsor)

Attendees: Tim Eagan (USACE-PM), Brian Markert (USACE-PM), Randy Holbrook (IDNR), Kenny Scott (IDNR), Mark Phipps (IDNR-Natural Heritage), Charlie Deutsch (USACE – RPO), Shelby Korhmann (USACE-PM), Kat McCain (USACE-PD), Butch Atwood (IDNR- Fisheries), Rob Maher (IDNR Fisheries), Tim Krumwiede (IDNR Wildlife), Brad Krischel (USACE-EC), Jasen Brown (USACE-EC)

Agenda:

- Project Status Update
- Go over Cost Effectiveness/Incremental Cost Analysis Best Buy Alternatives
- USACE PDT TSP Selection Recommendation
- DECISION POINT: Sponsor concurrence on TSP Selection

Meeting Minutes:

- Eagan (PM) provided brief project overview and status update
    - USACE PDT provided maps of each of the alternatives (minus the no action alternative)
    - Krischel and Brown discussed project measures and AdH model outputs for each alternative
    - IDNR comments:
        - Are the notches necessary in the rock structure?
            - USACE: No notches was ran in the model, but minimal increase in flow within Piasa Chute but overall loss in flow entering the whole complex, USACE this loss of overall flow would be detrimental and the no notch option was screened out
        - Are the notch number and placement finalized?
            - USACE: No, this is at a 25% level for planning design. The placement of the notches can be optimized. The planning study will provide a 35% level of design that will than go into plans and specs for 100% level design after the report is

approved. The planning study seeks to capture intent and function of the proposed measures.

- In terms of the backwater dredging, just removing the sediment plug but not deepening the interior would not provide additional fisheries benefit. The sediment plug has accelerated into the side channel- not so much into the backwater.
    - USACE: Dredging the entire backwater to 10 feet was found not to be worth it due to the very high cost with little added habitat output. The shape of the dredge cut for the minimum backwater dredging option will be optimized with further design.
- In terms of fisheries habitat, the Project should benefit all native riverine fishes. Lake Sturgeon have been collected in the vicinity. No adverse effects are anticipated for any of the state-listed fishes
- Are there any legal concerns with the island building?
    - USACE: The new islands are designed to 421 to match the head of Piasa Island. We will discuss the need for further modeling to ensure why comply with no increased flood heights.

DECISION POINT: The Project Sponsor, IDNR, had unanimous concurrence that Alternative 4 as the Tentatively Selected Plan. Which includes the following measures:

Measure	**Quantity**	**Unit**
200 ft Braided Dredge Cut		
Stone for 3 braided islands	60,7000	TN
Stone for Upstream Rootless Island ("blob")	56,000	TN
Stone for Riverside Piasa Island	29,900	TN
Dredging – disposal 3 braided islands	177,000	CY
Dredging – disposal rootless island	233,000	CY
Dredging – disposal Riverside Piasa Island	475,000	CY
Notched Rock Structure between Piasa & Eagles Nest	42,400	TN
Backwater Dredging*	156,000	CY

*material assumed to be finer material and will be used to cap newly constructed islands; approximately raise the newly constructed islands by 1 additional foot (422); no substantial increase in surface area of new islands. Total acres of constructed island habitat = 76.43 acres

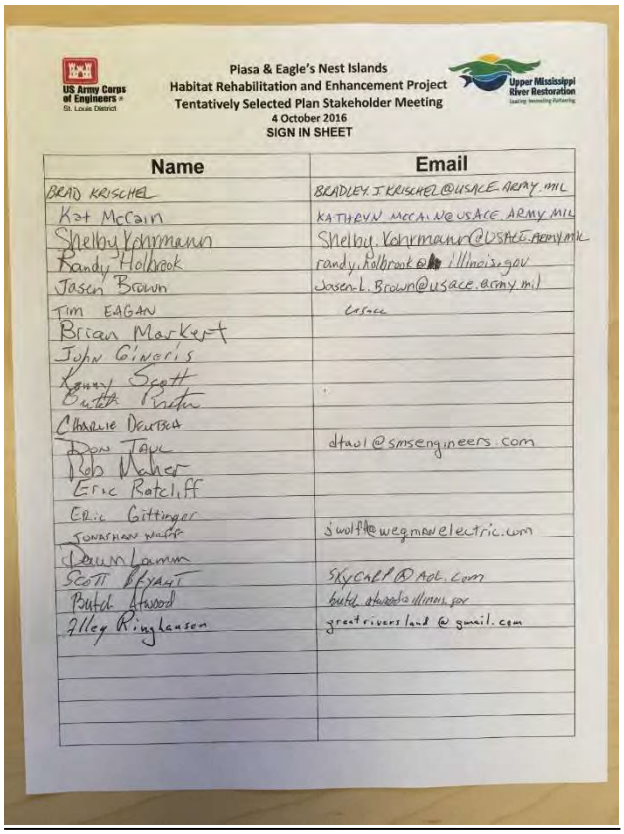
NEXT STEPS: USACE will set up meeting with NGOs/other stakeholders to discuss the TSP; USACE will optimize the minimum backwater dredging design, and rock structure design.

f. 04 October 2016 (Tentatively Selected Plan Discussion with Stakeholders)

Agenda:

- Feasibility Study Status Update
- Overview of each Alternative
- Tentatively Selected Plan Selection and Feedback from Stakeholders

Attendees:



US Army Corps of Engineers – St. Louis District

Piasa & Eagle's Nest Islands
Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project
Tentatively Selected Plan Stakeholder Meeting
4 October 2016
SIGN IN SHEET

Upper Mississippi River Restoration

Name	Email
BRAD KRISCHEL	BRADLEY.J.KRISCHEL@USACE.ARMY.MIL
Kat McCain	KATHRYN.MCCAIN@USACE.ARMY.MIL
Shelby Kohrmann	Shelby.Kohrmann@USACE.ARMY.MIL
Randy Holbrook	randy.holbrook@illinois.gov
Jasen Brown	Jasen.L.Brown@usace.army.mil
Tim EAGAN	
Brian Markert	
John Ginoris	
[illegible] Scott	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	dtaul@smsengineers.com
[illegible]	
Eric Ratcliff	
Eric Gittinger	
[illegible]	jwolfe@wegmanelectric.com
[illegible]	
Scott [illegible]	SKYCAPT@AOL.com
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	greatriverland@gmail.com

Meeting Minutes:

Introductions

Eagan provided project overview and update to the group.

Additional technical information provided by technical team (Krischel, Brown, McCain, and Markert) as needed.

- Islands built to 421 feet
- Rock Structure built to 421 feet
- All dredging (Piasa Chute & backwater) cut to 10 feet below minimum pool (415.5 ft)
- Notches in rock structure are 400ft each and increase flow and bathymetric diversity currently lacking in the Project Area
- All new islands will be keyed in with rock

Eagan provided tentative schedule and cost

Some discussion on the benefits/costs for the 200 ft vs. 300 ft Piasa Chute Dredge Cut

Overall, the sponsor stakeholders provided positive/supportive comments about the proposed project

No controversial or negative comments received

DUE OUTS:

- Eagan to send out draft tentatively selected plan to the attendees
- Brown/Jasen/Guntren to update alternative maps showing rock placement on the new islands

5. USACE Project Delivery Team Meeting Minutes

The USACE Project Delivery Team held weekly to monthly meetings during the course of the feasibility study. The team meeting minutes are part of the electronic administrative record and are available upon request.

6. IDNR ITAC

From: Skufca, Jenny
To: Emily Grossman; Mccain, Kathryn MVS
Cc: Heidi Dunn
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: FW: IL threatened mussel collected (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 10:31:38 AM

Emily,

Thank you very much for providing scans of your permits. Specific site authorization is not necessary. However, the permit folks appreciate receipt of any reports generated under the E/T permit, so that the IDNR is able to track potential cumulative impacts to species by location.

Dr. McCain,

Thank you for notifying the IDNR of the event. Since handling a State-listed species in Illinois is statutorily considered a form of take, I am required to confirm that such handling was performed under a current permit. Please keep the IDNR apprised of your project, if you believe that State-listed species could be impacted by any project actions.

Thanks, all.

Jenny

Jenny Skufca

Incidental Take Authorization Coordinator

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way

Springfield, IL 62702

(217)557-8243

From: Emily Grossman [mailto:egrossman@ecologicalspecialists.com]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Mccain, Kathryn MVS; Skufca, Jenny
Cc: Heidi Dunn
Subject: Re: FW: IL threatened mussel collected (UNCLASSIFIED)

Kat & Jenny,

Attached are scans of T&E permits for me and Heidi Dunn (we both worked on this project). We did not see anything on the permits requiring us to get site-specific authorization for this project. If, in the future, we do need to get site-specific authorization for Illinois surveys, please let me know what the appropriate procedure is/who to contact and we would be happy to do so.

We collected 2 Ellipsaria lineolata during the course of this project. Both individuals were returned to the locations where they were found. I sent a reporting form to Tara Kieninger for inclusion in the IL Natural Heritage Database, and can provide any additional information if you would like it. Please let me know if this answers your questions.

Thank you,

Emily Grossman

Ecological Specialists, Inc.

On Mon, Aug 18, 2014 at 10:44 AM, Mccain, Kathryn MVS <Kathryn.Mccain@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Can you help me out with the request below? Coordination with IDNR for the state-listed mussel collected at Piasa

Thanks!

-----Original Message-----
From: Skufca, Jenny [mailto:Jenny.Skufca@Illinois.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 10:32 AM
To: Mccain, Kathryn MVS
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: IL threatened mussel collected (UNCLASSIFIED)

Dr. McCain,

Thank you for your message regarding the collection of the State-threatened butterfly mussel during a survey for a proposed ecosystem restoration project. Was the mussel returned to the location where it was found, relocated to another location, or vouchered? If the individual was not vouchered, could you please provide a GPS location for the State-listed species to be added to the Illinois Natural Heritage Database? I was unable to locate either an E/T permit or an Incidental Take Authorization for this work between RM 207.5 and 211.5. Can you provide a scan of the permit held by the USACOE or the consultant for this work? Please let me know if further clarification is needed. Thank you for your assistance.

Jenny

Jenny Skufca
Incidental Take Authorization Coordinator
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
(217)557-8243

-----Original Message-----
From: Mccain, Kathryn MVS [mailto:Kathryn.Mccain@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 9:53 AM
To: Szafoni, Robert
Subject: IL threatened mussel collected (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Robert,

We recently had a mussel survey conducted on the Mississippi River between RM 207.5 and 211.5 (Madison and Jersey counties) for a proposed ecosystem restoration project at Piasa and Eagle's Nest Island under Upper Mississippi River Restoration (formerly known as Environmental Management Program). The draft report states two individuals of Ellipsaria lineolata were collected near the toe of Piasa Island. The project is still in early planning, and the project team is pursuing a project objective of enhancing mussel habitat in the project area.

In terms of the state-listed species, what requirement/documentation is needed, so I can incorporate this information into the project planning process.

Thank you!

cheers,

Kat McCain

Dr. Kathryn N.S. McCain
Ecologist
Regional Planning and Environment Division North - Environmental Planning Branch (CEMVP PD-P) St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1222 Spruce St.
St. Louis MO 63103-2833
314-331-8047
Kathryn.McCain@usace.army.mil

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." - Baba Dioum

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

7. IDNR EcoCAT

EcoCAT
Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Applicant:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	*IDNR Project Number:*	1703666
Contact:	Kat McCain	*Date:*	10/14/2016
Address:	1222 Spruce Street St. Louis , MO 63103	*Alternate Number:*	1405192

Project: Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project
Address: Route 100, Godfrey

Description: The proposed project is in the feasibility phase under the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program. Potential project measures include dredging Piasa Chute, dredging Piasa Island backwater, notched rock structure, and beneficially re-using the dredged material to build islands with stone protection.

Natural Resource Review Results

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Principia Hill Prairies East INAI Site
Principia Hill Prairies - East Natural Heritage Landmark
Gray Bat *(Myotis grisescens)*
Indiana Bat *(Myotis sodalis)*
Indiana Bat *(Myotis sodalis)*
Timber Rattlesnake *(Crotalus horridus)*

An IDNR staff member will evaluate this information and contact you to request additional information or to terminate consultation if adverse effects are unlikely.

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Jersey	*County:* Madison
Township, Range, Section:	*Township, Range, Section:*
6N, 11W, 25	, ,
6N, 11W, 26	, ,
6N, 11W, 27	, ,
6N, 11W, 36	, ,
, ,	6N, 10W, 31

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact
Nathan Grider
217-785-5500
Division of Ecosystems & Environment

Government Jurisdiction
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Page 1 of 3

IDNR Project Number: 1703666

Disclaimer

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database cannot provide a conclusive statement on the presence, absence, or condition of natural resources in Illinois. This review reflects the information existing in the Database at the time of this inquiry, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations is required.

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1. The IDNR EcoCAT website was developed so that units of local government, state agencies and the public could request information or begin natural resource consultations on-line for the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act, Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, and Illinois Interagency Wetland Policy Act. EcoCAT uses databases, Geographic Information System mapping, and a set of programmed decision rules to determine if proposed actions are in the vicinity of protected natural resources. By indicating your agreement to the Terms of Use for this application, you warrant that you will not use this web site for any other purpose.

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3. IDNR reserves the right to enhance, modify, alter, or suspend the website at any time without notice, or to terminate or restrict access.

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Privacy

EcoCAT generates a public record subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Otherwise, IDNR uses the information submitted to EcoCAT solely for internal tracking purposes.

From: Grider, Nathan
To: McCain, Kathryn N CIV USARMY CEMVP (US)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Piasa and Eagle"s Nest Islands Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project 1703666
Date: Monday, November 28, 2016 1:33:53 PM

You can just send me the EA and I will review and make recommendations as needed. I can refer to this EcoCAT information request for the project area. No new one is needed.

Thanks
Nathan Grider
Biologist
Impact Assessment Section
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
(217) 524-0501
Fax: 217-524-4177
nathan.grider@illinois.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: McCain, Kathryn N CIV USARMY CEMVP (US) [mailto:Kathryn.Mccain@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 12:41 PM
To: Grider, Nathan
Subject: [External] RE: Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project 1703666

The EA is integrated into our feasibility planning study, and will be going to public review in the spring. So I'll be sure to get you on our distribution list when it becomes available for review. So I'd go with an information request for now. Will I have to do another EcoCAT request later or just send you the feasibility report with integrated EA when it becomes available for review?

Thanks!

cheers,

Kat McCain

Dr. Kathryn N.S. McCain
Chief, Environmental Planning Section
Regional Planning and Environment Division North (CEMVP PD-P) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1222 Spruce St.
St. Louis MO 63103-2833
office: 314-331-8047
BB: 314-296-1104
Kathryn.McCain@usace.army.mil

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." - Baba Dioum

-----Original Message-----
From: Grider, Nathan [mailto:Nathan.Grider@Illinois.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 11:48 AM
To: McCain, Kathryn N CIV USARMY CEMVP (US) <Kathryn.Mccain@usace.army.mil>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project 1703666

Hi Kat,

Do you have an EA and scoping request document ready for this yet? I recommend I comment when that is available and using the EcoCAT report to consider the resources in your document. Thus, I can terminate this review as an "information request" for now.

Sound good?

Thanks

Nathan Grider

Biologist

Impact Assessment Section

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way

Springfield, IL 62702

(217) 524-0501

Fax: 217-524-4177

nathan.grider@illinois.gov <mailto:nathan.grider@illinois.gov>

8. Piasa Public Comments from Rivers Project Master Plan Public Review April 2014

Public Comments Card Received at Public Open House for Rivers Project Master Plan at National Great Rivers Museum on April 16, 2014

#1 Project > Piasa Ck. EMP
#2 Audubon Center Master Plan
Priority for implementation

Anonymous

Comments Received via Email Concerning the Rivers Project Master Plan Update
(A few comments may seem like duplicates, but they were sent from different email addresses)

Date: February 5, 2013

Our names are Edward and Lois Davis. We are members of the Alton Motorboat Club, the Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club, Ducks Unlimited and Migratory Waterfowl Hunters.

We are concerned about the access to the Mississippi River, especially via Piasa Creek. It is almost impossible to launch our boat because of the siltage that has built up at the mouth of the creek.

We pay for hunting and fishing licenses, trailer license, boat registration and boat and trailer insurance yet we do not get to enjoy our beautiful river because of the siltage.

We would appreciate your influence in putting the dredging of Piasa Creek access at the top of your priority list as the funds have been alloted for a study by President Obame.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Davis
Godfrey, IL 62035

Date: February 6, 2013

Ms Miller,

I am emailing you as a boater and fisherman having concerns over the access to Piasa Creek and the siltation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This situation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river. What can be done to clean up this siltation and blockage from the creek to the river and visa versa, from the river into the creek.

Any assistance is very much appreciated.
Mike Lawhon
Alton Motor Boat Club Member

Date: February 6, 2013

Sarah,

My husband & I am a boat owner and have some concerns about the siltation in the Mississippi River at Piasa Creek in Jersey County. We already have limited access to the river via our public areas and with all the silt in the area, it will be extremely hard to access the river at all this Spring . Any attention you can give this you could give this issue, would be greatly appreciated.

Anonymous

Date: February 6, 2013

Hello,
I am a boater and fisherman wanting to give my concerns regarding the siltation issues on the Mississippi River at the mouth of Piasa Creek. This issue needs to be addressed by the Corp as soon as possible. The situation is going to continue to get worse if something isn't done. We will not have access to the river for recreational purposes or to put food on our tables. We are trying to get folks to come to our area, not run them off.
Regards,
Karen M. Pearson
Godfrey, IL 62035

Date: February 7, 2013

Good Morning
I use the creek to gain access to the river 4 or 5 times a week during boating season for fishing in the Mississippi. I'm retired and love to catfish as often as possible. I know from past the corp builds models to study the effects of such actions and then takes it under advisement then nothing ever happens but here's hoping this time!
Cordially John Brandt

Date: February 7, 2013

Sarah Miller & whom also be concerned;
I love to fish and have a couple different boats. I use the creek a lot. Access to the creek at low water is a growing fear that one day we would not be able to get up the creek or into the river.
The shallow at the mouth of the creek could clog causing dramatic flooding up creek, it really wouldn't take much considering the amount of driftwood I witnessed flowing down the creek last year during a heavy rain.
Silting at the mouth is a growing problem for boaters.
Thanks for listening...

Bobby Jenkins

Date: February 7, 2013

being an active boater and fisherman I am very concerned about the Mississippi River access from the Piasa Creek area being cut off because of siltation, the island is moving down cutting off Piasa Creek I would appreciate anything the Army Corps of Engineers could do to insure river access. Thank you

Sent from my iPad

Date: February 7, 2013

Sarah,
My wife & I are boat owners and have some concerns about the siltation in the Mississippi River at Piasa Creek in Jersey County. We already have limited access to the river via our public access areas and with all the silt in the area,

it will be extremely hard to utilize the river at all this Spring. Any attention you could give this issue, would be greatly appreciated.

Dan Cronin

Date: February 8, 2013

Sarah,
I am a boat owner and have some concerns about the siltation in the Mississippi River at Piasa Creek in Jersey County. We already have limited access to the river via our public access areas and with all the silt in the area, it will be extremely hard to utilize the river at all this Spring. Any attention you could give this issue, would be greatly appreciated. Linda

Linda Johnson-Petterson
Industry-Wide Supply
PO Box 624
Alton, IL 62002-0624

Date: February 8, 2013

Good Morning Sarah,

I am writing you in regards to a long standing issue that affects boaters trying to access the Mississippi River from Piasa Creek. We have battled the build-up of silt in this area while trying to make our way out on to the Mississippi for a number of years. When we are unable to get out onto the river it also has an affect on local businesses, whom we support by purchasing such things as fuel, groceries, stopping at restaurants in towns like Grafton, Hardin, Kampsville, etc. located on our beautiful scenic water ways.

Please encourage the Corps of Engineers to appropriate funds to address this crucial area in Piasa Creek as well as the public access area nearby.

Thank you in adavance for any assistance you may be able to provide.

Jeff Davis
Dow, IL

Date: February 8, 2013

Hi Sarah,

I feel compelled to write to you about the status of Piasa creek and the amount of silt that continues to build. If the situation worsens we will find ourselves unable to get our boat out of the creek. Please pass this along to the proper person who is taking a look at upcoming projects and ask them to take a serious look at our situation.

Thanks,

Tom Williams
FINAL-Quest 90
Email: tom@quest-cs.com | www.quest-cs.com

Date: February 8, 2013

I am concerned about the siltation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.
Anonymous

Date: February 8, 2013

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the continuing issue of silt build up in Piasa creek and the effect it will have on local boating and economy. Please review current projects being considered for the river and take a look at the issue we are facing.

thanks,

John Walters

Date: February 8, 2013

Good morning Sarah.

As a boater, I am concerned about the siltation in the Mississippi River, in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off our access to the river, from the creek.

Please take this into consideration, when looking at future projects.
Sincerely,

Amy Williams

Date: February 8, 2013

Dear Ms Miller,
as a concerned fisherman and boater i would like to draw your attention to the silting problem at the mouth of Piasa Creek. the area outside the creek has gotten appreciably worse in recent years to the point where there are many times i am unable to make it over the power plant to fish. the area by piasa island seems to be getting more and more shallow.

i would like to appeal to the corps to help in addressing the river access from piasa creek.

thank you

mike

Date: February 8, 2013

Sarah,

As a long time boater, I have gradually noticed the increase of siltation at the location of Piasa Creek and the Mississippi River. The siltation continues to worsen as the years progress. There have been several weekends within the last 2-3 years where this location is impassable with my 22ft open bow ski boat while other locations have no issues (Marquette Park, Hardin, Grafton, Alton, ETC). This will require me to remove my boat from my lift and

transport it to the nearest public ramp (Grafton, IL – 9 miles from Piasa Creek). Any help with this situation would be greatly appreciated by many.

Thanks,

Casey Stutz

Date: February 8, 2013

To whom it may concern,

I am a frequent boater of the Mississippi river near the Alton-Godfrey area. I gain access to the Mississippi river through the mouth of the Piasa creek. I am concerned about the land build up and low water levels of the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river. Please consider investing in correcting this ongoing issue in order to keep boat traffic active through this passage.

Sincerely,

Chad Stutz

Date: February 8, 2013

As a boater , I am concerned about the siltation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.

Thanks for your help,

Chris Beiser
crbeiser@charter.net

Date: February 8, 2013

As a hunter, I am concerned about the siltation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.
Anonymous

Date: February 8, 2013

As a hunter, I am concerned about the siltation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.
Anonymous

Date: February 9, 2013

Hello,

Being a fisherman, I am concerned about the siltation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.

Is there anything the corp can do to keep the mouth of Piasa creek open? I and many of my friends would appreciate it.

Thank you,

Mark Manis
Godfrey, IL

Date: February 9, 2013

I am a boater out of pasia creek. I some times can not get out of the creek do to the silting in of mud and sand. I love the river. If there is anything you could do so we could have better excess I would be very thank full.

Sent from my iPhone

Date: February 10, 2013

As a recreational boater, hunter, and fisherman, I am concerned about the siltation at the mouth of Piasa Creek where it joins the backwater at the Mississippi river. This has been occurring over many years and is close to closing the access to the river. There are two marinas and a State of Il leased ramp access at this location. It would be tragic if this were not available in the future. I am urging the Core look at this situation and see if anything can be done to rectify it. Thanks for your attention to this memo.

Richard Boyer

Date: February 11, 2013

Sarah, Our friends at Alton Motor Boat Club have asked us for our help in resolving an issue with silt build up in the Piasa Slough area! As fellow boaters and members of the IRBBA we feel it's our duty to help them with this issue. The River belongs to all of us! Our home port is Heritage Harbor in Ottawa. We are a new harbor and don't have a silt issue yet! Most of our members have been down river whether to the peoria pool or beyond we know there is a problem with silt build up! I hope just by letting you know that other clubs are aware of this issue and we care about the well being of our fellow boaters at Alton Motor Boat club that you will do everything in your power to resolve this matter!

Joe Baller
Commodore H2O Boat Club

Date: February 11, 2013

As a boater fisherman and hunter, I am concerned about the siltation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river. I have been using this access for 40 years it is the worst I have seen in a long time. Any help would be appreciated.
Thanks

Kevin Gryzmala

Date: February 12, 2013

I am a boater on the mississippi river. I berlong to the Alton Motor Boat Club. At this point we are having a big problem of getting in and out of the creek from the river. It is next to impossible at this point in time. Even at normal

pool, it is still a big chance to get in and out. We would appreciate if this matter could be addressed. Thank You very much. Patrick Brogan

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Date: February 12, 2013

As a family boater and duck hunter.I would like to see the sand bar be addressed at the mouth of Piasa Creek.It gets harder and harder every year to take the family out in the boat.Also it's an added danger in the dark going duck hunting early in the mornings.Thank you Steve Kelly

Sent from my iPad

Date: February 12, 2013

As a boater, I am concerned about the situation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. The situation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.
Anonymous

Date: February 12, 2013

As a boater, I am concerned about the situation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. The situation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.
Anonymous

Date: February 12, 2013

As a boater, I am concerned about the situation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. The situation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.
Anonymous

Date: February 12, 2013

Thanks Sarah for continuing to read. I have been a boater for nearly thirty years on the Mississippi river from Alton to Havana to Peoria, but primarily in the Alton pool.

The concerns about the silt at Piasa creek are not new and would be greatly appreciated if this area could be dredged clear.

The surrounding bussinesses in the area would benefit from the increased boating traffic and revenue created by us boaters if this area could be navigated but if boats can't get to the river, no boating could be done.

Thanks much for your time

Ken Hillier
Average boating guy
Granite City Illinois

Date: February 13, 2013

As a boater, I am concerned about the situation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This situation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.

Date: February 13, 2013

Sarah
I am very concerned about the filling in of Piasa creek.
This has been access for boaters to the mississippi for as long as I can remember.
There are two marinas , two public boat ramps,and many cabins and houses on the filling in Piasa creek.
boaters fisherman and hunters cant get to the river any more.
Please restore our access to the great Mississippi river.
sincerely
JON MILLER

Date: February 13, 2013

As a boater, I am concerned about the siltation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off access from the creek to the river. I believe it's the Corp. of Engineers duty to keep the waterways open, for all boats, including pleasure boats. We as tax payers, pay a great deal of money to the Federal Government every year for these services.

Steven C. Jones

Date: February 13, 2013

Concerned...pool 26 Piasa creek entrance and surrounding waterways are in grave danger
Of closing off for pleasure boating..silt , logs, and sunken items are a major issue...Piasa harbor public ramp itself is almost unusable...these are tax dollars???? As a boater we pay the state for tags. We own a 33 ft cruiser harbored at Alton motor boat club...we need 2 ft of water under our boat...the only passage way to get out is Piasa creek...when you get to the access at river you best know the way to cross... Have seen many nice boats become beached at this point. PLEASE HELP Pool 26 is a very beautiful area PLEASE KEEP PIASA CREEK ACESS OPEN. Thank you
Sent from my iPad

Date: February 13, 2013

Sarah,

I am an avid boater and fisherman that uses Piasa Creek to access the Mississippi River. I am concerned the active silt deposition at this access area and am hopeful this is something the Corps is interested in addressing. I know I am among many other boaters and fisherman that have strong feelings on this issue. Please let me know if there is anything citizens such as myself can do to help expedite action on this issue.

Thanks,

D. Tim Arnold
Godfrey, IL

Date: February 13, 2013

Dear Sarah,

As a boater, I am concerned about the siltation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.

Please help us to save Piasa Creek!!

Thank you,
Laura

Date: February 13, 2013

As a boater I am very concerned about the condition at the mouth of Piasa Creek where it enters the Mississippi it needs to be dredged to allow entrance to the river every year it gets worse. Thank you for your attention to this issue.
Judy NAUGHTON

Sent from my iPad

Date: February 13, 2013

As a boater, I am concerned about the siltation in the mississippi river in the area of piasa creek.This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.

Please address this issue to save PIASA CREEK and make boating on the Mississippi River enjoyable again.

Thank you,

Vicki Miller
vampog@charter.net

Date: February 14, 2013

As Commodore of the Illinois River Boating Association, it has come to my attention that on of our clubs, Alton Motor Boat Club is having trouble trying to keep there access to the Mississippi River. The silting in of the Piasa creek is becoming a concern. We would appreciate it if in your planning for future work on the waterway, you would address this problem.

THANK YOU
JOHN FUSINETTI
COMMODORE I.R.B.B.A.

Date: February 14, 2013

As a long time member of the Alton Motorboat Club, I am very concerned with the silt in the Mississippi River at Piasa Creek. It continues to build up and causes many problems for all boaters gaining access from the creek to the river. Piasa Creek also has a public boat ramp and there are the two marinas on the creek. If this problem is not resolved in the near future, all of those recreational boaters, fisherman and hunters would no longer have access to the river from the creek.

Thank you for considering my plea to resolve the siltation at Piasa Creek.

Susie Siatos
Manager
Community Title & Escrow, Ltd.
2600-D State Street
Alton, IL 62002

Date: February 14, 2013

Good morning Sarah

I am sending you this email in hopes that you can help to address the siltation build up where Piasa creek enters the Mississippi This area continues to get worse every year and as a boat owner it threatens to close the enter and exit to the creek and the harbors and public launches it this area it also created allot of maintance issues and wear on me boat.
I would hate to see the harbors suffer and additional loss of revenue due to the decreasing access to the creek

Thank you for your attention to this issue

Greg Naughton

Date: February 13, 2013

Sarah,

I have been an avid boater all my life and a member of the Alton Motorboat Club located in Jersey County IL on Piasa Creek. I would like to see the Corps continue to proceed with the Alton Pool/Piasa Creek Project to dredge the creek opening so that ALL BOATERS can continue to enjoy this scenic area of our river. It has become dangerous for boaters to proceed through this area due to the silting of the creek mouth and the head of the Alton Lake.

Thank you for your time and efforts at keeping our river accessible to everyone.

Patrick Wrischnik
4602 Levis Ln
Godfrey, IL 62035

Date: February 14, 2013

Dear Ms. Miller,

I have used Piasa Creek Public Launch area for 30+ years for access to the Mississippi River and the Alton Lake created by Lock and Dam 26.

I have since moved from powerboats to a sailboat and even with a retractable keel I can no longer use Piasa Creek to access the launch, marinas, or fuel that is available. The situation at the mouth of the creek is inhibiting public access of all kinds to the river system.

I would like to encourage you and the USACE to make improving the mouth of Piasa Creek a priority. Allowing access to the river systems allows sportsmen of all types (hunters, fishermen, boaters, etc.) to enjoy the wonderful natural resource we have from the Alton Dam to the confluence of the Mississippi and the Illinois Rivers.

I am in the insurance business and I am sure there is an economic impact of increased boating (fuel, supplies, insurance cost, boat end equipment purchases) but I am contacting you as an individual boater, hunter, and fisherman.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff Luken, CPCU
The Luken Agency, Inc.
120 West Third Street
P. O. Box 8006
Alton, IL 62002

Date: February 14, 2013

As a boater, I am concerned about the siltation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river. Please help us who love the river and enjoy its beauty.

Thanks
Donna Fisher

Date: February 15, 2013

As a user of the Piasa Creek public launch facility, I am deeply concerned about the silting at the mouth of the creek making it nearly impossible and somewhat dangerous to access the Mississippi.

John Thompson
Godfrey, Il

Date: February 15, 2013

My husband and I were in hopes to attend your meeting however we both had work obligations. We have lived on the "river"side of Godfrey all of our lives and have enjoyed public access into the creek and now are active with the alton motor boat club.

As an avid water family we are very upset about the situation of the Mississippi River especially in the area of Piasa Creek. With today's technology and mass media tools, people just don't get outside like they used to. We hate seeing this happen for our grandchildren and others. We are in hopes that you take into consideration that area to resolve the issue as Corps Planning.

In addition, I would ask that you look at the area of Clarksville Damn area where the island splits. We always fished that the corp had dikes to help the flow. It is not accessible anymore. My husband could pin point the area better if further assistance is needed in the area I am speaking about.

Thank you for any and all considerations,

RESPECTFULLY,

Debbie K. Wedding
Office Administrator
Contract Services Group
American Water Enterprises - EMC
4725 Brecht Lane

P. O. Box 54
Godfrey, IL 62035

Date: February 16, 2013

As a family of boaters, we are concerned about the situation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek.

This situation is cutting off access from the creek to the river.

Your consideration would be greatly appreciated in this matter.

The Snyder Family

Rebecca Snyder, QMRP/RSD

Date: February 17, 2013

Sarah,

As a boater I am concered about the situation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek.
The situation is cutting of our access from the creek to the river. WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?

Sincerely,

Scott E Fowler
bryant454@charter.nett

Date: February 18, 2013

I (and my family) boat and fish on the Mississippi River. Due to siltation, my access to the River by way of Piasa Creek is hampered, and gets worse each year. This access is shallow at best and worse at other times. Any help you could provide
with this situation would be appreciated.
Noel "Butch" Rister

Date: February 18, 2013

Hi Sarah

As a boater I am concerned about the situation in the Mississippi River in the Piasa Creek area. The access from the creek to the river is being endangered.

I hope you can help!

Thank you,

Tom Spain

Date: February 19, 2013

I have been boating out of Piasa Creek for over 30 years and over the past several years the mouth of the creek has been filling in to the point that we will be cut off from getting to the river. A few people have marked a very small channel which enabled us to get out last year! Please consider dredging the this area for the benefit of Piasa Harbor, Alton Motor Boat Club and all the people who use the public ramp.
Anonymous

Date: February 19, 2013

Good morning Sarah

My husband and I are boaters that thoroughly enjoy boating on the Mississippi River. We boat from March to November, we enjoy the relaxation of it all. I am however concerned about the siltation in the River in the area of Piasa Creek. This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river. I seems to have gotten worse in the last few years. If funds come available to dredge this area of Piasa Creek, it would be appreciated not only by me & my husband but also by the hundreds of other boaters who use Piasa Creek to access the Mississippi River.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely
Shelley Ragan

Date: February 19, 2013

Ms. Miller...I have been accessing the Mississippi from Piasa Creek for over 50 years as a fisherman, hunter and pleasure boater. I am very concerned about the siltation cutting off access to the river and would appreciate Corps action in this regard.
Cordially,
Larry Brown

Date: February 19, 2013

Dear Sarah

The siltation that is building up in the area of Piasa Creek on the river is causing concern for me as a boater. This siltation is cutting off my access from the creek to the river. Not only does this effect me, it is worrisome to hundreds of other boaters who use the creek to get to the Mississippi River. I hope something can be done about removing this silt build up.

Thank you for you time.

Sincerely
Nolan Ragan

Date: February 19, 2013

Please favorably consider and highly prioritize the Alton Pool/Piasa Creek Project to dredge so boaters (pleasure, fishermen, hunters) can enjoy this scenic area of our great Mississippi River. It has become dangerous to proceed through this area due to the siltation of the Piasa Creek's mouth and head of Alton Lake.
Thank you

Date: February 19, 2013

Sara
Please push the Piasa project to dredge the creek and river access so all kinds of people can enjoy the area.
thanks

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Scott Dorris

Date: February 19, 2013

I travel from Starved Rock to Alton by boat. I enjoy traveling to Alton. Please work with the Boat Club. I will not continue my trips. I travel with several boats and we spend a lot of money in many towns along the river. The Alton Motor Boat Club must be protected!

Sincerely,

Pat Feehan
Political Action Officer of the Illinois River Basin Boating Association

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Date: February 20, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

As a life long boater on the Alton Pool who uses Piasa Creek I am asking that the Corp please dredge the entrance to the creek as every year it is getting more and more difficult to get in and out of this area! It is now to the point that in the near future we will not be able to navigate this area anymore. Please consider this request!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Anonymous

Date: February 20, 2013

As a boater and member of the Alton Motorboat Club, I am concerned about the silting in of piasa creek. The siltation is cutting off access to the river. In times of low water an emergency boat would have a hard time getting out the mouth of the creek.

Rich Kortkamp

Date: February 20, 2013

Dear Sarah
Our family is a third generation boater of the Alton pool and we are very concerned about the situation at the mouth of Pisistratus
Anonymous

Date: February 21, 2013

Dear Ms Miller,
i am writing to draw your attention to the silting problems at teh mouth of piasa creek. there has been a progressive problem silting problem as you exit the creek. there have been numerous times when i have had to help unsuspecting boats off the sand and mud as they go straight out of the creek.
this is a significant hazard and needs to be addressed before someone gets hurt seriously.

thank you

mike

Date: February 22, 2013

Sarah -

I just wanted to say I am concerned about the amount of siltration in the Mississippi River at Piasa Creek. The buildup is making it hard to access the river from the creek.

Thanks,
Jim Brown

Date: February 22, 2013

Dear Ms. Miller,

As a boater, fisherman, and hunter, I am concerned about the situation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek and other areas. This siltation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river. I feel wrong placement of dredged material is the cause i.e. Grafton Ferry Crossing.

Sincerely,

Ed Amburg

Date: February 24, 2013

Sarah, I am an avid boater, fisherman and hunter and I am concerned with river access out of Piasa Creek. The siltation in the chute just outside the creek has limited access to the river.

Any help in this concern would be appreciated.

Sincerely, Michael Reese

Date: February 26, 2013

Being a pleasure craft boater using the Illinois Waterway, I am asking you and the office of the Army Corp of Engineer's to consider keeping open the mouth of Piasa Creek.

We have traveled to Alton Motor Boar Club and would like to be able to keep doing that in the future, via the Illinois waterways.

I respect the time and concideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

William J. Parrott
member of Starved Rock Yacht Club of Ottawa Ottawa, IL. 61350

Date: February 27, 2013

Hello Sarah,
I live in Godfrey and work in Alton. My family and I enjoy getting outside for exercise and to view the area's landscapes and especially birds. As a Godfrey resident the best new feature is the Piasa Harbor project where we can enjoy views of the river and see a great variety of birds. I think the average citizen would most appreciate the Corps continuing these projects, working with local organizations and land trusts to establish and preserve our natural features for public use.

I think if you asked the average citizen what the Corps does they would say you run the lock and dam and the river. While I enjoy the educational displays at the lock and dam and realize it is a great place for visitors to the area it is not a place I visit regularly like a park.
The bike trails are also a wonderful feature of the area and are enjoyed by many. The new research center is also very promising.
Please keep me posted on your Rivers Project!
Jim

Date: February 27, 2013

Hello Sarah

My name is Darlene Seidler, and I am sending you this email because I am concerned about the Piasa Creek access. I have been a boater and fisherman my whole life, and would like to continue to access the river from Piasa Creek. Please help.

Thank You
Darlene

Date: February 27, 2013

As a Mississippi River boater I would like to express my concern with the Piasa Creek entrance from the River. Watching the demise of Piasa Creek over the last several years is a little dissapointing being that it main cause is the silting in from the River. I am hoping to see something done by the Corp in the near future. I understand that money is tight in all areas of Government at this time. It is also tight in our family as with many others. We spend much of our vacation time on this part of the river during the summer months along with many of our friends. We would truly like to keep access to our club available for years to come along with the public access located in the creek. We do

what we can to enjoy one of the most beautiful parts of the Mississippi and to help keep it clean. Please help us keep it useable.

Thank you

Cory, Vicki, Hallie, and Brady Schilling

Date: February 27, 2013

Good afternoon,

As boaters, we are concerned about the situation in the MIssissippi River in the area of Piasa Creek.
This situation is cutting off our access from the creek to the river.

Looking forward to spring, when we can hopefully enjoy our beautiful Mississippi.

Vic & Vicki Christian
5004 Terry Dr.
Alton, IL 62002

Date: February 28, 2013

I am concerned about the situation in the Mississippi River in the area of Piasa Creek. The situation is cutting off access from the creek to the river. I urge you to address this situation as funds become available. Thank you,

Judy Boyd

Date: March 2, 2013

Dear Ms. Miller,

I understand that you are taking input on the river projects in and around the Alton pool. As a frequent user of the Alton pool I believe that the Piasa Creek/Piasa Slough area should be on the top of your list of projects. The underwater structures places upstream adjacent to the river road may have helped keep the channel clear, but they have significantly changed the flow and siltation in and near the mouth of Piasa Creek.

I consider that the Corps fixing the Pisas Creek area only as an extension of the original project to build structures upstream to benefit the channel.

Thank you,
Bob Sullivan

Date: March 2, 2013

In 2012 I logged more than 30 round trips through the Piasa Creek access in various boats from a canoe to a cruiser. I am very concerned with the contined silt build up in the middle of the slough near the mouth of Piasa Creek. In my cruiser which draws only ~32" of water, I frequently bumped the bottom when the pool was pulled down. Please put this project at the top of your list for the Alton Pool area. The Piasa Creek access is home to many boaters. The

closure of the slough due to silt build up will deprive many people from using pool 26. The next decent access open to the public is at Marquette Park on the Illinois.

Thanks you,

Bob Sullivan

Date: March 2, 2013

Sarah,

I am a member of the Alton Motorboat Club and the Alton Waterski Club so we regularly use piasa creek to access the Alton Pool. The build up of silt is causing problems not only to access the river but also in the ski area between Clifton Terrace and piasa creek. Please make this issue a priority for projects in the near future.Thank you.

Brad Maher

Date: March 2, 2013

As a sportsman utilizing Piasa Creek access I am very concerend that this area is silting in to the extent that is almost impossiabe to use the facalities at this location. In past years this area has seen considerable use by pleasure boaters, fisherman, and hunters but as time has past the silitation has continued and made access to the river near impossiable. If this continues I am concerned for the Alton Motor Boat Club which leases property from the Corps of Enginers and Piasa Marina and the public ramps at this location being viable recreation outlets for local residents and the many tourist that flock to this area to utilize the unique sights and amenities supported by the Sierria Club The Great Riverlands Land Trust The Alton Motor Boat Club The Illlinois American Water Co. just to name a few. I would hope that you would visit the Piasa Creek area the facailities there have expended considerable monies to make there facalities top notch it would be ashame to see this all go for not.
Thank you for any support in this matter it would be greately appreciated by many.

Cordialy Yours
Art Tomerlin
Past president East Side Industrial Rivermans Past Commodore Alton Motor Motor Boat Club

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