Summary of Spring UMRCC Water Quality Technical Sections Meeting
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 (1:00pm – <5:00 pm)

Location: 79th Annual Meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee
March 25th-28th, 2024
Holiday Inn—Rock Island

Chair: Daniel Kendall, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Phone: 515-491-2226: daniel.kendall@dnr.iowa.gov

The spring meeting of the UMRCC Water Quality Technical Section was in-person.

Attendees included:

In Person	
Daniel Kendall - Presenter	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Shawn Giblin - Presenter	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Sara Sawicki	Illinois Natural History Survey
Ashley Johnson	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Rob Burdis	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Molly Sobotka	Missouri Department of Conservation
Danelle Haake	National Great Rivers Research and Education Center
Erica Doerr	National Great Rivers Research and Education Center
Susan Snow	National Parks Service
Emma Doyal	US Army Corps of Engineers MVR
Carl Schoenfield	US Army Corps of Engineers MVR
Elizabeth Bruns	US Army Corps of Engineers MVR
Jeremy King	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
John Kalas	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Sammi Boyd	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Agenda

1:00 Greetings
1:15 Talks
1:15 – 1:45 Aquatic Insects and Emerging Contaminants Status in Wisconsin – Shawn Giblin, Wisconsin DNR (25min + Questions)
1:45 – 2:15 2023 Beach Monitoring: Analyzing Multiple Cyanotoxins (Anatoxin, Saxitoxin, Microcystin) – Dan Kendall, Iowa DNR (25min + Questions)
2:15 Break
2:30 Working/Discussions Session
- Discuss Emerging contaminants resolution and list of chemicals of concern.
  - Be bring lists of chemicals of concern and potential resolution language if you can
- Open
- Future topics
  - What should we discuss next time

3:15 UMRCC Coordinator's Report and Presentation:
3:15 – 3:55 Neal Jackson, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

3:55 Break

4:05 Agency Updates:

Minnesota	Fish & Wildlife Service
Wisconsin	Army Corps
Iowa	USGS
Illinois	Others
Missouri	

<5:00 Adjourn

Working/Discussion:

The WQTS used the working/discussions session to discuss language that Shawn Giblin and others provided for a Emerging contaminants resolution. The language was based on language developed in the chloride resolution. Many participants had great suggestions for changes. Suggestions were captured real-time in a document that was being projected on the screen. The first major change to the document was to then name of the resolution from Emerging Contaminants Resolution to Contaminants of Concern Resolution. The group then proceeded to work though all sections of the document.

Future Plans:

Dan Kendall, Shawn Giblin and Danelle Haake agreed to work on cleaning up the language based on the suggestions made in the document. The document will then be distributed to the State representatives for their review prior to sending it out to a larger group.

Dan Kendall will be sending out an email requesting lists of contaminates of concern from the WQTS. Because the list will likely be extensive the State representatives will then vote on which contaminants will be labeled as top priority. The exact format of the list will still need to be designed.

Updates (submitted by email)

Minnesota:

- PFAS consumption advisories are being posted at boat launches in pool 2-4.
- PCA is in the process of trying to set a sulfate standard with a wild rice component

Wisconsin:

- Working on a backwater residence time report
    - Optimal winter rate to support fisheries
- Dataset for nitrogen criteria coming out on Mississippi. Waiting on the phytoplankton to be completed.
- Ground water and sediment nutrients in Trumpelo leading to major problems.
- Evaluating other area. Ex: Pigeon settlement area.
- They have hired a new invertebrate specialist

- Jim Fisher is now the Branch Chief for the LTRM station.

Iowa:

- There has been a shuffling of position at the DNR's Bellevue office.
    - Kirk Hansen is the New Supervisor of the Mississippi River Region section in the Iowa DNR's Fisheries Bureau
    - Ryan Hupfeld is now the Mississippi River Habitat Coordinator
    - Rebecca Krogman is now the Large Rivers Fish Research Biologist

Illinois:

- Field station is hiring a lower tropic scientist

Missouri:

- LTRM hired a new WQ specialist Kathrin Smith.

Fish and Wildlife Service:
No update provided.

USGS:
No update provided.

Army Corps of Engineers:

- Still doing reservoir and HRep monitoring.
- In the process of putting grab samples in to the database.
- Corp has a new enterprise WQ database.
- Continuous data is being processed and they are looking to put it into the database.
- Working on R dashboards for each Hrep
- Looking to incorporate UMRR dashboard
- Cool stuff
    - Left a berm in front of Hrep. Place temp dataloggers to see if they are making a difference.
    - Using Radar to look a surface roughness to get at wind waves related to water quality and mussels.

Others:

- USGS project on the Yellow river at Effigy Mounds.
    - Looking at ecological health
    - Cataloging River plant species and look at contaminant uptake
    - Running a limnological suite