



**Missouri River Flood Task Force
Marriott Regency Circle, Omaha NE
February 28, 2011
Meeting Summary**

Meeting Objectives:

1. Understand the status of the Missouri River basin system in advance of the 2012 runoff season;
2. Update the task force on the efforts of the MRFTF work groups, coordinate the various activities of each work group, and give the work groups input and feedback;
3. Raise flood recovery issues for consideration by the task force and co-chairs, highlighting areas that need more attention;
4. Discuss the future of the task force; and
5. Enable the working group members to meet face to face, discuss the input from the Task Force and move their efforts forward.

I. Opening Remarks

BG McMahon, Commander of the Corps Northwestern Division, opened the meeting by emphasizing the four purposes of the MRFTF including Communication, Collaboration, Coordination, and Cooperation and the progress the task force had made following those principles. He specifically thanked the various tribes in attendance for participating. BG McMahon indicated that since the last meeting the Corps had received appropriations for the repair of structures. Also, an independent external panel has reviewed the Corps operations in 2011 and made 6 recommendations to the Corps. BG McMahon indicated that Col. Tipton would take command of the Northwestern Division of the Corps on 15 June 2012. Co-chairs Ms. Beth Freeman, Administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VII, and Mr. Tom Christensen, Regional Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Central Region, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), echoed BG McMahon's comments regarding the progress of the task force and the success of the groups' ongoing coordination efforts.

II. Introductions and Plan for the Day

Following the opening remarks, the Facilitator, Sheila Shockey introduced herself and her team and outlined the agenda for the day. Attendees, including people who are not members of specific task

force work groups, introduced themselves and the organizations that they represent. Approximately 100 people participated in person and virtually.

III. Status of flood recovery updates and climate outlook

The first substantive session of the meeting was information sharing by the Federal Agencies, States, and Tribes on the status of flood recovery. Participants, contributors, and observers (PCOs) were also invited to report. All presentations are posted on the MRFTF website under “MRFTF Third Meeting” at <http://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/mrftf/>

Mr. Verlon Barnes of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service discussed participation in both the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) and other programs that provide flood mitigation opportunities, including Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Flood Plain Easement (EWPP-FPE), Wetland Reserve Program/Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WRP/WREP), the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, and the NRCS SNOwpack TELEmetry (SNOTEL) and Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN) programs. Mr. Barnes indicated there was a 5-state WREP proposal. BG McMahon inquired as to whom in NRCS at the national level approves the upper limit of acreage. The response was that the Chief of NRCS sets the limit, and for this round it is 6000 acres. Mr. Barnes indicated that \$15 million is available and that the enrollment information is on the MRFTF site.

Mr. Doug Klein of the Farm Service agency indicated that in Iowa \$40.6 million was available for ECP, that there were 425 applications and that the cost share was 75% of the actual costs. This same cost share applies to the EFRP. SURE sign up for 2011 has not been approved; however, emergency loans are available. Disaster set aside is also part of the loan program which allows loan payments to be deferred for a period of one year. There are deadlines for these programs that producers need to be aware of. Elizabeth Wakeman of the Flandreau Sioux Tribe requested that information regarding these programs be sent to her.

Beth Freeman inquired as to whether the Farm Service agency is using the FEMA date for the event or the Presidential Declaration date. Mr. Klein indicated that parties have 8 months from the latest declaration, whether it is Presidential or Secretarial, and that the duration of the flood event had posed issues relative to the deadlines for assistance. He did indicate that the deadline for these programs expires 19 March in Nebraska but that a newer declaration was now being considered which would change that date.

Doug Kluck of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) gave a presentation on the current climatological conditions and predictions. This information is updated monthly by NOAA. With regard to temperature probabilities, in March there is an equal chance of wetter or drier conditions. BG McMahon noted that this is an improvement since last month the prediction was wetter than normal. Mr. Kluck did point out that you can have greater than normal snow and above normal temperatures and that the recent blizzard in North and South Dakota was a very wet snow. For March, April, and May there is a greater than normal chance for above normal temperatures, and Mr. Kluck reminded the group that large rains are unpredictable. Using the UNL

Drought Monitor information from February thru May of 2012, Mr. Kluck indicated that while there is no drought in the mountains, drought is developing in the Dakotas. The next climate outlook will be prepared 16 March, and NOAA will continue to hold monthly outlook webinars at least thru May of 2012.

Ms. Jody Farhat, Chief of Missouri River Basin Water Management for the Northwestern Division of the Corps, updated the task force on the current condition of the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System (System), indicating that on 28 February 2012 300,000 acre feet of additional storage was available and that the total System storage was 1.1 million acre feet below where we were at this time last year. Most of the reservoirs are at near normal operating levels, except for Oahe which is lower to provide the additional 300,000 acre feet of storage. While the snowmelt appears to be less than last year, Ms. Farhat reminded the group there is always a possibility of rainfall driven flooding. The Corps will be holding its Annual Operating Plan (AOP) spring meetings From 16-20 April 2012 at the same locations as the fall meeting except that there will be no meeting in Overland Park Kansas. There will be a 1-hour open house prior to each meeting, followed by the normal meeting format.

Ms. Farhat then informed and updated the task force on the recommendations to the Corps from the independent external panel that reviewed the Corps 2011 operation of the System. The recommendations are summarized as follows:

- Support a program of infrastructure enhancement to ensure all flood release spillways and tunnels are ready for service and that all levees are in good condition. The panel emphasized the importance of adequate funding and direction for a program of infrastructure repair and rehabilitation to ensure that all flood release spillways and tunnels are ready for service as soon as possible.
- Re-examine hydrologic studies to update the design flood with new probabilities. The panel recommended s re-examining the Missouri River System planning that is based on the entire historical record and adjusting to the recent decades of varying climatic extremes. In addition, they concluded the Corps should be given the flexibility to manage the System storage depending on anticipated dry and wet cycles.
- Review System storage allocations, based upon the 2011 flood event to include the flood-control storage needed for floods like 2011 or larger.
- Improve future cooperation and collaboration with the National Weather Service (NWS), and its already-established forecast systems as well as with the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), possibly through the Integrated Water Resources Science and Services (IWRSS) initiative.
- Conduct studies to enhance data collection, forecasting, and resulting runoff from plains snow.
- Develop a decision support system to include real-time status information on tributary reservoirs and inflows and linked to a modern interactive graphic forecast system.

Ms. Farhat indicated that the Corps and its partners are making progress on implementing the recommendations. Infrastructure enhancement and maintenance are always a priority for the

Corps, and that recommendation is being aggressively pursued by the Corps. As per the other recommendations, the Corps is updating 5 existing technical studies used in developing the AOP for the System. The Corps is also completing 2 additional technical analyses, one of which involves stochastic modeling using historic monthly inflows to determine if a correlation exists which would assist in predicting future wet and dry cycles. The second technical analysis involves examining Basin conditions in the fall using several criteria (i.e. soil moisture) to determine if there is a correlation with spring runoff. It is anticipated that the 5 existing studies will be updated and 2 new additional technical analyses will be completed in time for next year's AOP. With regard to the panel recommendation concerning additional flood storage allocation, the Corps is completing a sensitivity analysis using existing models. That analysis will be completed by 31 March 2012. Ms. Farhat pointed out that the Corps is working to improve cooperation, collaboration, and communication with the public and agency partners. These efforts include twice monthly conference calls to update the Basin on conditions and enhancement of the Missouri River Basin Water Management website. The Corps is also expanding its modeling of plains snowpack and improving the graphical display of plains snowpack information.

Mr. Erik Blechinger, Special Assistant to the Chief of Programs for the Northwestern Division, reported to the task force that there is an estimated \$500 million in known repairs needed which includes \$300 million of levee repairs and \$200 million for dam repair. All known repairs are fully funded. Additionally, the Operation and Maintenance Budget for the Missouri River is approximately \$110 annually which would also be used for repairs. River structure damage assessments and Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) project damage assessments continue. The Corps is also completing a flow corridor study to examine how the floodplain reacted to the flood and is completing an analysis to determine if chutes constructed as a part of the MRRP impact Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP) structures.

Mr. Brett Budd of the Omaha District of the Corps presented a video showing the completion of levee work at L550 near Rockport, Missouri and L575 near Hamburg, Iowa on 26 February 2012. Ms. Kelly Casteel of the North Dakota Water Commission inquired what the average annual damages prevented by the System are. Mr. Budd responded that the average figure is \$1.8 billion, but the figure in 2011 was much higher.

Ms. Beth Freeman, Administrator for FEMA Region VII reported on public assistance in the states of Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas, indicating that assistance to Nebraska was greater due to publicly owned utilities in Nebraska. Under their Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to the states, 8,500 flood prone properties in Region VII have been acquired. Further, 3,171 grants in 24 counties along the Missouri River, totaling \$31.8 million have been approved at 75% of project costs. She commented that the new level of collaboration with the Corps is a best practice that will be continued. Mr. Don Curtis of MO-ARK inquired if the FEMA property acquisition had been coordinated with the Corps MRRP. Ms. Freeman responded that she did not believe there had been coordination with the Corps as it is the state that coordinates those buy-outs and then takes ownership of the property.

Mr. Calvin Harlan of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska explained that his Tribe was devastated by the flood. His tribe had lost cultural resources and elder members of their Tribe indicated people had

become sick from the floodwaters, only two landowners stepped in to help their Tribe, there is still no access to their Hole in the Rock land, and that no governors had visited their reservation during the flood.

Ms. Elizabeth Wakeman of the Flandreau Sioux Tribe indicated the dams are located in “Indian Country”. She stated she was a member of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) and now that funding for the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan (MRERP) study had been suspended she didn’t know who was going to communicate with her Tribe. She indicated that her Tribe needs a flood fight plan. She felt that it was a disgrace that the Tribes had been forgotten and can’t get funds to come to meetings. She expressed the need for a meeting just for the Tribes.

Mr. Bob Walters of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe thanked Col. Ruch, Commander of the Omaha District, for coming to their reservation. He emphasized that in 1944 his Tribe was taken off the river and boxed on reservation lands where they are flooded by the Moreau River. When the dams were built they lost bottomlands in addition to sacred lands. There are siltation impacts at the mouths of the rivers (tributaries) and his Tribe has a cemetery that is impacted by flooding every year. He indicated that the MRERP study was going to include the tributaries and since funding for that study had been suspended he didn’t know if the tributaries would be studied.

Mr. Steve Ortiz of the Prairie Band Potawatomie Tribe indicated his Tribe is the southernmost on the Missouri River tributaries and is a member of the Four Tribes of Kansas. His Tribe has a good relationship with the Corps and FEMA. Mr. Ortiz did indicate there was a water quality issue on Kickapoo lands, and that at Prairie Band there is flooding on the Little Soldier River. He also indicated that instead of hand fishing for catfish there are now Asian Carp and members of his Tribe cannot hand fish anymore. He indicated that Tribal per capita allotments for identified members is very low, many casinos are not financially viable, and that Tribal members do pay taxes since they have no retail facilities on their lands. In light of this, he stated the needs of Indian Country need to be considered. Another participant referenced a Health and Human Services Advisory Committee that he participates in which is a helpful forum for the Tribes and noted that Procedures and Notify is an important part of Tribal Consultation under President Obama’s new approach.

Calvin Harlan of the Omaha Tribe added that their Tribe’s casino had been flooded and was torn down putting 300-400 people out of work. Elizabeth Wakeman thanked FEMA for 8 trailers they had provided and indicated that Corps needs to have a budget for the Tribes to help them. Cathi Warren, Tribal liaison for the Corps Omaha District, indicated the MRFTF Tribal work group is working with the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen to put together a “Summit” that may happen in May or June. Elizabeth Wakeman recommended that Cheryl Chapman of Respec Consulting should participate in the Tribal Summit. Ms. Chapman was very active in the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan.

On behalf of Chairwoman Rebecca White, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Ms. Warren made a presentation to the group regarding the flood impacts on the Nebraska Tribes including the Ponca Tribe.

The meeting continued with the status reports from the States. Mr. Tracy Streeter from the Kansas Water Office thanked the Corps for getting the Disaster Bill passed. All eligible projects in Kansas are moving forward.

BG Derek Hill with the State of Iowa indicated there are 575 requests for individual assistance that are proceeding with FEMA Region VII. He also indicated several parties are discussing a “super levee” north of Council Bluffs, Iowa since there are no federal levees north of Council Bluffs. The levee would be intended to eliminate impacts associated with the “DeSoto Bend cut” that had major transportation and agricultural impacts. The project would be comprised of 60 miles of levees and berms and would need to meet cost/benefit requirements to receive federal funding. The project is only being discussed at this time. BG Hill also mentioned he would look into health issues related to flood fighting mentioned by Calvin Harlan. They have a Disaster Behavior Specialist in Iowa trained in crisis counseling who has seen over 3,000 individuals.

Mr. Shuhai Zheng reported for the State of Nebraska, indicating that contracts have been signed for 3 levee systems and that the State of Nebraska Department of Water Resources is looking for buyouts.

Ms. Kelly Casteel of the North Dakota State Water Commission reported that there are fluctuating stages in Bismarck and that at the Oahe Reservoir delta they are observing the tributaries closely preparing for potential jamming and the need to remove ice.

IV. Work Group Presentations

Following the lunch break the work groups made presentations to the group about activities they completed since the last meeting in December. Presentations included the activities and membership of the work group, how they are addressing gaps identified in the last MRFTF meeting, and their next steps. These presentations can also be found on the MRFTF website under “MRFTF Third Meeting” at <http://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/mrftf/>.

Craig Derickson of NRCS reported out for the Agriculture Work Group citing their accomplishments to date including a broadly and well attended Agriculture webinar and the distribution of numerous facts sheets regarding available agriculture programs. Mr. Derickson indicated that there is \$5 million total available in Emergency Water Protection (EWP) funds for Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Requests exceed the available funding and they have placed parties on a wait list in the event additional funding becomes available. The next steps of the work group include monitoring repair work, updating agriculture program information, observing weather status and additional flooding, and ensuring key dates and deadlines for submission of materials for Agriculture emergency and flood mitigation programs is available to the public. They will be publishing a news release relative to these deadlines. Ms. Rebecca Davis of the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) showed the claim deadlines for Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri. She indicated her agency is still meeting with producers and still seeing claims come in. The RMA breached levee statement applies to 15 counties in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri; crop insurance rates are higher for

producers protected by the levees. As levees are repaired to their pre-flood levels crop insurance rates go back to their pre-flood rate. The RMA will be issuing a memo and a press release regarding breached levee rates. BG Derek Hill inquired about the meaning of “repairing levees to their prior specifications”. There have been changes in the channel and consequent changes in levee capacity even if it hasn’t been breached. Ms. Davis indicated that the term means to the prior level of protection. RMA does not require reseeding of levees for rates to return to pre-flood. BG McMahon indicated that the Corps needs to coordinate closely with the RMA to make sure the farmers pay no more or no less than required.

Todd Strole, The Nature Conservancy, inquired as to whether EWP could be used for floodplain easements. Mr. Derickson indicated there had been no requests for floodplain easements to date, but that easements can be considered for those on the wait list.

Mr. Randy Behm inquired as to whether the RMA used the FEMA 100-year flood elevation to determine their rates. Ms. Davis indicated rates are determined on a county-by-county basis. RMA does not use elevations but identifies high risk areas where levees provide protection. If the levee is compromised, unprotected rates apply in these areas. Ms. Davis also mentioned an important upcoming date, 15 March, which is the sales closing date. If anyone currently insured wants to make any changes to their policy they must do so by this deadline. It is also the deadline for crop insurance.

Mr. Verlon Barnes of NRCS reported for the Regulatory Work Group. The work group recently completed regulatory contact sheets for Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri and would like to develop those lists for North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. These contact lists would also be relevant for Tribes. Other areas they are working on include the EPA NEPA Assist Tool for GIS and consistency of regulatory guidance. Mr. Barnes noted that there are new nationwide permits for the Corps that have been issued which may impact flood recovery efforts. This work group expects to meet monthly through July.

Mr. John Leighow gave an overview of the Levee Repair Work Group activities. A currently updated levee repair spreadsheet was posted on the MRFTF website and provided to all meeting attendees. He indicated that their work group will continue to have a call every two weeks and would continue until at least the last levee is repaired. He indicated the Corps has 75 levee repair projects and that the projects identified in white on the levee spreadsheet are not yet funded but are in the queue. Ms. Robin Wankum reported for the Corps Kansas City District indicating there are 57 requests for repairs (40 non-federal and 17 federal). All Project Information Reports (PIRs) are funded for damage assessment and 35 projects are funded through construction. 30 contracts will be awarded by the Kansas City District. Mr. Brett Rudd reported for the Corps Omaha District. He indicated that all breaches are closed.

Bethany Hale of NOAA reported for the Communications Work Group. Key activities of that work group include monthly bulletins, revising the MRFTF website, and weekly meetings that include round robins by each of the agencies. This work group will continue to meet as long as needed. She asked the participants to review the membership list and make sure everyone appropriate from their organization was included.

Cathi Warren of USACE NWD reported on behalf of the Tribal Outreach Work Group. She again mentioned the potential for the work group to set up a Tribal Flood Summit in May/June and following the Summit, transition this work group to the Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable.

Mr. Michael Slifer of the U.S. Geological Survey reported for the River Management Work Group. (Note: This work group and the Floodplain Management work group met on 28 February 2012 prior to the MRFTF meeting.) Mr. Slifer indicated that the greatest obstacle of this work group is to increase the accuracy of the Missouri River inflow forecast. This group will continue to meet monthly through the summer.

Mr. Randy Behm of the USACE Omaha District reported for the Floodplain Management Work Group, indicating this group has 4 focal areas- Flood Risk Identification Toolbox, Flood Risk Mitigation Toolbox, Constraints to Flood Risk Identification and Mitigation, and Exchange of Technical Data. This group will continue to have bi-monthly calls and has had 3 webinars so far. Obstacles to the group include time and funding for participation as the 2011 event becomes temporally distant.

Mr. John LaRandeau of the USACE NWD reported for the Navigation Work Group indicating that they, the Hydropower, and Infrastructure work groups are primarily observers. The Navigation work group is particularly interested in the continued damage assessment of the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Program structures and their repair.

Mr. Nick Stas of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) reported for the Hydropower Work Group. He indicated there is considerable unplanned local growth in northwest North Dakota and that power providers (not WAPA) have the responsibility to meet that demand. He also indicated that the integration of wind power has created stresses on the flexibility of the hydropower system. BG McMahon requested that a brief paragraph be developed that captures the stress issue and indicated awareness and discussion of this issue needs to continue. Mr. Stas mentioned WAPA will be holding wind energy meetings in April. He directed parties to the WAPA website for information.

Following the work group reports Ms. Shockey opened the floor to PCOs to make any comments. Cpt. Bill Beacom, PCO, observed that the MRFTF is becoming a victim of its own success as the flood situation levels off because the hot button issues in September have moved to the back burner now. Ms. Elizabeth Wakeman indicated that there needed to be a cutback of Corps staff and that the Tribes needed to get together.

V. Future of MRFTF

Following the afternoon break, the co-chairs led a brief discussion regarding the future of the MRFTF. The two presentations for this section can be found on the MRFTF website under MRFTF Third meeting "Options for MRFTF Future." BG McMahon first reminded the group that this is a temporary task force so how much longer should it continue, and what are the conditions that

would indicate we no longer need the forum. We now have milder weather, sufficient appropriations, and he thus proposed that the last MRFTF meeting be held in May followed by a transition to another entity. Beth Freeman and Tom Christensen agreed. Mr. Christensen indicated that there needed to be a repository for the tremendous amount of information generated by the task force, contact lists need to be maintained for rapid mobilization, and website content needs to be maintained. As current chairperson of the Missouri River Basin Interagency roundtable (MRBIR), Mr. Christensen indicated the MRBIR may be an organization to serve as the vehicle for that transition. However, he did indicate that MRBIR is for federal agencies only which may be a drawback. Transition of the MRFTF was identified as a discussion topic for the work groups in their breakout sessions. Mr. Blechinger indicated there does need to be an activation plan to stand up the task force if the need would arise. Ms. Wakeman commented that before the task force concludes, the Tribes should get together and discuss how they could benefit from this resource. She suggested waiting until after the Tribal Summit (proposed by the Tribal Work Group) to decide on the future of the task force.

Presentation from Mr. Tom Oswald of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division regarding the Iowa Silver Jackets: This group is part of a national movement starting on the east coast and moving west. It was established following the Mississippi River Flood of 2008. A multi-state inter-agency level task force (ILTF) was established following that flood that then transitioned into the state-based Silver Jackets Program while retaining a regional flood risk management team. The best outcome of the ILTF was knowing who to talk to during the 2011 flood. The Iowa Silver Jackets meet quarterly and include both PL84-99 levee districts as well as levee districts not included in that program. The county and city participants have been the most important players. Interest has been sustained since 2008 and they are currently working on a levee database, levee accreditation, and long-term structural solutions to flooding.

Following the presentation Ms. Shockey asked if there were questions. Mr. Dave Sieck inquired as to whether the Iowa Silver Jackets included other interests in addition to state and local entities. Mr. Oswald responded that normally other interests participate if they perceive they may be impacted or benefit (i.e. super levee) from the Silver Jackets.

Cpt. Bill Beacom inquired about what happened after the DeSoto cut and the water went down (i.e. where would the water go if a super levee was built north of Council Bluffs). Mr. Oswald commented he would leave this to the hydrologists.

Ms. Elizabeth Wakeman inquired about Tribal participation in the Silver Jackets. Mr. Oswald indicated the Tribes could participate if they wanted.

Presentation from Mr. Tom Christensen, NRCS Central Region: Overview of the Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR) and the possible role it could play in the transition of the task force: Mr. Christensen gave the group some background on this interagency group of federal executives and explained that the MRBIR executives could consider a transition proposal from this task force at their next meeting in July.

Following the presentation, BG McMahon suggested a Tribal Summit be tied to the MRRIC meeting scheduled in Rapid City, South Dakota 8-10 May. The results of that Summit could then be brought back to the next MRFTF meeting in May. The Floodplain work group was also tasked with providing a more detailed presentation regarding the Silver Jackets for the May MRFTF meeting. Brian Rast, USACE Kansas City, pointed out that other Upper states also meet quarterly regarding flooding and floodplain issues, including Missouri and Kansas, but do not call it Silver Jackets. Mr. Oswald explained that the Silver Jackets team for the Upper Mississippi are ongoing state teams but they come together quarterly as a region.

VI. Work Group break-out session

The task force broke out into roundtable meetings to allow the MRFTF work groups to discuss their work. After the work groups met individually, they reported out to the task force on their discussions:

- The Communication work group will continue to have weekly calls until the transition of the task force.
- The River Management work group will explore data availability regarding runoff into the Missouri River and will work with the states to gain more information regarding soil moisture and plains snow assessment information. The channel conveyance sub-group will work on improvements in addressing river pinch points to benefit large areas and review existing studies in order to avoid duplication. This sub-group is using the expertise of multiple agencies.
- The Floodplain Management work group's Flood Risk Toolbox sub-group has completed 50% of normalization of data layers and will conclude this effort in 30 days. Following this they will identify scenarios for evaluation, and work to determine where information should be stored and updated. The other 3 sub-groups of this work group will close out. Ms. Wakeman commented that Tribes may want to use the toolbox as well.
- The Tribal Outreach work group will work try to determine what the MRFTF means for the Tribes, explore funding to battle flooding, work with the Tribes to develop flood response plans in the event of future flooding, and explore joint federal Tribal coordination in emergencies such as assigning a federal coordinator to the tribes to handle emergencies.

VII. Wrap Up

The co-chairs concluded the meeting by thanking everyone, and most particularly the Tribes, for their participation. Beth encouraged the Tribal Work Group to plan the Tribal flood response summit in conjunction with MRRIC. Tom added that NRCS is regional tribal advisory councils to be more effective for Tribal support. The next MRFTF meeting will be held in Omaha on 24 May. The focus of that meeting will be on a transition strategy.