

North Dakota Missouri River Advisory Council

4665 2nd Street Southwest
Dickinson, ND 58601-7231

OUR MISSION - Working collaboratively with North Dakota stakeholders to provide unified representation, advocate for the responsible use of resources, and improve awareness and education relating to the Missouri River and its Tributaries.

July 27, 2017

Garland Eberle
North Dakota State Engineer
900 East Broadway Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Missouri River Geomorphology Study 2017-2019

The Missouri River Advisory Council has considered information related to the proposed geomorphology study by the USGS with the assistance of the SWC and local stakeholders. We understand the original model created following the 2011 flood has limitations that will be resolved with new data collection and the proposed update. This model will then allow the evaluation and consideration of local concerns ranging from flood control, water supply intakes, sediment accumulation, to bank stabilization. These concerns are very important to our membership and the stakeholders they represent, as well as the predictions related to changes from projected river flows.

The IREC sediment transport model could also be used to benefit larger efforts on the Missouri River. These efforts include the Missouri River Recovery and Implementation Committee, who have expressed an interest in collecting river sediment data, as well as predicting changes to river sandbars. The USFWS continues to press for the implementation of pulsed releases from the Garrison Dam and construction of sandbars in this reach. These sandbars are considered critical habitat to the recovery of the least turn and piping plover. The updated river model will be usable to evaluate a broad range of flows and a cursory assessment of future changes on the river. Data collection critical to developing the model update is best collected this year, as the current releases from Garrison Dam are within the desired flow ranges.

NDMRAC fully supports completing the proposed study and encourages the State Engineer to request cost share funding from the State Water Commission. We also believe the study reach should be expanded to include Double Ditch to the north, as well as south into the Oahe Delta formation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Michael Gunsch, Chairman
Friends of Lake Sakakawea

Martin Dahl, Vice Chairman
McLean Electric Cooperative

Mary Massad, Secretary/Treasurer
Southwest Water Authority

Respectfully,

Michael H. Gunsch, Chairman

C: Laura Ackerman, NDSWC
 Joel Galloway, USGS
 John Ramous, USACE
 Bill Robinson, Chairman Lower Heart WRD
 NDMRAC Membership - Email