



America's Inner Coast Summit

June 22-24, 2010 | St. Louis, MO

Work Group Recommendations



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Work Group #1:

Communications & Outreach

1. Have intentional preformation process and statement of purpose that leads to developing a session.
2. Look at existing communication models to determine best way to develop Mississippi River vision.



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Work Group #1:

Communications & Outreach

3. Use trusted facilitator that is present beyond organizational bias with a safe place and process.
4. Use an open process for participation.
5. Use a shared leadership structure that embodies the idea of "All leaders, all the time."
6. Have fun!



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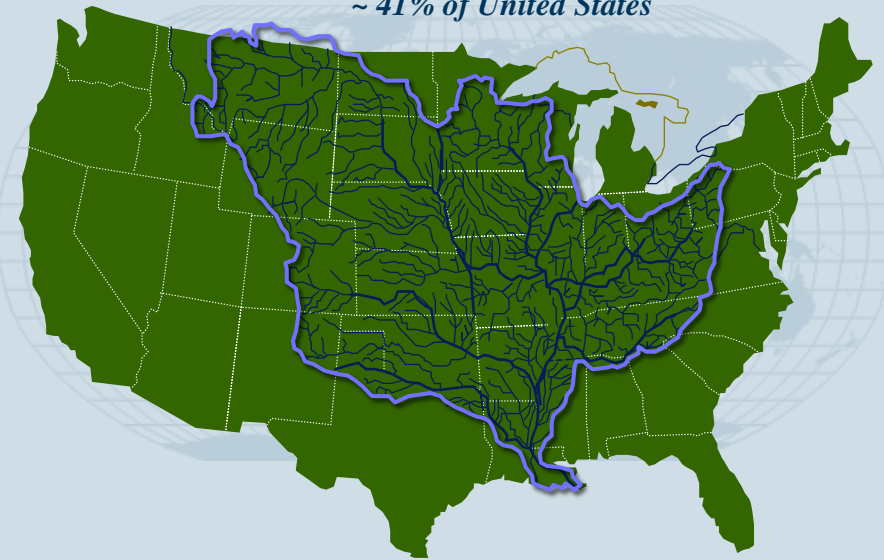
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Work Group #2: Integrating Stakeholders

1. The scope of integration efforts should encompass all MRB watersheds as well as the GOM.

"America's River" Basin is World's Third Largest

~ 41% of United States





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Work Group #2:

Integrating Stakeholders

2. Short-term integration actions: ID major players, Governor's caucus, need institutional structure, Cabinet-level invitation to States for listening sessions, take advantage of initiatives
3. Use the current GOM crises and other major events as educational opportunities to mobilize shareholders.



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Work Group #2:

Integrating Stakeholders

4. Address integration at multiple scales and across issues to create basin-wide commitment to MRB vision. Issues to be integrated include: water quality/quantity, sediment, recreation/tourism, transportation, fish and wildlife, agriculture, economic development, cultural history.



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Work Group #3:

Building Integrated Science

1. Science will: define and identify sustainable and non-sustainable behavior to inform decision making.
2. Develop science information that is translatable, accessible and useable.



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Work Group #3:

Building Integrated Science

3. Foster opportunities to leverage resources to formulate an entity, program and process for integrated watershed science.
4. Build an active, integrated and inclusive science network for scientific issue.



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Work Group #3:

Building Integrated Science

5. Science will work within the existing education system to improve science literacy and understanding (need a reward system).



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Work Group #4:

Multi-sector River Management

1. Create a basin-wide coordinating organization
- a collective authority that speaks for the entire system; perhaps call it the Mississippi Basin Congress (MBC); make it broadly inclusive -- private sector, states, agencies, academics, etc.



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Work Group #4:

Multi-sector River Management

2. Educate and engage the public in dialogue -
"America Speaks" is an example of this type of broad-based advocacy, which allows the public to weigh in and influence change.



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Work Group #4:

Multi-sector River Management

3. *[Message to the conference organizers]*

Keep communication open - now that we have connected, attendees might establish a way (via email or a list serve) to keep in contact with each other to share ideas, forge partnerships, etc. You've set expectations and established momentum, don't disappoint us.



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Work Group #4:

Multi-sector River Management

4. Develop a science based Mississippi River watershed "health diagnostic" tool.
5. Use the Ohio River and other models to develop a "value statement" for the economic and other benefits derived from the Mississippi River and its watershed.



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Work Group #5:

MRV 200-Year Vision Process

1. Vision should be resilient and robust, address multiple uses, be specific, scalable and flexible, inform decision making, address uncertainty, incorporate new information, and include monitoring and evaluation.
2. Form an "Ad-hoc" Design Group



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Work Group #5:

MRV 200-Year Vision Process

3. TNC and USACE will convene, invite attendees and prepare background information in support of Ad-hoc Design Group process.
4. Ad-hoc Group establishes process for developing vision statement.



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Work Group #5:

MRV 200-Year Vision Process

5. Ad-hoc group outlines political outreach, relationship to existing efforts, relationship to science and research, data collection, and watershed coordination strategy.
6. Dynamic, open process that can evolve over time and continue to include new interests.



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Work Group #5:

MRV 200-Year Vision Process

- Overall working group (process development)
- Governance group
- Specified Basin or Watershed Team
- Congressional Liaison Team
- Science/Technical Team (academia, etc.)
- Strategic Communication Team



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Work Group #6:

Guidelines for Model Projects & Programs

1. Inventory, analyze, link and implement highest priority existing opportunities to achieve vision.
2. Create expert exchange, flexible funding/authorities, devolved decision making, and incentivized results.



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Work Group #6:

Guidelines for Model Projects & Programs

3. Improve analytical tools to access multiple values and externalities.
4. Conduct pilot multi-agency, watershed-based management involving Federal, State, Local entities.