

# Chapter 6: Consultation and Coordination With the Public and Others

## 6.1 Scoping and Public Involvement

Scoping and public involvement are vital components of federal planning and were given considerable attention during development of this EIS/CCP. The public received our official notice of intent to prepare an EIS/CCP via the Federal Register, dated May 30, 2002 (Vol. 76, No. 104, page 37852). All public meeting dates and locations, with notes from workshops, are available at Refuge headquarters in Winona, Minnesota or on the planning website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/uppermiss>

All public meetings were video recorded by Refuge staff; recordings were transferred to Digital Video Discs (DVDs) that are stored at headquarters in Winona, Minnesota. Outreach Plans were compiled prior to an interagency coordination meeting in January 2004 and before public release of the Draft EIS/CCP in May 2005. These plans identified immediate issues, facts, communication goals, key messages, interested parties, and actions to be taken by Service personnel. Updates to the second plan were made throughout the remainder of the planning process.



*Draft EIS/CCP public meeting, Upper Mississippi River Refuge EIS/CCP. Cindy Samples, USFWS*

*Internal Scoping.* Internal scoping was conducted between March and June 2002, within each of the four Refuge districts and the Regional Office, with over 350 concern statements recorded. Many of these concerns were repeated at each setting which helped focus on the most important issues. An in-house, 1-day workshop was conducted at a Refuge-wide meeting in January 2004. Refuge staff discussed issues and potential solutions for use in EIS/CCP preparation.

*Public Scoping Meetings and Workshops.* Ten public scoping meetings, professionally facilitated by Dr. Onnie Byers and Kathy Holzer of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Apple Valley, Minnesota, were attended by 473 citizens during August and September 2002. Citizens expressed 495 comments in response to the question, “What concerns you most about the future of the Refuge?” Approximately 35 additional written comments were received as a result of those meetings.

Upon completion of these public meetings, Refuge staff compiled a series of 12 “Issue Fact Sheets” summarizing major habitat and recreational issues identified by the public. These one-page documents were used as reference materials for public workshops held in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin; Savanna, Illinois; Winona, Minnesota; and Onalaska, Wisconsin between January and March 2003. Called “Manager for a Day” workshops, citizens were invited to offer potential solutions to the 12 issues referred to above and any other issue they wished to address. These workshops were again facilitated by Dr. Byers and yielded hundreds of ideas and potential solutions from 116 citizen participants.

In anticipation of public concerns about waterfowl hunting and areas closed to waterfowl hunting on the Refuge, we conducted two special “Closed Area Informational Meetings” with the public. The first was in Onalaska, Wisconsin in September 2003, and the second was in Savanna, Illinois in June 2003. Staff made presentations on the history of closed areas, human disturbance issues, and the bioenergetic or food needs of waterfowl. Citizens provided pros and cons of management options in and around closed areas. Total attendance at these meetings was 93.

*Public Meetings and Workshops to Review Draft EIS/CCP, Alternatives A-D.*

The Draft EIS/CCP was released for public review May 1, 2005, for a 120-day comment period ending August 31, 2005 (see Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register: Vol. 70, No 81, page 22058). The Refuge hosted 21 public meetings and workshops attended by 2,900 people. Due to high public interest, we announced the intent to issue a new preferred alternative following the comment period to reflect input received. The workshops resulted in 87 workgroup reports with comments or recommendations on major issues. Each report was posted on the Refuge planning web site. The Refuge also received 2,516 written comments including comments from the four states involved, the Corps of Engineers, and 40 conservation or recreation-related organizations, and 5 petitions with more than 3,000 signatures.

*Public Meetings and Open Houses to Review Preferred Alternative E.*

A new preferred alternative (Alternative E) was issued as a Supplement to the Draft EIS/CCP on December 5, 2005 (see Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register, Vol. 70, No. 232, page 72462). The initial comment period was for 60 days but was extended to 90 days ending on March 6, 2006. Nine open houses / public forums were held in January 2006 to discuss provisions of Alternative E with the public. A total of 888 citizens attended these meetings. The Refuge received 714 written comments on Alternative E from citizens, clubs, organizations, legislators and state and federal agencies.

*State and Federal Interagency Meetings.* Refuge managers and biologists have worked closely with the departments of natural resources for Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin and the Corps of Engineers (St. Paul and Rock Island Districts). Throughout the planning process, Refuge personnel have met with State representatives approximately 35 times, in person or via conference calls. An official CCP Interagency Planning Team consisting of State and Corps of Engineers representatives was first convened in December 2001, followed by scoping meetings in May 2002, March 2003, and January 2004. Most representatives also participated in a Wildlife and Habitat Management Review of the refuge in August and October 2002.

Between January and April 2004, Refuge staff conducted briefings for state department of natural resource personnel from the four States and managers of the Rock Island and St. Paul Districts, Corps of Engineers. These briefings involved discussions of issues and management alternatives for the Draft EIS/CCP.

As planning progressed, the Refuge continued to meet with the Interagency Planning Team in person or via conference calls in May 2005, September 2005, February 2006, and May 2006. These meetings provided the agencies further opportunity to exchange ideas regarding proposed management alternatives.

The Refuge provided briefings to the Corps of Engineers and each state department of natural resources after releases of the Draft EIS/CCP in May 2005 and the Supplement in December 2005. Briefings were scheduled after public meetings (see above) in order to integrate public comments into the discussion. These briefings often included PowerPoint presentations of major issues, followed by questions and answers and discussion.

*Congressional Briefings and Meetings.* In late January 2004 the Refuge conducted three briefings for Congressional and state legislative members and staff. Meetings were held in Savanna, Illinois, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and La Crosse, Wisconsin. Attendees included one state senator from Minnesota and staffers for three U.S. Representatives and three U.S. Senators. In August and November 2005, Refuge Manager Hultman provided a briefing to the Congressional River Advisory Board, sponsored by Congressman Kind (WI). Meetings were also held with Congressman Kind in March and April of 2006. Conference calls were conducted with Congressional Staff in October 2005 and May 2006. In October 2005, two of Senator Coleman's (MN-R) staff visited the Refuge to discuss the CCP. In March 2006, Refuge Manager Hultman attended a meeting convened by Congressman Kind to discuss Wisconsin navigability issues. Attendees included legal counsel for Department of the Interior, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Wisconsin Department of Justice (Attorney General).

*Other Meetings:* Between 2003 and 2006, briefings and presentations were given to the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee, Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, Mississippi River Citizens Commission, Wisconsin Parkway Commission, Minnesota Audubon Society, Mississippi River Air Boaters Association, the La Crosse County (Wisconsin) Conservation Alliance, Winona Civic Association, and several other river community organizations. Topics included the planning process and framework, issues being addressed, and avenues for public involvement and comment.

*Newsletters, News Releases and Executive Summaries.* Three "CCP Update" newsletters dated August 2002, December 2002, and July 2003, were sent to approximately 2,600 citizens, nongovernmental organizations, media, and legislators during the scoping process. They described who we are, the planning process, proposed completion schedules, potential issues to be addressed in the Draft EIS/CCP, draft Refuge vision and goals, and times and locations of upcoming public meetings. Four news releases were sent to approximately 52 media outlets (newspapers, radio, and TV) during this scoping process. They announced our intent to complete the CCP, meetings, workshops and invited citizen participation.

In May 2005 the Draft EIS/CCP was released for public review and comment. At the same time, an Executive Summary (27 pages) was mailed to over 3,100 individuals, organizations, elected officials, and members of the media. It provided information on the public involvement process, Refuge goals, planning issues, summaries of alternatives and environmental consequences, and tables of project features proposed in the Plan. Several news releases were issued at the same time to announce the release, comment deadlines, and upcoming public meetings.

In December 2005, an Executive Summary of the "Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Alternative E: Modified Wildlife and Integrated Public Use" was sent to a mailing list including 2,950 addresses. This document offered information similar to the previous summary, with the addition of foldout maps of each Refuge pool showing management direction under proposed, Alternative E. As with previous executive summaries, news releases were issued at the same time to announce the release, comment deadlines, and upcoming public meetings.

An update of the Final Environmental Impact Plan and Comprehensive Conservation Plan will be sent to approximately 4,900 addressees on the current EIS/CCP mailing list.

*General.* Details of public and agency meetings are available at Refuge headquarters in Winona, Minnesota and on our planning website. Throughout the planning period, 2002-2006, Refuge staff made numerous CCP presentations to a variety of media and audiences, including radio, television, and print media, civic organizations, conservation groups, and other organizations.

Refuge staff provided briefings to the Service's Regional Office (Region 3, Twin Cities MN) in May 2003, November 2003, February 2005, September 2005, and March 2006. Similar briefings were provided to the Service Director and staff and high-ranking officials of the Department of the Interior, in Washington, D.C. in March 2005 and April 2006.

## 6.2 Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation

Notification of preparation of the CCP and EIS is to be sent to the federally-recognized tribes and to the several county historical societies. In addition, the following listed organizations should be notified:

- # State Historic Preservation Officer for Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin
- # Office of the State Archeologist for Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin
- # Governor's Liaison for Indian Affairs in Iowa
- # Indian Affairs Council for Minnesota
- # Archaeological and historic preservation state-wide groups
- # The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- # The FWS Historic Preservation Officer

The final CCP with EIS is to be sent to each State Historic Preservation Officer and to others who request it.

## 6.3 List of Contacts

The Refuge has contacted the following agencies, organizations, and citizens regarding the CCP.

### **Elected Federal Officials**

U.S. Senators & Representatives (18)

U.S. Senator Richard Durbin (Illinois)

U.S. Senator Barack Obama (Illinois)

U.S. Senator Charles Grassley (Iowa)

U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (Iowa)

U.S. Senator Norm Coleman (Minnesota)

U.S. Senator Mark Dayton (Minnesota)

U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (Wisconsin)

U.S. Senator Herb Kohl (Wisconsin)

U.S. Representative Melissa Bean (Illinois)

U.S. Representative Lane Evans (Illinois)  
U.S. Representative Dennis Hastert (Illinois)  
U.S. Representative Donald Manzullo (Illinois)  
U.S. Representative Tom Latham (Iowa)  
U.S. Representative Jim Nussle (Iowa)  
U.S. Representative Gil Gutknecht (Minnesota)  
U.S. Representative Mark Kennedy (Minnesota)  
U.S. Representative Mark Green (Wisconsin)  
U.S. Representative Ron Kind (Wisconsin)

**Elected State Officials (36)**

State Senator Denny Jacobs (Illinois)  
State Senator Todd Sieben (Illinois)  
State Senator Mike Connolly (Iowa)  
State Senator E.T. Gaskill (Iowa)  
State Senator Kitty Rehberg (Iowa)  
State Senator Julie Hosch (Iowa)  
State Senator Bryan Sievers (Iowa)  
State Senator Roger Stewart (Iowa)  
State Senator Mark Ziemann (Iowa)  
State Senator Bob Kierlin (Minnesota)  
State Senator Steve Murphy (Minnesota)  
State Senator Ron Brown (Wisconsin)  
State Senator Dan Kapanke (Wisconsin)  
State Senator Mark Meyer (Wisconsin)  
State Senator Dale Schultz (Wisconsin)  
State Representative Mike Boland (Illinois)  
State Representative Jim Sacia (Illinois)  
State Representative Patrick Verschoore (Illinois)  
State Representative Polly Bukta (Iowa)  
State Representative Chuck Gipp (Iowa )  
State Representative Pam Jochum (Iowa )  
State Representative Steven Lukan (Iowa )  
State Representative Pat Murphy (Iowa)  
State Representative Steven Olson (Iowa)  
State Representative Bob Osterhaus (Iowa)

State Representative Roger Thomas (Iowa)  
State Representative Gregory Davids (Minnesota)  
State Representative Jerry Dempsey (Minnesota)  
State Representative Gene Pelowski (Minnesota)  
State Representative Steve Sviggum (Minnesota)  
State Representative Barbara Gronemus (Wisconsin)  
State Representative Mike Huebsch (Wisconsin)  
State Representative DuWayne Johnsrud (Wisconsin)  
State Representative Gabe Loeffelholz (Wisconsin)  
State Representative Lee Nerison (Wisconsin)  
State Representative Jennifer Shilling (Wisconsin)  
Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager (Wisconsin)

**Federal Agencies (8)**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Coast Guard  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Forest Service

**Native American Tribes (35)**

Bad River Band, Chippewa  
Boise Forte Band, Chippewa  
Fond du Lac Band, Chippewa  
Grand Portage Band, Chippewa  
Lac Courte Oreilles Band, Chippewa  
Lac du Flambeau, Chippewa  
Leech Lake Band, Chippewa  
Mille Lacs Band, Chippewa  
Red Cliff Band, Chippewa  
Red Lake Band, Chippewa  
Sandy Lake Band, Chippewa  
Sokaogon Chippewa

Devils Lake (Spirit Lake) Sioux  
Flandreau Santee Sioux  
Lower Brule Sioux  
Lower Sioux Mdewakanton  
Prairie Island Sioux  
Santee Sioux  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux  
Sisseton-Whapeton Sioux  
Upper Sioux Community  
Iowa Tribe of Kansas  
Iowa tribe of Oklahoma  
Menominee Indian Tribe  
Miami Tribe  
Stockbridge-Munsee  
Peoria Indian Tribe  
Citizen Potawatomi  
Forest County Potawatomi  
Hannahville Indian Community, Potawatomi  
Prairie Band of Potawatomi  
Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri  
Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi  
Ho-Chunk Nation  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

**State Agencies (16)**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Iowa Historical Society  
Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Illinois Historic Preservation Division  
Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
Minnesota Historical Society  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Minnesota Water & Soil Resource Board

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Wisconsin Division of Tourism  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade  
Wisconsin Historical Society

**Cities (23)**

Alma, Wisconsin  
Brownsville, Minnesota  
Cassville Village, Wisconsin  
Dubuque, Iowa  
Edgewood, Iowa  
Elkader, Iowa  
Fountain City, Wisconsin  
Garnavillo, Iowa  
Guttenberg, Iowa  
Harper's Ferry, Iowa  
Hokah, Minnesota  
La Crescent, Minnesota  
La Crosse, Wisconsin  
Lansing, Iowa  
McGregor, Iowa  
Monona, Iowa  
New Albin, Iowa  
Onalaska, Wisconsin  
Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin  
Stoddard, Wisconsin  
Trempealeau, Wisconsin  
Waukon, Iowa  
Winona, Minnesota

**Counties (19)**

Carroll, Illinois  
Jackson, Illinois  
JoDaviess, Illinois  
Rock Island, Illinois

Whiteside, Illinois  
Allamakee, Iowa  
Clayton, Iowa  
Clinton, Iowa  
Dubuque, Iowa  
Scott, Iowa  
Houston, Minnesota  
Wabasha, Minnesota  
Winona County, Minnesota  
Buffalo, Wisconsin  
Crawford, Wisconsin  
Grant, Wisconsin  
La Crosse, Wisconsin  
Trempealeau, Wisconsin  
Vernon, Wisconsin

**Organizations (262)**

American Kennel Club  
American Rivers  
Animal Protection Institute  
Audubon Society  
BASSMasters Federation  
Blue Goose Alliance  
Boy Scouts of America  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Izaak Walton League of America  
National Rifle Association  
Sierra Club  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wilderness Society  
Friends of the Upper Mississippi Refuges  
Conservation Organizations and Clubs (96)  
Businesses (45)  
Schools/Univ. (26)  
Libraries (58)  
Other Organizations (54)

**River Associations and Committees (13)**

Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee  
Midwest Area River Coalition 2000  
Mississippi River Basin Alliance  
Mississippi River Citizen Commission  
Mississippi River Interstate Cooperative Research Association  
Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission  
Mississippi River Revival  
River Resource Alliance  
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association  
Upper Mississippi River Congressional Task Force  
Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee  
Upper Mississippi Waterway Association

**Media (119)**

Newspaper (75)  
Radio (28)  
TV (16)

**Citizens (3,907)**

Illinois (526)  
Iowa (665)  
Minnesota (945)  
Wisconsin (1,715)  
Citizens of Other States (56)