

Missouri River Futures

Quarterly Report for 01/07 through 03/07 –

- 1) STEEP learning curve continues! I'm almost getting dangerous! Also getting to know quite an array of interesting people. The opportunity to learn in this position is tremendous. It also opens your mind to many different perspectives.
- 2) Attended several meetings during this period in 2007 learning about current and future activities. These include:
 - a. Regulatory Mtg. – Jan 9
 - b. LCNRD meeting – Jan 17
 - c. Ducks Unlimited Mtg. – Jan 23
 - d. MoLIFE Modeling Mtg – Jan 24
 - e. State-based Mtg – Nebraska – Jan 29
 - f. Terns & Plovers Disturbance – Jan 31
 - g. Interagency Mtg with SD Landowners – Feb 12
 - h. MRNRC Conference – March 6-9
 - i. Yankton City Clean-up, Yankton – March 14
 - j. Gavins Point Interagency Mtg – March 21
 - k. Tyndall Public Meeting – March 21
 - l. Erosion problem @ Ponca – March 22
 - m. Steering Committee Mtg – March 28
 - n. MRBSA Mtg. – March 29
- 3) Continued with visits to members of the MRF steering committee in their offices.
- 4) Found out that we did not get the PIE mini-grant for website development which was submitted by the Lewis & Clark NRD. However, we did not have the lowest score so not too bad for my first grant writing attempt. Reviewed seriously the possibility of applying for Stewardship Grant. Thought it would be best to wait until next year and target specific known projects.
- 5) I do spend some training time keeping up to date with NRCS programs as I feel these are a key part of the 'toolbox options' I discuss with landowners. WRP is really gaining popularity.
- 6) Have had several contacts with other states (Montana, North Dakota) curious about the activities of the MRF. With the USACE funding available to them as with MRF, they are researching this possibility and have many questions and have requested various pieces of information. They have sent articles to review and are planning a visit sometime in 2007.
- 7) Contact with landowners:
 - a. 550 acres near Vermillion. 1 1/3 mile of river frontage. Slated for development, but new owners willing to listen to all available options. After teleconference and after gathering and sharing a lot of information, gathered agencies who would have something to offer this area in SD and met with owners, some of who came in from Rapid City. Afterwards, spent significant amount of time researching options and learning more from more independent conservation agencies. This also involved several teleconferences. During this time, the USACE had given this high priority

but I continue to gather information requested by the landowners.
Construction was slated for May 1 and now has been pushed back until
June 1. This has encouraged me to get up to speed a little faster!

- b. Met with SD tribe after transition to new biologist but enthusiasm is waning fast. Maintaining contact, need to work with BIA perhaps.
 - c. Started contacts concerning the 2007 ESH projects. As expected, I'm finding a wide array of reactions.
- 8) Preparing to hit the road by obtaining SD plats and visiting with USDA service center personnel who know the landowners in their county. Also adding the SD conservation district programs to toolbox as separate sheet to tailor program to specific areas.
 - 9) Researching web site ideas.
 - 10) Maintain close contact with partners and monitor current needs for MRF activities on the MNRR.