

**DRAFT**  
**Upper Mississippi River Water Suppliers Coalition**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 20, 2005**  
**Davenport, IA**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Alan Borden	Burlington, IA Municipal Waterworks
Esther Dundore	American Water Company, Belleville, Illinois
Larry Cole	City of Minneapolis, Department of Health, Water Treatment
Mark Mitchell	Illinois Rural Water Association, SWP Specialist
Ryan Schuler	American Water Company, St. Louis, Missouri
Tim Ganz	American Water Company, St. Louis, Missouri

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Introductions were made and Tim Ganz welcomed the group to the third meeting of the Upper Mississippi Water Suppliers Coalition (UMWSC) and will now serve as the acting chairman of the coalition due to Dr. Rich Gullick's departure from American Water. However, it was noted that Dr. Gullick would still like to be informed and stay in touch with the coalition's activities.

Mr. Ganz discussed the reorganization of American Water (AW) and AW's Environmental Policy that has led to a stronger commitment to improving AW's environmental performance. This commitment is represented in AW's efforts to keep the Coalition alive provided an interest still exists among the UMR suppliers.

No mention was made of the July 9, 2002 minutes due to the extreme duration between meetings.

**DISCUSSIONS**

Mr. Ganz presented a slide presentation on the UMWSC mission statement, goals, and objectives to members.

American Water will be taking control of the operation and maintenance of the remote sensing pilot probe project which has been deployed at the Rock Island Arsenal at Lock and Dam 15. The Army Corps of Engineers will have there website and remote monitoring equipment network available for the use with the probe. It was suggested by Mark Mitchell that perhaps the City of Moline's, Greg Swanson, which has expressed interest in the project in the past, help with the sampling and maintenance of the probe.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he will try to get the Illinois Rural Water Association, Source Water Specialists from MN, IL, IA, WI, and MO involved with the UMWSC and to try to spark an interest with them for the pilot project.

The group discussed an early warning notification system call list. A question was raised as to whether there was something like this already in place. It was stated that the Upper Mississippi River Hazardous Spills Coordination Group already has a call list, and also that Rich Gullick had been developing this list as part of the UMWSC. It was also suggested that perhaps a website could also be developed.

Mark Mitchell proposed having the next meeting on the Illinois side of the river (City of Moline) due to the travel restraints that have been proposed in the states. This would allow Illinois EPA to attend the next UMWSC.

Tim Ganz and group discussed the document entitled *What to Do When There's an Oil, Fuel, or Hazardous Material Spill on the Upper Mississippi River (UMR), An Emergency Action Field Guide*, prepared by the UMR Hazardous Spills Coordination Group in 2004.

It was stated that USEPA mandates that every drinking water facility must have an Emergency Response Plan and that in order to stay on top of things that facilities exercise these plans. Mr. Mitchell believed that FEMA as part of the National Incident Management System is requiring basic Incident Command System (ICS) training for all city officials and emergency response personnel in order to receive FEMA aid in disaster situations. Thus the ILRWA will be putting on 8 training sessions on how to set up table top exercises for emergency responses. This is open to any UMWSC member that might be interested. The website for the ICS training is as follows:  
<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/k195/index.htm>

The Gulf of Mexico hypoxia issue was discussed and the finding's of the meeting that Mr. John North of the City of Cedar Rapids, IA attended, representing the water supply utilities on the Stakeholder Advisory Group of the Upper Mississippi River Sub-Basin Hypoxia Nutrient Committee. To summarize the meeting, the stakeholder's consensus was that the primary cause of the hypoxia issue in the Gulf was from nutrient loading. Potential impacts from the Action Plan being implemented by the U.S.E.P.A were discussed. John North can be reached at: 319-286-5912 or by e-mail at J.North@cedar-rapids.org

Tim Ganz stated that Bill Franz, Manager of the Mississippi River Team from USEPA Region 5, has asked American Water and other water suppliers along the river if they would be interested in sharing their water quality data with EPA to improve water quality on the Mississippi River. The consensus from the coalition is that this would be a good thing, and all suppliers at the meeting stated that they would not have a problem providing this data.

Allen Borden stated that there was recently a fertilizer spill north of the Quad Cities on a tributary of the Mississippi river and he first heard about it on a local radio station; however no information was communicated directly to the City of Burlington's water treatment plant about the spill. Mr. Borden emphasized the importance of a communication network between states, municipalities, and other company's so facilities can prepare for such instances.

## **UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES SINCE LAST MEETING**

- ?? Remote monitoring probe has been deployed and American Water will take over with the maintenance and operation of the probe with the addition of their new Water Quality Supervisor starting at the Davenport water treatment facility.
  
- ?? Rich Gullick is no longer with American Water however would like to still stay involved with the setting up of the remote monitoring network on the upper Mississippi Basin. Rich is now the Director of Water Resources for Environmental Engineering and Technologies in Philadelphia, PA. Rich can be reached at (856) 875-6140 or emailed at rgullick@eetinc.com.

## **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE**

The coalition discussed the future of the UMWSC and whether or not people are still interested in being members and whether or not the group should stay together. The consensus with the group was "yes". Although attendance was low for this meeting, the coalition feels very strongly about keeping the group together. It was suggested that coalition members at this meeting recruit other water suppliers in the upper Mississippi River basin and get more suppliers involved. The next meeting was suggested to coincide again with the UMRHSC group meeting, and again meet in the Quad City area perhaps on the Illinois side of the river.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Discussion of the remote monitoring pilot probe  
Reporting of unusual river conditions  
Presentations on UMRWSC projects  
Presentation on the River Defense Network  
Regulatory updates  
Treatment technologies that affect water suppliers  
Spill reporting / modeling software  
Governor's initiative (proposed by Minnesota's governor on improving source water protection at a regional basis not just state by state)