

# Agenda for Public Meeting

## 19 October 2009 - Monday

## Crowne Plaza

11 Kellogg Blvd E • St. Paul, MN

0800 – 0810	Welcome Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh Commander, Mississippi Valley Division
0810 – 0900	Opening statements:  - National Weather Service - U.S. Geological Survey - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  Summary of Fusion Team activities/accomplishments  Explain purpose of Summit II
0900 – 1000	Local Official/Stakeholder Panel Discussion
1000 – 1030	BREAK
1030 – 1200	Local Official/Stakeholder Panel Discussion
1200 – 1300	LUNCH
1300 – 1400	Stakeholder’s input
1300 – 1500	Public Comments/Statements
1500 – 1530	Break
1530 – 1700	Public Comments/Statements Agency Closing Comments

## Summit Purpose

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the National Weather Service (NWS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will co-host this summit to determine what went well with forecasting during the 2009 flood events, what did not go well and brainstorm forecasting improvements for future floods and low water events.

A stakeholder panel consisting of local and regional officials will discuss the areas of concern or issues they have with the Federal forecasting procedures and results. In addition, the summit will offer other stakeholders the opportunity to express the concerns or issues they have with the Federal forecasts.

Information obtained from this summit will be used by the USACE, NWS, and USGS to identify areas in which the collaborative forecasting procedures and methods, including data collection and analyses, can be improved.

## Federal Panel Members

## Senior representatives

USACE – Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh  
Commander, Mississippi Valley Division

NWS - Dr. Thomas M. Graziano  
Chief, Hydrologic Services Division  
NWS National Headquarters Office of Climate,  
Weather and Water

USGS – Robert R. Mason  
Assistant Chief, Office of Surface Water

## Technical Representatives

USACE – Chuck Shadie  
Watershed Mgmt Team  
Mississippi Valley Division

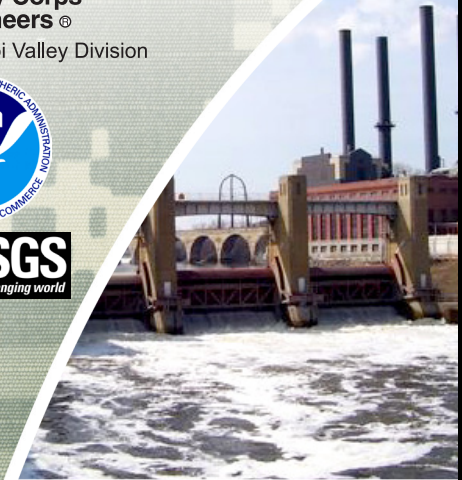
NWS – Steve Buan  
Service Coordination Hydrologist  
North Central River Forecast Center

USGS – Dr. Robert R. Holmes, Jr.  
National Flood Specialist  
Office of Surface Water



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## National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

Roles and responsibilities in rainfall-river forecasting:

The National Weather Service provides hydrologic forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

Legal authority for the National Weather Service to issue flood forecasts, watches and warnings to the public can be found at 15 U.S.C., Section 313 of the United States Code, available at:  
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/USCODE/index.html>

National Weather Service data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public and the global community.

The River Forecast Center provides river forecasts and hydrologic guidance to their partners, which consist of Weather Forecast Offices, other River Forecast Centers and cooperating water-related agencies.

The Weather Forecast Office disseminates river/flood forecasts and warnings which are used for the protection of life and property, and to provide water resource information to support commerce and economic decisions. To access National Weather Service river forecasts across the country: <http://www.weather.gov/ahps/>

For more information contact:  
[noreen.schwein@noaa.gov](mailto:noreen.schwein@noaa.gov)



## U.S. Geological Survey

Roles and responsibilities in rainfall-river forecasting:

Making wise decisions to manage floods and their impacts requires information derived from data on stream behavior—both current and past. For more than 100 years, the U.S. Geological Survey has collected, managed and disseminated these data, measuring and reporting on the behavior of United States streams. The USGS currently operates and maintains a nationwide streamgaging network of about 7,500 gages in cooperation with more than 800 organizations. The annual cost of operating the national streamgage network is about \$120 million.

USGS provides streamflow data to numerous agencies, including the Corps of Engineers for flood control management and the National Weather Service for input to river forecast models. USGS streamflow data are used for such things as: (1) planning, designing, operating and maintaining the nation's multipurpose water management systems; (2) issuing flood warnings to protect lives and reduce property damage; (3) designing highways and bridges; and (4) mapping floodplains. Real-time streamflow data are available at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt> and are used by various organizations and emergency managers to better respond to floods as they occur.

During major floods, the USGS enters a mode of intensive data collection. This additional information is needed to provide improved estimates of risk and impacts for better hazard response and mitigation. Information collected includes systematic field surveys of precipitation, river stage, river discharge and water quality. In addition, temporary streamgages are deployed during floods to ensure adequate data are available for forecasting and response activities in critical locations where there are no permanent streamgages.

For more information contact: [jlavista@usgs.gov](mailto:jlavista@usgs.gov)



## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Roles and responsibilities in rainfall-river forecasting:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a significant steward of the nation's water resources and is responsible for all water control activities to achieve project purposes such as flood control, water quality, water supply, irrigation, navigation, hydropower, recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement.

The Corps is responsible for "management" of these activities, which requires expert knowledge of the engineering and scientific aspect of the work and water control management policies.

In carrying out water control activities, the Corps recognizes and observes the legal responsibility of the National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, for issuing weather forecasts and flood warnings, including river discharge and stage forecasts.

The Corps of Engineers has the responsibility for developing situational forecasts for the operation and maintenance of the Corps projects and to provide timely and accurate information to the National Weather Service for their use in developing official public forecasts.

The Corps is also responsible for coordinating with other agencies and providing relevant, coordinated forecasts to Corps of Engineers flood fight teams.

For more information contact:  
[robert.t.anderson@usace.army.mil](mailto:robert.t.anderson@usace.army.mil)



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