

RRSC Meeting Advice Statements

April 3-4, 2019 Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park

1. Asian Carp

- *Given TVA's supporting role as the River's water manager and partner in this robust effort of the **Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA)**, what feedback does the RRSC have on TVA's efforts? What additional advice do you have?*
- *Once the two-year research project on halting the spread Asian Carp in the Tennessee River system is complete, what roles, resources and emphasis should TVA provide as a water management partner in the broader MICRA effort?*

TVA, with its balanced Mission to focus on Energy, Environment and Economic Development, provides significant contributions to the natural resource stewardship in the region. The impact of Asian Carp, if they are uncontrolled, could continue to negatively impact recreation, stewardship and economic development in the Tennessee Valley.

TVA needs to stay actively involved in its partnerships with the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association **and** coordinate with and support other key participants including state and federal agencies because invasive species have shared impacts.

TVA is well-positioned to provide education efforts, awareness and advocacy. Communication is the absolute minimum that TVA should be doing as Asian Carp research results become available. Managing the Locks to control migration is critically important. TVA also should coordinate events that provide the public with the opportunity to more broadly learn and understand Asian Carp, as an invasive species.

Raising awareness of invasive species is difficult, and if research projects like the acoustic barrier study work, TVA should focus on the success by telling this story. This education may help the public understand that successes are possible in dealing with all types of invasive species.

The RRSC encourages the sharing of costs of Asian Carp research and control in a fair way among organizations and interested parties.

The RRSC encourages TVA to share information including charts and graphs and the results of the acoustic research project at the KY and Barkley Locks, as the information becomes available. Enhanced communication with the public is encouraged, including at a minimum, an annual update on Asian Carp research.

2. Erosion Study

- *Given that TVA must balance multiple objectives and competing interests throughout the Tennessee River watershed, what are your observations on the intent, focus and value of the Erosion Study?*
- *Do you have other ideas for additional partners or resources to involve as TVA begins this research project?*

The RRSC believes that erosion is an important issue and supports TVA's efforts in leading a study to gather facts to better understand the cause and effect of erosion on large rivers in the Tennessee Valley.

TVA needs to continue recruiting partners and form a coalition to share information and costs, since TVA is not solely responsible for this problem. This fact-based approach will help TVA and key partners address the causes and problems associated with large river bank erosion in a way that meets the needs of multiple interests, including threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, private landowners and various river users.

TVA should consider engaging additional partners including the river shipping sector, recreation and yachting and federal and state agencies.

TVA needs to share the objectives and results of the research broadly. Be mindful of the section of the river TVA is working on at a point in time, because solutions may not translate uniformly across the Tennessee Valley. Developing and sharing best practices would be very helpful.

Also, the RRSC recommends that TVA work with partners for ways to simplify and expedite the permitting process to repair damage from erosion while being protective of endangered and threatened species, wetlands and cultural sites.

Mark Iverson, Chair, Regional Resource Stewardship Council

Date

Amy Henry, Alternate Designated Federal Officer

Date