

**FUSION TEAM
FORECAST EVALUATION & IMPROVEMENT TEAM (FEIT)
2020 Fact Sheet**

VISION

- The public has confidence in the accuracy of river forecasts over the Greater Mississippi River Basin

MISSION/GOAL

- Improve forecasts and observations through recommended actions based on evaluation of significant events and forecast trends
- Identify and evaluate forecast busts and successes or observations as events occur
- Present findings to Fusion Team along with recommendations
- Meet face-to-face bi-annually.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Evaluated high/low water events of 2010, Hurricane Isaac (Labor Day 2012), 2013, 2014, 2015/2016 (winter flood event), Memorial Day 2016, 2017 and 2019.
- Developed KMZ file/spreadsheet/map with color-coding of levee districts, along with metadata boxes for details such as levee heights, storage, and forecasted gage associated with that particular levee, etc.
- Developed/updated L&D 22 rating, a modeling handoff point that had caused issues in forecasting.

FINDINGS/LESSONS LEARNED

- Starting forecast points (Hermann, L&D 22, Chester, etc) are important to be the same between agencies. At times, each office may be/are applying shifts that can be large in consequence causing added confusion.
- Before significant change to forecasts are made based on one USGS measurement rated “poor”, extra communications needs to occur.
- Ratings vs stage relationships needs further investigation.
- Evaluation of lower Mississippi River backwater areas and levee breaches/overtoppings are challenging and need a more concerted effort to share measurements during levee breaches/overtoppings.
- LMRFC and Corps offices try to agree on forecasts to lessen confusion for decision makers, stakeholders, etc.
- Need to continue to work on understanding each other needs/collaboration. Examples:
 - Difference in using USGS measurements and NWS/USACE forecasting in real time.
 - When disassociating flows/stages coordination must take place between agencies
 - Work on agreeing to a starting flow for handoff locations
 - LRD provides extended outflow forecasts to LMRFC.

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