



**Upper Mississippi River Basin  
Association**

# **UMRBA Organizational Overview**

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# Presentation Overview

## UMRBA Overview

- History
- Structure
  - Role of States
  - Role of Federal Agencies
  - Funding
  - Staff
  - Meetings
- Activities and Accomplishments
- Future Directions
  - UMRBA's Evolving Water Quality Role
- Summary/Comparison

## Questions and Discussion



**Upper Mississippi River Basin**

(image courtesy USGS)

# 2007 National Research Council Panel Report: Mississippi River Water Quality and the Clean Water Act



- Recognition of the UMRBA's role in interstate and interagency collaboration on the Upper Mississippi River.
- Encourages Lower Mississippi River States to:  
*"...strive to create a cooperative mechanism, similar in organization to the UMRBA, in order to promote better interstate collaboration on the Lower Mississippi River water quality issues..."*
- Interest spurred in the UMRBA.
- What is the UMRBA and how does it function?

# UMRBA Mission Statement

## Purpose:

- Facilitate dialogue and cooperative action regarding water and related land resource issues in the basin

## More specifically:

- Serve as a regional interstate forum for the discussion, study, and evaluation of river-related issues of common concern to the States
- Facilitate and foster cooperative planning and coordinated management
- Create opportunities and means for the States and federal agencies to exchange information
- Develop regional positions on river issues and serve as an advocate of the States' collective interests before Congress and federal agencies

# UMRBA History

## Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1972 | Formed by Governors under the authority of Title II of the 1965 Water Resources Planning Act |
| 1981 | Terminated by Presidential Executive Order   |

## Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Aug 1981  | Joint Governors' Resolution                                  |
| Dec 1981  | Articles of Association signed by Governors' representatives |
| 1983-1984 | Governors' Executive Orders                                  |
| 1986      | Congressional consent  |
| 1997      | Joint Governors' Resolution                                  |

## UMRBA Structure:

# State Representatives (Governors' Appointees)

<b>Illinois</b>	<b>DNR (Water Division)</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>Agriculture, DNR*, Economic Development, Transportation</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>EQB (Chair - by State Statute)</b> <b>DNR (Deputy Commissioner)</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>DNR* (Director's Office)</b>
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>DNR* (Water Division)</b>

*\* State DNR has both natural resource and environmental quality functions*

# UMRBA Structure: Role of State Legislatures

- Governor-appointed representatives are the primary participants in the UMRBA's meetings and decision-making.
- State Legislatures do not have a direct role in the UMRBA, however:
  - Appointed representatives represent a State's position as a whole, including internal coordination with Legislatures as needed.
  - Legislatures appropriate UMRBA dues.
- UMRBA deliberations typically do not have direct bearing on the content of individual states' laws or rules.

# UMRBA Structure: Federal Advisory Members

- Agriculture (*NRCS*)
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Homeland Security (*FEMA & Coast Guard*)
- Interior (*Fish and Wildlife Service and USGS*)
- Transportation (*Maritime Administration*)

*Federal advisors do not have voting rights.*

*Role of Federal advisory members established in bilateral  
“Partnering Agreements” with UMRBA*

## UMRBA Structure: Meetings

- Quarterly Meetings of UMRBA Board, open to the public.
- Location rotates (e.g. St. Louis, Quad Cities, LaCrosse, Twin Cities) and held in conjunction with related ecosystem restoration/navigation meetings
- Seek consensus in decisions and voting. Each State has one vote.
- Annual (February) meeting includes the election of Chair and Vice Chair

# UMRBA Structure: Budget and Staffing

**FY 2008\* Budget = \$459,000**

## **FY 2008 Revenue Sources**

- State Dues and Water Quality “Assessments” 59%
- Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts 34%
- Interest on Investments & Other Income 7%

## **Staff**

- 4 permanent staff (50 total years of experience)
- 1-2 project staff (Spill response mapping/planning for US EPA)
- All located in St. Paul, MN

*\*The UMRBA uses a July 1-June 30 fiscal year.*

## UMRBA Structure: UMRBA-Affiliated Groups

Water Quality Executive Committee	2006
Water Quality Task Force	1999
Floodplain Managers Group (meet as needed)	1993
Hazardous Spills Group	1989
EMP Coordinating Committee (formed by the Corps of Engineers, staffed by UMRBA)	1987

# UMRBA Activities: General Areas of Effort

## UMRBA focuses on:

- Planning & coordination, helping States and Feds work together
- Evaluating policies, programs, and laws
- Building consensus among the States
- Promoting the States' interests

## UMRBA is not involved in:

- Regulation or land management
- Construction or operation of facilities
- Scientific research or expertise

# UMRBA Activities: Highlights and Accomplishments

- Establishing a Standing Forum for a Partnership of State and Federal Agencies on the UMR
- Authorization and Implementation of the Environmental Management Program
- Interbasin Diversion Charter
- Upper Mississippi Spill Response Plan
- Inland Sensitivity Atlas
- NESP Authorization (supported by Industry/NGO/State Government coalition)

# UMRBA Water Quality Programs: Work Efforts to Date

- Generally: mainstem and Clean Water Act (CWA) focus, coordination/assistance for existing State and Federal programs
- Impaired waters listing consultation
- Uniform interstate assessment reaches
- Designated uses
- Sediment-related water quality criteria
- Fish consumption advisories
- Water quality web page (<http://www.umrba.org/wq.htm>)

# UMRBA Water Quality Programs: Evolving Role in UMR Water Quality

## Organizational Options Report (December 2006)

- States recommended building on UMRBA to develop interstate water quality “agency”
- Support and collaborate with state CWA programs
- Not an interstate compact (at this time)
- State-led, with EPA support

## Implementation Efforts

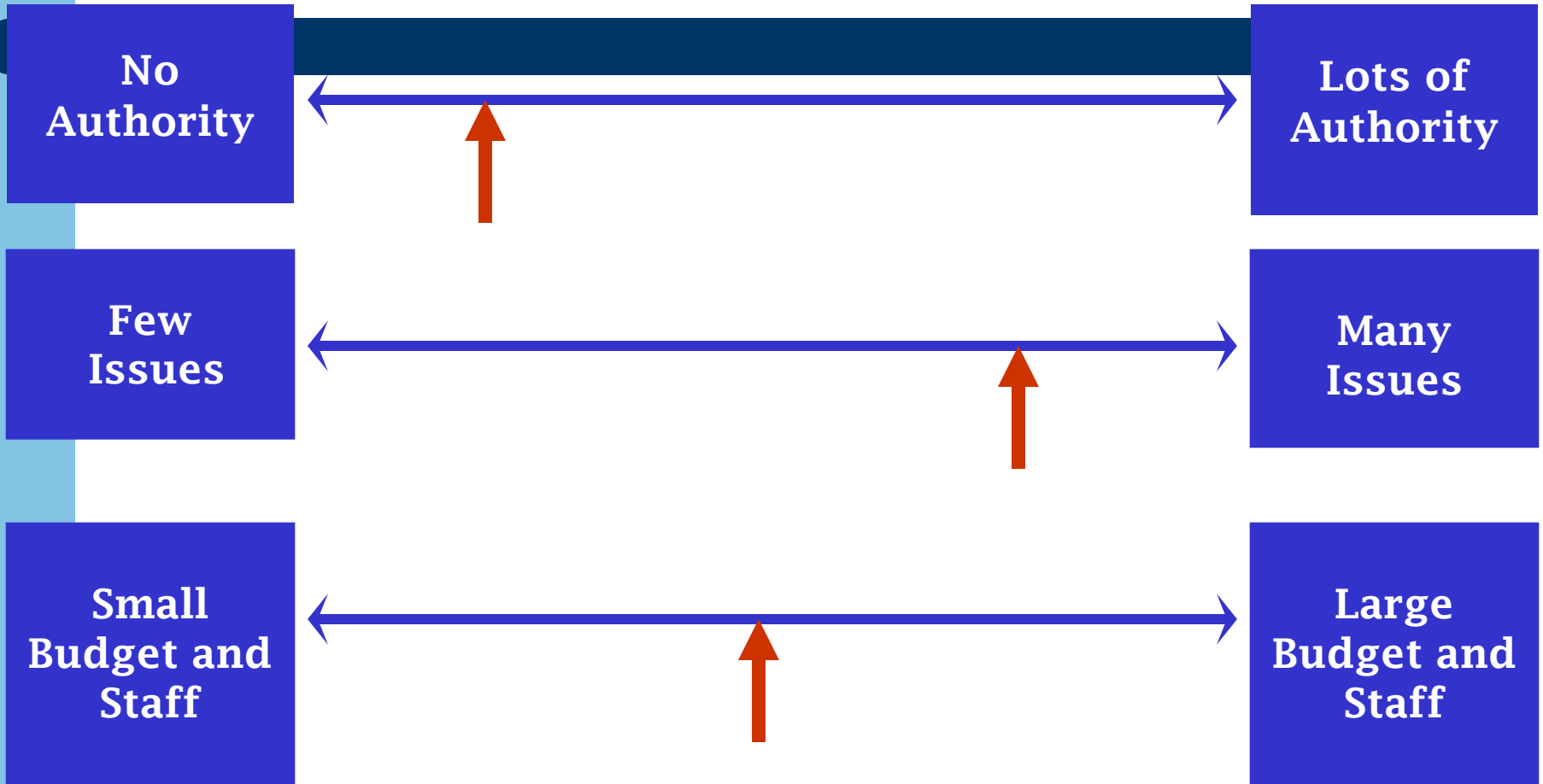
- Outreach to U.S. EPA officials
- Outreach to elected officials
- States supporting through self-imposed “assessments”
- Seeking stable federal funding source via EPA budget
- Governors’ Statement on Upper Mississippi River Water Quality (August 2007)

## Summary and Comparison: UMRBA Among Various Institutional Forms

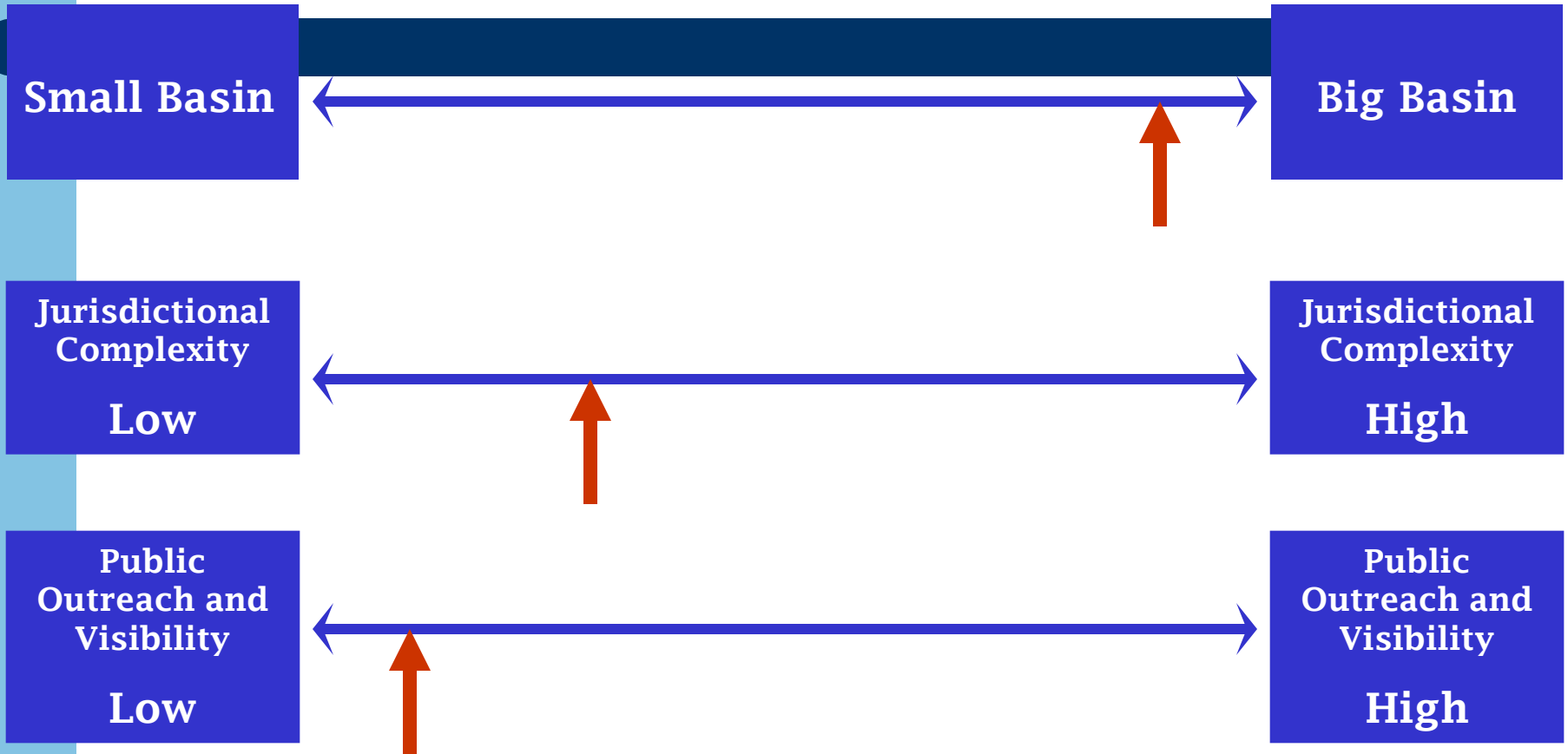
Interstate Compact	<i>ORSANCO, GLC</i>
Federal-State Compact	<i>Delaware River Basin Comm</i>
<b>Interstate Commission</b>	<b><i>UMRBA</i></b>
Federal-State Commission	<i>UMRBC</i>
International Treaty	<i>Great Lakes WQ Agreement</i>
Federal Regional Council	<i>Midwest Natural Resources Grp</i>
Federal Regional Agency	<i>TVA</i>
Basin Interagency Committee	<i>A WRBIAC</i>
Intrastate Special District	<i>Florida WMDs</i>
Single Federal Administrator	<i>Colorado River Compact</i>
Federally Chartered & Private Corps	<i>St. Lawrence Seaway</i>
Nongovernmental Organizations	<i>Foundations, academic groups</i>

*(Information from the 2006 ICWP Report: "Interstate Water Solutions for the New Millennium")*

# Summary and Comparison: Where is the UMRBA?



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# Questions?

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