

condoned continued reactive rather than proactive federal involvement in all matters of visitor use and development, resource management, and interpretation. Alternative 1 served chiefly as a baseline for comparing the Preferred Alternative and Alternative 3. Alternative 3, the so-called recreation emphasis alternative, would have shifted focus to recreational enhancements and development at the potential occasional expense of resource enhancement and management. Most management actions prescribed therein were also present in alternative 2, but the recreational interests were more heavily weighted.

The boundary in Alternative 1 would have remained the same as described in the 1978 legislation. The boundaries for Alternatives 2 and 3 were identical. Both boundaries include important examples of the river's outstandingly remarkable values.

Public Review

More than 1,000 copies of the Draft GMP/EIS were mailed to federal, state, tribal, and local officials, organizations, and individuals in October 1998, commencing a 60-day public comment period that closed December 16, 1998. Between November 12 and December 10 public meetings were held in Hartington, Ponca, and Newcastle, Nebraska; and Vermillion and Yankton, South Dakota. The Missouri River Bank Stabilization Association was briefed on November 23, Nebraska Game and Parks officials on November 24, the Cedar County Commission on December 8, and Nebraska and South Dakota Congressional staff on December 9.

A total of 836 written comments were received during the public review period, including 779 identical cards from the Sierra Club. A majority of the comments came from Nebraska and South Dakota and suggested attention be given to increased recreational opportunities within the unit, increased protection of the Missouri River's natural landscape, that additional river banks be stabilized, that the "local voice" be heeded in management actions, and expressed concern over perceived loss of landowner rights. Responses to these and other questions were provided in the final EIS.

In October 1999 the Final GMP/EIS was printed and distributed to more than 170 federal, state, tribal, and local officials, public repositories in the project area, and to individuals providing written comments. A thirty-day review period closed on November 15, 1999. In the document the NPS and COE affirmed a preferred alternative and boundary. During the closing review

two responses were received, including one from a correspondent whose letter received during the sixty-day public review period was not printed in the final GMP/EIS as it pertained wholly to issues on a separate Missouri River reach; and from Representative Doug Bereuter of Nebraska's First Congressional District, who particularly sought clarification on the matter of cost sharing in project management. While cost sharing is a legislative requirement in most COE projects, and while the NPS endorses the cost share concept because it engenders broad support for projects, NPS does not mandate cost sharing for its projects.

Selection of the Preferred Alternative

Alternatives two and three for management of the Missouri National Recreational River were considered equally acceptable from an environmental standpoint. The Preferred Alternative is selected because it is considered the most effective alternative for protecting river values and maintaining existing economic uses along the river consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the 1978 amending act. The selected alternative is not expected to have any significant effects on natural or cultural values within the designated boundaries. The selected Boundary is preferable environmentally, and is chosen for that reason.

Dated: December 17, 1999.

William W. Schenk,

Regional Director, Midwest Region, National Park Service.

Dated: December 17, 1999.

Mark E. Tillotson,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 99-33447 Filed 12-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Agenda for the February 2, 2000 Public Meeting of the Advisory Commission for the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Public Meeting; Fort Mason Building F (Firehouse), 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10:00 a.m.

Welcome—Neil Chaitin, Chairman
Opening Remarks—Neil Chaitin,
Chairman

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

10:15 a.m.

Update—Haslett Warehouse, William Thomas, Superintendent

10:30 a.m.

STAFF REPORTS

Ships, Wayne Boykin
Operations, Marc Hayman
Collections, Tom Mulhern
National Maritime Museum
Association, Kathy Lohan

11:30 a.m.

Public Comments and Questions

11:45 a.m.

Election of Officers

12:00 p.m.

Agenda items/Date for next meeting

William Thomas,

Superintendent.

[FR Doc. 99-33507 Filed 12-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds for the Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program.

SUMMARY: The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) of the U.S. Department of the Interior is announcing its intent to solicit applications from eligible, not-for-profit candidates for funding under the Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program to undertake local acid mine drainage reclamation projects.

DATES: Applications for the cooperative agreements should be submitted to the appropriate individual listed under **ADDRESSES AND FURTHER INFORMATION** starting December 27, 1999.

Applications will be accepted until June 1, 2000, or until all available funds have been awarded, whichever is sooner.

ADDRESSES AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

Requests for an application package, which includes further information on the program, the application forms and evaluation criteria, should be directed to the appropriate Appalachian Clean Streams Coordinator: *Alabama:* Jeannie O'Dell, Birmingham Field Office, 135 Gemini Circle, Suite 215, Homewood, AL 35209, Telephone 205-290-7282, ext. 21; *Illinois:* Ken Foit, Indianapolis Field Office, Minton-Capehart Federal Building, 575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Room 392, Indianapolis, IN 46204, Telephone 317-226-6166 ext 230; *Indiana:* Michael Kalagian, Indianapolis Field Office, Minton-Capehart Federal Building, 575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Room 392, Indianapolis, IN 46204,