

US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1678

12 November 2014

Director of Public Works
City of La Crosse, Wisconsin
Board of Public Works
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Director Dale Hexom,

It was a pleasure talking with you earlier this week in regards to the Mississippi River gage located at Riverside Park, La Crosse. In 1993 the Corps moved its gage location downstream about 1/2 a mile to water treatment plant. This location has proved to be a problem for us due to sedimentation which requires periodic flushing. Recent flushes have now shown no improvement to gage operations.

My office has contacted the National Weather Service (NWS) who now operates a data collection platform (DCP), at the Riverside Park location, utilizing a submersible sensor. I proposed putting in Corps of Engineer equipment at the site, thereby freeing up their equipment for use elsewhere. They were receptive to this idea. While the gage equipment would be owned by the Corps of Engineers, with the Corps providing all maintenance, it would be a cooperative gage in conjunction with the NWS.

If you are agreeable to this proposal, we will complete our negotiations with the NWS and move our equipment into the site with 30 days. You will not notice any changes from current conditions since the bulk of the changes are internal to the gage house. We are however, likely to remove the current antennae and replace it with a less obtrusive, omni directional antennae.

Please let me know if you are willing to allow us access to the gage house. You will find the Corps involvement, the City of La Crosse will have a dependable gage for many years to come.

FERRIS W. CHAMBERLIN, P.E.
Chief, Water Management and Hydrology Section