Illinois Department of
Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM

To: Director Wayne Rosenthal

From: Director Rafael Gutierrez, OLE #332

Date: 12/29/15

Subject: Conditions on the Big Muddy River In Franklin, Williamson and Jackson County, Illinois

Conservation Police Region 5 Supervisor Sergeant Kris Taylor reported rising flood waters, dangerous currents, floating and submerged debris, as well as weakened levees have created conditions significantly hazardous for navigation on the Big Muddy River from the Rend Lake Discharge/Spillway to the Confluence of the Mississippi River. The conditions also make it treacherous for emergency response personnel who are called upon to respond and rescue persons involved in boating mishaps. Franklin and Williamson County Sheriff's Department and Jackson County EMA concur with the assessment.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has authorization to designate Restricted Boating Areas during hazardous conditions as cited in the following:

Section 2030.80 Hazardous Navigation Conditions - Designated Restricted Boating Areas

In the event that the Department of Natural Resources determines the presence of conditions that make navigation of a body of water significantly dangerous to the public, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources may, in coordination with the federal government, designate Restricted Boating Areas on any affected body of water within the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois. This designation shall be made by public announcement in local media and by posting at local public boat launches and marinas, and the restricted area shall be physically marked by buoys, signs, manned watercraft or yellow police tape. This designation will remain in effect until the Director of the Department of Natural Resources determines that navigation is no longer significantly dangerous to the public, but in no case shall the designation remain in effect longer than 90 days. Recision of the Restricted Boating Area designation shall be publicly announced in local media and posted at local public boat launches and marinas and any markings shall be removed.

(Source: Added at 29 Ill. Reg. 15550, effective September 27, 2005)

I recommend that the Big Muddy River from the Rend Lake Discharge/Spillway to the confluence of the Mississippi River be designated as a Restricted Boating Area **(RECREATIONAL BOATS ONLY)** effective 12/29/15 at 1:00 p.m. If you approve, please sign below and the Conservation Police will coordinate the Restricted Boating Area with the local authorities and the United States Coast Guard.

12/29/15

Approved By Wayne Rosenthal Date