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Calendar of Events 2016-2017

- Aug. 23-25 **Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterways Development Conference**
Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama. Information: azaiontz@tenntom.org
- Oct. 17-18 **Mississippi Transportation Institute Conference**, Jackson, MS
Information: KThurman@mdot.ms.gov
- Oct. 18-19 **MWRA Annual Conference**, Jackson, MS
Information: insightltd@msn.com
- Feb. 9 **Mississippi Intermodal Council Breakfast with Legislators**
Old Capitol Inn, Jackson, MS
- Feb. 15 **MWRA Water Day at the Capitol**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear MWRA Members and Friends;

I would like to take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to my mentor and friend, David Work, who preceded me as the Port Director at the Port of Rosedale. His passing on January 28 has left a serious empty spot in Bolivar County and beyond. He was a longtime MWRA board member, including past president. He worked hard to implement the legislation for the MDOT Multi-Modal Fund and then served for years on the Port Grant Review Committee. But it was not just in MWRA that he left an impact. David also served as the Mayor of Cleveland and on

the Cleveland Board of Aldermen. Earlier in his career, he was a Plant Manager at Baxter. He left behind many friends in MWRA.

On another note, I would like to thank several MWRA members for their hard work at MWRA Water Day at the Capitol. MWRA had a table on the first floor of the Rotunda where we served coffee and juices. Members who helped were Mike Davis, Casey Franks, Katie Clark and Will Sanders, and I need to also thank our Executive Director, Deirdre McGowan. I always look forward to participating. We had a chance to visit at length with several legislators important to water issues. The date for 2017 has been assigned as February 15.

Robert Maxwell
Port of Rosedale-Bolivar County

MWRA Mission Statement:

MWRA promotes the advancement of Mississippi rivers, ports and harbors, coastal and inland waterways, flood control, recreation, water development and management, water supply and all other beneficial uses of water resources.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Steve Landry, Port Bienville, is now the interim director of the Hancock County Development Commission, replacing **Ashley Edwards**. When a new director is confirmed, Steve will ease into a well-deserved retirement, which has already been postponed several times. The new Director of Port Operations is **Keith Bowman**. Keith has been attending the MWRA Board of Directors meetings to meet people and get to know processes and procedures. Steve will be replaced on the MWRA Executive Committee by **Will Sanders**, Lowndes County Port Authority.

Alan Moore has resigned from the MWRA Board of Directors after many years of diligent service. He explained that he's just winding down numerous commitments external to his law practice at Baker Donelson. The MWRA BOD unanimously approved replacing him with **Lee Hill**, also of Baker Donelson.

Dean Pennington has advised many in MWRA that he, too, will be retiring in a few months! Dean has served two terms as MWRA President in his capacity as Executive Director, Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District.

Congratulations to **Agnes Zaiontz** at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council. She generated \$1,125 from the CREATE Foundation and \$10,000 from Alabama Power in support of the Tenn-Tom Transportation Museum's educational programs. The museum has been a long-term project of the Development Authority and opened February 6.

Lee Hill, new MWRA board member, has been named Co-General Counsel for the Mississippi Intermodal Council. He serves with **Jeff Wagner**, also of Baker Donelson.

MWRA has appointed the 2016 Multi-Modal Committee: **Mark McAndrews**, Port of Pascagoula; **Jonathan Daniels**, Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport; **Keith Bowman**, Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission; **Brenda Buck**, Claiborne County Port Commission; **Tommy Hart**, Greenville Port Commission; **Robert Dexter**, Yellow Creek Port Authority, **Anthony Hauer**, Natchez-Adams County Port, and **Deirdre McGowan**, MWRA Executive Director. As a reminder, the legislation required that the three coast port directors and the MWRA Executive Director sit on the committee. The other four are appointed by the president.

JACKSON COUNTY SUPERVISORS PULL OUT OF LAKE GEORGE PROJECT

Pascagoula, MS – Jackson County supervisors have backed out of the county's participation in the controversial Lake George project.

During the February 1 board meeting, supervisors voted 3-2 to back out of the project, with Troy Ross and new supervisors Ken Taylor and Randy Bosarge voting in favor of ending Jackson County's participation, and Melton Harris and Barry Cumbest voting to continue.

The Lake George project would result in damming a tributary to the Pascagoula River which would result in the creation of two lakes for water reservoirs and recreation. The majority of the estimated 3,000 acres of lakes would be in George County.

Prior to the vote, Jackson County had been one of the applicants seeking environmental approval for the project from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Lake George Project is linked to the Pat Harrison Waterway.

EDISON CHOUDEST TO BUILD SHIPS IN GULFPORT

by Ashley Herriman



The Port of Gulfport, Miss., has landed a new tenant in **Edison Chouest Offshore** affiliate **TopShip LLC**, which has signed a 40-year lease to occupy the former **Huntington Ingalls** composite facility, acquired by the port a year ago.

TopShip will be located at the port's new inland port and it will create an estimated 1,000 full-time jobs, representing a \$68 million corporate investment, according to a press release from the office of Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant.

The Port of Gulfport is in the midst of a \$570 million restoration project, part of a larger effort to restore and expand the Mississippi Sound following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The decision to locate TopShip in Gulfport is supported with considerable public funds.

On Feb. 5, the Mississippi Legislature approved an incentive package for the project made up of \$11 million from the Mississippi Major Economic Impact Authority — \$10 million in discretionary grants and \$1 million for workforce training. The Port of Gulfport, through its restoration budget, is also providing \$25 million in Katrina-CDBG funds for infrastructure improvements. The city of Gulfport and Harrison County are providing personal property tax abatements in support of the project.

“We are indeed excited about the opportunities to grow TopShip in a business-friendly state, one where we can reach out into the community to recruit various skill sets, developing a quality workforce that will allow TopShip not only to compete locally, but also globally,” Edison Chouest Offshore President and CEO Gary Chouest said in a statement.

“With the help of the state of Mississippi, we will modify our TopShip facility to become one of the safest and most efficient shipyards in the nation. The strategic location of TopShip will allow us to take advantage of the deepwater Port of Gulfport and their future expansion plans.”

Edison Chouest Offshore (ECO) was founded as **Edison Chouest Boat Rental** in Galliano, La., in 1960 and has grown into a diverse marine transportation company with a fleet of more than 250 vessels.

Huntington Ingalls closed its Gulfport facility in 2014, and the port acquired it in March 2015.

“The governor’s change in vision has allowed the Port of Gulfport flexibility to further expand and acquire the Huntington Ingalls facility. This has allowed MDA to put together an incentive package, bringing TopShip, LLC to the Port and creating a significant number of jobs for coastal residents,” said Jonathan Daniels, Mississippi State Port Authority executive director and CEO. “Secondarily, TopShip’s operations on Seaway Road will link seamlessly with our modernized, deepwater draft facility, creating expanded cargo opportunities and leading to additional job creation.”

Workboat, February 9, 2016

EPA RELEASES SCIENTIFIC REPORT SHOWING U.S. COASTAL WATERS A MIX OF GOOD AND FAIR HEALTH

EPA has released the 2010 National Coastal Condition Assessment showing that more than half of the nation's coastal and Great Lakes nearshore waters are rated good for biological and sediment quality, while about one-third are rated good for water quality. In almost all coastal waters, however, contaminants in fish tissue pose a threat to sensitive predator fish, birds, and wildlife. The National Coastal Condition Assessment is part of a series of National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS) designed to advance the science of coastal monitoring and answer critical questions about the condition of waters in the United States. The summarized findings are:

- Biological Quality is rated good in 56% of coastal and Great Lakes nearshore waters. Healthy communities of bottom dwelling macroinvertebrates (such as worms and clams), which are indicators of biological quality, are supported in these waters.
- Water Quality is rated fair in 48% of coastal and Great Lakes waters and good in 36% when measuring phosphorus, nitrogen, water clarity, chlorophyll a, and dissolved oxygen concentrations. The most widespread stressor for water quality is phosphorus.
- Sediment Quality is rated good in 55% of coastal and Great Lakes nearshore waters based on low levels of sediment contaminants and sediment toxicity.
- Ecological Fish Tissue Quality is rated good for less than 1% of the nation's waters. This means there is a potential threat to the most sensitive predators (fish, birds, and wildlife) that consume fish in most waters.
- Change in conditions were mixed between 2005-2006 and 2010. Water quality remained unchanged, biological quality improved 17%, and sediment quality declined by 22%.

Water Headlines, February 3, 2016 (Newsletter, Office of Water, EPA)

HANCOCK COUNTY APPOINTS NEW PORT AND HARBOR COMMISSION



Members of the new Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission members are, front row, from left, Robert Kane (President), Realtor with John McDonald Realty; Sherri Bevis (Secretary), the South Mississippi service coordinator for Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann; Paula Jordan (new member), office manager for Jordan Chiropractic Center; and Charles Gallagher (Treasurer), retired Navy captain and Ingalls Shipbuilding engineer; back row, David Malley (new member), contractor and real estate developer; Jon Ritten Jr. (Vice President), Coldwell Banker Coast Delta Realty; Rocky Pullman, captain of marine resources at Stennis Space Center; and Daryl Cornell (new member), CEO of Triton Systems, the ATM manufacturer.

Mississippi Business Journal, February 9, 2016

TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS BEING IDENTIFIED

Dr. Chad Miller will be championing two research needs teams for the National Academies of Sciences' Standing Committee on Transportation and Economic Development (ADD10). The Transportation Research Board's Committee on Transportation and Economic Development is a group that sponsors papers, reports, presentations, conferences and workshops to improve the understanding of the role of transportation in economic development. Once the topical experts develop the research needs statements, they will be submitted to potential funders such as the National Cooperative Highway Research Program for funding consideration. The two problem statements being developed include:

Site Selection and Freight Logistics: Site selection process as it pertains to the centrality of supply chain reorganization as vital factor in industrial/freight location decisions. Develop a meta-analysis and synthesis proposal to assess the state of the practice and state of the art.

Funding Port Development: One of the most important research needs identified is the need for a best practice study in funding port infrastructure to facilitate export and import trade flows and to ensure resiliency to natural disasters.

The teams will be developing the proposals over the next few months for consideration during the summer TRB meeting.

Center for Logistics, Trade & Transportation Newsletter, February 8, 2016

STEEL DYNAMICS BREAKS GROUND IN COLUMBUS

Columbus, MS — Gov. Phil Bryant and officials from Steel Dynamics, Inc. broke ground in late January on the company's new Paint Line and Galvalume® facility in Columbus. The project, which was announced in May 2015, represents a corporate investment of approximately \$100 million and will create 40 jobs. Operations are expected to begin during the first quarter of 2017.

SDI's Columbus location, the Flat Roll Group Columbus Division, was acquired from Severstal North America in September 2014. The acquisition increased SDI's steel operations shipping capacity to 11 million tons per year. The facility produces sheet steel products consisting of hot roll, cold roll and coated steel products. The addition of the paint line and Galvalume® capabilities will allow SDI to produce additional value-added steel products at the Columbus location. The paint line is the most significant portion of the expansion with an annual coating capacity of 250,000 tons.

Situated on a 1,400-acre site, SDI's Columbus facility is a groundbreaking, high-tech electric arc furnace mini-mill capable of producing 3.4 million tons of steel annually. The plant covers 1.8 million square feet and features state-of-the-art steel manufacturing capabilities, including two electric arc furnaces, two ladle metallurgy furnaces, two vacuum degassers, two thin slab casters, a hot strip mill, pickle lines, an annealing line, a temper mill, two hot-dipped galvanizing lines, and a rewind/inspection line. The Columbus Division is currently the most technologically advanced EAF facility in North America.

NewsMS, January 25, 2016

MWRA – BP CLAIM

MWRA really got some good news February 4. The BP claim that we had worked on so hard, and which was submitted a couple of years ago, was finally settled. After additional paperwork was submitted February 6, MWRA should receive a check for \$24,099.24 in the near future. It should be pointed out that not only did **Keith Magnon**, the MWRA Data Manager, dedicate two days in 2014 to help retrieve all of the financial data from two antique computer towers, but when BP wanted more data, he drove up to Jackson and worked to pull up the rest of the data. MWRA owes Keith quite a vote of thanks.

TOMBIGBEE RIVER VALLEY WATER



This bull shark was 45 miles north of Mobile Bay in the Tombigbee River

Photo: Alabama Outdoor News

If you've ever fished a trotline in the Tombigbee River, you probably hoped to catch something with whiskers, not teeth. According to *Alabama Outdoors News*, John Wayne Adams of McIntosh, Alabama, was recently baiting a trotline when he felt a tug.

"I was baiting up my trot line when I felt something hit one of the hooks I had already baited," Adams told *AON*. "It felt pretty good. I turned my boat around. I decided to bait the rest of my hooks and go see what it was."

Much to his surprise, it wasn't a catfish.

"I pulled it up, and this bull shark was smiling at me with all his teeth," Adams said.

Bull sharks are one of the few sharks that will venture into freshwater. They are also known to attack humans. One series of attacks is said to be the inspiration for the movie "Jaws." In 1916, newspapers reported a series of shark attacks in New Jersey. In the first two weeks of July, five people were attacked by sharks and four of the victims died. Three of the attacks occurred in a freshwater creek several miles from the nearest bay.

"That was probably, most likely, a bull," Eric Hoffmeyer said. "The big ones have the ability to go within freshwater areas. There are records of bull sharks occurring as far north as St. Louis." Hoffmeyer is a research fishery biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and spoke with *The Clarion-Ledger* about bull sharks last year. He spent several years working with bull sharks on the Mississippi coast.

"They can get up to 11 feet, maybe 12 feet, and several hundred pounds," Hoffmeyer said. "What surprises a lot of folks is that the shallow water areas along the coast are a nursery."

The Clarion-Ledger, January 20, 2016