

INSIDE

MWRA Welcomes
2014-2016 Officers 1-2

MWRA Welcomes New Members 2

Congratulations to Congressman
Gregg Harper 2

Big News for Lowndes County Port 3

Neel-Schaffer Receives 2014 Minority
Business Champion Award 3

Port of Pascagoula Going to
Bid on First Phase of Wood Pellet
Export Facility Work 4

My Favorite Recipe:
“Beaver Tail and Pig Feet” 4-5

Water Development Districts
Watching Legal Fight 5

Federal Appeals Court Reaffirms
BP is Liable for Gulf Oil Spill 6

Alabama Water Policy and
Law Institute 6

AECOM Merges with URS 7

Jamie Crawford Joins
Pickering Firm, Inc. 7-8

Port of Vicksburg May
Expand or Build 8

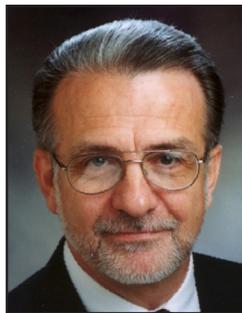
Employment Opportunity 8

MWRA Board Member David Sparks .. 8

Calendar of Events 2015

- January 14 **MWRA Water Day at the Capitol**
- February 5 **Mississippi Intermodal Council Breakfast with
Legislators, Old Capitol Inn, Jackson, 7:30 AM**

MWRA Welcomes 2014-2016 Officers



Chairman of the Board – William McAnally
William H. McAnally, Ph.D., P.E., D.NE,
F.ASCE, is Research Professor Emeritus at
Mississippi State University and Principal of
McAnally and Associates, LLC. He practices
inland and coastal hydraulics, sedimentation,
and marine transportation engineering. He and
his wife Carol have four children and seven

grandchildren and live in Columbus, MS.

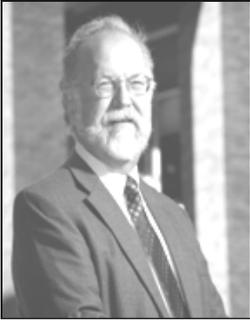
President Robert Maxwell

As MWRA President, **Robert Maxwell** brings diverse business experience to that position, in addition to his successful tenure as the Port Director for the Rosedale Bolivar County Port Commission. Prior to accepting the job at Rosedale almost five years ago, he worked researching mineral ownership inside designated project areas to facilitate lease negotiation for the production of coal seam gas. This work was based on a background that includes researching property titles, negotiating lease agreements and interpreting legal documents to determine mineral rights. He has performed production accounting, installed and maintained telemetry units, and measured containments of water produced by wells of various types. He and his wife Pam live in Cleveland with their dog Lucy.

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.

MWRA Welcomes 2014-2016 Officers cont.



Vice President Jonathan Pote

Jonathan Pote is a Professor and Department Head of the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department at Mississippi State University. He also holds the William B. and Sherry Berry Endowed Chair. During his 30 years at Mississippi State University, he has served as Director of the Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute and has continually done water-related research for his entire career.



Secretary/Treasurer Tommy Hart

Tommy Hart heads the Greenville Port Commission as its director. Since taking over the position in 2008, investments in port terminal expansion and renovation have totaled over \$13.5 million, and the public port terminal has tripled its annual volume. He has been a professional Community and Economic Developer his entire career. Economic Development is the most interdisciplinary profession in the world. He continues those development efforts today as Director of the Port of Greenville.

MWRA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Both Carol Crawford, DVM, and Doug Wiggins of the **Monroe County Board of Supervisors** attended the MWRA Conference in Tupelo and plan to be active participants in MWRA. **URS Corporation** (now AECOM) sent James Rayburn to the Tupelo meeting and submitted both an article and a “help wanted” announcement for this newsletter – thank you! The **Alabama Water Policy Institute** is a new member, represented by Bennett L. Bearden (J.D., LL.M., J.S.D.), who also contributed an article for the newsletter. **Century Construction** of Tupelo exhibited at the conference, represented by Colin Maloney, and **All South Consulting Engineers** of Biloxi, represented in Tupelo by Ashley Skellie, was a conference sponsor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONGRESSMAN GREGG HARPER

U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) recently named Rep. Gregg Harper (R-MS) Vice Chair of the Environment and the Economy Subcommittee. The subcommittee is led by Chairman John Shimkus (R-IL).

“Congressman Harper will play a key role as Vice Chairman of the Environment and the Economy Subcommittee,” Upton said. “During his tenure on the Energy and Commerce Committee, he’s been a leader in promoting job growth, reducing burdensome regulations, and investigating wasteful government programs that hinder America’s small businesses and industry. I am confident Congressman Harper will continue to further our record of success in the 114th Congress and I welcome him into his new leadership role.”

The subcommittee, with its oversight of key environmental laws and programs, focuses on the intersection of regulations and jobs. As a longtime advocate for U.S.-made energy, Harper believes that Congress must advance ideas that safely promote and build a steady supply of U.S. energy.

BIG NEWS FOR LOWNDES COUNTY PORT!

MWRA extends a warm welcome to **Will Sanders**, new Director of the Lowndes County Port at Columbus. He has replaced long-time Director John Hardy and was immediately involved in the possibility of a \$1.2 billion aluminum plant being built there. Pittsburgh-based American Specialty Alloys issued a news release recently saying that it is planning to build a \$1.2 billion aluminum mini-mill “in the Southeastern United States.”

While not naming the exact location in the release, the company has applied with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality for permission to prepare a site on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway at Columbus. The 1.4-million-square-foot plant will annually produce 600 tons of flat-rolled aluminum used in the manufacture of vehicle bodies, a trend boosted by the decision to use aluminum in the manufacture of the 2015 Ford F-150 pickup. The switch from rolled steel to aluminum will be done in order to meet more-stringent environmental standards.

The first phase of the plant is expected to be completed in late 2016 and will employ between 650 and 850 when full operation is reached six months later. About 2,000 construction jobs will be created. The first aluminum F-150 rolled off the assembly line last week at Ford’s Rouge factory at Dearborn, Michigan, where Henry Ford began building the Model A nearly 90 years ago. The aluminum F-150s are expected to arrive in showrooms in December.

Steve Graham, Internet manager for Gray-Daniels Ford in Brandon, said Tuesday that he had just returned from Memphis, where he and other dealer representatives attended a seminar introducing the new F-150. He said he was impressed with the strength of the new body, which he said is stronger and lighter than rolled steel.

Mississippi Business Journal, November 17, 2014

NEEL-SCHAFFER RECEIVES 2014 MINORITY BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARD

Neel-Schaffer received the Minority Business Champion Award for 2014 at the October Mississippi Minority Business Alliance banquet. Founded in 1997, the MMBA is a non-profit organization that aims to enhance minority business opportunities.

The Minority Business Champion Award, according to MMBA Chief Executive Officer Shellie Michael, is given annually to “corporate citizens who have demonstrated continuous commitment to minority business development through various resources, and their innovative and liberal procurement practices.” At the awards banquet, Michael said, “The name Neel-Schaffer is a staple for engineering excellence throughout the South. The firm’s development of strategic alliances and partnerships with small and minority businesses has helped create a business environment of inclusion and strength through diversity.”

Neel-Schaffer is the largest Mississippi-based engineering and planning firm, with about 400 employees working out of 36 offices spread across nine Southeastern states. Sixteen of those offices are in Mississippi, including the headquarters in Jackson.

PORT OF PASCAGOULA GOING TO BID ON FIRST PHASE OF WOOD PELLET EXPORT FACILITY WORK BY APRIL M. HAVENS

Port of Pascagoula leaders recently agreed to go to bid on the first phase of a \$44 million intermodal improvement project that will both relocate the downtown Pascagoula railroad interchange and build a wood pellet export terminal on Bayou Casotte. Port commissioners authorized advertising for bid on the demolition of the Terminal E and F shed and bulkhead repairs at the Bayou Casotte facility, Port Director Mark McAndrews said.

Most of the early work will be “happening inside the port gates, so it won’t really be visible to the public early on,” he said, “but it’s important that we get this started.” This initial work will pave the way for the wood pellet export facility, McAndrews said, and work on the railroad relocation should be under way by the second quarter of 2015.

In August, commissioners approved an agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding a \$14 million grant to relocate the railroad interchange. An interchange is where one railroad gives rail cars to another railroad, and that’s the process that halts downtown Pascagoula traffic every afternoon. That \$14 million comes through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program, and it will be combined with \$4 million in local funds to complete the \$18 million project. That portion of the project includes rail improvements, a rail unloading pit to facilitate bulk deliveries and the shed demolition/bulkhead repairs, among other work. It will reroute a portion of the Mississippi Export Railroad’s line, and it will move the interchange from downtown Pascagoula to east of Miss. 63. A total of 16 rail crossings will be removed through Moss Point and Pascagoula.

The \$14 million grant is part of the port’s larger \$44 million intermodal improvement project that will also create a more efficient rail connection into the port and build the wood pellet export terminal on Bayou Casotte. The TIGER award will be combined with \$10 million from the state, \$15 million from the port and \$5 million from the private sector to better transport goods in and out of Bayou Casotte.

MY FAVORITE RECIPE: “BEAVER TAIL AND PIG FEET”

Hog (feral) and beaver are a major problem in the mid-south. Beaver are easier to control because one can locate beaver; hogs can and will show up just about anywhere.

Some comments concerning these wildlife problems:

- State of Mississippi recognized the “wild hog” as being equal to the beaver in 2014. These funds are used as matching for the “United States Department of Agriculture-APHIS-WS” program (662-325-3014). At this time this organization works on beaver control, not hogs.
- The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks has a feral hog expert who says there is not any good news but he can help you on ideas.
- Hunting laws changed last year. You can hunt hogs any time day or night with any legal weapon (please verify with your local authority).

MY FAVORITE RECIPE: “BEAVER TAIL AND PIG FEET” cont.

- According to the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, hunters may be part of the problem because they relocated wild (feral) hogs to hunt. The hunters should be a part of the solution because hunters put “guns” in the woods.
- People have limited success with traps of different designs. Most success is with remote control gates that catch all of a group, because hogs are smart. Last year remote control traps with a camera were selling for \$2400. The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks can give you solid information. This company had a “hog trap” display at the recent MWRA annual meeting in Tupelo.

by Chris Colley, Urban Feral Consultant, Cahaba River Game Cameras,
www.cahabarivercamera.com

Submitted by Steve Wallace, Executive Director,
Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District

WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS WATCHING LEGAL FIGHT

Mississippi has three water development districts, all charged with protecting and conserving water resources and promoting economic development. How long they conduct business as usual depends on how the Mississippi Supreme Court determines whether Lamar County must still pay for operation of nine water parks regardless of its decision to leave the Pat Harrison Waterway District.

At issue is about \$18.9 million. The waterway district argues Lamar County has a contractual obligation to maintain the water parks “into perpetuity.” Pat Harrison lawyers say if the law is followed, Lamar County must pay \$18.9 million to withdraw. Until it does, Lamar County remains a member of the district. The Pat Harrison Waterway District has eight contracts with the federal government, under which it is responsible for maintaining dams and other improvements and operating eight waterways and their accompanying water parks. The water parks offer beaches, swimming, boating, fishing and recreational options.

The waterway districts, which were created in the 1960s, are supported by their member counties. The districts receive no state money. Pat Harrison has 15 member counties, running from Lauderdale in east Mississippi to Jackson County on the coast. A state judge ruled in favor of Lamar County in 2013.

The Attorney General’s Office has sided with the waterway district. Assistant Attorney General Harold E. Pizzetta III wrote in briefs that state law requires a county wanting to leave a district to pay its portion of the district’s bond debt, contractual obligations and liabilities. “The state of Mississippi has a keen interest in ensuring that the portion of the withdrawal statute which protects the continued financial viability of the PHWD is correctly interpreted and faithfully applied,” Pizzetta said.

The other districts are the Pearl River Basin Development District and the Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District.

FEDERAL APPEALS COURT REAFFIRMS BP IS LIABLE FOR GULF OIL SPILL

NEW ORLEANS – A federal appeals court panel has reaffirmed its ruling that BP is liable for federal Clean Water Act damages stemming from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, the latest loss for the oil giant as it fights court decisions that could ultimately bring \$18 billion in penalties. The three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected arguments that there were errors in its June 4 ruling on BP’s Clean Water Act liability. The ruling is not the final say from the court. BP and its minority partner in the Macondo well, Anadarko Petroleum Corp., have a request pending for the full 15-member court to reconsider the issue.

BP and Anadarko had argued they were not liable because equipment failure on the leased rig Deepwater Horizon caused the April 2010 disaster. An explosion on the rig killed 11 workers and sent millions of gallons of oil spewing into the Gulf in what became the nation’s worst offshore oil disaster.

U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier ruled in September that BP was “grossly negligent” in the disaster. BP has asked Barbier to reconsider that finding, which, if it stands, would be a factor in whether the water act penalties for the company reach an estimated \$18 billion.

Under the Clean Water Act, a polluter can be forced to pay from \$1,100 to \$4,300 per barrel of spilled oil. The higher limit applies if the company is found grossly negligent – as BP was in Barbier's ruling. But penalties can be assessed at lower amounts.

Government experts estimated that 4.2 million barrels spilled into the Gulf. BP has urged Barbier to use an estimate of 2.45 million barrels in calculating any Clean Water Act penalties.

Associated Press, November 6, 2014

ALABAMA WATER POLICY AND LAW INSTITUTE



Dr. Bennett L. Bearden (J.D., LL.M., J.S.D.) is the founding Director of the Water Policy and Law Institute (WPLI) at the University of Alabama. The WPLI provides guidance in the development of policy and functional legal regimes for water resources through education, research, and policy analysis while balancing the needs of economic development and ecosystem management. The WPLI targets the capabilities and resources at the University of Alabama (UA), an institution uniquely qualified in the state to utilize the tripartite interdisciplinary approach of science, policy and law, to provide applied research and policy development that addresses all aspects of water resources.

WPLI serves to focus synergistically with the UA’s Environmental Institute, Center for Freshwater Studies, School of Law, other science and policy programs of excellence within the UA, and federal and state agencies on water law and policy issues.

AECOM MERGES WITH URS

LOS ANGELES — AECOM Technology Corporation (NYSE: ACM), the world's #1-ranked engineering design firm, announced in October that the company has completed its acquisition of URS Corporation with broad support from stakeholders following approval of the merger agreement by URS' stockholders and the stock issuance proposal by AECOM's stockholders at each company's respective special stockholder meetings held on October 16. Each share of URS common stock will be exchanged in the merger for per-share consideration of either US\$53.991 in cash or 1.8879 shares of AECOM common stock, at the election of the holder, and only non-electing holders will receive a combination of cash and stock as provided for in the merger agreement. The stockholder election deadline was October 15.

"Today is an exciting and historic day – for our industry, for AECOM and URS, and for our nearly 100,000 people around the world who are serving our clients in over 150 countries," said Michael S. Burke, AECOM chief executive officer. "Beyond the compelling benefits that this transaction creates for our combined clients, stockholders and employees, the combination of AECOM and URS dramatically accelerates our strategy of creating an integrated delivery platform with superior capabilities to design, build, finance and operate infrastructure assets around the world."

The acquisition further diversifies and broadens AECOM's market presence, as URS brings strong sector expertise in important end markets, including oil & gas, power and government services. URS also adds to AECOM's construction capabilities, deepening a core competency that AECOM will be able to leverage across its global platform. "During the past three months, as we have advanced our integration planning efforts, my belief that AECOM and URS had highly complementary operations and cultures has been solidly confirmed," Burke said. "Our leaders have collaborated to develop a comprehensive integration plan that will leverage our greater scale across our global platform. We are confident that we will achieve our target of US\$250 million in annual cost synergies."

AECOM Press Release, October 17, 2014

JAMIE CRAWFORD JOINS PICKERING FIRM, INC.



James L. (Jamie) Crawford, former Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Land and Water Resources and a Registered Professional Geologist, joined the **Pickering Firm, Inc.** on August 4, 2014 as the Water Resources Program Manager. During his career at MDEQ, Crawford administered the state water withdrawal (permitting) program and EPA's Source Water Assessment/Protection program and Underground Injection Control program. His primary experience at MDEQ focused on the development and implementation of management approaches to ensure the effective utilization of state water resources.

Crawford has been an active participant in the Groundwater Protection Council over the past 20 years, recently serving as President of the national organization. This affiliation provided him with insight on a range of emerg-

JAMIE CRAWFORD JOINS PICKERING FIRM, INC. cont.

ing water-related issues associated with the water-energy nexus, including water supply requirements and alternative sources for hydraulic fracturing, geo-sequestration of carbon dioxide, and aquifer storage and recovery projects. At Pickering, Jamie will apply his extensive knowledge of water resources management and protection to assist public and private sector clients in identifying and meeting their long-term water supply needs in industrial and municipal water supply, regional water management planning and development, the energy sector, drought and flood planning, and other emerging water issues. He holds a bachelor's degree in geology from Millsaps College and a master's degree in geology from the University of Southern Mississippi.

PORT OF VICKSBURG MAY EXPAND OR BUILD

The Warren County Port Commission is considering an expansion of the current port site or building a second one. Port Commission Director Wayne Mansfield says the current port is at capacity. The *Vicksburg Post* reports the port is the 11th most active of the 300 inland ports. The Port of Vicksburg has 21 businesses and industries operating at its current 422-acre site. About 2,000 work there. Mansfield says an advantage of expanding the current port site is that the county already owns the land.

The Clarion-Ledger, November 19, 2014

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

URS (now AECOM) is searching for a hydraulics engineer to add to the Jackson, MS, staff. More details are shown at the URS careers website: <http://www.urs.com/careers/career-opportunities-apply/>

MWRA BOARD MEMBER DAVID SPARKS

David R. Sparks, Esq., a long-time MWRA Board member, passed away November 29.

Sparks, a Mississippi native, graduated from the University of Texas School of Business and Economics in 1968 with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree. After being released from active duty with the United States Army, he was accepted into the University of Mississippi School of Law, from which he graduated in 1972 with a Juris Doctor degree. He served as a prosecutor in Greenville, Mississippi, and then opened a private practice in Tupelo. He began his forty-third year of private practice in June 2014.

His practice was general and varied, including his representation since January 1975 of Town Creek Master Water Management District of Lee, Pontotoc, Prentiss and Union Counties. His practice included representation of individual, corporate and business entities as well as all types of trial work.

Sparks was active in community affairs as well as the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, and he was a long-standing member of the Medical Ethics Committee at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo. In 2013 he received the Lawyer Citizenship Award from the Mississippi Bar Association. He and his wife Cathy Timbes have three daughters, two granddaughters and two grandsons.

MWRA valued his service on the MWRA Board and expresses sincere condolences to his family.