

## President's Letter

This past quarter has really been active! I would first like to welcome our newest members: **Kinder Morgan Terminals**, Aliquippa, PA; **FTN Associates, Ltd.**, Jackson, MS; and **NOAA**, currently housed in Jackson with the MS Department of Transportation. MWRA membership continues to grow and we all know there is strength in numbers, especially when we are all working together on compatible goals.

One of the major projects of MWRA has been the Watershed Signage Project. We are very pleased that, thanks to the efforts of MDOT, the first signs are up, identifying the Upper Pearl River Watershed. Many states have begun to identify their watersheds with highway signage to build awareness of water supply sources. More information is below, and MWRA will continue to support this essential public awareness campaign.

On page 3 are an article and pictures of our recent Breakfast with our Legislators. When we started this tradition five years ago, there were forty-five attending. This year there were nearly 150 people representing all of the transportation modes, all three transportation



commissioners, legislators, modal association members and others.

There is no charge for membership in the Mississippi Intermodal Council (MIC), only a desire to support intermodal growth and development in Mississippi. If you would like to be included, just email [insightltd@msn.com](mailto:insightltd@msn.com) with your contact information. The organization runs on minimal but much-appreciated donations and has been supported by all of the modes. I want to extend special thanks to outgoing MIC Chair **Mark McAndrews**, Port Director, Jackson

County Port Authority, for his service toward the success of MIC.

The Joint Water Resources Meeting in April and the MWRA Annual Educational Meeting in August, both in Jackson this year, provide forums for discussion, education and networking. Take a look at the Calendar of Events and see if you can't join us!

John Hardy, MWRA President  
Director, Lowndes County Port Authority

## MWRA Watershed Signage Project

Most of us know our state is blessed with several watersheds and that, at least for the present, we share an abundant water supply. Since strategic water planning and management require an even hand and strong leadership in constantly changing situations, MWRA members have continued to be part of the solution to the state's many water issues.

On the other hand, most of the general public is unaware of watersheds and their importance to our water supply for all uses. Many states have established watershed identification signs along the highways, alerting drivers as they enter a different watershed. Other states have

determined that the increase in public awareness has translated



into reduced littering as the public develops an awareness of the relationship between drainage and water supply.

Mississippi has begun this process and the first signs have been posted to identify the Upper Pearl River Watershed. Additional watersheds identified for signage include the Lower Pearl, Pascagoula, Big Black, Tombigbee and Yazoo.

None of this signage project could have been accomplished without the help of MDOT, and they have had a lot on their plate since Hurricane Katrina. While there have been some serious obstacles to implementing the project with the MWRA logo attached to the signs, MWRA is committed to the project and will continue to work toward full implementation.

## Kudos to:

**Governor Haley Barbour**, who was named the nation's most outstanding governor in 2006 and "Public Official of the Year" by *Governing*, an independent Washington, DC-based magazine devoted to coverage of state and local government. Governor Barbour accepted the award on behalf of the people of Mississippi because of the character, resilience, courage and selflessness they displayed during and after Hurricane Katrina.

Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, the law firm in which MWRA Board of Directors member **Alan Moore** is a shareholder, was recently named by Corporate Counsel as a "Go-To

Law Firm." Less than one half of 1% of all law firms in the U.S. and abroad are included in its "Go-To" list.

All of us at MWRA welcome **John W. "Jack" Zink** as the new Executive Director of the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission. Zink is a retired U.S. Navy captain and has an extensive background in project and construction management.

Zink replaces **Hal Walters**, who retired January 31 after serving as the Commission's Executive Director for 13 years. Hal has served MWRA in many capacities, including President and Treasurer.

Congratulations to **Mike Davis**, Executive Vice President of the Pearl River Basin Development District. He has been tapped as the incoming Treasurer for MWRA.

**Ed Bailey, PE**, of Wilbur Smith Associates has recently been named to both the MWRA and Mississippi Intermodal Council Boards of Directors, replacing Marlin Collier, PE, who has contributed substantially to the successes of MWRA through service on the Executive Committee and before that as the Director of Intermodal Transportation for the MS Department of Transportation.

## Private Funds Sought for Widening of Canal

Warren County supervisors are turning to the private sector to come up with the last \$500,000 needed to complete the Yazoo Diversion Canal widening project. The rest of the money has been secured through appropriations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, \$1.5 million from Vicksburg through the Mississippi Development Authority, and federal block grants. Warren County has supplied \$164,169 through the port board.

Increasing the width of the canal has been seen as vital to increasing its capacity, thereby spurring business at the county port. Plans for the widening call for turning a 150-foot bottom width into a 250-foot bottom width from the Mississippi River to Glass Bayou and 200-foot bottom from there to the entrance to the harbor channel. Bulk material moving through the port in August was reported by Kinder Morgan Terminals, Inc. at 25,220 tons, up nearly 6,000 tons since July.

*The Clarion-Ledger*, January 8, 2007

## Trudy Fisher Named DEQ Head

Governor Haley Barbour recently appointed Trudy Fisher to succeed Charles Chisolm as MDEQ's Executive Director. A graduate of MUW with a law degree from the University of Mississippi, where she served as editor-in-chief of the *Mississippi Law Journal*, Fisher has been recognized as "One of the best lawyers in America," and the *Mississippi Business Journal* selected her as one of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women. She reports that her main goal is to "continue to protect and preserve Mississippi's abundant resources, while encouraging environmentally sound economic development statewide and helping shepherd the recovery of the Coastal region from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina."

Fisher went on to add that she sees the strength of MDEQ as the diverse expertise and commitment of its people. She believes her own experience has helped to cultivate a fundamental understanding of many diverse and competing interests and given her a good foundation for reconciling myriad desires for economic development and private enterprise with the need to protect and improve Mississippi's environment for all of its citizens and future generations.

To learn more about Trudy Fisher, be sure to hear her keynote speech at the Joint MWRRI/MWRA/MDEQ/USGS Water Resources Conference in Jackson, April 24 and 25 at the Jackson Hilton. There are more details in the newsletter calendar section.

*Environmental News*, January 2007

*Mississippi Business Journal*, December 24, 2006

## 2007 Legislator Breakfast

The Annual “Breakfast with Our Legislators” of the Mississippi Intermodal Council (MIC) was a resounding success, with 146 gathered at the Old Capitol Inn for a traditional Southern breakfast. The organization membership is made up of representatives from all of the modes of transportation. There were representatives from Public Transit, Airports, Railroads and Road Builders. MIC said good-bye to outgoing Chairman Mark McAndrews, Jackson County Port Authority, and welcomed Clint Pomeroy, Natchez Airport Director, as the incoming MIC Chairman. Some of the high points of the breakfast included statements of support from numerous dignitaries. Next year’s breakfast is already scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2008. Special thanks to Tom Bryant, PE, for his photographs of the breakfast.



Rep. Billy Broomfield, Chairman,  
House Ports and Waterways Committee



Sen. Billy Hewes, III, Chairman, Senate  
Highways and Transportation Committee



Wayne Brown, Transportation  
Commissioner, Southern District



Dick Hall, Transportation Com-  
missioner, Central District



Bill Minor, Transportation Com-  
missioner, Northern District



Gray Swoope, Executive Direc-  
tor, MS Development Authority

## Help Wanted:

The Calgary office of Golder Associates, Ltd., is currently recruiting for Intermediate Water Resource Engineers to join our team of over 40 Engineers; the successful candidates will work under senior Engineers on water resources engineering projects and studies.

Qualifications include:

- Graduate Degree in Water Resources Engineering is preferred
- 5-10 years of work experience in the field of Water Resource Engineering (hydrology, hydraulics, sediment transport, fluvial geomorphology, hydrologic monitoring, channel design, hydraulic structures, mine water management, river water intakes, hydrologic and hydraulic modelling)
- Strong project management skills
- Strong communication skills (written & verbal)
- Dedicated team player

Golder Associates, Ltd., is a strong advocate of the team approach to undertaking projects and problem solving. Accordingly, the candidate will be expected to interface with and work in a team in which the contribution of each member is equally valued. Please contact [Heather\\_Douglas@golder.com](mailto:Heather_Douglas@golder.com).

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# Calendar of Events 2007

- March 19-21 **National Waterways Conference Budget Summit**, Monaco Hotel, Washington, DC.  
Information: [www.waterways.org](http://www.waterways.org)
- March 28-29 **“Managing the Global Supply Chain,”** Hilton-Jackson. MS World Trade Center.  
Information: [www.mswtc.org](http://www.mswtc.org)
- April 9-12 **Association of Floodplain Managers and FEMA**, Intercontinental Hotel, New Orleans.  
Contact: Diane Brown, [diane@floods.org](mailto:diane@floods.org)
- April 11-13 **IRPT Annual Educational Meeting**, Peabody Hotel, Memphis. Contact: [admin@irpt.net](mailto:admin@irpt.net)  
April 23 **MWRA Board of Directors Meeting**, 3:30, Pearl River Basin Development District  
Conference Room
- April 24-25 **MWRRI Annual Water Resources Meeting** (co-sponsored by MWRA, USGS, MDEQ  
and the MS Public Service Commission), Hilton-Jackson. Contact: [insightltd@msn.com](mailto:insightltd@msn.com)
- May 1-3 **Assoc. Floodplain Managers MS & AL**, Hollywood Casino, Bay St. Louis.  
Contact: [williamsons@cdm.com](mailto:williamsons@cdm.com)
- August 8-10 **MWRA Annual Educational Meeting**, Hilton-Jackson. Contact: [insightltd@msn.com](mailto:insightltd@msn.com)  
August 28-30 **Tenn-Tom Waterway Development Conference**, Grand Hotel Marriott, Point Clear, AL.  
Information: [www.tenntom.org](http://www.tenntom.org)
- November 8-10 **National Waterways Conference**, Riverview Hotel, Mobile, AL. Information:  
[www.waterways.org](http://www.waterways.org)
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