

## INSIDE

Members In The News . . . . 2

George County Lake . . . . 2

Water Conference Golf  
Tournament . . . . . 3

AAPA Tampa Workshop . . . 3

The Water Conference . . . . 3

Resolution In Support Of The  
Port of Gulfport Restoration  
Program . . . . . 4

Chinese Investing in Amory  
Steel Mill. . . . . 4

Panama Canal Authority Signs  
Partnership Agreement . . . . 5

Calendar. . . . . 6

## President's Letter



Greetings to all.

First and foremost allowance for gratitude is in order. Thanks to John Hardy and the Nomination Committee for the vote of confidence as President of MWRA. Hats off to MWRRI and all who made this year's conference a success. As always, your performance was impeccable and I commend you one and all. Also, special thanks to Jack Zink and Joe Baran for organizing the successful Golf Tournament and to Joe Conn for the informative tour of the Port of Gulfport.

Additionally and just a reminder, I look forward to seeing as many members as possible in February at the Board of Directors Meeting and Legislative Breakfast at the Old Capitol Inn. There is much work to be done.

Congratulations to Jim Shepard, Ph.D., on his new position at Auburn University as Dean of the College of Forest Resources and Wildlife. I would also like to extend a special welcome to Bill McAnally, Ph.D., Department of Civil Engineering at Mississippi State and MSU Liaison to the Northern Gulf Institute, as the new MWRA Vice President. Of course I also want to thank Dean Pennington, Ph.D., of the YMD Water Management District for his leadership, insight and support as MWRA President for the past two years. Thank you, Dean.

Special thanks are due to the conference sponsors – without them, it would be most difficult, maybe impossible, to produce the kind of experience all of us were treated to: **Waggoner Engineering, MS Department of Marine Resources, Rosedale-Bolivar County Port Commission, Neel-Schaffer, and Florence & Hutcheson.** Heartfelt thanks to all of the sponsors!

Of course I'm pleased the MWRA Board of Directors also voted to have the 2011 Water Conference in Natchez – and I hope to show off my port there to the membership. Once again, thanks to all, and keep striving to make Mississippi and her water resources your resource to impact the waterways and freight ways to the world.

See you soon,

Anthony B. Hauer, President, MWRA

**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.*

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The **Mississippi Valley Division** of USACE submitted the following: “MVD is fully engaged in performing levee system evaluation reports for the approximately 3,000 levee miles of the Mississippi River and Tributaries project. To date, seven reports have been completed and presented to sponsors with anticipated completion of the reports by December 2012.”

The National Waterways Conference met in September in Boston and elected the following MWRA members to national office: **Sykes Sturdivant** of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board has been elected Vice Chairman; **John Janoush** of Jantran has been named Vice President; and **Brian Frennea** of Logistics Services is the NWC Treasurer.

Congratulations to Hank Burdine, member of the **Mississippi Levee Board** in Greenville. He was featured in the September issue of the *Delta Business Journal*. In the article, he talks about the importance of the levee, some of its history and its importance in protecting the surrounding area. A copy of the article is available by request to [insightltd@msn.com](mailto:insightltd@msn.com).

Special congratulations are also due to **George Hopper, Ph.D.**, who has been promoted at Mississippi State University. His title is complex and spans many spheres: Dean, College of Forest Resources; Director, Forest and Wildlife Research Center; Interim Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and Interim Director, MS Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Stations. He has been an active MWRA Board of Directors member, but the new duties may impact his involvement.

Though they've been our friends for years, MWRA welcomed as new members in September 2010, the **Port of Clay County - Tom Soya Grain**, Perry Lucas; **Claiborne County Port Commission**, James Johnston, Michael Wells

## GEORGE COUNTY LAKE

The George County Board of Supervisors with the assistance of the Pat Harrison Waterway District recently kicked off a new and expanded George County Lake project. The expanded lake project began when Governor Barbour signed HB 1351 on April 28, 2010, which transferred the project's State Bond funding from the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks to the Pat Harrison Waterway District. Unlike the earlier recreational lake effort, the new project envisions a multi-use/multi-purpose reservoir that can serve as a water supply source for regional industrial development and possibly provide supplemental water for the Pascagoula River during droughts.

It is likely that water demand in the region will continue to grow in importance. A July 2010 Natural Resources Defense Council publication, “Climate Change, Water and Risk,” found that with projected climate change impacts, George, Stone and Jackson Counties are all at a “high” risk of a severe water shortage by the year 2050 and Harrison County is at a “moderate” risk. In the spirit of a regionally beneficial project, the George County Board of Supervisors is actively seeking cooperation and support for the project from the Boards of Supervisors for their neighbors in Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Perry and Stone Counties. The expanded regional water supply lake project has been very well received. Resolutions of support have already been received from four counties with resolutions from the two remaining counties anticipated shortly. Following a competitive selection process, the George County Board of Supervisors and the Pat Harrison Waterway District selected the Pickering Firm Inc. to provide engineering and environmental services for the project in June 2010.

Submitted by Jeff Ballweber, Pickering, Inc.

## WATER CONFERENCE GOLF TOURNAMENT REPORT

The 2010 MWRA Conference golf tournament at The Bridges golf course was enthusiastically received with 30 players and a net gift to the scholarship fund in excess of \$2,000. There were many sponsors, including major sponsors for the beverage cart (Roy Anderson Company), scorecard (The Silver Slipper Casino) and golf carts (Hancock Bank). We also had upscale golf shirts for every player, with the MWRA logo, that were solicited from BKI by Jack Zink.

Each player received a donated “ditty bag” from Hancock County Development Commission that included among many items a sleeve of Titleist golf balls from HCDC. There were nuts, chips, pens, note pads, Neel-Schaffer cups and koozies in the bag, too. Also, JBHM donated a shirt and note planner, with SSA providing a dozen golf balls and a shirt for additional door prizes. Lazy Magnolia contributed a nice set of beverage glasses, shirt and hat.

The top five foursome golf teams each received free rounds of play at The Bridges, Shell Landing, The Grand Bear, The Oaks, Sunkist and Mississippi National golf clubs. All players received an additional door prize for just participating in the event, which made everyone a true winner.

Last but not least, we couldn’t have made this happen without the direction of chairman Joe Baran and the untiring and dedicated help of Emma Jane Rose and Lianne Kenney, who helped with registration.

## 4TH ANNUAL AAPA TAMPA WORKSHOP – “GAME CHANGER” FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), along with the U.S. Maritime Administration and the Tampa Port Authority, has developed a timely workshop that will examine *Shifting International Trade Routes*, with a strong emphasis on the effect of the economic downturn on investment decisions, cargo movements, and international trade generally. The program will be conducted February 1-2, 2011, in Tampa, Florida.

This is the fourth year for this popular program that examines evolving hemispheric and global considerations affecting all the players in the supply chain. Economic decisions and strategies are being based on fundamental changes to the traditional transportation paradigm. Learn how you should be positioning yourself for future growth and success.

Speakers will address the international economic outlook and shifts in global trade; provide an update on the planned expansion of the Panama Canal and the growth of all water services; and discuss the impact of the recession from the perspective of cargo owners, ocean carriers, ports, terminal operators, warehouse and distribution centers, and highway and rail interests. There will be significant changes in worldwide trade lanes in the next few years. Don’t miss this one-of-a-kind program.

## THE WATER CONFERENCE – QUICK OVERVIEW

Almost 200 people were registered for the Water Conference held at the Hollywood Resort in Bay Saint Louis November 3-5. In addition to technical presentations from MWRRI, there was a complete transportation/port section featuring a panel speaking on port issues, and four of the five USACOE Districts presented updates on their Districts: Memphis, Vicksburg, Mobile and New Orleans.

MWRA awarded \$1,650 in scholarships, which were provided by MWRA, Lowndes County Port, Yazoo-MS Delta Levee Board, and Weyerhaeuser Timberlands. There was quite an array of exhibitors including Taylor Machine Works of Louisville, Pierce Pacific, Natchez Convention and Visitors Bureau, USGS, Northern Gulf Institute, MS Department of Environmental Quality, USACOE – Vicksburg District, Pickering, Inc., and the Yazoo-MS Delta Levee Board. Sponsors for the conference are featured on the front page of the newsletter.

Special thanks to the Hancock County Development Commission for organizing and hosting the golf tournament – and raising \$2,000 to replenish the scholarship fund. None of the success of the conference would have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the staff at MWRRI, especially Karen Brasher for her phenomenal artwork and graphic design and Jessie Schmidt, who worked hard to keep it all together.

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PORT OF GULFPORT RESTORATION PROGRAM

AT THE MWRA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WATER CONFERENCE IN BAY SAINT LOUIS NOVEMBER 5, THE MEMBERSHIP VOTED TO ENDORSE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PORT OF GULFPORT:

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast and with neighboring states causing the greatest natural disaster ever to occur in the State of Mississippi and the United States, including almost complete destruction of the facilities and infrastructure of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Water Resources Association is a coalition of public and private corporations that oversees the management and development of Mississippi water resources, including its ports, harbors, river systems and flood control, waterways and water supply; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized by the Mississippi Water Resources Association and its members that restoration and redevelopment of the Port at Gulfport is vital to the continued economic recovery and development of the Gulf Coast and the entire State of Mississippi from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, the concept adopted for restoration and redevelopment of the Port facilities would allow and accommodate future growth of Port facilities which could bring substantial, new and better jobs; a higher quality of life; facilitate and maximize the future growth of Port operations in an environmentally and socially responsible manner; and bring business and economic development opportunities into the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Water Resources Association wishes to express its support for the restoration and redevelopment concept for the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport, finding and declaring the Port's reconstruction essential to the mission of improving the development of Mississippi's water resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Water Resources Association does hereby express its support for the concept adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport for restoration and redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport.

## CHINESE INVESTING IN AMORY STEEL MILL

AMORY – A state-owned Chinese company signed an agreement to invest in a Mississippi steel mill in a deal that has prompted complaints by some U.S. lawmakers that it might jeopardize national security. Anshan Iron & Steel Group Corp.'s investment is seen as a test of American willingness to accept Chinese investment. Some American business groups have warned that a rejection might fuel protectionist sentiment and trigger Chinese retaliation.

Anshan said it would hold a 14 percent stake and supply some technology for the mill being built by Steel Development Co. in Amory. Anshan said it would become a member of Steel Development's board. Despite its small size, the announcement of the planned investment earlier this year prompted opposition in Washington. Last July, 50 members of the Congressional Steel Caucus wrote to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner calling for an investigation.

The American Chamber of Commerce in China issued a statement welcoming the acquisition. Chinese investment "has a positive effect on American companies, particularly start-ups like Steel Development Co., and helps create jobs at home," it said.

In August, the chamber's chairman warned that a rejection might fuel protectionist sentiment at a time of weak global growth. "Rejecting this deal could start a cycle of antitrade measures across the Pacific that would be difficult to stop," John D. Watkins wrote in *The Asian Wall Street Journal*. "The national-security worry is spurious. Chinese companies have invested billions of dollars abroad, much of it in mining and oil assets in Africa, Central Asia and elsewhere. That growing presence has triggered unease in some countries about allowing state-owned companies into industries that are deemed strategic."

Anshan chairman Zhang Xiaogang declined to say how much the company was investing, but an Anshan executive said earlier it would be \$7 million. "Our investment is normal, commercial investment behavior. I don't think in the United States, a highly market-style country, it will face big opposition," Zhang said at a news conference. "The concerns will disappear as our project moves ahead." The investment still requires final approval from Chinese and U.S. authorities, the companies said. The chairman and CEO of Steel Development, John Correnti, said there were no changes to the deal as a result of the complaints. "We made absolutely no changes," Correnti said at the news conference. The facility will create 200 permanent jobs and 1,000 temporary construction jobs, the company says. Production is due to start in 2012. The venture includes technical support or investment from partners from the United States, Italy, Japan, Germany and Canada. Correnti said the companies have obtained environmental and other required permits and construction has begun.

Steel Development also plans to build four other mills. Zhang said Anshan would decide whether to invest in those based on its experience in Amory and the "trust relationship of the partners."

## PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY SIGNS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY

*ALLIANCE AIMS TO FOSTER ECONOMIC GROWTH, SPUR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND PROMOTE THE “ALL-WATER ROUTE”*

**Point Clear, Alabama, August 26, 2010** – Panama Canal Authority (ACP) Administrator/CEO Alberto Alemán Zubieta and Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW) Administrator Mike Tagert signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) yesterday to foster economic growth, spur international trade and promote the “All-Water Route” (the route from Asia to the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts via the Panama Canal).

During an official ceremony in Point Clear, Alabama, both parties affirmed their commitment to mutual growth and cooperation. Renewable after two years, the ACP-TTW agreement will allow for joint marketing ventures, information sharing and technological interchange.

“Today’s MOU signing is significant for both of our organizations as we look ahead to a rapidly changing business landscape,” said Mr. Alemán Zubieta. “Our partnership with the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway will be mutually beneficial and we look forward to our close collaboration.”

Based in Columbus, Mississippi, the TTW is a four-member interstate compact consisting of the States of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee. It serves 17 states, 14 river systems, and more than half the nation’s population. Opened to commercial traffic in January 1985, the TTW provides passage for as much as 1.2 billion ton-miles of commerce each year with significant annual savings in transportation costs.

“It is increasingly important that we recognize the ‘All-Water Route’ to include the navigable inland systems such as the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway,” said Mr. Tagert. “We are pleased that the Canal Authority, such a major component of the global supply chain system, recognizes the value and potential of the inland waterway system.”

The ACP-TTW agreement builds upon previously signed pacts between the ACP and the Alabama State Port Authority, as well as the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport. Now, two new states will be engaged in the Panamanian economic partnership.

### **About the Panama Canal Authority (ACP)**

The ACP is the autonomous agency of the Government of Panama in charge of managing, operating and maintaining the Panama Canal. The operation of the ACP is based on its organic law and the regulations approved by its Board of Directors. For more information, please refer to the ACP’s website: [www.pancanal.com](http://www.pancanal.com). You can also follow the ACP on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/thepanamacanal>.

### **About the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW)**

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway is an interstate compact ratified by Congress to promote the development of the Waterway and its economic and trade potential. The compact consists of the States of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee. For more information, please refer to the TTW’s website: <http://www.tenntom.org/>. You can also follow the TTW on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/TennTomWaterway>.

Submitted by Mike Tagert, Executive Director, Tenn-Tom Waterway



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## Calendar of Events 2011

- February 1-2      AAPA – Shifting International Trade Routes. Tampa, FL. See article for details.  
Available: <http://www.aapa.ports.org/programs/seminarsschedule>
- February 2      **MWRA Board of Directors Meeting**, Old Capitol Inn, 4 PM  
**Joint MWRA / MS Intermodal Council Board of Directors Dinner**,  
Old Capitol Inn, 6 PM. Details to follow.
- February 3      **MS Intermodal Council, Breakfast with Our Legislators**,  
Old Capitol Inn, 7:30 AM.
- February 9-11    2011 Freight in the SouthEast Conference, Charlotte, NC.  
Details: [bruce@ittsresearch.org](mailto:bruce@ittsresearch.org)
- March 7-9      National Waterways Conference Legislative Summit. Details to follow.
- May 4-6      IRPT Annual Conference, Omni Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA. Details to follow.