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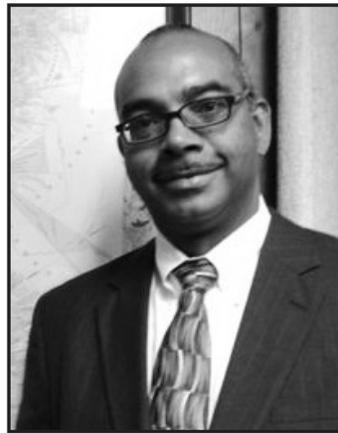
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President's Letter



Greetings to All,

The plans have really come together for the Fall Conference in Biloxi at the IP with a special event scheduled at the newly opened Margaritaville. Stay tuned – many more details will follow. The speaker line-up is already impressive. I include special thanks to Betty Ann White and Mark McAndrews of the Port of Pascagoula for their assistance in planning and sponsoring this much-

anticipated annual event.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a sponsorship and exhibitor form. Please consider supporting MWRA with either one, and your registration would be included. We are going “all-out” for this conference and we need your support and participation.

Time, with its beginnings and ends, was ordained from creation by the Creator. MY Time began two years ago and is ending now. For me, the term was great. However, the fact that the Board of Directors and the membership were so very supportive as well as active gives an even greater reward. It is with emotion that I exit the Office of President of MWRA in November 2012. The Bible tells us that there is a Season for everything, to plant, harvest, to prune and to cut down. Seasons come and Seasons go, same as with Presidents. Nevertheless my season was seasoning and well worth the journey. I am forever grateful and proud to be a part of MWRA. God Bless.

Closing with thanks, Anthony Hauer,
MWRA President
Natchez-Adams County Port

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.

Calendar of Events 2012

- Sept. 11 - 15** **Business Development Trip to Panama.**
Information at: johnthyatt@ibrown.com and article elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Sept. 19 - 21** **National Waterways Conference, Tunica, MS.**
Information at: www.waterways.org.
- Nov. 7 - 9** **Mississippi Water Resources Association, IP Resort, Biloxi, MS.**
Information at: www.mswater.org.
- Nov. 13 - 15** **Waterways Council, Inc.,** along with partners Informa Economics and *Waterways Journal*, Fall Symposium, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Houston, Texas. More information will follow.

SENATORS WIGGINS AND POLK VISIT CLAIBORNE COUNTY PORT

On Monday, July 30th Senator Brice Wiggins and Senator John A. Polk met with members of the Claiborne County Port Commission to familiarize themselves with the port and to conduct a fact-finding mission. A prepared handout was given to both Senator Wiggins and Senator Polk summarizing port specifications, the port's involvement in the recent outage and upgrade at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, the county's support of the MS Multi-Modal Program (sponsored by the MS Department of Transportation), and support of the MS Water Resources Association. Senator Wiggins serves as Ports and Marine Resources Committee Chair, and Senator Polk serves on that Committee.



Those pictured are Senator Polk, Commissioner A.C. Garner, Senator Wiggins and Commissioner Eddie Kinnard. Not pictured – Commissioner Robert Johnson and James Johnston (de facto photographer).

WATER SYSTEM CYBER ATTACKS

Hackers are known for attacking the computers of banks and government agencies. Now they have a new favorite target: the U.S. water system. In an unsettling new report on cyber attacks against the nation's critical infrastructure, the Department of Homeland Security said that water plants were targeted 81 times in 2011, compared with only two incidents in 2010.

Last year's attacks accounted for about 40 percent of the online assaults against U.S. control systems, which are computers that run industrial facilities. There were 198 attacks on control systems in 2011, a nearly five-fold increase over 2010 when the number was 41, according to the agency's Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team (ICS-CERT).

The overall numbers highlight the increased sophistication of cyber attackers and the higher stakes in targeting infrastructure. Doomsday scenarios abound for critical infrastructure assaults, from destroying oil and gas pipelines, blacking out power grids, or contaminating water supplies. The Stuxnet computer worm damaged nearly 1,000 centrifuges in an Iranian nuclear plant and was jointly developed by the U.S. and Israel. According to *The New York Times*, the worm's effectiveness shows the destructive power of computer attacks that can inflict physical damage, an area of growing interest for governments.

While most computer attacks are still large in scale and involve financial fraud, such as the theft of online banking passwords and credit card numbers, some attackers are exploring smaller, more harmful assaults on physical infrastructure. The main reason water systems had more attacks in 2011, according to ICS-CERT, is one unidentified technology vendor was selling a remote-access program that insecurely authenticated users. The fact that the program connected to the Internet and could be found through highly specialized searches allowed hackers to easily discover it inside multiple facilities, said the report, which was released in June.

Water-infrastructure operators were more targeted than energy companies (31 incidents in 2011), nuclear facilities (10) and chemical providers (9). Other targets included government facilities (11) and even dams, national monuments and transportation systems, according to ICS-CERT.

Many of the incidents investigated by the agency involve successful infections, some of them yielding odd results. For instance, an unidentified facility had its control-systems plans posted on the Internet earlier this year. Intruders had not only stolen the plans, but also made adjustments to its energy management system, leading to "unusually warm" temperatures in the facility, according to ICS-CERT. The organization unplugged its network from the Internet upon discovering the breach. It was unclear from the report whether turning up the heat and stealing the control system's schematics was the ultimate goal of the attack, or if the attackers had more nefarious plans in mind.

Bloomberg Tech Blog, July 3, 2012

MEMBER NEWS

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Executive Director Trudy Fisher has named **Richard Ingram** as Director of the Office of Land and Water Resources. Ingram is a 20-year veteran of the agency and has specialized in a myriad of water-related programs. He is a Registered Professional Geologist and is recognized statewide and nationally for his commitment and expertise in water quality issues. Jamie Crawford has served as the interim director of the office since Sam Mabry retired in 2011.



Two of these fast patrol boats were loaded at the **Port of Gulfport** onto the MV Thorco Attraction on July 24th by Stevedoring Services of America (SSA). These boats were built locally at Trinity Yachts and were en-route to Kuwait.

Ray Balentine has joined Garver as their new Environmental Team Leader. In this role, he will lead the expansion of Garver's environmental practice to provide full environmental services. Garver is a multi-discipline engineering, planning, and environmental services firm headquartered in Little Rock, AR, which also has offices in Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Alabama and Florida. Ray previously spent a career with the Mississippi Department of Transportation, retiring in 2007. During his tenure at MDOT, he served in several roles, including Assistant Roadway Design Engineer, State Planning Engineer, and Director of Intermodal Transportation and Planning. After his retirement from MDOT, Ray served as the Mississippi director of operations for a national consulting engineering firm. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in civil engineering.

Jackson County-Port of Pascagoula Port Director **Mark McAndrews** recently assumed the chairmanship of the American Association of Port Authorities' (AAPA) Gulf Caucus after his selection to the office by the members of the caucus. Caucus members represent the ports on the Gulf of Mexico from the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. In addition to the chairmanship of the Gulf Caucus, Mark now serves the association through the AAPA Legislative Policy Council (LPC) and the AAPA Executive Committee, representing the Gulf states. The LPC reviews the legislation and governmental relations program and activities of the association, while also guiding the AAPA president in carrying out its policies. Founded in 1912, AAPA represents more than 130 leading seaport authorities in the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mandy M. Hegwood is taking the helm of the Laurel office of Neel-Schaffer, announced Mike Essary, Vice President of **Neel-Schaffer, Inc.** "She will serve as the Laurel manager and continue to assist our clients throughout the area." Hegwood joined Neel-Schaffer in 2000 and has provided engineering expertise to municipalities throughout the state, with a large focus in South Mississippi. The opportunity to work on municipal projects has allowed Hegwood to develop a diverse project portfolio that includes water supply, wastewater management, transportation engineering, storm water management and transportation enhancement projects.

Jack Zink has retired from the **Hancock County Development Authority**, which oversees Port Bienville. **Stephen Landry** has taken his place as Interim Executive Director.

A unanimous vote by the board of aldermen for the city of Aberdeen sealed a deal that will bring a bio-fuel facility to the **Port of Aberdeen**. The city has negotiated the sale of city-owned property to SPW and Associates for the plant. "We're very excited to have the opportunity to come to Aberdeen to utilize as much existing equipment as possible and employ more people," said Mark Warner, president and chief executive officer of Centra Energy. Assessing and testing of equipment will take a few months, and construction of the plant will take 18 to 24 months through phases before production begins. "Attracting the bio-fuel plant means an economic boost for us with new industry coming to town. We are actively seeking additional opportunities for the citizens of this town and we're more than happy to welcome SPW and Associates as neighbors to our community," said Mayor **Cecil Belle**.

Just nine days before his 93rd birthday, **Bishop David E. Cotton, Sr.**, vice president of the **Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board** since 2001, died last month. As a board official, he attended numerous waterways meetings in various parts of the country, where he was often called on to deliver invocations and make impromptu remarks. Along the way, he received many awards and other honors. Born in Ohio, Bishop Cotton earned a degree in theology in West Virginia and was assigned as pastor of El-Bethel Bibleway Church in the Mississippi Delta, where he was later elevated to the office of Elder and then Bishop. In his personal life, he was a tailor by trade and also a licensed realtor. In 1986, he was elected as mayor of Tchula, Miss., where he lived, and in 1992 he won his first term as a Levee Board commissioner, a position he had held ever since. Bishop Cotton was married twice. With his first wife Esther, he had five children before her death. He is survived by his second wife Mary, with whom he had four children. Seven sons and a daughter survive as well as 27 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. To Mary and their entire family, we extend our condolences.

PANAMA CANAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRIP

The US Department of Commerce is leading a Louisiana Trade Mission to Panama from the 11th to the 15th of September, 2012. This Trade Mission will provide an excellent opportunity for US firms to initiate or expand their business and exports into Panama by providing business-to-business introductions, meetings and networking with selected foreign participants as well as extensive market access information. With the US-Panama Free Trade Agreement set to be implemented in October, this Trade Mission will allow Louisiana companies to make inroads and connections to businesses in Panama looking to import US goods. The program will take place in Panama City, where there will be briefings, meetings with potential agents, buyers and distributors as well as participation in the CAPAC Expo show. The Industry Focus for this Trade Mission includes, but is not limited to, Construction, Construction Equipment, Architectural & Engineering Services, Building Products, Safety & Security, Environmental Cleanup and related industries.

Submitted by Cole Bernstein, Irwin Brown Co.

RIVER DISCOVERY PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

RiverWorks Discovery (RWD), an innovative outreach program that tells the “big-picture story” of America’s rivers, was the recipient of a White House award this week as a transportation “champion of change.” The program brings towboat pilots, environmental educators, science teachers and other professionals to schools, libraries, museums, festivals etc. to convey the importance of river commerce to the national economy and quality of life. At the White House ceremony, Jerome A. (Jerry) Enzler, the museum’s president and CEO, accepted the “champion of change” award, one of 14 presented to transportation-related officials. Transportation Secretary Ray H. LaHood greeted the award recipients. All were cited for providing “exemplary leadership in the growth and expansion of the transportation industry at the local, state or regional level.” MWRA is a sponsor of RiverWorks Discovery.

MITT ROMNEY MAKES CAMPAIGN STOP AT THE PORT OF PASCAGOULA

GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney made a campaign stop at the Port of Pascagoula’s Bayou Casotte Harbor. Addressing the crowd with massive oil rigs in the background, Romney tapped into the public’s concern over rising gas costs. Romney’s choice of topic at the port was appropriate, as the Port of Pascagoula maintains a strong presence in the nation’s energy industry. The rigs in the background during the candidate’s speech were under contract for overhaul and repair at Signal International’s facility in the port. South of the platform where Romney spoke are the Gulf LNG Energy and Chevron terminals. Mississippi governor Phil Bryant introduced Mr. Romney to the audience. State Auditor Stacey Pickering was also in Pascagoula for the event. Mark McAndrews serves as the Port Director.

SENATE COMMITTEE PLANS WRDA '12 LEGISLATION

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hopes to mark up a Water Resources Development Act of 2012 (WRDA'12) next month. That’s the current plan of Committee Chair Barbara Boxer (California). In the past, water resources authorizations were enacted every two years, but this schedule has fallen by the wayside. The last WRDA was enacted in 2007 – the only such legislation in this century, and then only after Congress succeeded in overriding the President’s veto. At last report, nine pending projects are awaiting authorization: flood risk management at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Topeka, Kansas; storm damage reduction (two projects) at Topsail Beach, N.C.; ecosystem restoration at mid-Chesapeake Bay Island, Louisiana Coastal Area, and the Everglades (Caloosahatchee River); **Mississippi Coastal Improvement Program**; and American River Watershed.

from Waterways Council *Capitol Currents*, August 3, 2012