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President's Letter



The concept of an all-encompassing “Mississippi Water Conference” has really taken hold, with many supporting organizations “pitching in” to make this the biggest and best ever! Scheduled for August 5-7 at Harrah’s (formerly Grand) Hotel in Tunica, the conference offers informative speakers representing critical water interests affecting our state and nation. One confirmed speaker is **Duane Smith**, Executive Director, Oklahoma Water Resources Board. Oklahoma has set a national standard for integrating all water interests into a cohesive whole, including everything from irrigation to navigation and beyond. **Eric Evenson** will discuss the *Water for America Initiative*. **Amy Larson**, President of the National Waterways Conference, has also been confirmed to speak on the status of the Stimulus Package, whatever that status might be, at our conference in August. Other cooperating sponsors of the Water Conference include MWRRI, USGS, the MS Public Service Commission, MS DEQ, NOAA and USDA. Of course there are social events planned as well – a welcome reception, a Tunica River Cruise and optional golf, museum tours and skeet shooting. None of this is to minimize the technical reports presented on the first day of the conference. We are all especially indebted to **John Almond, P.E.** (Allen & Hoshall), this year’s Conference chair, **Joe Baran**, Golf Chair (Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission), and **Jessie Schmidt** (MWRRI), Meeting Planner par excellence! You will hear more about the conference, but as these plans evolve, I wanted you to be able to plan now to attend!

I also want to thank **Alan Moore** for his leadership and planning for another successful Legislative Breakfast February 5, this one attended by 148! The combination MWRM Board of Directors Meeting, Mississippi Intermodal Council / MWRM dinner and the MIC Breakfast have turned into an annual event we all look forward to attending.

Also, a reminder that articles, news and comments for the newsletter are always welcome and can be forwarded to MWRM Newsletter Editor Deirdre McGowan at insightltd@msn.com.

Dean Pennington
YMD Water Management District
MWRM President

MWRM Mission Statement:
MWRM 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 Pearl River (**Pearl River Basin Development District**) made headline news recently with a report from a unit often known “as the Navy’s best-kept secret.” A new \$9.7 million facility has been built at Stennis Space Center, necessary because of beefing up training for counter-terrorism river operations. In the past four years, the unit has seen a 68% increase in numbers of combatant crew members at Stennis.

Sun Herald, February 13, 2009

A special Welcome to **Jim Shepard, Ph.D.**, on his recent appointment as Professor and Associate Director, Forest and Wildlife Research Center, and Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute, Mississippi State University. He formerly served as Professor and Head of the Department of Forestry at MSU.

Congratulations to **Jack Zink**, Executive Director, Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission, on his selection to Leadership Mississippi 2009.

A welcome is also extended to **Joseph Tanko**, the new Executive Director, Tombigbee Water Management District, based in Tupelo. He replaces Jimmie Mills, who recently retired. Tanko worked previously for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, for 25 years in the Operations Division.

Ron Coles, P.E., has announced the re-establishing of W.R. Coles and Associates. After a successful 15 years in practice, WRCA merged with Hanson Professional Services in 2005. In December 2008, the firms separated as friends and once again operate as independent entities. Ron can be reached through www.wrcoles.com.

GULF REGION WATER AND WASTEWATER PLAN GROUNDBREAKINGS

On February 17, groundbreakings were held for infrastructure projects in Hancock County and in Jackson County. The projects in Hancock County are a water well and an elevated storage tank in Kiln that will total \$2.1 million when completed. The projects in Jackson County include improvements to the Gautier Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, improvements to the Escatawpa Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, and transmission improvements in the Gulf Park and Ocean Beach Estates area for wastewater treatment, totaling almost \$15 million. These projects are part of the Gulf Region Water and Wastewater Plan, formulated to determine water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure needs, and are funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Community Development Block Grant Program secured by Governor Haley Barbour and Mississippi’s Congressional delegation.

From the MDEQ Newsletter, February 2009

PROGRESS ON THE TENN-TOM WATERWAY MUSEUM

While awaiting the physical renovation of museum facilities, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Transportation Museum has proceeded with outreach efforts to inform and educate the public on the history and importance of transportation in the Tenn-Tom corridor. Long-time MWRA friend Agnes Zaiontz has been named Museum Director and Business Manager. A 26-minute video, *Building the Dream*, has been produced by Don Waldon, the former administrator of TTWDA. To order the video, forward \$20.83 to the Museum at P.O. Drawer 671, Columbus, MS 39703.

AMORY WELCOMES LARGEST SINGLE INVESTMENT EVER

Steel Development Company recently broke ground on its new \$175 million rebar manufacturing plant, located on the Tenn-Tom Waterway at Amory, MS. The 80,000-square-foot plant will create 200 jobs on site plus 100 satellite jobs and require an additional 500-600 workers during the construction phase. From every 350,000 tons of recycled scrap steel automobiles, primarily transported to the facility by barge and rail, the plant will produce 300,000 tons of rebar rod.

Tenn-Tom Newsletter, December 2008

EMERGENCE OF NAVIGATION ENGINEERING SPECIALTY

Although the significance of the United States Marine Transportation System (MTS) is enormous, there is presently no recognized engineering specialty that covers navigation channels. "Navigation Engineering" involves the life-cycle planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of safe, secure, reliable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable navigable waterways (channels, structures, and support systems) used to move people and goods by waterborne vessels. Despite the heavy reliance on and importance of maintaining the U.S. MTS, there is no recognized engineering specialty that covers navigation channels.

The U.S. MTS consists of 25,000 miles of waterways and more than 300 ports connecting to 152,000 miles of rail, 460,000 miles of pipelines, and 45,000 miles of interstate highways. In addition to waterways, ports and intermodal connections, it includes vessels, vehicles, users, and stakeholders. Users include all those who depend on the MTS for their livelihood and recreation, and stakeholders include nearly everyone in the country who values economic vitality and environmental quality.

During the late 1980s, the American Society of Civil Engineers Waterways Committee decided to undertake a mission to save valuable Corps navigation design information and to expose it to a wider audience of practitioners, so they launched an effort to develop a navigation design Manual of Practice (MOP) series. The resulting ASCE manuals not only present Corps navigation design practice, design philosophy and experience, but they also include foreign country practice and activities of other U.S. government agencies with navigation missions.

The ASCE Manuals of Practice produced by the Waterways Committee can be ordered by contacting pubsful@asce.org. As of 2008 they include:

- No. 116, *Navigation Engineering Practice and Ethical Standards*, 2008
- No. 107, *Ship Channel Design and Operation*, 2005 (revises and expands MOP No. 80)
- No. 94, *Inland Navigation: Locks, Dams and Channels*, 1998
- No. 80, *Report on Ship Channel Design*, 1993

For additional information on the Navigation Engineering specialty and the efforts of the Waterways Committee, please contact Bill McAnally, Chair, Navigation Engineering Subcommittee, at McAnally@cee.msstate.edu.

*Submitted by: Bruce McCartney, P.E., M.ASCE
and William McAnally, P.E., Ph.D., F.ASCE, Mississippi State University*

BAY SPRINGS LAKE RESORT STATUS GRANTED

Martel Resorts has obtained a conditional lease from the Mobile District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the approximately 1,500-acre Natchez Trace Recreation Area on Bay Springs Lake on the Tenn-Tom Waterway in Tishomingo County, reported Jeff Ballweber at the recent MWRA Board of Directors meeting. A preliminary Master Plan for the comprehensive recreational resort includes 1,700 boat slips and two-and-a-half golf courses, an RV Park, a Water Park, an Equestrian Complex and many other amenities for outdoor family recreation. Pickering, Inc. is the project engineer on the \$375-400 million project, which will provide approximately 2,000 construction jobs and 1,000 long-term livable wage jobs. The Mississippi legislature is moving quickly to consider legislation to grant the development resort status, which is required before the project can proceed. European visitors are especially being targeted! The project's water needs are being coordinated with the Tombigbee Water Management District's efforts to create a new three-county water authority.

Calendar of Events

2009

- March 9-11 **NWC Budget Summit**, Phoenix Park Hotel, Washington, DC.
Information: www.waterways.org
- March 31 **Mississippi River Commission High Water Inspection Trip**, Tunica.
Please RSVP by March 16 to Brenda.K.Barber@usace.army.mil.
- March 31 **Energy Management Tools for Sustainability**, Marriott, Jackson.
Information: Barbara@mma-web.org
- April 21 MWRA Board of Directors Meeting, Great Southern Club, Gulfport.
Information: insightltd@msn.com.
- April 29-May 1 **Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals Annual Conference**,
Drake Hotel, Chicago. Information: admin@irpt.net
- August 5-7 **Mississippi Water Conference** (MWRA with USGS, MSDEQ, USDA, NOAA and PSC),
Harrah's Grand, Tunica. Information: Jschmidt@cfr.msstate.edu.
- August 25-28 **Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Opportunities
Conference**, Point Clear, AL. Information: azaiontz@tenntom.org
- September 6-8 **SmartRivers**: Vienna, Austria. (Note: This is a change of date)
Information: www.smartrivers.org.



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