

MISSISSIPPI LEVEE BOARD

impact

NEWSLETTER

"Where people come first"

Fall 2013 • Vol. 12, No. 1

2011 FLOOD – PROBLEM AREAS STILL BEING CORRECTED

Five items complete and six items about to start

There were (12) major problem areas discovered during the Historic 2011 Flood that needed attention and remedial work.

In December, 2011 Congress passed an \$802 Million Supplemental Appropriation for disaster relief to repair the MR&T System following the 2011 Flood. The Vicksburg District has been using this money to correct (11) of our problem areas.

from the landside slope of the YBW Levee, the Corps Hired Labor Crew permanently raised the low areas up to elevation 107.0', and the Corps let a maintenance gravel supply contract which added new limestone on 7.3 miles of the YBW Levee (Sta. 0-385 YBWL).

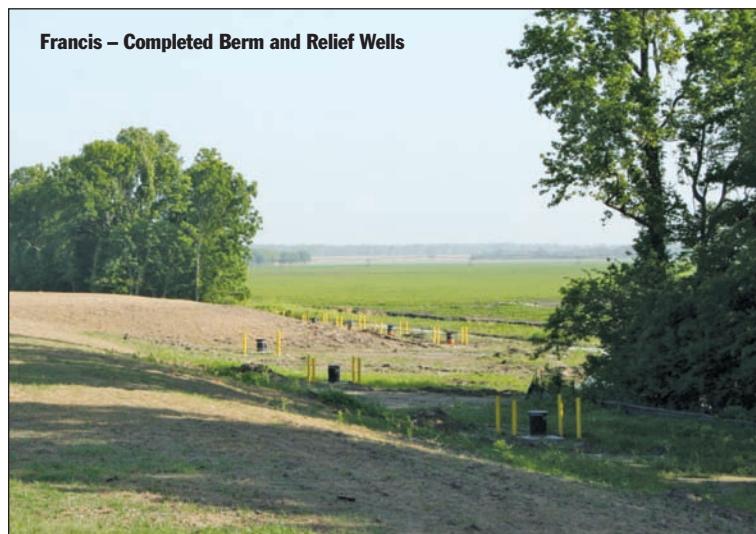
In mid-September 2011 the Corps contracted with Phylway Construction, LLC to build a 1,700' long, 200-240' wide landside seepage berm and install 30

Chute berm and relief wells by mid-December, 2011. Phylway completed the dirt work for the Albemarle berm in April, 2012.

2012 – FRANCIS AND ABOVE GREENVILLE BEING RESET

The Vicksburg District awarded Item 616L — Francis and Item 543L — Above Greenville to Gulf Group, Inc. The contractor installed eleven (11) 8" diameter wells at 60' depth on 543L and sixteen (16) 8" diameter wells at 78' depth on 616L. Both items included seepage berm extensions. These two items are complete with the exception of turf establishment.

Francis – Completed Berm and Relief Wells



2011 – YAZOO BACKWATER LEVEE, BUCK CHUTE & ALBEMARLE RESET

In the Summer of 2011, the Corps contracted to remove and recycle the poly-sheeting

relief wells at Buck Chute (Item 458L) and build a 2,500' long, 150' wide landside seepage berm at Albemarle (Item 465L). Phylway completed the Buck



Above Greenville – Installing Relief Wells



Above Greenville – Finished Relief Well

2013 – 6 RESET ITEMS TO BE AWARDED

Item 456L — Tara Seepage Control Project was awarded in May 2013 to Harding Enterprises, LLC to build a landside seepage berm and install relief wells at Tara.

Plans for the remaining five (5) reset items have been consolidated into one project called Operation Watershed Recovery. The bid opening is scheduled for Fall 2013. The Vicksburg District plans to build a berm and install relief wells at Avon, and install relief wells at Greenville, Leota, Lake Jackson and Ben Lomond. ■



Francis – Installing Relief Wells



Buck Chute – Relief Well Flowing



Above Greenville – Ditching and Berm Repair



Francis – Berm Repair

Col. John W. Cross

New Vicksburg District Commander

Colonel Cross is a native of Laurel, Mississippi and a 1987 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology. He received a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Central Texas in 1998 and a Masters of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2010. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Colonel Cross began his career as an engineer platoon leader in Germany and later served as a company executive officer. After attending the Engineer Captain's advanced course he moved to Fort Polk, Louisiana and deployed to Desert Storm serving as an assistant battalion operations officer. Following the war, he commanded an engineer company at Fort Polk and Fort Hood, Texas. He was selected for the Army's Training with Industry Program where he worked for the



Col. John W. Cross

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Denver, Colorado. His focus during this time included compliance with State and Federal regulations and environmental restoration at Superfund sites and Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) in an eight state area. After working with the EPA in Denver, Colonel Cross was assigned to the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers with duty at Fort Hood, Texas. At Fort Hood, he worked on various environmental contracts as well as military

construction and FUD remediation in central Texas. As part of his tour with the District, he served as a project officer at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas supervising Military Construction for the Air Force.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Vicksburg District

Colonel Cross attended the Army's Command and General Staff College and served again at Fort Hood as a battalion operations officer and executive officer. After a tour in Stuttgart, Germany, he was selected for command of the Brigade Special Troops Battalion in 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort



Col. John W. Cross with Chief Engineer Peter Nimrod

Hood. He deployed the battalion to Iraq in 2006 and operated north of Baghdad. After command, he was selected to lead the engineer training team at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California where he trained battalions before they deployed to combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. After graduating from the War College in 2010, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he served as the XVIII Airborne Corps Engineer and deployed with the Corps to Iraq. In Iraq he served as the Deputy Engineer to United States Forces Iraq and was responsible for the final disposition of over 80 bases and attendant infrastructure housing 50K soldiers as well as the construction of facilities for the Department of State.

Colonel Cross is married and he and his wife have two sons. ■

Levee Slides Repaired By Corps Hired Labor Crew

Digging out Slide Material



This levee slide located in Greenville was one of 26 slides repaired by the Corps of Engineers from April 2012 through November 2012. ■



Mixing Material with Lime



Completed Slide Repair

COE Releases Work Plans for FY 2013 Civil Works Appropriations



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its work plans, or spending plans, through the end of Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) for five appropriation accounts in the Army Civil Works program.

President Obama signed the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013, Division F of Public Law 113-6, into law on March 26, 2013. The Act provided total FY13 appropriations for the Army Civil Works program of \$4.972 billion.

However, the Civil Works funding received under the Act was reduced by \$254 million as a result of sequestration pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, as amended. The net available appropriations total \$4.718 billion.

The distribution of the enacted funding and the post-sequester funding among appropriations, in rounded figures, is as follows:

	Funding Pre-Sequester (\$M)	Funding Post-Sequester (\$M)
Investigations	\$ 125	\$ 118
Construction	\$1671	\$1587
Operation & Maintenance	\$2407	\$2286
MS River & Tributaries	\$ 251	\$ 239
Formerly Utilized Sites		
Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)	\$ 109	\$ 100
Flood Control & Coastal Emergencies	\$ 27	\$ 26
Expenses	\$ 185	\$ 175
Regulatory	\$ 193	\$ 183
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)	\$ 5	\$ 5
Total	\$4972	\$4718

The programs, projects or activities that were eligible for funding under the terms of the Act are those that had received funding through an allocation under the FY12 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, Division B of Public

Law 112-74, including those that received funding in FY12 under a reprogramming allocation in accordance with section 101 of that Act.

The starting point in developing each work plan was the high-performing work proposed for funding in the President's FY13 Budget. In the Investigations, Construction, and Mississippi River and Tributaries accounts, the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013, provided more funding after sequestration than had been proposed in the Budget. In the Operation and Maintenance and FUSRAP accounts, less funding was available after sequestration than had been proposed in the Budget. ■

FY 2014 Appropriations

The President's FY 2014 Budget released April 10, 2013 had only \$279M for the Mississippi River & Tributaries Project (MR&T). Unfortunately, on June 17th the House Appropriations on Energy & Water Subcommittee provided only \$249M for the MR&T Project. However, on June 25th the Senate Appropriations Sub-committee on Energy & Water Subcommittee provided

\$300M for the MR&T Project.

FY 2014 MR&T PROJECT APPROPRIATIONS

President's Budget	\$279M
House Committee	\$249M
Senate Sub-committee	\$300M
Conference Report	???
Levee Board Request	\$500M

The MR&T Project is only 89% complete. The Corps

\$500M needed for the MR&T Project for FY14



Sen. Thad Cochran

needs a \$500M appropriation each year to fully fund all of our much-needed flood control projects.

The MR&T Project protects over 4 million people living in the Mississippi River Valley. Since 1928 the MR&T Project has cost \$14B and has prevented \$612B in damages. The MR&T Project has a 44 to 1 return on each dollar invested! It is a shame that Congress continues to neglect and ignore one of the most beneficial and useful projects in American history. ■

2012 Annual Bus Inspection



Members of the 2012 Annual Levee Inspection take a photo in front of the Greenville Yacht Club.

On November 14, 2012, the Mississippi Levee Board hosted its Annual Levee Inspection. This year's trip inspected the north portion of the levee system starting at the Item 616L — Francis Relief Well Project on the Mainline Mississippi River Levee and proceeding south on the levee including the Item 543L — Above Greenville Relief Well Project.

Lunch was served at the Greenville Yacht Club on Lake Ferguson. ■

Historic Markers Dedicated at Greenville City Front



On December 3, 2012 two historic markers were unveiled and dedicated atop the Mainline Mississippi River Levee at the Greenville City Front. The two markers were approved by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and commemorate the Mississippi River Levee and compare the Mississippi River stage readings at the Greenville Gage for the 1927 Flood and the 2011 Flood respectively. ■

Mississippi Levee Board Meeting Recaps

OCTOBER 2012

The Board took the following action at the October 1, 2012 regular board meeting: authority was given to advertise for worker's compensation insurance; concurred with permits issued to Vickie Griffith for a riverside cabin near Dennis Landing and to USG for riverside gates; November 14, 2012 was set as the date for annual levee inspection trip; received report from the Chief Engineer on all ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District.

JANUARY 2013

The Board took the following action at the January 14, 2013 regular board meeting: reviewed bids and awarded Worker's

Compensation Insurance to South Group Insurance; authorized advertisement of bids for Business Auto/Public Officials & Employees/Liability/Contractors Equipment Insurance, chemicals and vehicles; concurred with permits issued to Montgomery McGee for a riverside cabin on North Lake Ferguson Road and Pat Denton for construction of a riverside fence and gate near Dennis Landing; authorized a delegation to the MVFCA Congressional Meetings March 18-20 in Washington, D.C. to discuss FY 2014 Appropriations for Corps projects in the Mississippi Delta; and received status reports on all the ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District and meetings attended.

APRIL 2013

The Board took the following action at the April 1, 2013 regular board meeting: reviewed bids and agreed to accept low bids on chemical purchases for next 12 months and awarded general liability, automobile and property insurance to South Group Insurance and a 1/2-ton pick-up truck to Oakes Auto Group and two 3/4-ton crew cab pick-up trucks to Cannon Ford; authorized advertisement of bids for helicopter application; and received status reports on all ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District and meetings attended.

JULY 2013

The Board took the following action at the July 8, 2013 regular

board meeting: adopted 2013-2014 budget; set ad valorem tax rate of 2.90 mils (no change); received Chief Engineer's Annual Report on the levee, interior drainage and on all ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District; accepted bid on helicopter application work by Provine Helicopters; authorized a delegation to the MVFCA Annual Congressional Meeting September 10-11 in Washington, D.C. to discuss FY 2014 Appropriations for Corps projects in the Mississippi Delta; authorized a delegation for the National Waterways Conference September 25-27 in Savannah, GA; and received status reports on all ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District and meetings attended. ■

PRESIDENT BALLARD SETS SERVICE RECORD

Longest Tenure as Levee Board President

Fred A. Ballard, Jr. from Leland, Mississippi was first elected to the Mississippi Levee Board in 1988 to fill the Washington County Commissioner's seat vacated by the retirement of DeLoach Cope. At that time the Board President position was oc-

cupied by Mr. Drue Lundy.

Rives Carter, Sharkey County Commissioner, was elected President in 1993. When Mr. Carter retired from the Levee Board in 1998 Mr. Fred was selected by his fellow Board members to lead as President. He has served

in this spot continuously for 15 years surpassing the previous record held by Martin Heard, Washington County Commissioner, who served from 1965 to 1980.

Congratulations Mr. Fred. ■



Fred A. Ballard, Jr., President, Washington County

Staff Profile: Corey Harrison

Levee Board Maintenance Crew Operator



Corey Harrison joined the Mississippi Levee Board Maintenance Crew in October 2007. Corey is a versatile equipment operator whether grading, mowing, operating our bulldozers or pulling dirt buckets.

Corey is a native of Leland, Mississippi and is a 1998 graduate of Leland High School, where he played noseguard for the Cubs. Corey has one son, 10-year-old Corey, Jr.

In his spare time he enjoys fishing and coaching his son in sports. ■

2013 LEVEE BOARD



COMMISSIONERS:

Fred A. Ballard, Jr., President, Washington County
Kenneth Rodgers, Vice-President, Humphreys County
James W. House, Jr., Bolivar County
Nott Wheeler, Jr., Bolivar County
Roy Nichols, Issaquena County
Hank Burdine, Washington County
Paul Hollis, Sharkey County

STAFF:

Peter Nimrod, Chief Engineer
Robert M. Thompson, Assistant Engineer
Charles S. Tindall, III, Attorney
Judy B. Ross, Treasurer
Ginger Morlino, Secretary
Patrick Bolls, Maintenance Superintendent
Rick Boyd, Engineering Technician



Levee Enlargement Projects

Work continuing despite limited funding from Congress



Work continues on the levee enlargement and berm projects in the Mississippi Levee District. The Corps has completed 35.4 miles of levee and currently has another 11.3 miles under contract of the original 69 miles of deficient levee. Item 468L, a 4.7 mile conventional levee enlargement project is 74% complete. This item is on

the northern portion of MS Hwy 465 to Goose Lake Road. Item 463L, a 2.7 mile conventional levee enlargement project, was awarded in October 2012 to Circle Construction, LLC and is 8% complete. Item 509L, a 3.9 mile conventional levee enlargement project was recently awarded to Affolter from Texas City, Texas. ■

Levee Enlargement Project Update:

Completed Work - 35.4 miles
Items 474L, 477L, 488L, 496L & 502L
On-going Construction:
Item 468L - 4.7 miles - 74% Complete
Item 463L - 2.7 miles - 8% Complete
Item 509L - 3.9 miles - 0% Complete
Future work remaining - 22.3 miles

Gravel Supply Contract

2012 – 9.1 miles of new Limestone for the Mainline Levee

The Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers provided \$640,000 for maintenance gravel along three reaches of the Mississippi Levee District using FY 2012 funding. One reach was on the Mainline Levee in Washington County from stations 3300–3555 (Bolivar/Washington County Line to just south of the GHD).

The other two reaches in Greenville, stations 3905–4055 (Central St. – Deaton St.) and stations 4631–4706 (Theobald St. – Harbor Front Rd.) received surfacing for the very first time. The 20,000 ton contract provided 1.9 miles of new surfacing and 7.2 miles of maintenance surfacing.



2013 – 7.3 miles of new Limestone for the Brunswick Extension Levee



The Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers provided \$500,000 for maintenance gravel along one reach of the Mississippi Levee District located in Warren County using FY 2013 funding.

The 16,000 ton contract provided 7.3 miles of maintenance surfacing for stations 260–647 of the Brunswick Extension Levee.

Both Gravel Supply Contracts were awarded to River-

side Construction from Vicksburg, Mississippi.

We again used limestone at both locations for the surface material. This annual program allows us to plan ahead for areas that need maintenance and will assure that we have adequate access for flood fight activities in the event of a high water. ■

Levee Board Attends Meetings in D.C.

Annual meeting with the Mississippi Congressional Delegation seeks appropriations for flood control projects and provides ongoing project updates

The Mississippi Levee Board traveled to Washington, D.C. and met with the Mississippi Congressional Delegation during March 18-20, 2013. This annual trip provides the delegation with a status update of ongoing flood control projects in the Mississippi Delta and it is an opportunity for the Levee Board to discuss funding requirements for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in the Mississippi Delta.

During the visits with the Congressional Delegation, Chief Engineer, Peter Nimrod provided updates on the existing Mainline Mississippi River Levee Enlargement & Berms project and all the Reset Items following the 2011 Flood. Funding requests for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects within the Mississippi Delta were presented to the Delegation.

The Board also heard testimony in the U.S. Capitol before the House and Senate Mississippi River Congressional Caucus on March 20th. ■



Landforming Activities Adjacent To Levee

Proposed plans near levee need to be submitted to check for potential underseepage problems



Landforming near the Toe of the Levee



Agriculture in the Mississippi Delta and the levee go hand in hand and it has been a long reliable partnership.

One agriculture practice, though, may have contributed to some of our 2011 Flood sandboils. Landforming and leveling is a beneficial tool to help conserve irrigation water and contributes to the productivity of the Delta's rich farmland.

However, depending on the location, if too much cut takes place near the landside toe of the levee dangerous sandboils could develop

during highwater stages.

Peter Nimrod, Chief Engineer, stated, "Two of our 12 problem areas from the 2011 Flood were in ag fields that had recently been landformed. Since that event the Levee Board has kept an even closer watch on activities adjacent to the levee. Working with farming operations and landforming contractors we have been able to review cut and fill sheets in the planning stage and in some cases have had to make changes to protect the levee structure."

Nimrod requests that if any farms are plan-

ning land leveling in ag fields adjacent to the levee that you have your contractor contact the Mississippi Levee Board early in the planning process. While the Levee Board, as a rule, would prefer fill be placed adjacent to the levee, shallow cuts can be allowed in some areas.

Nimrod said, "We must continue this great partnership we have with agriculture and all of the farm operations we have worked with on this issue have been understanding and co-operative." ■

Levee Certification Update

All required reset items are currently being constructed



Yazoo River – Bank Stabilization Project

The Mississippi Levee Board is looking forward to the upcoming Levee Certifications for the Mainline Mississippi River Levee; the Brunswick Extension Levee; the Greenville Harbor Dike and the Yazoo Backwater Levee. All these levees are part of the MR&T Project.

The Corps of Engineers says that the Mainline Mississippi River Levee including the Brunswick Extension Levee and the Greenville Harbor Dike will be certified as

soon as the Buck Chute, Albemarle, Francis, Above Greenville and Rena Lara reset projects have been built. At this point the dirtwork and relief wells have been completed on all 5 of these projects. The only remaining item for these projects is the establishment of turf.

The Corps says the Yazoo Backwater Levee will be certified after some Yazoo River bank stabilization issues are fixed and some structures are properly inspected. The



Yazoo River – Placing Rip Rap Rock in Tie-Backs

Yazoo Backwater Stabilization project located at River Mile 32.8 of the Yazoo River is currently under construction.

These levee certifications are very important to maintaining our way of life in the Mississippi Delta. The Board commends the Mississippi River Commission, the Vicksburg District and Governor Phil Bryant who helped bring common sense back to this levee certification issue! ■

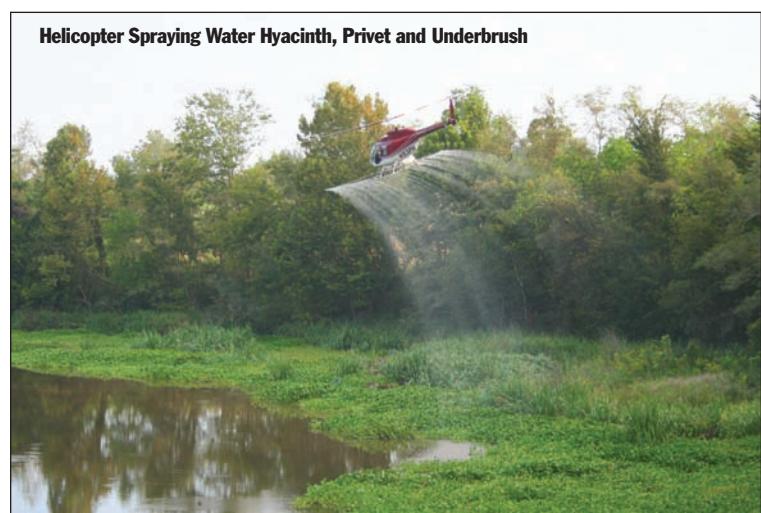
2012 Helicopter Application

139 miles of interior streams treated in 2012

In 1950, the Mississippi Legislature authorized the two (2) Mississippi Delta levee boards to participate as local sponsors of Corps of Engineers projects within the Yazoo Basin. The Corps of Engineers began work on the Big Sunflower River & Tributaries Project in 1947. This project included channel improvements to over 700 miles of interior streams located within the Mississippi Delta. These streams provide the outlet for flood water in the Delta. The Mississippi Levee Board is responsible for minor maintenance for 350 miles of interior streams within the Mississippi Levee District.

To perform this much needed maintenance, the Mississippi Levee Board contracts with a helicopter applicator to spray a portion of the interior streams each year. A mixture of aquatic herbicides is sprayed on the underbrush and privet that is encroaching into the required clear width of the channel. This required clear width must be maintained to ensure the streams have adequate flood storage and passage capacity.

This year the Mississippi Levee Board treated 139 miles of its interior streams. This included 1,193 acres of interior streams located primarily in the northern half of the Mississippi



Levee District. Provine Helicopters sprayed on September 23-28, 2012. Streams treated this year included Steele Bayou, Big

Sunflower River, Bogue Hasty, Bogue Phalia, Clear Creek, Snake Creek and the Hushpuckena River. ■

BACK IN TIME:

Col. Minor Meriwether

First Chief Engineer of the Mississippi Levee Board

Col. Minor Meriwether was the first Chief Engineer of the Levee District of Bolivar, Washington and Issaquena Counties the predecessor, in name, of the Board of Mississippi Levee Commissioners. Meriwether was appointed in December 1865 to serve the Board established by the Mississippi State Legislature that year.

Meriwether, according to John Black's history of the Mississippi Levee Board, was a talented engineer and had performed prior work for the

1858 Levee District.

He was born in Kentucky and educated as a civil engineer.

Col. Meriwether served during the Civil War. He was involved in the construction of many railroads and levees in the South. Meriwether's service to the Levee District was brief, ending in July 1867. Afterwards, he relocated to Memphis, TN then to St. Louis, Mo. where he practiced law.

Meriwether died in St. Louis in 1910 at the age of 84.

■



Col. Minor Meriwether – Chief Engineer from 1865-1867

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