

2018 Mississippi River Highwater 8th highest Crest since 1927



During the Winter months, especially in February and March 2018, heavy rainfalls throughout the Mississippi River Valley pushed the Mississippi River above flood stage throughout the Mississippi Levee District. The River crested 6' to 7' above flood stage.

The Mississippi River at Greenville crested at 54.8' on March 14, 2018 - the 8th highest crest since the 1927 Flood. From 1927 until 2007, a period of 80 years, the Mississippi River crested above 54.8' at Greenville four times; 1927, 1937, 1973 and 1983. This averaged once every 20 years. From 2008 until 2018, a period of 10 years, the River has crested above 54.8' four times; 2008, 2011, 2016 and 2018. This averages once every 2.5 years.

On February 26, 2018 the National Weather Service predicted that the Greenville Gage would crest at 55' on March 12, 2018. A Phase I Flood Fight Organizational Meeting was held at the Levee Board office on February 28, 2018. Levee Inspectors from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District started inspecting the levee on March 5th.



Crew Installing Box Culvert Weir in Valewood Ditch

Inspectors discovered sandboils again in the bottom of Valewood Ditch. We had to install all four Culvert Weir Inserts in the double-barrel culverts at Sta. 6305 & 6330 and the Box Culvert Weir Insert at Addie at Sta. 6367. These Weir Inserts were built by Tim Hovas with New South Marine and they again worked perfectly by adding 18" to 24" of additional water over the top of the sandboils in the bottom of Valewood Ditch. The inserts also saved the Levee Board Crew a lot of time with their quick installation and removal.



Crew Installing Culvert Weir in Valewood Ditch

Inspectors discovered sandboils again at the ATCO Woods just north of the Ben Lomond Relief Wells from Sta. 7090 to 7150. We had to install numerous barrels and build a sandbag ring around a large sandbail. We have requested that the Vicksburg District investigate this area to determine if relief wells need to be installed to prevent these sandboils. The Washington County Emergency Management and Road Department filled and stockpiled sandbags on pallets for our use. Anytime the crew needed sandbags all we had to do was go load up the pallets on our trailers. This provided a tremendous service and was greatly appreciated.



Crew sandbagging boil at Sta. 7097 at ATCO Woods

Inspectors discovered numerous pinboils at Longwood at Sta. 5353, however, no remedial action was required.

In years past we have constructed a weir in the bottom of Black Bayou Cut-off north of Greenville to add water to the top of sandboils in the bottom of this ditch. We were prepared to build a weir at Sta. 3677, however, this year due to constant heavy local rainfall, water backed up in Black Bayou Cut-off and no remedial action was required.



Pat Hemphill, Hank Burdine, Col. Derosier & Peter Nimrod looking at an aerial photo of ATCO Woods

There were 12 major problem areas discovered during the 2011 Flood that needed attention and remedial work: Yazoo Backwater (YBW) Levee; Buck Chute; Albemarle; Francis; Black Bayou Cut-Off; Above Greenville; Greenville; Avon; Leota; Lake Jackson; Ben Lomond and Tara Wildlife.

The Corps designed and built permanent solutions to 11 of these problem areas by the end of 2015.



Col. Derosier & MSLB at ATCO Woods

These 11 problem areas were broken into 5 different contracts totaling \$11.3M and installed 187 relief wells and built 20,405' of new landside seepage berms. Once again we had no under-seepage issues at any of these locations during the 2018 high-water event.

2018 HIGHWATER CRESTS

Gage	Date	Stage
Arkansas City	March 14	42.9
Greenville	March 14	54.8
Vicksburg	March 16	49.9

2018 Backwater Flood

3rd Highest Backwater since 1978 - 450,000 Acres Flooded

The Steele Bayou Structure Gates were closed on February 28th at 88.8'. The Gates were re-opened March 25th at 95.2'. At 95.2' 450,000 acres were flooded. This includes 170,000 acres of farmland and 280,000 acres of trees. This was the 3rd highest Backwater event since the Yazoo Backwater Levee was completed in 1978, trailing 1979 (96.5') & 1983 (95.8'). Low-Water Bridge Road and Goose Lake Road went underwater at 94' elevation. The Backwater got on the white line of the Hwy 465 pavement at Eagle Lake near Paw Paw Road.

If the Yazoo Backwater Project had been built in 2008, when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) vetoed the pump project, they would have prevented \$53M in damages this year alone. Since 2008 the pumps would have prevented \$373M in damages.

In 2008 the Yazoo Backwater Project would have cost \$220M to build the 14,000 cfs Pumping Plant and pay for the 55,600 acres of reforestation. At this point the project would have paid for itself and would have saved the government over \$150M in damages. ■



Goose Lake Road



Mahanna WMA



Floweree, MS



Low-Water Bridge Road



Newman Road



Goose Lake Road



Cabin & Land underwater west of Carey, MS



Hwy 61 at Valley Park, MS

Patrick Bolls Retires

Maintenance Superintendent retiring after a 36 year career

Long serving Maintenance Superintendent Patrick Bolls retired from the Mississippi Levee Board on August 31, 2018 after almost 36 years of service. Originally hired by the Mississippi Levee Board as an equipment operator, Patrick began his full-time career on October 1, 1982. He was named Maintenance Superintendent on January 1, 1987.



Patrick Bolls

of the Levee Board prior to starting full-time. Patrick is married to Kelly Wilson Bolls.

Mississippi Levee Board President Fred Ballard, speaking on behalf of the entire Board stated, "Patrick's dedicated and conscientious service to the Mississippi Levee District is greatly appreciated. He has left some awfully big shoes to fill



Patrick Bolls waves goodbye from the dozer



Patrick Bolls Retirement Party - Jim Wanamaker, Fred Ballard, Patrick Bolls & Peter Nimrod

and we wish him well in his retirement."

Congratulations Patrick on your retirement and thank you for your faithful commitment to maintaining the levee and for your faithful service to the Mississippi Levee Board and its constituents. May you enjoy a long, happy, and healthy retirement. ■

HIGHWATER from Front Page 1

These permanent solutions are working and the Levee Board is very appreciative of Congress for providing the money and the Vicksburg District for designing and building all these permanent solutions.

On March 14th, at the crest of the flood, Vicksburg District Commander Col. Mike Derosier inspected the ATCO Woods sand-boils, the Ben Lomond Relief Wells underwater, the outlet ditch that needs to be cleaned out, the levee slides on Hwy 465, and he drove through the Backwater at 95.0' on Low-water Bridge Road. Overall this major highwater event presented only minor problems that were easily taken care of.

The last day for levee inspections was March 22, 2018. The levee inspectors from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District once again did an outstanding job in inspecting our levee and their hard work was greatly appreciated. The levee system performed very well during the March high water event in 2018. ■

Senator Thad Cochran Retires

Retiring after serving 40 years as a U.S. Senator

William Thad Cochran served as a United States Senator from Mississippi from 1978 to 2018. A member of the Republican Party, he previously served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1973 to 1978. Born in Pontotoc, Mississippi, Cochran graduated from the University of Mississippi. He served in the United States Navy as an ensign (1959–1961) before graduating from the University of Mississippi School of Law. After practicing law for several years in Jackson, Mississippi, he was elected to Mississippi's 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1972. He served three terms in the House representing Jackson and portions of southwest Mississippi. Cochran won a three-way race for U.S. Senate in 1978 for Sen. Jim Eastland's seat, becoming the first Republican to represent Mississippi in the Senate since Reconstruction. He was subsequently reelected to six additional terms by wide margins.



Senator Thad Cochran with Fred Ballard & Peter Nimrod

He was Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee from 2005 to 2007 and again from 2015 to 2018. He also chaired the Senate Agriculture Committee from 2003 to 2005. Sen. Thad Cochran retired on April 1, 2018 due to health reasons. With over 45 years of combined House and Senate service, Cochran was the second longest-serving member of Congress from Mississippi, after former Democratic Congressman Jamie L. Whitten.

In April 2006, Sen. Cochran

was selected by Time Magazine as one of "America's 10 Best Senators". He was dubbed "The Quiet Persuader" for his role in winning money for the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. He managed to wring "\$29 billion out of his colleagues, almost double the money [President George W.] Bush and congressional leaders had initially pledged". The article also noted that Cochran has "gained the trust of the Administration and Capitol Hill for his quiet, courtly

manner... using his experience and mastery of the issues to persuade his colleagues privately rather than making demands on them in public". The magazine quoted an unnamed "senior GOP Senator" who said "He doesn't get a whole lot of play in terms of coverage, but he is effectively stubborn doing what needs to be done."

Mississippi Levee Board President Fred Ballard said "Sen. Cochran was a champion for flood control in not only Mississippi but the entire MR&T Project area. He listened to our issues and funding requests and worked tirelessly to do the best he could to help fund all our projects and take care of our issues. Thad was truly a southern gentleman and a great friend. Thad will be greatly missed by the Mississippi Levee Board." Ballard continued "We want to thank Thad for his service and friendship and we want to wish him a long happy healthy retirement." ■

2017 Annual Bus Inspection

On November 9, 2017, the Mississippi Levee Board hosted its Annual Levee Inspection. This year's trip inspected the middle portion of the levee system starting at Goose Lake Road and proceeding north to Greenville, MS.

Lunch was served at Harlow's Casino. ■



Members of the 2017 Annual Levee Inspection take a photo in front of Harlow's Casino.

2018 Annual Bus Inspection

On November 5, 2018, the Mississippi Levee Board hosted its Annual Levee Inspection. This year's trip inspected the north portion of the levee system starting at the Bolivar/Coahoma County line and proceeding south to Greenville, MS.

Lunch was served at Sherman's Restaurant. ■



Members of the 2018 Annual Levee Inspection take a photo in front of Sherman's Restaurant.

Corps of Engineers presents Award to Levee Board Levee Board has received Corps Award for 59 straight years

On November 5, 2018 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented the Mississippi Levee Board the 2017 Certificate of Merit for the Operation and Maintenance of Flood Control Projects. Colonel Michael Derosier, District Engineer of the Vicksburg District, commended the Board on achieving this award which recognizes the Levee Board's "superior management of resources in the operation and maintenance" of the levee system. The plaque states that the Mississippi Levee Board "organization fully exemplifies

the Corps values of Safety, Integrity, and Respect by continuing to actively support the flood damage reduction mission and sustain the public's trust." ■



(left to right) Hank Burdine, Jimmy House, Kenny Rodgers, Fred Ballard, Gen. Richard Kaiser, Col. Michael Derosier and Paul Hollis.

Mississippi Levee Board Meeting Recaps

OCTOBER 2017

The Board took the following action at the October 2, 2017, regular board meeting: authority was given to advertise for worker's compensation insurance; awarded purchase of two 2018 sport utility vehicles to Oakes Auto Group, awarded purchase of tracked skid steer loader to Bobcat of Jackson; awarded purchase of heavy duty equipment trailer to Equipment, Inc. of Jackson; concurred with permits issued; November 9, 2017, was set as the date for annual levee inspection trip; and received report from the Chief Engineer on all ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District.

JANUARY 2018

The Board took the following action at the January 8, 2018, 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; authorized advertisement for one ¾ ton 4WD crew cab pick-up and a 1-ton 4WD service truck; authorized a delegation to the MVFCA Congressional Meetings March 6-7, 2018 in Washington, D.C. to discuss FY 2019 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 2018

The Board took the following action at the April 2, 2018, regular board meeting: reviewed bids and agreed to accept low bids on chemical purchases for next 12 months, awarded general liability, automobile and property insurance to South Group Insurance, and awarded purchase of a 2018 Cat D6N dozer to Thompson Machinery; and received status reports on all ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District and meetings attended.

JULY 2018

The Board took the following action at the July 9, 2018, regular board meeting: swore in newly re-elected Commissioners Kenny Rodgers, Nott Wheeler, Hank Burdine and Paul Hollis; adopted 2018-2019 budget; set ad valorem tax rate of 2.90 mils (no change); received Chief Engineer's Annual Report; accepted bid on helicopter application work by Airbourn Aviation; awarded purchase of a 2018 ¾ ton 4WD crew cab pick-up truck and a 2018 one ton 4WD service truck

to James Ceranti Motors; authorized a delegation to the MVFCA Annual Fall Congressional Meeting October 2-3 in Washington, D.C. to discuss FY 2019 Appropriations for Corps projects in the Mississippi Delta; authorized a delegation for the National Waterways Conference September 12-14 in New Orleans, LA; and received status reports on all ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District and meetings attended.

OCTOBER 2018

The Board took the following action at the October 1, 2018, regular board meeting: a resolution of appreciation was given to Patrick Bolls upon his retirement as Superintendent of Maintenance; a resolution of appreciation was presented to Tim and Becky Hovas with New South Marine for their construction and donation of steel weir inserts for Valewood Ditch to be used in future highwater events; authority was given to advertise for worker's compensation insurance; awarded purchase of cattle guard units to Nichols Steel Company; November 5, 2018 was set as the date for annual levee inspection trip; and received report from the Chief Engineer on all ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District. ■

2018 MISSISSIPPI LEVEE BOARD



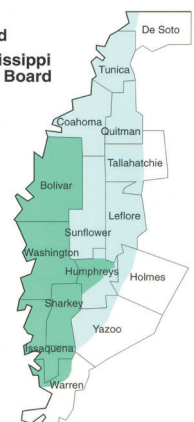
COMMISSIONERS:

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
Heath Douglas, Attorney
Rachel McIntire, Treasurer
Ginger Morlino, Secretary
Steve Poole, Maintenance Superintendent
Rick Boyd, Engineering Technician

Mississippi Levee Board
Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board



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 5-7, 2018. This annual trip, under the auspices of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association (MVFCA), 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 flood control projects in the Mississippi Delta as well as Federal legislation which affects Levee Board projects. The Levee Board also attended a meeting of the Mississippi River Congressional Group on March 7th.

Joining the Levee Board this year were representatives from the Greenville Port. The Port discussed the need for annual dredging money to help keep the port operating at full capacity during the low-water season which coincides with the farm harvest season.

The MVFCA was established in 1922 and it includes members from 16 states. The Mississippi Levee Board was one of the founding members of the MVFCA and its Board President, Fred Ballard, sits on the Executive Committee of the Association. The MVFCA hosted a reception the evening of March 6th which gives an opportunity to informally meet with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters personnel and with Congressional staff.

Mississippi Levee Board President Fred Ballard said, "Our entire Mississippi Congressional Delegation has been very helpful and supportive for our flood control projects. It is always a pleasure and honor to visit with our delegation. We appreciate their service to our great country, the state of Mississippi, and especially the Mississippi Delta." ■



Congressman Bennie Thompson with the MS Levee Board and YMD Levee Board



U.S. Capitol



Senator Roger Wicker with Levee Board



MS Levee Board & Greenville Port in front of U.S. Capitol

FY 2018 and 2019 Appropriations

\$1.563B appropriated in 2018 & 2019 for the MR&T Project

President Trump's FY 2018 Budget released on May 23, 2017, included only \$253M for the Mississippi River & Tributaries Project (MR&T) Project. On July 12, 2017, the House Appropriations Committee passed \$301M. On July 20, 2017, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed \$375M. On February 9, 2018, Congress passed a Supplemental Emergency Appropriation and it gave the MR&T Project \$770M. On March 23, 2018 the Omnibus Bill passed gave the MR&T Project \$425M.

FY 2018 MR&T Project Appropriations

President's Budget	\$253M
Levee Board Request	\$500M
House Committee	\$301M

Senate Sub-committee	\$375M
Conference Report	\$425M
Supplemental Approp.	\$770M
TOTAL FY 2018 MR&T	\$1.195B

President Trump's FY 2019 Budget released on February 12, 2018, included only \$244.735M for the Mississippi River & Tributaries Project (MR&T) Project. On May 17, 2018, the House Appropriations Committee passed \$430M. On May 24, 2018, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed \$350M. On September 11, 2018, Congress passed an Appropriations Bill which gave the MR&T Project \$368M. This is the first time in many years that Congress has passed a budget before the start of the fiscal year.

FY 2019 MR&T Project Appropriations

President's Budget	\$244.735M
Levee Board Request	\$500M
House Committee	\$430M
Senate Sub-committee	\$350M
Conference Report	\$368M

The MR&T Project is only 85% complete. **The Corps 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 15.5B and has prevented over \$1.27T in damages. The MR&T project has a 80 to 1 return on each dollar investment! ■

Levee Enlargement Projects

Work is progressing on the levee enlargement and berm projects in the Mississippi Levee District. Item 509L, a 3.9 mile levee enlargement project was completed and officially accepted by the Corps of Engineers on September 17, 2017. This item has been returned to the Levee Board for maintenance. It spans from Lake Jackson to the completed Item 502L at the Washington/Issaquena County Line. The Corps has completed 44 miles of levee and currently has another 8.8 miles under contract of the original 69 miles of deficient levee. Item 463L, a 2.7 mile levee enlargement project, is currently 97% complete. This item goes from just above Chotard Resort to just below Laney's Camp on MS Hwy 465. Item 511L, a 3.4 mile levee enlargement project was awarded to My Company, Inc. of Topeka, KS and is currently 97% complete. This item goes from Leota to Lake Jackson. Item 465L, a 2.7 mile levee enlargement and berms project, was awarded to Carter's Contracting Services, Inc. on September 24, 2015, and is currently 56% complete. This item ties Items 468L and

463L together between Goose Lake Road and Chotard Resort.

Item 468L Paving was awarded to Riley Bridge Co., Inc. to pave Hwy. 465 within the limits of Item 468L. This paving project covers from Magna Vista to Goose Lake Road with a 20 foot wide asphalt surface on top of the levee and is currently 99% complete. Riley Bridge Co., Inc. was also awarded the paving project for Item 463L. This project is currently 1% complete.

The Vicksburg District has asked for right-of-way (r.o.w.) for Item 462L (2.7 miles). Item 462L will start construction in 2019. The Vicksburg District has requested and has received right-of-entry (r.o.e.) for surveys and borings for Items 526L (0.9 miles), 460L (2.4 miles), 458L (2.4 miles) and 452L (3.8 miles).

The Levee Board has also provided right-of-entry for surveys and borings for Item 543L - Above Greenville Seepage Control Project (6.2 miles). The Levee Board is working on acquiring right-of-way for Item 524L - Avon Seepage Control Project (0.6 miles). ■



465L - Landside Berm Construction



465L - Hauling Material

Levee Enlargement Project Update:

Completed Work – 44 miles
Items 468L, 474L, 477L, 488L, 496L, 502L & 509L

On-going Construction –
On-going Construction (8.8 miles):
Item 463L – 2.7 miles – 97% Complete
Item 511L – 3.4 miles - 99% Complete
Item 465L – 2.7 miles - 56% Complete

Future work remaining – 16.2 miles



511L - Placing and Spreading Material



465L - Riverside Levee Enlargement



511L - Placing New Limestone



468L - Finished Turf



511L - Planting Grass Seed on Enlarged Levee

Commissioners Re-elected Rodgers, Wheeler, Burdine & Hollis have a combined 65 years of service



Levee Board Secretary Ginger Morlino swears in re-elected Levee Commissioners Kenny Rodgers, Nott Wheeler, Paul Hollis and Hank Burdine. Rodgers represents Humphreys County and has been on the Levee Board for 26 years since first being elected in 1992. Wheeler represents Bolivar County and has been on the Levee Board for 24 years since first being elected in 1994. Burdine represents Washington County and has been on the Levee Board for 8 years since first being elected in 2010. Hollis represents Sharkey County and has been on the Levee Board for 7 years since first being elected in 2011.

Resolution of Appreciation presented to New South Marine

Tim & Becky Hovas built steel weir inserts for Valewood Ditch



On October 1, 2018, the Mississippi Levee Board presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Tim & Becky Hovas and Taylor Woods with New South Marine for their construction and donation of steel weir inserts for Valewood Ditch to be used in highwater events. These steel weir inserts can be rapidly installed in several 60" diameter concrete culverts and an 8' wide concrete box culvert. The weir inserts block up water in Valewood Ditch which puts an 18" to 24" head of water on top of the sandboils that appear in the bottom of Valewood Ditch during Mississippi River highwater events. These structures are easy to remove and are stored for use in future highwater events.

2017 & 2018 Helicopter Applications

309 miles sprayed in 2017 and 2018

The U.S. Army 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. In 1950, the Mississippi Legislature authorized the two Mississippi Delta levee boards to participate as local sponsors of Corps of Engineers projects within the Yazoo Basin. 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. All our interior streams are being sprayed once every two years.

In the Fall of 2017, the Mississippi Levee Board treated 160.3 miles of its interior streams. This included 1,414 acres of interior streams located primarily in the southern half of the Mississippi Levee District. Province Helicopters sprayed on October 25-

26, 30-31, and November 3, 6-7, 2017. Streams treated that year included the Big Sunflower River, Six-Mile Cut-Off, Dowling Bayou, Ditchlow Bayou, Twin Lakes, Little Sunflower River, Steele Bayou, Bogue Phalia and the Holly Bluff Cut-Off.

In the Fall of 2018 the Mississippi Levee Board treated 148.7 miles of its interior streams. This included 1,500 acres of interior streams located primarily in the northern half of the Mississippi Levee District. Airbourn Aviation sprayed on October 4-12, 2018. Streams treated this year included Big Sunflower River, Bogue Hasty, Bogue Phalia, Clear Creek, Hushpuckena River, Snake Creek, Valewood Ditch and Dowling Bayou. ■



2017 - Helicopter fueling



2017 - Helicopter spraying



2018 - Helicopter loading chemicals

2017 & 2018 Gravel Supply Contracts

11.7 miles of new limestone

Congress provided much needed funding for Mainline Mississippi River Levee Maintenance for FY 2017. The Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers awarded a \$242,000 gravel supply contract for maintenance gravel along one reach of the Mississippi Levee District. This reach was on the Mainline Levee in Bolivar County from station 0 at the Bolivar/Coahoma County Line to station 195 below Francis. This contract was awarded to Aurora Starco. The gravel was hauled by Joe Reed, Inc. from November 13, 2017, to December 1, 2017. The 8,064 tons of limestone provided 4.2 miles of maintenance surfacing.

Congress provided much needed funding for Mainline

Mississippi River Levee Maintenance for FY 2018. The Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers awarded a gravel supply contract for maintenance gravel along three reaches of the Mississippi Levee District in Bolivar County. The north reach was at Terrene Landing from stations 1180 to 1250. The middle reach was at Benoit, MS from stations 2090 to 2200. The south reach was at Bolivar, MS from stations 2287 to 2502. This contract was awarded to Riverside Construction. The gravel was hauled from September 20, 2018, to October 2, 2018. The 15,225 tons of limestone provided 7.5 miles of maintenance surfacing.

This annual program has allowed 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. ■



2017 - Levee Board spreading gravel



2018 - Gravel being dumped



2017 - Gravel being dumped



2018 - Gravel job



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BACK IN TIME: The Greenville City Front Levee

It is easy to forget that the Mississippi River once was at the end of Washington Avenue and Main Street in downtown Greenville. This was before the Cut-offs of the 1930's of the Greenville Bends which shortened the river and allowed the creation of Lake Ferguson. Many of us have heard the story of a block or more of downtown Greenville being in the River or under the levee, and it is true. To the west of and parallel with Walnut Street, was Locust Street then Mulberry Street on over to Front Street, then First Street right on the River. By 1886, the River had taken most of this area except for a part of Mulberry Street which was left.

No levee existed at the City of Greenville's river-front until after the 1897 Flood. While that seems inconceivable today, in 1882 the average height of the levee north of Greenville was 8.05 feet. The 1883



1927 Flood - Main Street in Greenville

Mississippi River Commission Map of the Mississippi River shows the levee tying into the River leaving over a 4 block stretch of City Front that was open to the River from approximately Roach Street to Union Street. An 1896 Greenville map shows the levee tying into the River on the north end just like the 1883 MRC Map.



Aerial - Greenville City Front

After the 1897 Flood - during the October 29, 1897 Special Levee Board Meeting, the minutes note the discussion of where to put the new levee. They chose the middle route which was over Mulberry Street. In January 10, 1898, they chose to go to the western side of Walnut Street. The Levee Board's r.o.w. maps show us first purchasing r.o.w. in 1897. Robert Harrison's *Levee Districts and Levee Building in Mississippi* states during the 1897-98 season "the building of a new levee on the Greenville front at the foot of Main Street took place." Prior to 1897, the levee was much smaller and it tied into the naturally higher ground in Greenville which was adjacent to the Mississippi River. Following the 1927 Flood the Mainline Mississippi River Levee was raised approximately 10'. However, notches were left in the levee for Main Street and Central Street for access to the City Front. The only time the notches at Main Street and Central Street have been filled in was during the 2011 Epic Flood event. ■

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