

MSLB vs. EPA Lawsuit update - YBW Project

Briefs have been Filed –Lawsuit should be before the Judge this Fall

The Vicksburg District officially released the Final Report for the Yazoo Backwater (YBW) Project on November 16, 2007.

On February 1, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wrote a letter notifying that they were going to use their authority under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to veto this project.

The Recommended Plan has an 80% reduction of wetland impacts from the 1982 plan - yet the EPA did not pursue a 404(c) veto in 1982.

There is only a 1.6% loss in wetland functions



344,000 acres flooded in 2008
393,700 acres flooded in 2009

Aerial photo of Steele Bayou Structure during the May 2008 Backwater Flood event.

transmittal letter to Congress. Therefore, EPA claimed that the YBW Project is not exempt from an EPA 404(c) veto because it did not conform to all the requirements for a 404(r) exemption.

On Sunday, August 31, 2008, the day before Labor Day, EPA officially vetoed the Yazoo Backwater Project.

A few days later on September 5, 2008, the Levee Board received the results of a FOIA which revealed transmittal letters dated March 28,

1983 in which the Corps officially transmitted the 1982 EIS to Congress. These are the very documents that EPA claimed that the Corps did not have! EPA had obviously rushed to veto the YBW Project before the Levee Board got this FOIA information!

The only option left for reviving the Yazoo Backwater Project was to sue EPA. The YBW Project is exempt from an EPA Section 404(c) veto by Section 404(r). EPA does not believe

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Lawsuit filed August 11, 2009.

with the pump and a 19.8% increase in wetland functions with the large scale reforestation component. The Recommended Plan will have a net 19.2% gain in wetland functions. The pump will add only 1" of water to the Mississippi River which is 100' deep.

EPA was notified that Section 404(c) cannot be applied to a federal project, like the Yazoo Backwater Project, that conforms to Section 404(r). EPA rebutted by saying that the 1982 EIS was never properly submitted to Congress. EPA claimed it could not find the

Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project update

No More Upstream Work until Solution for South Delta Flooding is in place

Work on the Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project came to a halt with the loss of the Water Quality Permit resulting from the Mississippi Supreme Court decision in 2001.

The Vicksburg District has been working on a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The major reason this

project has been delayed is because the Vicksburg District and Environmental Protection Agency - Region IV were working closely together in finalizing the methodology for determining the wetland impacts in the lower Yazoo Basin. Now, before moving into the public process stage of the SEIS, the Corps needed to know if they were going to get the full support of the local community.



Flooding in the Darlove, MS area in December 2001.

Dredging project kicked back

State regulators must take new look, high court rules. The Mississippi Supreme Court held state regulators Thursday to take a second look at a \$62 million Corps of Engineers flood control project approved in 1996.

MS Supreme Court vacated the Water Quality Certificate in April 2001.

See PROJECT Page 4 ➔

Eckstein assumes Command of Vicksburg District

Colonel Jeffrey R. Eckstein assumed command of the Vicksburg District and became the 51st District Engineer on December 15, 2009.

Colonel Eckstein assumed Command of the 68,000-square-mile District from Col. Michael C. Wehr, who will now assist with Overseas Contingency Operations.

Col. Eckstein is a native of Inverness, Florida, and a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelors of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He also earned a Master's in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Florida and Virginia. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, the Combined Arms Service and Staff School and Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the United States Army War



Col. Jeffrey R. Eckstein

College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Col. Eckstein's company grade assignments include a tour in Germany where he served as a Platoon Leader and Battalion Intelligence Officer with the 54th Engineer Battalion (C) (M). At Fort Benning, Georgia, he served in the 36th Engineer Group as an Assistant Operations Officer during Desert Storm and later as a Company Commander in the 43rd Engineer Combat Battalion (H) after the war. He participated in Hurricane Andrew cleanup

and Operation Restore Hope in Somalia with the Battalion.

He served as a project engineer with the Seattle District, executing construction projects at Fort Lewis, Washington. His projects included new construction, barracks upgrades, and a historic renovation.

His field grade assignments include a second tour with the 36th Engineer Group serving as the Group Operations Officer and design engineer. He deployed to Nicaragua in support of Operation Fuerte Apoyo. He commanded the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) in Hawaii. He deployed with the Battalion during OIF-2 and executed construction missions throughout Northern Iraq.

Col. Eckstein served as the G-7, Reconstruction Officer, for Multi-National

Division North when the 25th Infantry Division deployed in support of OIF 06-08. He then served as the Chief of Staff for the 25th Infantry Division.

His previous assignment was the Senior Advisor for Infrastructure at the US Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute at Carlisle Barracks.

Col. Eckstein is married and blessed with three children. ■



LAWSUIT from Front page

that a Section 404(r) exemption applies to the YBW Project, while the Levee Board believes that EPA did not have the authority to veto the YBW Project because it is exempt by Section 404(r). At this point, it appears that a judge will have to decide.

Given the huge expense of a lawsuit against EPA and the resources of the Federal Government, the Levee Board contacted Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) to see if they could help the Board with the lawsuit. PLF agreed to take the



case and a Complaint was filed against EPA on August 11, 2009. Private environmental groups National Wildlife Federation, Mississippi Wildlife Federation, Environmental Defense Fund, Sierra Club, Gulf Restoration Network and American Rivers have all intervened on behalf of the EPA in this lawsuit. All the briefs have been submitted, and this case should be on the Judges' desk by this Fall. ■



Steele Bayou Structure

Periodic Levee Inspection

The Corps of Engineers performs an Annual Levee Inspection by vehicle each year. The Corps has adopted a new policy that in addition to this Annual Levee Inspection, they are now going to perform a Periodic Levee Inspection every 5 years. Since the Mainline Mississippi River Levee (MRL) is in both the Mississippi Levee District (Corps Vicksburg District) and the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee District (Corps Memphis District), both the Memphis District and Vicksburg District hired the same

Architect-Engineering (A-E) firm for consistency on the levee in Mississippi.

ARCADIS U.S., Inc. from Chattanooga, TN was hired and performed this inspection from July 7-17, 2010. ARCADIS thoroughly inspected the levee from toe to toe by walking the entire length of the levee. Four teams of seven inspectors split the 284 miles of Levee. Two inspectors walked the riverside slope, three inspectors walked the landside slope and berm, one inspector drove a vehicle, and one inspec-



Bryan Kyker with ARCADIS logs in points of interest.

tor walked the top of the levee noting each deficiency on a lap top computer with GIS.

These inspectors were professional engineers, geologists and engineering technicians. The Corps gave them guidelines and criteria to follow and things

to look for and they let the A-E contractor do the inspection on their own. All the new principals and guidelines that the Corps has adopted over the past few years will start to come in play such as the 15' vegetation free zone. ■

Levee Certification

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) are modernizing and updating the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM Maps). FEMA requires the Levee to be certified. The Mississippi Levee Board hosted a meeting on January 20, 2010 with MDEQ, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Corps of Engineers and the YMD Levee Board to discuss. In the Spring, FEMA sent the Mississippi Levee Board Provisional Accreditation Letters (PAL Agreement) for the Mainline Mississippi River Levee (MRL) for Bolivar, Washington and Issaquena Counties; the Brunswick Extension Levee (BEL) for Issaquena County; the Yazoo Backwater Levee (YBWL) for Issaquena & Sharkey County; and the GHD for Washington County. By signing these PAL Agreements, the Levee Owner (MS Levee Board) and Community CEO (President of the County Board of Supervisors) agree that to the best of their knowledge the levee will hold out the 100-year Flood. FEMA can now finalize the new Digital FIRM Maps, but they will need the Levee Certified that it will withhold the 100-year Flood. The Levee Board wrote the Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers and requested the Corps to begin the levee certification process for the MR&T levees in our counties. The Corps will have 2 years to complete the levee certification. ■



Levee Certification Meeting held January 20, 2010.

LIDAR Update

Over the past few years the Vicksburg District has been contracting out for LIDAR acquisition to improve topography maps for the entire Yazoo Basin including the Mississippi Delta and the hills. LIDAR stands for Light Detection and Ranging.

LIDAR uses laser pulses from an airplane to find the range of an object by measuring the time delay between transmission of a pulse and detection of the reflected signal. The contractor collected digital elevation data from precision airborne (LIDAR) survey. This project included acquisition of LIDAR data, aerial photography that is scanned, geo-referenced and the creation of digital elevation

models derived from the data set. At this point, all the LIDAR has been flown and the data has been processed. The new data will provide vertical elevations that will be accurate within 0.2'. This data will be hosted by the Vicksburg District and engineers will be able to contact the Vicksburg District to get certain Digital Arc/GIS shape files of a particular area. ■



LIDAR equipment mounted in airplane.



Airplane equipped with LIDAR and photographic equipment.

FIRM Map Modernization

Shaded Zone X still a Concern

FEMA and MEMA are in the process of updating the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM Maps) for most of the counties in the Mississippi Levee District. FEMA hosted public viewings of the proposed Issaquena and Sharkey County FIRM Maps in July. The Levee Board is still concerned about the new "shaded Zone X" designation.

On the existing FIRM Maps that were completed in the late 1970's if an area is not subject to the 100-year Flood, then it was not shaded and is classified as Zone C - an area of minimal flooding. The



Officials review preliminary Sharkey County FIRM maps.

new Digital FIRM (DFIRM) Maps will now designate these areas formerly designated as Zone C as a shaded Zone X. FEMA has told us that a shaded Zone X will not

require the mandatory purchase of flood insurance. FEMA suggests that you buy flood insurance but it is not required in these areas.

Arkansas U.S. Congressman Marion Berry set up a June 21, 2010 meeting with FEMA Director Craig Fugate in West Memphis, AR to discuss mandatory flood insurance and the opposition to the implementation of Flood Plain Management Policies on areas protected from the 100-year Flood and especially areas protected by MR&T Flood Control Projects. There were over 600 people who attended and everyone seemed confused that the new FIRM Maps will force everyone living behind the Mainline Mississippi River Levee to purchase flood insurance.

After this public meeting, a meeting was held at FEMA Headquarters in Washington D.C. on July 26, 2010 to discuss our concerns

with the new FIRM Maps. Peter Nimrod, Chief Engineer with the Mississippi Levee Board attended this meeting along with

other representatives from various Levee Boards in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The Levee Boards pointed out that FEMA specifically states on other brochures and pamphlets that "Structures in shaded Zone X areas

are not required to purchase flood insurance." Unfortunately, FEMA does not include this note on the new FIRM Maps. There is also concern that the new Digital FIRM Maps do not include a note that the shaded Zone X is not a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) - therefore these areas might be considered in a SFHA and would be subject to ordinances and building restrictions. FEMA assured the Levee Boards that areas in the shaded Zone X will not be required to purchase flood insurance and will not be subject to ordinances and building restrictions. ■



Board Meeting Recaps

OCTOBER, 2009: The Board of Mississippi Levee Commissioners took the following action at the October 5, 2009 regular board meeting: authority was given to advertise for worker's compensation insurance; concurred with permits issued to Entergy Mississippi for an aerial electrical line servicing the Hangar Building in Greenville, Tri-County Hunting Club for gates on both the landside and riverside, and for site improvements for the Greenville Yacht Club; November 3, 2009 was set as the date for annual levee inspection trip; received and approved audit by Joel B. Cunningham for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009; agreed to enter a lease on a 1 acre tract with Frank Stuart, Jr.; received report from the Chief Engineer on all ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District. ■

JANUARY, 2010: The Board took the following action during its January 11, 2010 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 permit issued to Frank Stuart, Jr. for a cabin on the landside r.o.w.; authorized a delegation to the MVFCA Congressional Meetings March 22 - 24 in Washington, D.C. to discuss FY 2011 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, 2010: The Board took the following action at the April 5, 2010 meeting: reviewed bids and awarded general liability, automobile and property insurance to South Group Insurance, 3/4-ton 4-wheel drive crew cab to James Ceranti Motors; authorized advertisement of bids for helicopter application and bank depositories; concurred with permit issued to Benoit Outing Club for a riverside gate; and received status reports on all ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District and meetings attended. ■

JULY, 2010: The Board took the following action at the July 12, 2010 regular board meeting: re-elected Fred Ballard as President and Kenny Rodgers as Vice-President of the Board; adopted 2010-2011 budget; set ad valorem tax rate of 2.40 mils (same as last 3 years); selected Planters Bank to serve as depository; concurred with permit issued to Baleshed Plantation Farms for a cabin on the riverside; 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 Industrial Helicopters and bid on fence construction by Frank Stuart Construction; concurred with purchase of bush hog from Delta Implement in Rolling Fork and a nurse tank from KBH in Clarksdale; passed a Resolution honoring Johnny Robinson for his 10 years of service as a Washington County Levee Commissioner; authorized a delegation to the MVFCA Annual Congressional Meeting September 14-15 in Washington, D.C. to discuss FY 2011 Appropriations for Corps projects in the Mississippi Delta; authorized a delegation for the National Waterways Conference September 21-24 in Boston, MA and the Mississippi Water Resources Conference November 3-5 in Bay St. Louis, MS; received a report of the Mississippi River Highwater Event; and received status reports on all ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District and meetings attended. ■

2010 LEVEE BOARD

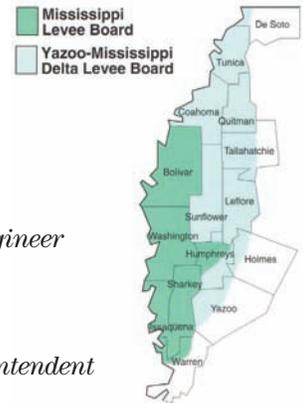


COMMISSIONERS:

- 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*
- LAURANCE CARTER**, *Sharkey County*
- HANK BURDINE**, *Washington County*

STAFF:

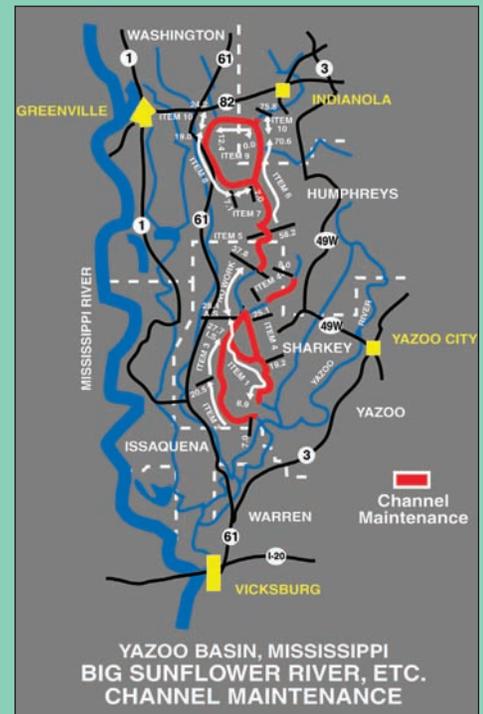
- PETER NIMROD**, *Chief Engineer*
- ROBERT M. THOMPSON**, *Assistant Engineer*
- CHARLES S. TINDALL, III**, *Attorney*
- JUDY B. ROSS**, *Treasurer*
- GINGER MORLINO**, *Secretary*
- PATRICK BOLLS**, *Maintenance Superintendent*
- RICK BOYD**, *Engineering Technician*



PROJECT from Front page

On February 11, 2010 the Levee Board hosted a meeting at the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Join Water Management District office in Stoneville, MS with the Corps of Engineers, the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board and local leaders.

Concerns were raised by the South Delta leaders that since the Yazoo Backwater Project was vetoed by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2008 and the Levee Boards' lawsuit was in initial stages, they are worried that the South Delta will continue to get inundated with floodwaters faster with the maintenance project,



therefore the locals want to delay the maintenance project until the pumps are under construction. ■

Levee Board Election Results

Levee Board elections were held June 8, 2010. Kenneth Rodgers and Nott Wheeler, Jr. were both unopposed and both were re-elected as Levee Board Commissioners. Rodgers has served as the Humphreys County Commissioner since 1992 and Wheeler has served as a Bolivar County Commissioner since 1994.

In the Washington County election, three people ran and a run-off election was held June 22, 2010. Hank Burdine defeated incumbent Johnny Robinson and began serving as a Washington

County Commissioner at the July 12, 2010 Board Meeting. Johnny Robinson served as a Washington County Levee Commissioner for 10 years from 2000 to 2010.

No one qualified to run for the Sharkey County seat. Laurance Carter has served as the Sharkey County Commissioner since 1998. The Sharkey County Board of Supervisors named Mr. Carter to continue to serve until an election is held in November.



Ginger Morlino swears in Kenny Rodgers and Hank Burdine as Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER PROFILE

Hank Burdine

New Washington County Commissioner

The Mississippi Levee Board welcomes Hank Burdine to the Board. Burdine was sworn in as a Washington County Commissioner for the Mississippi Levee Board after defeating incumbent Johnny Robinson in a run-off election on June 22, 2010.



Burdine

From 1974 to 1994 Burdine owned and operated several successful businesses related to the heavy construction industry including Greenville Ready Mix Concrete Company, Burdine and Ross Concrete Products Company, Burdine Materials, Delta Contractors and F.W. Burdine Construction Company. Burdine and his father were instrumental in the construction of infrastructure in the Mississippi Delta. Burdine is no stranger to public service as he was a Commissioner on the Greenville Port Commission during the 1980's.

Burdine's late wife Sallie was diagnosed with cancer and after her passing Sallie's doctor, Dr. Bobby Elliot of the Mastology Clinic in Baton Rouge, set up the Sallie Astor Burdine Breast Foundation to keep Sallie's dream and spirit alive for the sake of others that are touched by this disease and as a source for Dr. Elliot's ongoing breast and prostate cancer research.

Burdine and Sallie have three children - Matt, Ben and Alden. Burdine runs the family farm and continues to work in commercial real estate and development. Burdine is also a talented writer who has published many articles in Delta Magazine and other publications. In his spare time Burdine likes to write, hunt and fish on and around Lake Washington. He is currently the president of the Swan Lake Hunting Club. This club was chartered in 1894 and is the oldest incorporated hunting club in the State of Mississippi. ■

Crew Activities



Crew mowing the levee.



Crew piling up drift.



Crew picking up drift from the high water event on Mississippi River.



Summer crew: Carlos Morris; Patrick Bolls, Maintenance Superintendent; Wade Phillips; Darrell Jordan and Brandon Clark.



Crew clearing the 15 foot vegetation-free zone.



The result of the crew's clearing.

Levee Enlargement Projects

488L completed & 468L starts construction

Work is progressing on the levee enlargement and berm projects in the Mississippi Levee District. The Corps has completed 32.0 miles of levee and currently has another 8.1 miles under contract of the original 69 miles of deficient levee.

Item 488L, an 8.8 mile levee enlargement and dredged berm project, was accepted by the Corps on November 13, 2009 and the Levee Board has begun clearing trees for

fence construction. Bids were taken and fence construction was awarded to Frank Stuart Construction. They have started fence construction and we hope to get these pastures back into maintenance contracts soon.

Item 474L, a 3.4 mile conventional levee enlargement project which ties into MS State Highway 465 on top of the levee, is 58% complete.

Item 468L, a 4.7 mile conventional levee enlargement project was awarded last Fall to Kenneth R. Thompson Builders from Greenwood, MS. This item is on the northern portion of MS Hwy 465 to Goose Lake Road and is 13% complete.

Item 463L, a 2.7 mile conventional levee enlargement project will be awarded this Fall. The Levee Board is currently working on obtaining right-of-way for this item of work. ■



474L – Loading borrow material.



474L – Unloading borrow material.



468L Partners – Levee Board, Contractors and Corps.

LEVEE ENLARGEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Completed Work: 32.0 miles-

Items 477L, 488L, 496L & 502L

On-going Construction:

Item 474L - 3.4 miles - 58% Complete

Item 468L - 4.7 miles - 13% Complete

Advertised Work - Item 463L - 2.7 miles-
bid opening - late Fall

Future work remaining: 26.2 miles

Steele Bayou Sedimentation Reduction Project

Phase III & IV start Construction

Construction of Phase I and II of the Steele Bayou Sedimentation Reduction Project included the installation of grade/water control structures (flash board riser pipes) at 25 sites along Steele Bayou.

Phase III was awarded to DCD Construction from the Ocean Springs, MS on

September 23, 2009 and includes 9 sites on Steele Bayou near Fitler, MS. Phase III is currently 15% complete.

Phase IV was awarded to Can't Be Beat Fence and Construction, LLC from Perkinston, MS on May 27, 2010 and includes 11 sites on Steele Bayou.

Phase V is currently being advertised and

STEELE BAYOU SEDIMENTATION REDUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

Completed Work:

Phase I & II - 25 sites

On-going Construction:

Phase III - 9 sites - 15% Complete

Phase IV - 11 sites - 1% Complete



Steele Bayou Sedimentation Reduction Project - Phase III construction photos.



will be awarded this Summer. Phase V will include 10 sites on Main Canal and 1 site on Black Bayou.

Of the original 100+ headcut sites identified by the Corps on Steele Bayou, 45 sites have been completed or are under construction by the Corps and another 37 sites have been completed by Delta FARM. This is a great success story for minimizing erosion and keeping sediment out of Steele Bayou thereby helping flood control and at the same time improving water quality. ■

2009 Gravel Supply Contract

Stimulus provides 25 miles of Stone for Levee Roadway

The Stimulus Bill provided \$1.39 million dollars for maintenance gravel which allowed the Levee Board to provide maintenance gravel on 25 miles of levee.

Two reaches were located on the Mainline Levee in Bolivar County from stations 1250 (Terrene) to 1488 (Rosedale Port) and stations 1689 to 1696 (Beulah). One reach was located on the Mainline Levee in Washington County from stations 3790 (Lower Lake Ferguson Road) to 3857 (Greenville Gravel). The last



Dumping and spreading limestone.

two reaches were located on the Yazoo Backwater Levee (YBWL) from stations 385 to 470 (west of Hwy 61) and stations 588 (Hwy 61) to 1488 (end of the YBWL).

This year we again used crushed stone. We have discovered that the crushed stone surface holds up much better than the sand-clay gravel. 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. ■

Levee Board attends meetings in DC

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



Sen. Thad Cochran, P.J. Waldrop and Peter Nimrod.

The Mississippi Levee Board traveled to Washington, D.C. and met with the Mississippi Congressional Delegation during March 22-24, 2010. 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 the status of the lawsuit against EPA over the Yazoo Backwater Project. Funding



requests for U. S. Army Corps of Engineers projects within the Mississippi Delta were presented to the delegation. ■

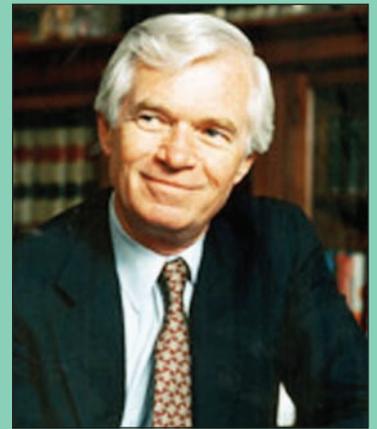


Sen. Thad Cochran with Levee Board Commissioners and staff.

FY 2011 Appropriations

The President's FY 2011 Budget released in February had only \$182M for the Mississippi River & Tributaries Project (MR&T). This was down from the President's Budget of \$240M for the MR&T Project in FY 2010. On July 15, 2010 the House Appropriations on Energy & Water Subcommittee provided \$225M for the MR&T Project. On July 21, 2010 the Senate Appropriations Energy & Water Subcommittee provided \$335M for the MR&T Project.

The Mississippi Levee Board is pleased with our Mississippi Congressional Delegation on both the Senate and House sides with the adds to the MR&T Project appropriation. Sen. Thad Cochran (MS) is the ranking Republican member of the



Sen. Thad Cochran

Senate Appropriations Committee. The final MR&T Project appropriation will be worked out this Fall. In FY 2010 \$340M was appropriated for the MR&T Project. ■

MR&T Project	FY 2011 Appropriation
President's Budget	\$182M
House Subcommittee	\$225M
Senate Subcommittee	\$335M

2010 Washington County Leadership Class



Members of the Washington County Leadership Class came to the Levee Board office on January 14, 2010 for a presentation on the history, activities and projects of the Mississippi Levee Board.

2009 Annual Bus Inspection



On November 3, 2009, the Mississippi Levee Board hosted its Annual Levee Inspection. This year's trip started at the north end of the Mississippi Levee District and proceeded downstream to Greenville. Lunch was served at the Greenville Yacht Club in Greenville, MS. Above: Members of the 2009 Annual Levee Inspection take a photo in front of the Yacht Club.

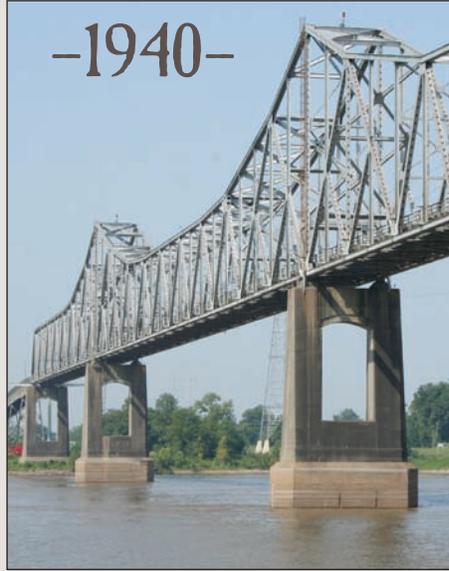
BACK IN TIME: Hwy 82 MS River Bridge-1940 vs. 2010



New bridge under construction.

1940 Bridge

The original Hwy 82 steel truss bridge crossing the Mississippi River at Greenville took 2 years to construct, cost \$4.4M and was opened in 1940. The main span is 840'. It had a total bridge deck width of 24' allowing for two 12' lanes of traffic. The relatively narrow span of this bridge and its location in a bend in the Mississippi River made it susceptible to being hit by barge traffic. ■



Old bridge built in 1940.

2010 Bridge

The new Hwy 82 cable-stayed bridge has taken 9 years to construct, cost \$336M and opened on August 4, 2010. The main span is 1,378'. It has a total bridge deck width of 88' allowing for two 12' lanes of traffic in both directions plus a 12' outside shoulder and 8' inside shoulder in each direction. This is the 4th longest cable-stayed span in North America and one of the longest spans of any type on the Mississippi River.

The Mississippi Levee Board participated in pre-design and pre-construction meetings on the construction of the new bridge as well as the demolition of the old bridge. A Permit for Facilities for construction of the new bridge through Mississippi Levee Board right-of-way was issued to the Mississippi Department of Transportation on January 6, 1998. ■



New completed Hwy 82 MS River Bridge.

Photo courtesy of Tensor Engineering



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