

# WATER<sup>®</sup>

*Promoting Beneficial Use of Water & Land Related Resources*

May 2018

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## Points of Interest:

- **NW Div. BG Helmlinger**
- **MOARC-KCIC in D.C.**
- **MO River Navigation**
- **Partnership and KC Corps**

## Civil Works Water Resource Budget

With the 2018 budget bill signed by President Trump on 23 March, funding for water resource projects across the nation moved from under the restrictions of the Continuing Resolution to a full budget for the remainder of fiscal year 2018. The 2018 budget provided the US Army Corps of Engineers civil works program funding of \$6.8 billion, an increase of \$789 million from the FY17 levels.

The Corps of Engineers budget includes \$2.089 billion for Construction of water resource projects, \$3.630 billion in continued Operation and Maintenance, \$123 million for studies under the Investigations account, and \$200 million for the Regulatory program. The budget provides opportunities to address funds needed to complete construction of on-going projects, continued operations and maintenance of reservoirs and the navigation system, and funding to complete on-going studies as well as start new water resource projects. Budget language included directive language for the Corps of Engineers to initiate six new water resource studies in 2018. A detailed work plan must be provided to the Congress within 60 days of enactment; 23 May 2018. The Corps is currently working on the 2018 Work Plan to address projects to be funded. The budget represents opportunities for funding of Kansas and Missouri projects to improve flood risk management within our region. MOARC presented the regional needs during the recent Spring DC Visit (5-8 March) to the con-

gressional delegations, appropriations committee and the Corps of Engineers laying out priority needs for design funds supporting the final flood protection elements of the Kansas City Levees, construction funding for the completion of Swope Park Industrial Area, and Pre-construction, Engineering, and Design (PED)

*MOARC is actively advocating for 2018 water resources funding and adding several New Start projects for our region.*

funds for Manhattan Levees and Upper Turkey Creek. Additionally, the budget provides an opportunity to include a New Start project within our region from the six directed by Congress. Potential new water resource projects within Kansas and Missouri presented by MOARC included the following:

- Kansas River Basin Study
- Lower Missouri River Basin Study
- Little Blue River Watershed Study
- Osage River Basin Study

The bill also continues the prohibition on the implementation of the final Principles and Requirements, directing the Corps to continue to use the 1983 Principles and Guidelines.

# President's Message

Spring is finally here. As it warms, we see new growth abound in our yards and down our streets. Just as new buds are added to a branch, MOARC is growing new membership. As our membership grows, our organization grows stronger and branches out to reach a wide variety of interests. MOARC represents interests including commercial, recreational, city and rural concerns, and speaks for them whenever and wherever a unified voice is appropriate in water resource matters. We are currently in a membership drive and we challenge you to encourage someone with common interests to join us. Or please let us know if there is someone you feel would see value in MOARC.

As you will read on the next page, our Spring 2018 congressional visit walking the halls in

Washington DC was a success. We appreciate all who take the time to be a part of this delegation as these visits provide MOARC a platform to share our viewpoints on policy and projects important to our region. A key individual to making these trips happen is Glenda Johnson, who does a spectacular job in performing the logistics for each of our trips. Thanks Glenda for your ongoing contributions in making these trips so successful! We continue to provide follow-up and information on the policy and projects to help tie the conversations we have in DC to results back home.

On page 8 of this newsletter, you will see our celebration of the ribbon cutting for the Blue River Basin (Dodson Industrial District). To supplement the local share provided by KCMO, the federal funding for this project is a

great example of how our congressional visits impact our region. MOARC's continued partnership with the Kansas City Industrial Council (KCIC) is a great example of how local stakeholders together with common interests can make a difference for our region. A big thank you to KCIC for their ongoing commitment to get the Dodson project completed!



Tom Poer P.E.,  
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## Upcoming Events

### MOARC Policy Workshop and Social Event Tuesday, July 31st, Husch Blackwell

MOARC and its Board will host a policy workshop and member social for all members on Tuesday 31 July to address the policies of the organization, the future direction and priorities of the organization, and to celebrate the successes MOARC and the region have had over the last several years. The workshop will review the status of water resource development within the MOARC areas of interest (Navigation, Water supply, the Environment, Power supply, and Flood risk management) within the Missouri and Kansas River basins and discuss future areas of MOARC focus under the strategic plan to provide for continued economic and social development within our region.

The strategic plan developed in 2013 will also

be reviewed to determine realignment for the future. The strategic plan was intended to guide MOARC actions through the year 2020. As a living document it is relevant to review and update to ensure MOARC and its policies are relevant to current and future needs. At the heart of the plan are our goals following an END, WAYS, & MEAN format. ENDS define the big things we want to accomplish as an organization. WAYS are the strategies we adopt to achieve our strategic ends. MEANS identifies the resources we have available to execute our strategy. This plan also describes our VISION, MISSION and organizational VALUES to help people understand what we do and what we stand for as we reach out to them for their involvement and support. The workshop will provide a venue for members

to discuss the strategic plan and lay out the priorities for water resource projects and activities through and beyond 2020.

The workshop will be followed by a social event for membership to celebrate the successes of the organization and continue discussions on future support to the region. The workshop and social event will be held at Husch Blackwell from 2:30 to 6:30 on 31 July. Planning is underway and requests for member's issues, concerns, or ideas on future direction will be sent by June. Please look for the request and put the workshop and social event on your calendar. Join us in developing the future direction of the organization. A formal announcement and invitations will be sent out to membership in the near future.

### Monthly 2018 Water Management Conference Calls Underway Calls on First Tuesday of Month Through 2018

The Corps continues to host conference calls monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 CST to inform basin stakeholders on current weather and runoff forecasts and the planned operation of the System. Presentation materials are posted on the Missouri River

Basin Water Management website under Basin Presentations at: <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/>. The monthly calls are intended for Congressional delegations; Tribes; state, county and local government officials; and the media. The recordings are

posted online the day of the call and the public can access the recordings at:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/search/?filter%5Bunit%5D=USACE-NWD&filter%5Btype%5D>

## MOARC/KCIC Spring 2018 Congressional Visit

Representatives from MOARC and KCIC conducted their spring congressional visit on 5-8 March to inform and educate the Missouri and Kansas congressional delegation on the successful completion of several flood risk management projects and those MOARC and KCIC are fighting to finish. MOARC and KCIC provided a unique perspective with 16 representatives from the Kansas City metro city governments, regional businesses, industrial councils. We were able to meet with 14 House and Senate congressional offices, the majority and minority authorization and appropriations committees, OMB, FEMA, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil

Works (ASA-CW) and the Corps of Engineers over the four days of visits.

The diversity of stakeholders within MOARC and KCIC supporting and advocating for improved flood protection to support continued economic development in the Kansas City region continues to impress the congressional delegation, appropriations committees, and the Corps of Engineers. The visit emphasized stakeholder interest and participation in projects. The on-going partnerships with the Corps of Engineers, congressional offices, and local sponsors of projects have successfully completed major portions of projects or secured funding to complete projects across the

Missouri and Kansas region. Projects completed or funded to completion include Turkey Creek Basin, Blue River Basin (Dodson Industrial District), St. Joseph Levees and Topeka Levees. Projects needing design or construction funding to continue forward toward completion include Kansas City Levees, Swope Park Industrial Area, Manhattan Levees, and the Upper Turkey Creek flood control project. MOARC followed up the visits by submitting appropriations requests to the congressional offices to complete design and construction of on-going flood protection projects and request language for New Start projects within Kansas and Missouri.



Front row (l to r): Michelle Freed, Mike Lally, Tom Poer, Melissa Sieben, Lynda Hoffman Back row (l to r): Kyle Foote, Matt Bond, Pete Browne, Dave Combs, Jeff Fisher, Councilman Jermaine Reed, Tom Kimes. Not pictured: Karin Jacoby, Jarrod Huntley, Shana Marchio, Jason Parsons

## Flood Control Ruling on the Missouri River

On 13 March 2018 U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Nancy Firestone ruled that a shift in the US Army Corps of Engineers' management of the river to benefit endangered species led to floods in five of the eight years between 2007 and 2014. That decision could put the federal government on the hook for more than \$300 million in damages for "taking" property under the Fifth Amendment, according to lawyers for roughly 400 farmers who say they were harmed by floods.

The sweeping 259-page ruling is the latest in the decades-long fight over how to manage the Missouri River, which is lined by valuable agricultural land, serves as a barge thoroughfare and provides habitats to endangered

birds and fish. The decision stands to be one of the largest takings claims ever reached against the Corps of Engineers for flooding and could set an important precedent about who bears the cost when the operations of water systems that were built long before

*Th "Idecker" decision will impact...*

modern environmental laws are altered to accommodate the needs of imperiled species. The ruling was for the first phase of the case and will be followed by a second phase in which the judge will consider and potentially

assess damages to determine compensation, if any, to 44 individual properties representative of hundreds of other property owners affected by floods on the Missouri River. The second phase is slated to begin in October



# Missouri River Matters Continued

## Missouri River Management Plan Status

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) met in March 2018 to learn more about the status of the Missouri River Recovery Management Plan and the draft strategic plan for recovery actions. MRRIC heard about the Corps and Engineers and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) planned completion of the Missouri River Recovery Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement, which includes an Adaptive Management Plan (AM) intended to guide implementation of recovery actions to benefit the Pallid sturgeon, Piping plover, and Interior least tern while meeting authorized purposes. The Recovery Management Plan development continues to be scheduled for release of the final document 31 August 2018, with a Record of Decision expected 30 October 2018. Building on outcomes from the February AM Workshop and associated Bird, Fish, and Human Considerations Team meetings, MRRIC discussed the Missouri River Recovery Program's draft strategic plan for recovery actions over the next few years and the implications of the Fiscal Year 2019 President's Budget. The President's budget

*The President's budget proposal for 2019 shows a reduced program funding from \$30 million in 2018 to \$10 million in 2019.*

proposal for 2019 shows a reduced program funding from \$30 million in 2018 to \$10 million in 2019.



Least tern

MRRIC's Independent Science Advisory Panel (ISAP) provided comments on the USFWS's draft Biological Opinion (BiOp). The ISAP found no technical flaws in the non-jeopardy determinations in the draft BiOp and concluded the BiOp uses the best available science for the birds and pallid. Of major importance and in agreement with many MRRIC members concerns, they noted the analyses of pallids should include data from the Mississippi River as a significant number of fish spend time in both the Missouri and the Mississippi rivers. Regarding the birds, the ISAP noted that the birds nesting off-river on alkaline lakes as being the same birds as on the Missouri River. In conjunction with the comment of off-river nesting, the USFWS Regional Director Noreen Walsh announced a grant to provide seed money to study alternative Piping plover habitat (off-river habitat) in addition to emergent sandbar habitat in the river channel. Ms. Walsh stated they would consider off-river habitat in further

discussions of the plover. The consideration of off-river habitat for birds (Least tern or Piping plover) is a significant change in the USFWS' approach to the endangered birds' recovery. The USFWS revised the draft BiOp and released the final BiOp with a "no jeopardy" opinion on 13 April 2018.

MRRIC is a 70-member committee made up of federal, state, tribal, and stakeholder representatives from throughout the basin, which extends over 529,350 square miles and affects the lives of millions of people. Established in the fall of 2008, MRRIC serves as a collaborative forum developing a shared vision and comprehensive plan for the recovery and restoration of the Missouri River ecosystem. The next meeting is located 21-24 May in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. MOARC's representative, Frank Pogge, will attend the May meeting and provide updates to MOARC membership through a WATERdrops note.



Piping Plover

## Missouri River Recovery Program Congressional Biennial Report

Under the Water Resources Development Act of 2014 Congress directed the Corps of Engineers to develop a comprehensive report on the actions and activities of the Corps' Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) every two years. In response to the Congressional mandate, the Corps released its Biennial Report covering activities carried out from March 2015 through September 2016. The report released to Congress is



the second comprehensive report on the MRRP. The report specifically addresses any actions taken on the under the MRRP/Mitigation Project, an inventory of all lands owned or acquired by the Corps and the status of

those lands, an assessment of the progress of actions in addressing the requirements of the Endangered Species Act in the Missouri River, and a discussion on actions planned or taken in 2017 and 2018. The report discusses the status of the science programs and the activities of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC). The Biennial report was released to the MRRIC membership at the March meeting in Kansas City, Missouri.

## Kansas River Commercial Dredging

The US Army Corps of Engineers recently completed a Record of Decision for commercial dredging on the Kansas River. Five applicants received permit proposals to extract sand and gravel from the river by hydraulic dredging. The Corps of Engineers regulates dredging under the authority of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The permits authorize commercial dredging of up to 1.9 million total tons of aggregate from the river annually over the next five years. Special conditions minimizing and/or mitigating project-related impacts to the Kansas River are proposed as part of the proposed permits. If accepted, commercial

dredging permits for the Kansas River will be issued to the following:

- Kaw Valley Companies, Inc.
- Holliday Sand and Gravel Company
- Masters Dredging in the Kansas City-Lawrence, Kansas area,
- Builders Choice Aggregates
- LBB, LLC near Topeka, Kansas

Commercial dredging for sand and other aggregate materials from the Kansas River has taken place over the past 100 years. Since 1990 total extraction permit limits have ranged

from a high of 4.7 million tons, to more recently, a 2.2-million-ton annual limit; however, actual dredging has ranged between 88% and 23% of the annual limit. Total extraction under the proposed permits, as in the past, is dependent upon aggregate supply, demand, and other market driven factors, as well as, existing river conditions. During the five-year permitting period, the river bed will be monitored every two years with the data to be used in the reevaluation of the issuance of any future commercial dredging permits.

### LBB, LLC



## Masters Dredging

## Partner Perspective

### USACE Kansas City and MOARC Partnership

Over the last few weeks, several MOARC "WATERdrops" shared recent Corps of Engineer activities (MO River Annual Operating Plan, Dredging Permit for Kansas River, Civil Works Budget), so I wanted to use this opportunity to talk about something else - Partnership.

*"The Kansas City District does not and cannot complete this mission in isolation or without strong regional partnerships."*

The mission statement of the Army Corps of Engineer's Kansas City District is to deliver world class programs and projects to the Heartland region and the nation to support national security, strengthen our economy and reduce environmental and disaster risk. The Kansas City District does not and cannot complete this mission in isolation or without strong

regional partnerships. Working closely with MOARC, state agencies, local governments and others, the Kansas City District is much better able to leverage its technical and leadership capabilities to meet the needs of the region. In a vibrant partnership like this one, each of our organizations bring their own ideas and capabilities to the table. And because we all bring our unique perspectives to a partnership, it can sometimes be hard, and maybe not always be entirely efficient - but there are no denying its positive effects in this region. The proof is in the water resources projects all around us. Recent groundbreaking ceremonies at Turkey Creek and Dodson are only two recent examples that shine a light on the success of this regional partnership. Thank you to MOARC for the opportunity to be represented in this forum and thank you for the continuing partnership that makes our region among the most successful in the nation at delivering water resource solutions.



Rex W. Ostrander  
Deputy District Engineer for  
Project Management  
USACE Kansas City District

# Committee Corner

MOARC committees provide key contributions to our membership.

Subject Matter Committees inform and lead our efforts:

- Legislative Policy
- Flood Control & Risk Management
- Navigation, Shipping & Trade
- Water, Power & Permitting

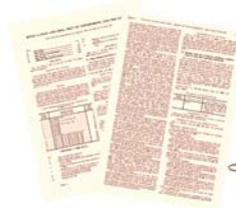
Organization Support Committees bring value to our membership:

- Communications
- Membership
- Finance

## Legislative Policy

### Appropriations Requests/Potential New Start Projects:

With the 2018 budget signed, the Corps of Engineers is currently developing a work plan to fund and implement projects through the remainder of the Federal fiscal year (September 30, 2018). MOARC briefed nearly every MO and KS Congressional office, and relevant Committees, on project funding needs during the Spring DC visit then followed up with communication to each office outlining the funding needs to complete the regional flood control projects. We made requests for each Senator and Representative to send letters to the ASA-CW and the Corps of Engineers informing them of the importance of completing these projects and seeking consideration for funding under the 2018 Work Plan. Congressional offices are supporting the MOARC funding recommendations by sending letters to the Chief of the Corps of Engineers in support of regional projects. In addition, requests are being made by the Congressional offices to consider funding a new water resource project as one of the six directed for 2018. The Kansas River Basin was identified as the priority project among the four New Starts submitted by MOARC. The Corps' work plan identifying funded projects should be available by June.



### 2018 Water Resource Development Act:

Congressional committees are currently working on a Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) for 2018. The intent is to develop a WRDA every two years (i.e., WRRDA 2014, WRDA 2016) to authorize water resources projects and provide congressional oversight for the Corps of Engineers. During the MOARC/KCIC Spring DC Visit (see above) both the Senate Environment and Public Works and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committees reported a high likelihood of passing a WRDA during this calendar year. They have been requesting proposals for a WRDA for new water resource projects or for modifications of existing authorized projects. MOARC provided each committee language to combine two previous authorizations for construction of the Kansas City Levees (WRDA 2006, WRRDA 2014) into a single authority to effect greater efficiencies in funding requests to complete the system construction. In addition, we provided language on three new feasibility studies Missouri stakeholders have identified as important to the region. These potential projects include a study of the Osage River Basin to address ecosystem losses and riparian bank stabilization to prevent the loss of habitat and adjacent agricultural lands, a study of the Lower Missouri River Basin to address additional navigation opportunities within the Missouri River, and a study of the Little Blue River to address flood risk issues from urban floodplain development on businesses, federal facilities, and residents along the Little Blue River. The WRDA development process will continue through the summer as each branch of congress works toward a bill, and then if both the House and Senate pass those, conferencing on those to resolve any differences prior to passing the Act.

### Report to Congress on Future Water Resource Development (Sec 7001)

Stakeholder requests for new water resource projects have become an important criteria for the Corps of Engineers and Congress in authorizing new water resource projects for the nation. Under Section 7001 of the 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development, Act (WRRDA), the Secretary of the Army must annually submit to the Congress a report that identifies new projects, studies, and proposed modifications to authorized projects. The annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development is based, in part, upon annual requests for proposals for authorization from non-Federal stakeholder interests for proposed feasibility studies and proposed modifications to authorized projects or studies that require authorization for the Corps of Engineers to proceed. Water resource projects submitted are reviewed by the Corps and certified by the Secretary of the Army for potential authorization in a future Water Resource Development Act (WRDA). Projects not listed within the report to Congress are not typically considered for authorization. Listing in the report has become criteria for the WRDA committees as they develop the 2018 WRDA and subsequent WRDAs. As such, projects not submitted by a stakeholder may not be considered for authorization. This is an important change in the development of new projects where formerly potential authorizations could be submitted without review and certification by the Corps and Secretary of the Army. Section 7001 requires specific criteria to be met and be submitted by August of each year. The Corps reviews the submittals and advances those meeting criteria to the Secretary and on to Congress. There is a need for MOARC to work with the Corps of Engineers to educate regional stakeholders on the process and schedules so that needed projects are able to be considered.

For more information or to get involved, contact Legislative & Policy Committee Chair Matt Bond, [matt.bond@kcmo.org](mailto:matt.bond@kcmo.org)



## Navigation, Shipping & Trade Missouri River Waterway Transport Update

The 2018 navigation season and barge traffic on the Missouri River has begun. The US Army Corps of Engineers has increased releases from the Missouri River upstream reservoirs in late March to support navigation for the Missouri River. Kansas City saw its first barge freight move on April 9th. Because of an extremely dry winter the

*The plains and mountain snowpack are currently 33% above average and expected to support navigation for the rest of 2018*

river was unable to support full drafting barges from Glasgow, Missouri to Sioux City, Iowa this year. From Glasgow east and downstream the river saw increased rain so navigation started in early March. The plains and mountain snowpack are currently 33% above average and expected to support navigation for the rest of 2018. Kansas City expects to see another robust year for waterborne freight movement.

## Communications

### MOARC 2018 Communications

The MOARC Communications committee has been actively sharing current topics with our membership and interested parties through weekly distribution of WATERdrops. These WATERdrops are designed to cover the areas of interest for MOARC members. We strive to provide a quick read for a single and timely topic. If you have an item of interest, please send to Glenda Johnson or to info@moarc.org

*MOARC WATERdrops supplement the MOARC published newsletter – WATER®, a registered trademark to provide timely updates on matters of importance to the MOARC membership.*

For more information or to get involved in our Communications Committee, contact Committee Chair Glenda Johnson, glenda.johnson@kcmo.org



## In the News

### National Waterways Conference Comments on Corps 408 Circular

The National Waterways Conference (NWC) recently responded to the US Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) draft engineer circular (EC) 1165-2-220 to implement Section 408 of Title 33 of the U.S. Code. Section 408 applies to certain proposed actions at "any sea wall, bulkhead, jetty, dike, levee, wharf, pier, or other work built by the United States," and certain other equipment associated with "the construction of such work under the control of the United States," where such a work is "for the preservation and improvement of any of its navigable waters or to prevent floods, or as boundary marks, tide gauges, surveying stations, buoys, or other established marks." The draft EC provides policy and procedural guidance for

processing requests to occupy or make alterations to such works. The scope of the application of Section 408 and its implementation has become a nationwide issue as the Corps expanded its regulatory review of existing projects. In addition, the Corps has struggled with consistent implementation guidance of the EC across its 36 districts. The NWC expressed continued concern over the scope of the draft of the review process, noting that Section 408 expressly applies to "works," whereas the EC applies to "projects," which is beyond the scope of the statutory language. In addition, NWC offered recommendations on ways to further streamline the application process, ensure that it is applied in a timely and efficient man-

ner, and include the involvement of the non-federal sponsor. Review of the full comments can be found at <https://waterways.org/2018/04/09/nwc-comments-on-usace-408-circular/>.



# In the News

## Blue River/Dodson Industrial Park Project Ribbon Cutting

Partnerships to invest in flood protection within the Kansas City metropolitan area continue to move forward. The final phase of the flood control project to further reduce flood risk in the Blue River Basin – Dodson Industrial District has been initiated. The kickoff of the final phase of the construction for the long-awaited levee completion was celebrated by KCMO City officials, other dignitaries, and Congressman Cleaver on 2 March. The groundbreaking initiated the final phase of a five-phase project and will result in a 500-year level of protection for the Dodson Industrial District. The industrial park located along the Blue River in the south-central portion of Kansas City, Missouri, has been subjected to repeatedly flooding from the Blue River resulting in damage to private businesses and public utilities, and risk to public safety.



Turning and tossing soil to celebrate the start of the final phase of the Dodson Industrial District are, from left: Councilman Kevin McManus (KCMO); District Engineer COL Guttormsen (USACE Kansas City); Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver (US House of Representatives, Missouri); Councilwoman Alissia Canady (KCMO); Councilman Scott Taylor (KCMO); City Manager Troy Schulte (KCMO)

The final phase of the project is construction of nearly a mile of earthen levee that will connect existing upstream and downstream features into an integrated levee-flood wall system to provide reliable flood protection for the companies, service providers, and people within the Industrial District. Important to the metropolitan area, the Dodson Industrial District represents a property investment of nearly \$380,000,000, made up of a public works facility and 30 commercial/light industrial firms, employing 1,500 people. Construction was initiated in 2003 with the final phase currently underway being completed in 2020. The final phase of the project is being funded by revenue from the [GO KC](#) bonds totaling more than \$7.5 million plus \$17 million from the federal government. The funding participation and completion of the project represents the continued success of partnerships with area industrial and river associations, the City of Kansas City, Missouri, Congressional offices, and the US Army Corps of Engineers in addressing long term flood control needs for the Kansas City region.

## BG Peter Helmlinger Named as Northwestern Division Commander:



Northwestern Division Commander  
BG Peter Helmlinger

*Congratulations to BG Helmlinger on his new assignment leading the NW Division.*

Brigadier General Peter Helmlinger, current Commanding General at the South Pacific Division, US Army Corps of Engineers, has been named as the new Division Commander at the Northwestern Division in Portland, Oregon. He will be replacing Major General Scott Spellmon who has been selected as the Deputy Command-

ing General for Civil and Emergency Operations at the Corps headquarters in Washington DC. MG Spellmon is replacing MG Ed Jackson who has been overseeing the Corps' civil works activities to include projects and studies within the Missouri and Kansas River basins. Prior to serving as Commander at the South Pacific Division since August 2016, BG Helmlinger served as the Chief of Staff for the Corps of Engineers in Washington DC. The formal change of command will take place in Portland this summer (June/July).

## Funding Availability for EPA FY 2018 Water Infrastructure

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on April 4, 2018, announced the availability of funding that could provide as much as \$5.5 billion in loans, which could leverage over \$11 billion in water infrastructure projects through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. Prospective borrowers seeking WIFIA credit assistance must submit a letter of interest (LOI) by July 6, 2018. The WIFIA program received \$63 million in funding in the 2018 budget bill, signed into law in March 2018. This more than dou-

bles the program's funding from 2017. EPA reports that leveraging private capital and other funding sources, these projects could support \$11 billion in water infrastructure investment and create more than 170,000 jobs.

This year's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) highlights the importance of protecting public health including reducing exposure to lead and other contaminants in drinking water systems and updating the nation's aging infrastructure. To access the NOFA, go to [www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-04/documents/fy\\_2018\\_nofa\\_nal-pre-pubversion.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-04/documents/fy_2018_nofa_nal-pre-pubversion.pdf).

Established by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, the WIFIA program is a federal loan and guarantee program at EPA that aims to accelerate investment

in the nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. WIFIA credit assistance can be used for a wide range of projects, including:

- Drinking water treatment and distribution projects
- Wastewater conveyance and treatment projects
- Drought prevention, reduction, or mitigation projects
- Enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities
- Desalination, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, and water recycling project



## Missouri River Annual Operating Plan Meetings

Public meetings on the Corps of Engineers Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for the Missouri River were completed during the month of April. The AOP for 2017-2018 was developed by the Corps in November 2017 for the operating year of 2018. The Corps scheduled public meetings to present the plan for operating the river for the eight authorized purposes and take public comments on the plan. Public meetings scheduled between 17 and 19 April kicked off in the Kansas City area on 17 April at Smithville Lake. Additional meetings were held in Omaha, NE; Pierre, SD; Bismarck, ND; and Fort Peck, MT through 19 April. The Corps provided presentations on the current status of reservoir storage within the six mainstem reservoirs on the Missouri River, the forecast of runoff and precipitation, and the expected or forecasted impacts on the eight authorized purposes. The Corps reported that reservoir storage was at 59.1 million acre-feet (MAF) which is within the lower portion of the flood control and multipurpose pool on 16 April with available storage to accept expected runoff from both the plains and mountain snowmelt and expected rainfall precipitation. Plains and mountain snowpack are reported above average and has created concern regarding runoff. The Corps reported that with releases from reservoir storage along with storage available within the reservoirs



Left to Right at the AOP Meeting: Mike Klender (KCMO Water Services) and MOARC Board members: Frank Pogge (MOARC), Richard Grenville (Port KC), Dave Combs (MOARC XD) and Dong Quach (BPU)

snowpack runoff is forecasted to be managed through reservoir operations. Downstream releases will increase downstream service levels to support navigation with an increase of navigation support by at least 10 days, water supply intakes, irrigation, fish and wildlife requirements on upper reservoirs, and increase opportunities for hydropower production through 2018. The public was invited to make

comments or ask questions regarding the Operating Plan and to review the AOP. Several MOARC representatives attended the AOP meeting in Smithville and posed questions to the Corps' Water Management leadership. The public can review the 2017-2018 AOP at <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/reports/pdfs/finalAOP2017-2018.pdf>



# Agency Updates

WATER®, a MOARC publication and a registered trademark, is the newsletter of the Missouri and Associated Rivers Coalition (MOARC). WATER® provides timely updates on matters of importance to the MOARC membership and stakeholders.



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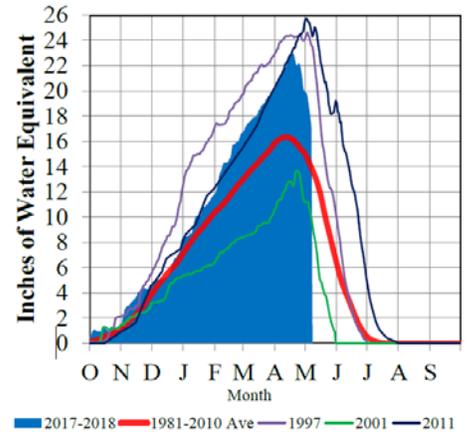
For more information on MOARC, find us at [moarc.org](http://moarc.org)

## Missouri River System Status and Flow Forecast

The 2018 runoff forecast in the Missouri River Basin above Sioux City, Iowa, is 33.0 million-acre feet (MAF), 130 percent of normal according to the US Army Corps of Engineers Missouri River Water Management Division. Based on the current plains and mountain snowpack, runoff into the Fort Peck and Garrison reservoirs is expected to be above average from March through July. As of March 1, the Corps reported the mountain snowpack was 139-140 percent of average in the reaches above Fort Peck and from Fort Peck to Garrison. Normally the mountain snowpack peaks in mid-April. Plains snowpack is currently heaviest in central and eastern Montana. All 2017 stored flood waters were evacuated from the Missouri River mainstem reservoir system (System) as of January 15, when the total volume stored in the System reached 56.1 MAF; the bottom of the Flood Control & Multipurpose pool. System storage is currently 59.1 MAF, occupying 3.0 MAF of the 16.3 MAF flood control zone. System flood storage is reported to be currently available to capture runoff from the plains snowpack, spring rainfall and runoff from the mountain snowmelt.

Releases from Gavins Point Dam have been adjusted from winter flows to provide flow for support for Missouri River navigation. Flow support for navigation will be at full service levels for the first half of the 2018 season. Flow support is generally sufficient to provide a 9-foot-deep by 300-foot-wide channel to support navigation. Flow support for the second half of the Corps supported navigation season, as well as the navigation season length, will be based on the actual July 1 System storage; however, with storage anticipated the navigation support season is expected to be extended at least 10 days in 2018. The Corps supported navigation season opening dates were as follows:

- Sioux City, IA: March 23
- Omaha, NE: March 25
- Nebraska City, NE: March 26
- Kansas City, MO: March 28
- Mouth near St. Louis, MO: April 1



Missouri River Basin Mountain Snowpack Water Content Total above Fort Peck, as of May 7, 2018

## WRDA Works

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee contacted MOARC regarding their intent to develop testimony and a presentation on the value and benefits of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA). Based on MOARC's visit to the EPW Committee and discussion of the successes of flood control projects within the Kansas City metropolitan area, the Committee requested information on the benefits that Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri have seen

on development of the Turkey Creek Basin and Blue River/Dodson Industrial Park flood control projects. MOARC with the assistance of representatives of the Unified Government of Kansas City and Wyandotte County, Kansas, from Kansas City Water Services, and from Olson Engineering Services provided the Committee information on the value of having a WRDA, project costs both federal and local, the partnerships that went into the projects, and economic and social benefits that the

projects have provided to the communities. The Committee is currently developing the "WRDA Works!" presentation and will present to Congress in the near future as a WRDA bill goes to Congress. MOARC was thanked by the Committee for the information provided on the successes of these two metropolitan projects developed through the WRDA process.



## Future Newsletter Focus Areas

Quarterly Newsletters are to be a venue to report on specific project changes, information of interest to the membership and specific areas of interest or action items membership needs to be aware of. In addition to project updates and what's in the news over the Quarter, the summer Quarterly Newsletter (August) will provide a report to the membership on the results of the MOARC Policy Workshop, the

membership drive, and Missouri River basin partnership outreach efforts along with updates on the development/implementation of Corps of Engineers Civil Works Work Plan and what it provides to MOARC stakeholders. Please look forward to the August Newsletter and send items you think would be of interest to the membership to MOARC at [info@moarc.org](mailto:info@moarc.org)

