

WATER[®]

Promoting Beneficial Use of Water & Land Related Resources

August 2018

Inside this issue:

- **President's Message** **2**
- **Upcoming Events** **3**
- **MO River Matters** **4-5**
- **Committee Corner** **6-7**
- **In the News** **8-13**
- **Partner Perspective** **13**
- **Agency Updates** **14**
- **Future Newsletter** **14**



Points of Interest:

- **KC Levees Fully Funded**
- **2018 Work Plan Update**
- **Navigation Update**
- **Legislative Policy Workshop**
- **Civil Works Restructuring**
- **Remembering Flood of 1993**

Kansas City Levees Funded under Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) recently released plans to fund water resource projects across the nation under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Act) to include the Kansas City Levees project. The Act, signed into law February 9, 2018, provides \$17.398 billion for disaster recovery as well as repair and maintenance of water infrastructure.

MOARC during its spring congressional visit discussed the importance of completing regional flood protection and the use of the disaster recovery funding for regional projects but had been advised that our area did not qualify for the funding. Subsequent to those discussions, eligibility for funding under the Act was expanded beyond disaster recovery to include both on-going and new water resource projects of value to the nation. Kansas City Levees is now one of 60 flood and storm damage reduction projects selected for funding across the nation. The Corps'

intent is to fund flood control projects to completion and, as such, has allocated \$453 million of the disaster recovery/repair and maintenance funding to complete this important regional levee improvement project. Kansas City Levees has been under construction with most of the improvements completed on the Missouri River

Kansas City receives \$453 million in funding to improve the Kansas City Levees!

levee system (Phase I). The area has been awaiting funds to complete the remaining elements under Phase I and initiate the design work on the Kansas River levees (Armourdale and Argentine levees) and then construct improvements to pump stations and raise the two levees under Phase 2 of the project to address future system flood events.

SEE KC LEVEES, pg 2



Levee raises for the Argentine, Armourdale and CID levee units are now fully funded.

President's Message



It is time to celebrate! As you saw on the front page of this newsletter, the KC Levees has been fully funded through the Bipartisan Supplement of 2018. I would like to extend a special thank you to the

Missouri and Kansas Congressional Delegation for their support of this most critical project for our region. In addition, I can't express how grateful I am for the consistent advocacy our members and local and federal partners have made over the past several years resulting in the KC Levees funding. Your hard work has made this happen. While this is a great moment to celebrate, it's now time to get to

work and implement these improvements so the benefits can be realized.

Our celebration and appreciation continues with our recent budget success in obtaining project funding for the FY18 Work Plan. See page 8 for details on how successful the 2018 Civil Works Work Plan was in funding six MOARC advocated projects this year.

Our Legislative and Policy Committee, led by Matt Bond, hosted a successful Legislative Policy Workshop last month. Thank you to Matt and all involved in preparing, leading and participating in this workshop. We had good dialogue on issues we can carry forward to policy makers. See page 8 for the details of the workshop.

Tom Schrempp, a past MOARC President and Director, retired this year from a great career

with WaterOne. Thank you, Tom, for your years of service to MOARC and our community. You made a positive impact to policy and projects impacting the Missouri River through your 25 years of service with MOARC. See page 11 for our Partner Perspective from Tom. We wish you the best in your retirement!

We are adding members and our membership drive is continuing. Keep an eye out for our new pamphlet emphasizing MOARC's value to our membership. We are a diverse organization and together we are a strong and effective voice.

Tom Poer P.E., PMP, ENV. SP

MOARC President

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FROM PAGE 1

KC Levees

The Act provides full federal funding upfront to the Corps and project sponsors to initiate and complete the remaining design and construction of the project. Projects in designated disaster areas and other on-

"...the Corps' is showing its commitment to "moving dirt" and, more importantly, to completing studies and construction"

going projects to be constructed at full federal expense while new projects and other on-going projects will be subject to existing cost-share requirements (65/35) financed over 30-years following completion of

the project construction. MOARC has reached out to the Corps and to the Congressional offices seeking clarification as to Kansas City Levees eligibility for full federal funding of the project. The upfront funding to completion is unprecedented and provides the opportunity to complete the project in a shorter time frame and provide improved flood protection within the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Mr. R.D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, stated that "In providing the current working estimates of funds required to fully fund these studies and construction projects, the Corps' is showing its commitment to "moving dirt" and, more importantly, to completing studies and construction,". The tables listing the studies and projects receiving funding are posted at <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Budget/> under "Supplemental Appropriations for Disasters 2018."

Growing Partnerships

Continuing on the ongoing partnership between the Corps, KCIC and MOARC, the KC Corps provided a KC Levees and 2018 Work Plan presentation on May 31, 2018 at the Faultless Event Space. Following the presentation, attendees joined at a happy hour at The Ship. The Ship is a local pub in the Historic West Bottoms protected by the Central Industrial District levee of the KC Levee system.

Left, Steve Iverson, Olsson Associates, Scott Brown, Faultless Starch/Bon Ami, Tom Poer, HNTB and MOARC President and Dave Combs, MOARC Executive Director enjoy a drink at The Ship.



Upcoming Events

Volume 2018
Issue 3rd Quarter

MOARC is hosting several upcoming events for membership in our continued commitment to informing and educating our membership on issues and activities potentially affecting the region. See moarc.org for updates and additional details. Upcoming events over the next quarter include:

USACE MRRP/MRRIC Discussion with MOARC

Wednesday, September 12th, Kansas City, MO Water Services Dept

The MOARC Board will host a presentation and discussion on the status and future direction of the Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) and the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC). The meeting for current and renewing MOARC members, will be held at KCMO Water Services Engineering Conference room, 4800 E 63rd Street, KC, MO.

MOARC/KCIC Fall DC Trip

Tuesday-Thursday, September 25-27, Washington, DC

MOARC and KCIC will conduct its Fall Congressional Visit to inform and educate the congressional offices and federal agencies of the issues and funding needs for 2019 and the 2019 Civil Works budget. Dates for the congressional visit are 25-27 September.

National Levee Safety Program Update with MOARC

October 2018

The MOARC Board will host a presentation and discussion on the national levee safety program and the changes in the program that are affecting local levee districts in the PL 84-99 program. Date is tentatively in October and location is TBD.

MOARC Annual Membership Banquet

Thursday, November 29th, Husch Blackwell

MOARC's Annual Membership Banquet is scheduled at the Husch-Blackwell Offices in Kansas City on 29 November. Save the date so you can join us for a nice evening overlooking the plaza lights! More information on the Annual Membership Banquet will be provided through upcoming MOARC WATERdrops.



Monthly 2018 Water Management Conference Calls

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/rccl>.

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>



Missouri River Matters

Flood Damage Reduction Project Updates

MOARC and its regional partners have been advocating for an integrated flood control since its inception in 1952 following the devastating 1951 floods in Kansas City. MOARC was instrumental in working with Congress to fund and construct the flood control reservoirs in the Kansas River basin and has been working as an advocate for projects and funding to address opportunities in improvement in flood control. Focus over the last couple of decades have been improvement and development of levee and channel systems as part of the integrated flood control system. Key projects within the Kansas City metropolitan area and the region are moving toward completion. Below are project updates of some of the ongoing critical projects in the region.



- **St Joseph Levees** - Fully federally funded \$42M to complete. Local 35% share approved in local bond issue in Buchanan County. Left bank levee raise at unit L-455 is under construction. Anticipate contract awards for right bank unit R471-460 14 mile levee raise in two contracts in May and then September 2019.
- **Turkey Creek Basin** - The \$160M Turkey Creek project is fully funded, under construction and moving to completion. The last \$27M construction con-

tract to complete the hillside floodwater interceptor pipeline from Roanoke Rd & 31st St to the main Turkey Creek channel is in progress. Anticipate total project completion in 2021.

- **Blue River/Dodson Industrial Park** - Dodson Levee is fully funded for completion. The last \$12M contract was awarded in 2018 for completion of the final closure of the levee/floodwall vicinity Bruce R. Watkins and the landfill on the downstream end. Anticipate total project completion in 2021.
- **Swope Industrial Area** - Swope Park is fully funded for completion. The Kansas City, MO cost share funding has been provided. One contract will be awarded in 2019. Final construction contract award will be delayed to extend overall project completion 2-3 years. The delay is due to requirement to allow the flyover bridge to be constructed and allow for foundation settlement before levee connection. Dynamic compaction cannot be conducted on bridge foundation next to main line railroad track.
- **Manhattan Levees** – The Design Phase is fully funded and the design agreement signed with City. The project is ready to start design in 2019 for a levee raise of up to 4 feet to increase capacity, as well as, the reliability and safety of existing levee system protecting downtown Manhattan.
- **Topeka Levees** – The 40-mile floodwall and levee improvement project to meet

the authorized level of protection was completed in 2016. The completed project provides a greater level of flood risk management to the 6,500 residences, 800 commercial and industrial infrastructure and regional rail and air transportation facilities valued at over \$3 billion. Partnerships between the sponsor, MOARC, the Corps of Engineers and the Congressional delegation successfully funded, constructed and completed this important flood control project.

- **Upper Turkey Creek** – The project is a \$35M (low height) floodwall and levee project to protect downtown Merriam, KS from life threatening and damaging flash floods on Turkey Creek. Project is approved and authorized, awaiting "New Start" design (PED) funding in the FY 2019 or FY 2020 Energy & Water Development Appropriations.
- **Kansas City Levees** - \$453M federal funding approved under the 2018 Supplemental bill for USACE completion of pump station improvements and levee raises of 3-5 feet on Argentine, Armourdale and CID levee units on the Kansas River in Kansas City Kansas and Missouri. The next step will be construction of pump stations on the Argentine unit and initiation of design for pump station improvements on the Armourdale and CID units. Levee design and construction activities will follow the pump station improvements.

Missouri River Recovery Plan

MOARC continues to engage with the Missouri River Recovery Program with a member participating as a committee member and advisor under the local governments member category. The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) met 22-24 May in Sioux Falls, South Dakota to address the status of the recovery program, the proposed recovery actions, and the completion of the Management Plan. The meeting in Sioux Falls was the 41st meeting of the Committee as it continues to review US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and US Fish and Wildlife activities and actions relating to recovery of

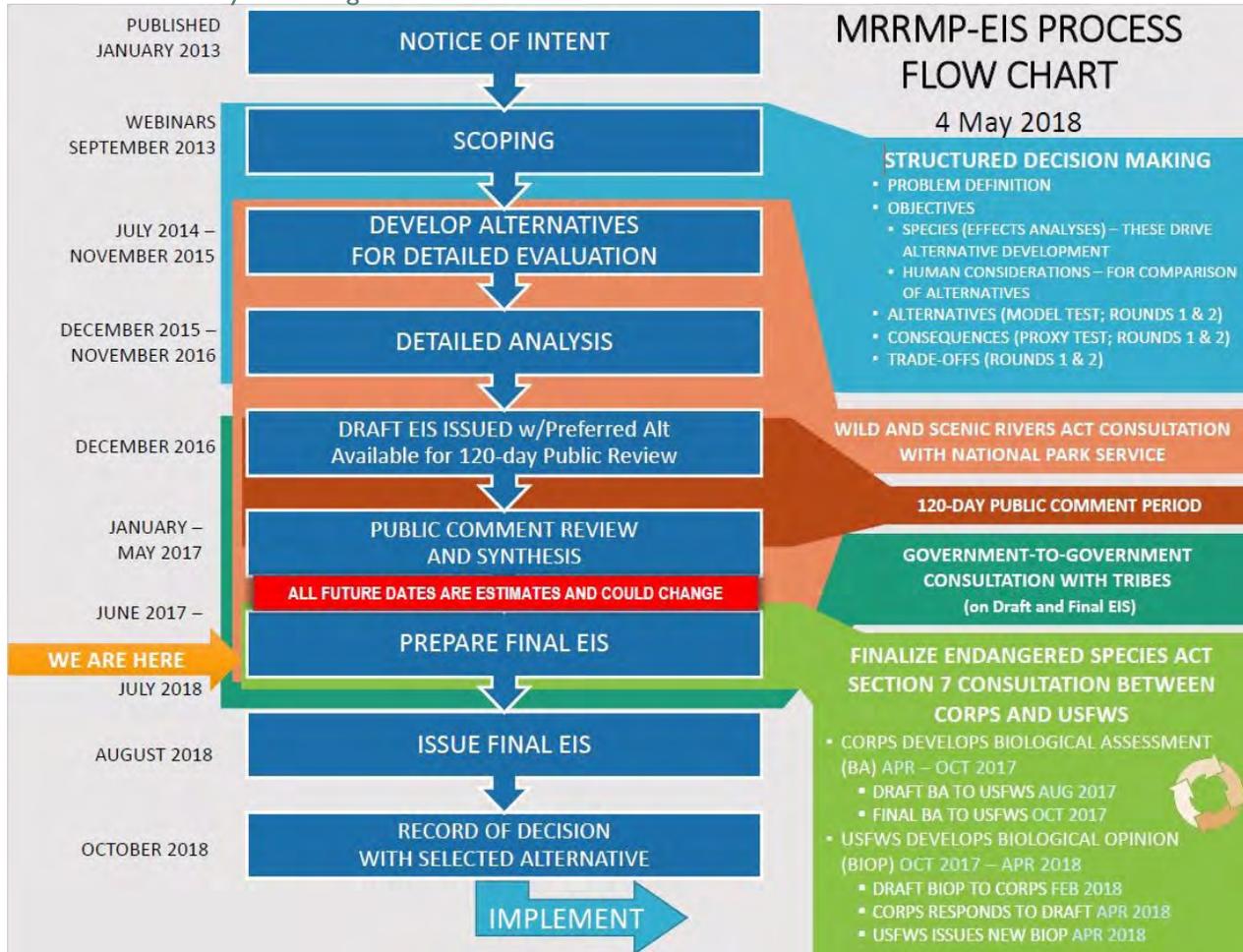
three threatened and endangered species in the Missouri River. MRRIC addressed the draft five-year strategic plan developed by the two agencies. Committee members reviewed approx-

The Record of Decision for the Missouri River Recovery Plan is expected in October 2018

imately 50 recommendations to the draft plan. Recommendations ranged from advising the for greater transparency and outreach to on development of proposed habitat projects, to evaluate the effects of natural high flow events on sturgeon spawning in the

river, to ensure a scientific and systematic approach, and to address impacts on human consideration concerns from recovery actions. MRRIC held a webinar in late June to give final approval to the strategic plan. The Missouri River Management Plan that will drive the recovery program in the future continues to move forward. The Corps remains on track to issue a Record of Decision on the Environmental Impact Statement and Adaptive Management Plan by October 2018. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled to be released 31 August for a 30-day comment period.

Missouri River Recovery Plan Progress



Water Supply Rulemaking Policy Underway

The Corps of Engineers (Corps) continues to develop policies governing water supply uses from Corps facilities pursuant to the Water Supply Act of 1958 and Section 6 of the Flood Control Act of 1944. Water supply concerns within the Missouri River basin and across the nation regarding the Corps policies on surplus waters, surplus water contracts, and water supply pricing resulted in the request by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to initiate Water Supply Rulemaking and relook at water supply policies. The Corps was directed to update and clarify water supply uses and definitions under the two Acts (Sec. 6 of the FCA of 1944 and WSA of 1958). To date the Corps has updated water supply policies and solicited public comments from 16

December 2016 and 16 November 2017. Key features in the proposed policy include the following:

- Explanation of the purpose and scope of the authority including the water supply uses that may be accommodated, and statutory limits on the Corps' authority to include storage for water supply
- Definitions of key statutory terms, including "surplus water"
- Pricing methodologies for surplus water contracts and for water supply storage agreements under the Water Supply Act
- Provisions to simplify and streamline Corps administrative processes for authorizing surplus water withdrawals
- Provisions to clarify the amount of water that may be withdrawn under water supply storage agreements, and procedures to account for water supply uses

- Provisions to ensure coordination of proposed water supply actions with States, Tribes, federal agencies, and the public
- Applies only to federal reservoirs operated by the Corps of Engineers

Several States and public and private water supply entities continue to have concerns regarding the definition of surplus waters, who determines when surplus waters are available and for what time period, the methodology proposed in water supply pricing, and the level of public coordination and consultation when making decisions. At this time the Corps is the determining authority on surplus waters and their availability. Comments submitted by the public regarding these concerns and others are reported under consideration. The tentative schedule for the final rule is January 31, 2019. **MOARC will be supporting the requests for more public involvement in water supply decision making.**

Water Supply Rulemaking

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

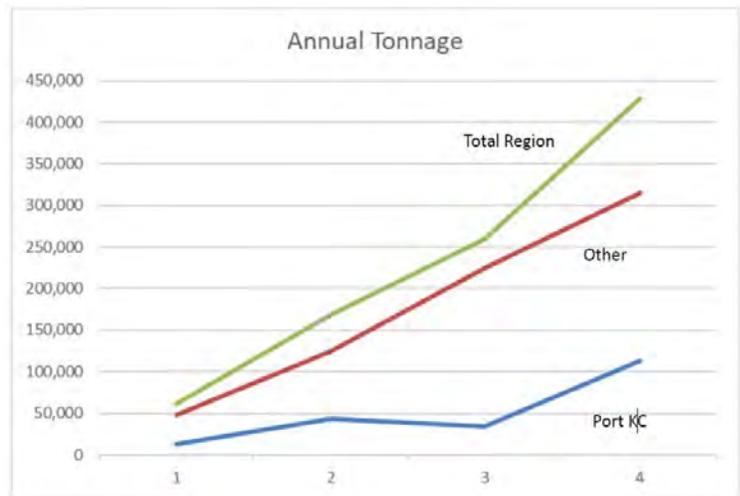
Navigation, Shipping & Trade Missouri River Waterway Transport Update

Shipping on the Missouri River continues to have a great year with expectations in shipping to continue to increase through the year. With flows available from releases of stored waters in upstream reservoirs the navigation season will extend well beyond the Corps navigation support season. Interests in transport by barge and in Port development continue to increase within the region. The committee reports that Central Plains Cement doubled its shipping volumes from Kansas City to Omaha this spring and early summer with the expectation of moving 140K tons of cement product this year alone. Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) continues to export 4 to 6 barges per month from their Walcott KS elevator and Norag (the former Cargill elevator) is now shipping 6 to 8 barges per month from their facility.

Companies like Central Plains Cement and others are looking to ship more by barge as navigable waters are available in the Missouri River through navigation support provided by water releases from upstream projects. Ports along the Missouri River are seeing the results from the increased navigation and transport interest. Port KC alone handled 13.4K tons in May and expects to handle 12K tons transported from the port per month through November of this year. In addition, improvements of the port facilities in St. Joseph have attracted a new operator. The St. Joseph Regional Port Authority recently entered a lease agreement with Transport 360 to operate its Missouri River port. Transport 360, a division of MK Minerals and supplier of bulk lime, is completing facility

improvements at the port in preparation of shipping product. Additional storage facilities to support grain and fertilizer product, as well as, updates to the port office building and rail track repair are underway. Transport 360 hopes to have product flowing through the port facility in July or August 2018. The Committee estimates the total shipping on the Missouri River during 2018 to reach approximately 450,000 tons of materials.

For more information or to get involved, contact Navigation, Shipping & Trade Committee Chair *Richard Grenville* rgrenville@portkc.com.



Communications

MOARC 2018 Communications

The MOARC Communications committee has been active in reaching out to MOARC members and parties interested in the activities and issues within the Kansas and Missouri River basins. We have committed to providing more frequent information to membership through our WATERdrops notes and our Newsletter. Through the WA-



TERdrops notes, MOARC is providing weekly information on issues and activities within the region. The WATERdrops are designed to cover areas of interest for MOARC members. We strive to provide a

quick read for a single and timely topic. In addition, the distribution of MOARC's Quarterly Newsletter (now in its 3rd Quarter) provides and update of those activities, interests and issues that may be pertinent to membership over the previous quarter. The intent of these venues is to inform and educate our membership on activities within the basins. Presently, WATERdrops and the Quarterly Newsletter are distributed to over 450 members and interested parties. If you have an item that may be of interest to others, please send it to Glenda Johnson or to info@moarc.org.

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

Legislative Policy

Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) Update



The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018 continues to work its way through Congress, and MOARC and its partners have been actively working with both the Senate and House committees on legislative language to address water resource issues and opportunities.

The full House of Representatives passed legislation on a WRDA bill entitled “Water Resources Development Act of 2018” on 8 June 2018. The House bill limits specific authorizations including the Kansas City Levees authorization language due to potential earmarks. The bill is waiting on full Senate activity and setting up a conference committee. The Senate committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) introduced bipartisan water resources legislation on 8 May to address the nation’s water resource needs. The legislation, entitled “America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018”, is intended to support the nation’s economic competitiveness by increasing water storage, providing protection from dangerous floodwaters, deepening nationally significant ports, and maintaining the navigability of inland waterways across the country and provides more specific authorizations across the nation. The legislation will also repair aging drinking water, wastewater and irrigation systems.

Within the proposed WRDA bill are projects and language changes advocated by MOARC!

Key elements of WRDA proposed by the House and Senate include:

- The House WRDA bill restricts additional funding of the Missouri River Recovery Program’s construction of additional Interception and Rearing Complexes (IRCs) until they are evaluated. The language places an 18-month time frame for evaluation to show their effectiveness in recovery of the Pallid sturgeon.

- The House bill also limits the application of Section 408 reviews on federal infrastructure
- The Senate proposes expansion of the application of Section 408 reviews on federal infrastructure
- The Senate EPW proposed language for combining previous authorizations of the Kansas City’s Levees into a single authorization to provide for more efficient budgeting and that the project not be subject to a new start decision were included.
- The Senate EPW also included the authorization requested for a study on the function and reliability of the Lower Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation project. The future study would address current effectiveness and future needs within the lower Missouri River and determine additional opportunities for navigation, flood risk, and bank stabilization within the region.
- Both the House and the Senate versions of WRDA would push the Corps of Engineers to fund the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) at authorized limits, raise the authorized limit under each authority (limits differ under each bill), and the total project cost limit under each authority from \$10 million to \$15 million. The change in CAP limits and the intent of Congress to see the program funded at greater levels reflects a greater opportunity for local communities, states and other entities to participate in water resource projects.

WRDA will continue to move slowly through Congress through the fall of 2018. Floor time for the Senate to vote on a bill will be a challenge with needed Senate confirmations and other pending legislation. Presently one Senator has a hold on the bill preventing it from reaching the Senate floor. Conferencing of the House and Senate versions of WRDA are expected to be long and difficult. MOARC continues to monitor the status of WRDA and language important to the region.

Public Proposals for Water Resource Projects; Section 7001 Requests

Congress and the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) provided the opportunity for the public (non-federal interests) to propose new water resource projects or modifications to authorized water resource projects. Section 7001 of Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) 2014 requires that the Secretary of the Army submit an annual report that includes feasibility studies submitted by non-federal interests and proposed modifications to an authorized water resources project. This annual report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development, prepared by the Corps, becomes the basis for projects to be authorized through future Water Resources Development Acts (WRDAs).

A Federal Register Notice (*Federal Register/Vol. 83, No. 77/Friday, April 20, 2018*) was posted starting the 120-day open period for non-Federal interests to submit proposals for future water resource study and project authorities for consideration by Congress. **The deadline for proposals by non-federal interests was 20 August 2018.** Proposed projects must meet specific criteria laid out in the Federal Register for

consideration. Projects submitted through the Corps are reviewed for the criteria prior submittal in the annual report. The Annual report will be submitted to Congress by February 1, 2019 for future consideration.

Stakeholders with water resource issues have been working with the Corps recently to ensure appropriate projects are submitted through Section 7001 for future potential authorization. MOARC has been providing Letters of Support to the stakeholders as part of their submittal packages to the Corps.

The Corps provides a Section 7001 website as a comprehensive reference non-federal interests. It provides the proposal link, history and purpose of Section 7001, FAQs, published reports, presentations, and contact information. The link is: <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Planning/WRRDA-7001-Proposals/>

For more information or to get involved, contact Legislative & Policy Committee Chair *Matt Bond*, matt.bond@kcmo.org

In the News

MOARC Legislative Policy Workshop

Current issues, future directions were a theme for the 2018 MOARC Legislative Policy workshop held at Husch-Blackwell on 31 July. MOARC's Legislative Policy Committee hosted the Policy workshop for MOARC members and interested parties discuss the status of current projects, water resource policy issues, and the policies and projects that would set the direction for MOARC's advocacy role in the near future. The workshop attracted over 30 individuals that included MOARC members, local bi-state government personnel, state water resource and transportation personnel, water supply organizations, congressional office representatives and members of KCIC.

The agenda included technical presentations by Committee Chairs regarding Power, Water Supply, and Permitting issues, the status of Navigation, Shipping and Ports; and on-going Flood Control and Risk Management needs. The intent of the technical sessions was to present the status of activities on the Kansas and Missouri Rivers and known policy issues or impediments to the improvement of infrastructure or impediments to implementation of sound water resource and water and its land related industrial activities. In addition, MOARC covered current legislative efforts, 2018 budget success and 2019 budget needs, and the status of on-going projects and programs (presentation slides can be found at www.moarc.org). Recognition of the importance of sound science-based information in the development and implementation of appropriate policies and regulations that govern water resource development is needed to provide future economic and environmental development within the region.

MOARC is interested in affecting changes in policies and regulations that affect our membership

The second session of the workshop involved breakout sessions by the three technical committees to have interactive discussion on issues and policies (in place or needed) that affect the region and identify those that MOARC needs to focus future advocacy efforts. MOARC is interested in affecting changes in policies and regulations that affect our membership. Output from the breakout sessions were reported back to the Workshop with key issues or actions that need to be brought up to congress and the federal water resource agencies. Key issues brought forward by the technical committees include the following:

Power, Water Supply and Permitting

- Channel degradation impacting water supply intakes continue to be a concern; regional utilities seeing high cost protecting infrastructure
- Thermal permits under 316A and 316B Power Entrapment limiting power plant operations
- Additional stakeholder input regarding human considerations on the Missouri River Recovery Program needed as Adaptive Management decisions are made in the future
- Need of a Water Supply sub-committee to identify and address water supply and permitting issues



Tom Kimes records from the Flood Control and Risk Management breakout group. MOARC members worked together to identify the key policy issues that impact our membership.

Navigation, Shipping and Trade

- Need to stimulate upstream product shipping to continue to improve navigation industry
- Tariff and Trade policies are a concern to the shipping and Port industry
- Improvement in Navigation Aids maintenance to support navigators; USCG needs additional funding to support channel markings and other navigational aids
- Support a Lower Missouri River Basin Navigation study proposed by Port KC

Flood Control and Risk Management

- Continuing requirements placed on levee districts under PL 84-99 program through the Corps' National Levee Safety Program
- Support of proposed Little Blue River Integrated Planning study to address existing and future needs for flood control on the Little Blue River
- Continue to push for WRDA language on Kansas Citys Levees authorization

To see the entire list of issues and actions from the breakout sessions go to www.moarc.org. MOARC will be taking these concerns and issues to congress and the federal agencies during the upcoming Fall Congressional Visit in September.

For more information or to get involved, contact:

Legislative & Policy Committee Chair
Matt Bond, matt.bond@kcmo.org

2018 Civil Works Work Plan Continues Improvement of Regional Flood Control

Funding successes for flood control in the region in 2018 began with Congress recognizing the importance of the Civil Works program and funding needed to meet important regional and national projects. MOARC applauded the efforts of Congress as they significantly increased the Civil Works budget of the US Army Corps of Engineers in 2018. The Supplemental budget under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (see page 1) has enhanced the region's ability to address flood risks issues with additional 2018 funding.

The 2018 Civil Works Work Plan released in June identified water resource projects and programs to be funded under the 2018 budget. MOARC has been working with the Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Congressional offices to ensure the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) understood the importance of regional flood control projects and the need to address future opportunities in water resource development.

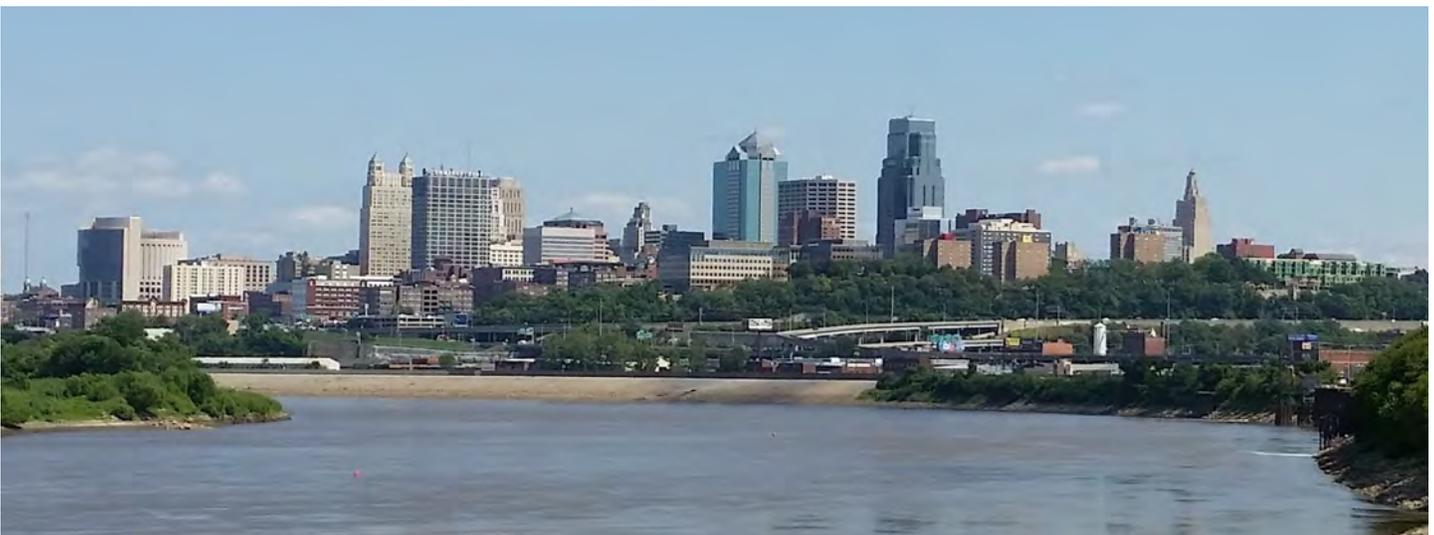
The 2018 budget, passed by Congress and signed by the President on 23 March, is finally allocated to fund projects through 1 October 2018. The Corps has distributed funding to the Kansas City District for the projects MOARC and the regional partners and sponsors have been advocating to complete regional integrated flood protection. Regional projects funded under the Work Plan include the locations in the table to the right.

With these regional program successes, there are priority projects that did not get funded in 2018. Requested projects not funded in the Work Plan were the Upper Turkey Creek PED and the Kansas River Basin new start study. Congress directed the Corps to fund six new start water resource projects in 2018

- **Swope Park Industrial Area** construction - \$14,482,000 in funds are provided for construction of Swope Park Industrial Area. The \$14.5 million will complete Swope Park Industrial Area construction to completion. The projected schedule for completion is in 2021.
- **Manhattan Levees** design - \$1,120,000 in funds are provided to initiate the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED). The Manhattan Levees project has been awaiting design funding since its authorization in 2016. Additional PED funds will be required in the 2019 Civil Works budget.
- **Grand River Basin** Feasibility Study - \$1,000,000 in funds are provided to continue the Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study is expected to be completed in 2020 and eligible for authorization in a future 2020 Water Resource Development Act (WRDA).
- **Kansas City Levees** design funds – funding requests for design funds were not needed as Kansas City District was able to fund the design needs through unutilized program funds.
- **Missouri River Operations and Maintenance** - \$8,964,000 in funds are provided to continue operations of the Missouri River Bank Stabilization Project from Sioux City to the mouth.
- **Missouri River Recovery Program** - \$30,000,000 in funds are provided to continue efforts within the Integrated Science Program, funding of MRRIC, funding of the Yellowstone Intake project, and funding development of Interception Rearing Complex habitat for Pallid sturgeon and Emergent Sandbar Habitat for the Interior least tern and Piping plover.

with MOARC and KCIC working with Congress to have the Kansas River Basin as one of those new start projects. We will continue to work with the Corps and Congress to ensure

this new start is recognized along with continued design and construction funds for ongoing 2019 projects in the congressional budget and Corps 2019 Work Plan.



In the News

Corps of Engineers Change of Command – Northwestern Division

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

Brigadier General Peter Helmlinger assumed command of the Northwestern Division office of the US Army Corps of Engineers on 27 July 2018. BG Helmlinger succeeds Colonel Torrey A. DiCiro who assumed command of the division following the reassignment of Maj. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon to the Corps' headquarters in May. Helmlinger will oversee a 5,000-member workforce and a multi-billion annual program in civil works, military construction and environmental restoration that spans 14 states throughout the Columbia and Missouri River basins. These activities are implemented through five operating districts in Portland, Oregon, Seattle and Walla Walla, Washington, Kansas City, Missouri, and Omaha, Nebraska. Prior to assuming Command of the Northwestern Division, he served as commander for the Corps' South Pacific Division, headquartered in San Francisco from 2016 to 2018. BG Helmlinger received his commission with the Corps of Engineers after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1988 and received a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. He also holds a Master of Science in civil engineering (Construction Engineering and Management) from Stanford University and a Master of Science in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.



MG Todd Semonite, USACE Commander, passes the Northwestern Division flag to Commander BG Peter Helmlinger

MOARC looks forward to meeting and working with BG Helmlinger on Kansas and Missouri River basin issues and needs. We will look for opportunities to show off the efforts and successes of the partnerships of the region and with the Corps of Engineers.

National Flood Insurance Program Funding Extended

The National Flood Insurance Program, under reauthorization, was extended for six months through November 2018. Authorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) ran through 2017 and requires reauthorization to continue the program. In 1968, Congress created the NFIP to provide a means for property owners to financially protect themselves from flooding. The flood insurance program was motivated by the devastating loss of life and property by Hurricane Betsy in 1965. The program aimed to reduce the impact of flooding by providing affordable insurance to property owners, renters and businesses and by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations to mitigate the effects of flooding on new and improved structures. The NFIP recently celebrated its 50th anniversary of providing financial protection from flood events.

Developed in 1968, the NFIP was reauthorized in 2012 under the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act through 2017. Over the last year (2017) both the House and the Senate introduced reauthorization bills, but these bills remain under review within the House Financial Services and the Senate Banking Committees. As a stopgap in the insurance program, Congress passed an amendment to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize the NFIP for an additional six months. The President signed the legislation on July 31, 2018 that extends the NFIP's authorization through November 30, 2018. The flood

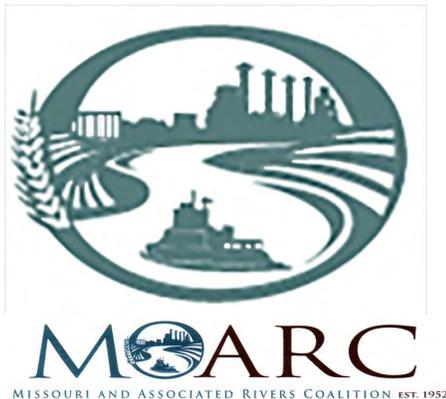
insurance program will again run out and Congress will need to reauthorize the NFIP no later than 11:59 EST November 30th.

MOARC met with FEMA during the Spring Congressional Visit to discuss the needs of the program and its importance to property owners within the region. We will discuss the need for reauthorization when we meet with the congressional delegation during the Fall Congressional Visit in September.



Proposed Civil Works Restructuring

The Administration, as part of its “Delivering Government Solutions in the 21st Century, Reform Plan and Reorganization Recommendations” (www.performance.gov), is proposing the merging of the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Civil Works with the Department of Transportation (DOT) or the Department of Interior (Interior). The Army Corps Civil Works program has three primary missions: commercial (coastal and inland) navigation, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and flood control and storm damage reduction.



Specific recommendations affecting navigation include moving the Corps dredging and commercial navigation functions from the Army Corps in the Department of Defense into DOT. One driver for change is consolidation of landside and waterside port investments, which are currently separately administered by DOT and the Corps, respectively. According to the plan this reform would “leverage DOT’s expertise in infrastructure and make DOT’s maritime responsibilities analogous to its role in other transportation sectors.”

The “new plan” views the role of Interior as related to that of the Corps’ Civil Works, and hence as a basis for change. Interior administers various land, water, and natural resource management programs, some that interface with or have similarity to Corps activities. MOARC with six decades of water and related land resources management know first-hand the vast differences between these agencies, their programs and approaches—and those far outweigh the similarities. Environmental permitting and ecological restoration compose the complementary efforts of Interior and the Corps of Engineers.

Under the restructuring proposal flood control and storm damage reduction could also be moved to Interior. Although the intent to integrate and align water resources programs is a worthy goal, consideration must also be given to an agency’s primary function and capabilities. Floods have long-been recognized as a threat to national security. For more than a century the Corps has strived to defend our nation against widespread floods like those in the lower Mississippi River basin. Since 1936 the Corps has been tasked by Congress with help-

The predictable and almost certain outcome is largely diminished investment in building and maintaining infrastructure, and even more burdensome regulations. What’s needed is streamlined contracting, better options for stakeholder implementation, and infrastructure projects and repairs done faster

ing communities reduce flood damages through local flood protection works—a program that has directly led to the protection of people, property and productivity throughout the Missouri River and Mississippi River basin systems and has averted more than a trillion dollars in flood damages. This mission is not one that can be readily or effectively transferred to a department with neither a focus on defense and national security, nor on managing flood risk.

MOARC working in partnership with the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association (MVFCA) respect the laudable intent of improved performance from our federal partners; however, we do not see that being achieved through consolidation of the Corps’ flood control mission into Interior—a move quite likely to sink the local flood protection program. The predictable and almost certain outcome is largely diminished investment in building and maintaining infrastructure, and even more burdensome regulations. What’s needed is streamlined contracting, better options for stakeholder implementation, and infrastructure projects and repairs done faster (perhaps using Federal granting procedures, such as those employed by FEMA). Flood protection is cru-

cial to communities throughout Kansas and Missouri River; cities, like St. Joseph, MO, Topeka and Manhattan, KS, Kansas City, MO and KS, and many others depend on it. Local sponsors seeking to invest in flood control infrastructure need a federal partner on their side that understands the importance of protecting communities and helps get sensible requirements that can be implemented in concert with, and not instead of, flood control and storm damage reduction.



Recently the Administration issued a memo directing the Army and the Corps of Engineers to:

- convene a team to commence planning for the reorganization,
- engage with the Departments of Interior and Transportation to prepare for the transfer of functions and responsibilities, work with OMB to ensure DOD equities are addressed in the final transfer order, and
- conduct an external review to assess how USACE can be more effective and efficient after the reorganization.

As with any proposed change in the nation’s administrative structure, new legislation will be required. MOARC along with MVFCA will be working with Congress to ensure the primary mission elements managed by the Corps of Engineers are maintained and oversight of civil works by Congress, as well as, streamlined to make the civil works program move efficient and effective in meeting the needs of the people within the region.

In the News

Remembering the Great Flood of 1993

High water marks in people's lives are typically those good events in time. However, the high water mark on the Missouri River for the flood of 1993 was not one of those. On July 27th, we commemorated the 25th anniversary of the 1993 flood high water mark in Kansas City. We remember the devastation it reaped on the region while noting how far the region has come in better managing and reducing its flood risk.

Widely known as The Great Flood of 1993, the event, at the time it occurred, constituted the most costly and devastating flood to ravage the United States in modern history. It was the worst flooding in our region since 1951 – a Kansas River event that gave rise to formation of MOARC by regional stakeholders. In The Great Flood levees were breached; farmland, town, and transportation routes were destroyed; many thousands of people were forced to abandon their homes; and 47 people died.

The Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, reported that the flood caused enormous human suffering. At least 75 towns were completely inundated, some of which have not been rebuilt. The Great Flood of 1993 submerged more than 31,000 square miles in nine states. Approximately 54,000 people had to be evacuated and approximately 50,000 homes were damaged or destroyed.

While losses were great, and damages estimated at over \$15 billion, the levees and other flood control efforts prevented another \$20 billion in damages dollars. MOARC along with its partners in the Kansas, Missouri and Mississippi River basins want to recognize this devastating event by remembering what was lost,



Aerial view of the Missouri River flooding on July 30, 1993, in the vicinity of Cedar City and Jefferson City Memorial Airport immediately north of Jefferson City, Missouri, looking south.

but also what might have been without an ongoing commitment to flood control and risk management.

For more than four decades prior to the 1993 Flood, and in the 25 years since, MOARC and its partners have been working with the Corps of Engineers and our Congressional delegations to address flood control needs in our region. Great strides have been taken to protect people property and productivity in our region. With the ongoing support of our members, and the cooperation of our partners, we will continue to work toward the goal of an integrated flood control system within both the Missouri and Kansas basins.

Projects to reduce the risk of a similar catastrophic flood within the Kansas City metropolitan area are close to reality. With the

recent completion of the Blue River Channel and the Topkea Levees; as well as the appropriation of federal funds to complete the Dodson Industrial District, Swope Park Industrial Area, Turkey Creek Basin, and now under the Supplemental funding bill, Kansas City Levees; and the upcoming construction of the St Joseph Levees and the start of design on the Manhattan Kansas Levees; more of this important work will soon be underway. While the Great Flood of 1993 is long past, its impacts on our community are lasting. This anniversary reminds us that Kansas Citians and their neighbors, working in partnerships and cooperation with others, can roll up our sleeves, get done what needs to be done, and make our region more safe and resilient to flooding.

National Public Radio Reaches Out to MOARC



KCUR, Kansas City's National Public Radio, reached out to MOARC and USACE to speak on flooding in Kansas City. KCUR's Up To Date guest host Brian Ellison

hosted a live broadcast interviewing MOARC president Tom Poer and USACE Plan Formulation Chief John Grothaus on "Twenty-five years after the "Great Flood of 1993," is Kansas City any safer?" The broadcast was held in the new Monticello branch of the Johnson County Library and discussed progress we have made over the past 25 years, but recognized that there is still much work to be done to buy down risk to an acceptable level for our community.



KCUR guest host Brian Ellison interviews Tom Poer, MOARC (left) and John Grothaus, USACE (right).

For the broadcast, see the following link: [KCUR 25-years after the Great Flood of 1993](#)



MOARC's Spring Visit to Congress laid out the budget needs for civil works projects within the region for 2018 and 2019. The messages included (1) a push back to the President's 2019 budget that severely limited the civil works water resource budget nationally; (2) the continued design and construction of on-going projects across the Kansas and Missouri River basins; and (3) the need to add language directing the Administration to initiate additional new water resource studies. We are pleased and fully supportive that both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees rejected the President's budget and have advanced robust funding for the US Army Corps of Engineers civil works program.

The House Committee's fiscal year 2019 energy and water bill provides \$7.28 billion for the civil works program, compared to the current year funding is \$6.83 billion and the Administration's proposed funding of \$4.78 billion. The House bill provides \$3.3 billion for navigation studies and projects, including \$1.6 billion from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) and full use of revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF). Flood and storm damage reduction (flood control) would be funded at \$2.1 billion. In-

vestigations would be funded at \$128 million to allow for on-going studies and design compared to the \$82 million in the Presidents' budget. On-going Construction of water resource projects will be funded at \$2.32 billion with Operation and Maintenance at \$3.82 billion. As in the 2018 budget, the Committee calls for six new starts in Investigations and five new Construction starts. The directive in the budget requires the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA (CW)) to start new studies for continued water resource development in the national pipeline.



The Senate Committee's FY19 bill provides a slightly lower amount at \$6.9 billion but at \$2.1 billion above the President's budget for civil works. At the time of this post, full details were not yet available. Operations and Maintenance would increase \$100 million over the FY18 funding level of \$3.7 billion (\$1.66 million above the President's budget), with

Construction \$76 million over the FY18 level of \$2.08 billion. The Investigations account would be funded similarly as the House recommendation at \$123 million for on-going studies. The Senate bill also calls for six new construction starts, and seven new study starts to be determined by the ASA (CW).

MOARC supported the push back of a proposed user fee on the navigation communities use of inland locks and dams. The Senate bill rejected the proposed user fee to be paid by commercial operators on the inland waterways that was proposed in the President's FY19 budget request. The budgeting process continues when the House and Senate find time to conference on the budget to address differences in the two committee submittals and have final votes for the 2019 appropriations to be signed by the President.

Time is short for budget passing to meet the new fiscal year (1 October) and the remaining 2018 session of congress. Expectations are low for movement on the budget until after the November elections.

Senate bill text and additional details will be made available at: appropriations.senate.gov
The House bill text and the Committee report can be viewed here: appropriations.house.gov

Partner Perspective

Tom Schrempp, retired from WaterOne and past MOARC President and Director

Looking back on a quarter century of MOARC involvement, I have had to opportunity to see its involvement with a broad scope of partners. MOARC has always managed to keep a positive relationship with the Corps of Engineers while giving strong feedback to them on the needs of MOARC's members. From meetings on the Annual Operating Plan, input on the Master Manual, chartering the MRRIC and stay-

"It has been extremely gratifying to see sound policy being moved forward based on MOARC's input."

ing involved with MRRIC, to coordinating communications with our congressional delegation, MOARC has remained close with the Corps. While MOARC has had tremendous involvement in the Flood Control Projects in the Missouri River Basin, coordinating the efforts of Cities, Counties, Levee Districts, Farmers, and States to obtain authorization and funding, my interests through WaterOne have particularly been with water quality and quantity of drinking water sources on the Missouri

and Kansas Rivers. When channel degradation began to threaten water intakes for power plants and water utilities along with other infrastructure, we were able to form a partnership with Mid-America Regional Council and many state and local entities to get studies done to shed light on the problem. MOARC has worked closely with the states to ensure the downstream basin interests on the Missouri River are protected. We are seeing the barge traffic beginning to redevelop after the set backs experienced in the 1990's and 2000's due to droughts and litigation. MOARC has been able to reach out to other agencies like the Coast Guard, the National Weather Service, FEMA, US Fish & Wildlife, the National Parks Service and the US Environmental Protection Service to stay informed on issues that impact our region and to provide them input on the region's needs. It has been extremely gratifying to see sound policy being moved forward based on MOARC's input. I was pleased see MOARC's 401(c)3 partner organization re-named to the MOARC Education Foundation which should provide for future opportunities

to develop additional educational and public outreach programs that benefit the region. I see a bright future for MOARC as it moves forward with the agenda developed with input from participants in its recent Policy Workshop. I have appreciated the opportunity I have had to be a part of this great organization.





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



Missouri River System Status and Flow Forecast

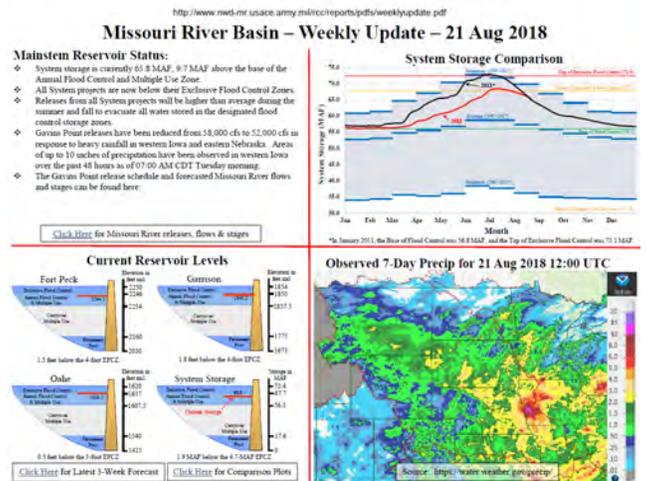
Flows of the Missouri River have been high throughout the 2018 flood season challenging management of the upstream mainstem reservoirs and their releases to the lower basin while providing reliable navigation waters for the Missouri River navigation industry. Water management in the system has been challenged by heavy mountain snowpack and high snowpack in the plains within the Missouri River basin. Higher-than-average runoff from snowmelt and rainfall within the upper basin have kept the mainstem reservoirs at storage levels within the flood control pool and into the exclusive flood zone throughout 2018 (May to present).

The Corps of Engineers (Corps) water management offices continue to report high storage levels in upstream reservoirs at the flood exclusion zone but with levels slowly declining. The Corps reports plans to maintain higher-than-average releases from all System projects, including Gavins Point, through the summer and fall. Releases from Gavins Point Dam averaged 49,600 cfs during July, ranging from 26,000 to 58,000 cfs. For the remainder of the Corps supported navigation season year (i.e., that portion of the year when flow targets are supported with flows from the main stem dams) releases will remain near 58,000 cfs to ensure evacuation of all stored flood waters prior to next year's runoff season.

The runoff forecast in the Missouri River Basin above Sioux City, Iowa, continues to be higher than normal with the forecast of 39.8 million-acre feet (MAF), 157 percent of average according to the Corps. The observed July runoff was 155 percent of normal. System reservoir storage was 67.4

MAF as of August 1, occupying 11.3 MAF of the 16.3 MAF flood control zone. "System storage peaked on July 8 at 68.4 MAF and is gradually declining. The Corps' water management division out of Omaha reports that approximately 30 percent of the System's flood storage remains available to capture runoff from late summer rainfall events. Evacuation of reservoirs continues to provide flexibility to lessen downstream flooding should large rainfall events occur anywhere in the basin. The Corps continues to monitor basin and river conditions, including rainfall and mountain snowmelt, and will adjust the regulation of the System based on the most up-to-date information. MOARC continues to monitor flow releases from the upper basin mainstem reservoir system to the lower basin and its effect on the interests and economy of the region and MOARC membership.

Weekly updates on basin conditions, reservoir levels and other topics of interest can be viewed here: <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/reports/pdfs/>



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 fall Quarterly Newsletter (December) will provide a report to the membership on the results of the MOARC's membership drive and Missouri River basin partnership outreach efforts. In addition, the newsletter will provide updates on the development of the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 2018), implementation of the Supplemental budget in support of Kansas City Levees, feedback from the Fall Congressional Visit, and the status of the 2019 Civil Works

budget and what it provides to MOARC stakeholders. Please look forward to the December Newsletter and send items you think would be of interest to the membership to MOARC at info@moarc.org.

