



TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY

June 2015

NEWSLETTER

1-888-TENN-TOM

COUNCIL BOARD AND USERS MEETING

A meeting of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council was held at 10:00 am on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at the Lions Hill Country Club. Approximately 30 Board members and users were in attendance.

Election of Officers:

Kevin Stafford was elected to the Board and Treasurers position, Will Sanders and Chad Robertson were elected to the Board and Craig Stepan was elected to the President position.

The agenda included presentations from Rick Saucer, USACE-Mobile District and Don Getty from the Nashville District on the Fulton Lock and Dam repair project and the current status of construction and funding activities for the Kentucky Lock and Dam and Chickamauga Lock. Mr. Bryan Hunt, Logistics Manager-SEACOR, gave an update on their plans for a shipment of Tronox containers from Port Lucas in late May and on their intention to establish a regular weekly container on barge movement between Mobile and the Tenn-Tom.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FY 2016

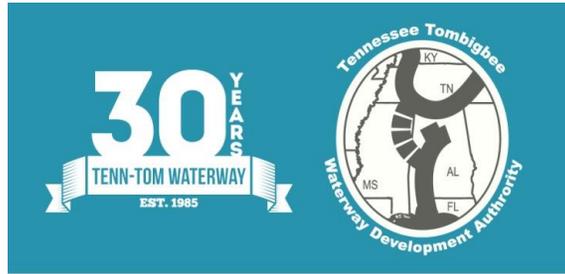
On May 22, 2015, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted 26-4 to increase the Corps Civil Works Program to \$5.49 billion, well above the \$4.7 billion in the proposed Administration budget. If approved, the new budget would increase construction funding to 1.639 billion and increase the Inland Waterway Trust Fund.

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE

Our 33rd Annual Opportunities Conference is planned for August 25-27, 2015 at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama. We have an interesting and diverse program planned that will include presentations by prominent National and Regional leaders, our customary partner presentations, a panel discussion on the Tenn-Tom ports and their expansion plans, a review of the NSPARC Tenn-Tom Impact Study, an economic development session and a look back at the thirty year history of our Waterway.

FULTON LOCK and DAM REPAIRS

The final dates for the quoin and miter block resurfacing on the Fulton gates have been set for August 6-20, 2015. The closure was set back from mid-July to allow CEMEX the time to build a concrete distribution stockpile in Nashville from their Demopolis, Alabama facilities. All industrial and commercial navigation interests were given the opportunity to evaluate the closure window and provide their input and concerns. When completed, this repair will complete the resurfacing program for all the Tenn-Tom locks. There are no scheduled waterway closures for at least the next two years.



Tenn- Tom Waterway Celebrating 30th Anniversary

In the April 20, 2015 edition of The Waterways Journal, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway was featured noting their 30th Anniversary. Please take a moment to read this article on this memorable event. The website is www.waterwaysjournal.net

IN MEMORIAM



US Representative Alan Nunnelee passed away on Friday, February 6, 2015 in his hometown of Tupelo, Mississippi following a lengthy struggle with multiple health related problems. Congressman Nunnelee served the citizens of Mississippi's 1st District since his election in 2010 and was a member of the House Appropriations Committee and Vice Chairman of that panel's Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies.

Prior to his election to Congress, Representative Nunnelee served in the Mississippi Senate for fifteen years, eventually chairing their Senate Appropriations Committee. He was a great supporter of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and a devoted servant of the people of Mississippi and will be greatly missed by all whose

lives he touched.

Terry W. Brown Bridge Dedication

Gov. Phil Bryant signed the bill renaming the bridge over the Highway 82 Tenn-Tom Waterway in Columbus in memory of the late Sen. Terry W. Brown on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at the Mississippi State Capitol in the office of Governor Phil Bryant.



**From left: Col. Nick Ardillo, Mrs. Andra Brown, Sen. Chuck Younger, Gov. Phil Bryant,
Mr. Cody Brown, and Mr. Bud Phillips**

National Waterways Foundation Memo

A comprehensive two year study entitled “Inland Navigation in the United States” has recently been released by the National Waterways Foundation. The ninety six page study conducted by experts from the University of Kentucky, the University of Tennessee, the Huntington Engineer District and several other individual partners noted that the 12,000 miles of navigable waters in the US touch on thirty eight (38) states and annually transport over 565 million tons of freight with a value in excess of \$224 billion.

The study also touts the broader economic benefits of continued navigation infrastructure modernization. Beyond yielding generations of new freight capacity, those benefits include the creation of 12,000 full time jobs with an annual payroll in excess of \$500 million. Website: www.nationalwaterwaysfoundation.org

PROPOSED CAWA BUDGET REDUCTION

The Governor's proposed FY 16 budget included level funding for the Coalition of Alabama Waterways Association but, the Alabama General Fund Appropriations report reflects a 50% reduction in the \$198, 594.00 CAWA funding. CAWA representatives have met several times with members of the General Fund Committees in an effort to convince the members of the vital role of the Alabama waterway associations and the need to retain level funding.

On April 13, 2015, Jimmy Lyons wrote to Arthur Orr and Steve Clouse, General Fund Chairs of the Senate and House Committees urging them to lead the effort to continue full support of the Associations citing the importance of the 69,539,000 tons of annual waterborne commerce to the Port Authority and to the State of Alabama as a whole.

Since Governor Bentley has vetoed the budget it is unlikely that a final resolution will be reached in the near future..

Inland Waterways User Board

Group photo of Inland Waterway Users Board, US Army Corps of Engineers and Waterway Users and Association representatives taken at Oliver Lock and Dam during the Black Warrior Lock tour that was part of the February 24 & 25 Inland Waterway Users Board meeting held in Birmingham, Alabama.



PANAMA CANAL UPDATE

The Panama Canal expansion or third set of locks project will double the capacity of the Panama Canal. The project will create a new three chambered lock on both the Atlantic and Pacific sides, excavate new channels, widen and deepen existing channels and raise the maximum operating level of Gatun Lake to allow large vessels to transit the canal.

Currently Panamax vessels drawing 40 feet of water are the largest ships that can transit the 110 foot wide locks. The new locks can accommodate vessels at 60 foot draft with overall lock dimensions of 180 x 1200 plus feet.

Mr. Gorge L. Quijano, CEO of the Panama Canal Authority, recently announced the anticipated canal opening for second quarter 2016.



Appalachian Regional Commission U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

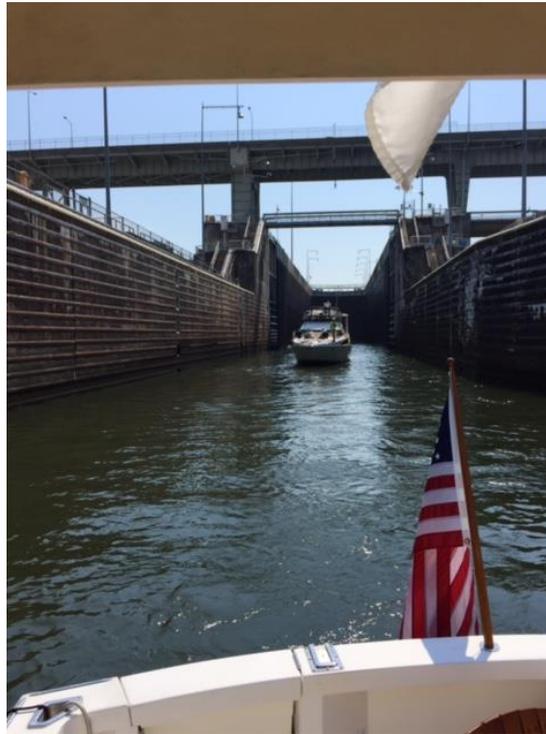


From left: Craig Stepan, Greg Manus, U.S. Army Corps in New Orleans, Justin Carlson, USACE – Huntington, WV, Sandra Perkins, ARC – MS, Mike Armour, ARC – MS, Dedra Burke, USACE New Orleans, Patrick Donovan, USACE Huntington, WV, Dr. Mark Burton, University of Tennessee, Kim Graham, Port of Itawamba, Scott Hercik, ARC- Washington, DC.

On May 3-6, 2015 Representatives of the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Army Corp of Engineers in New Orleans and Huntington, WV completed a comprehensive tour of the port facilities on the Tenn- Tom between Yellow Creek and

Columbus, MS. The tour was an excellent opportunity for these Tenn-Tom partners to see the MS Silicon plant and the industrial development sites in Burnsville, MS, to see the intermodal capabilities at Fulton and Lucas Ports and to get a current update on development plans in Amory, Aberdeen and Columbus. The group plans to present their findings and recommendations at our opportunities conference in August.

CHICKAMAUGA LOCK TOUR



On Saturday June 6, 2015 members of the Tenn Tom Waterway Development Authority Board completed a tour of the Chickamauga Lock and Dam from the water. Pictured above is one of the tour watercraft completing a locking. The Board has written a letter in support of construction funding for the new lock.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

TENN-TOM IMPACT STUDY UPDATE

The National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center of Mississippi State University continues to work toward completion of the first draft of the TTW Impact Study. The study will include sections covering commercial navigation, water usage and recreation as well as a comprehensive analysis of the overall economic impacts and return on investment numbers for the waterway. Rick Saucer from the Tenn-Tom Corps office is providing the data for navigation and recreational uses and Mark Burton from the University of Tennessee Transportation center is providing the National data and trends and the overarching transportation context. We expect to have the draft during the first half of June. Mimmo Parisi, the head of NSPARC is slated to deliver a presentation on the final study results at our August Opportunities Conference.

G&G STEEL INSTALLS 400 TON CRANE. G&G Steel Mississippi Works has installed a 400 ton bridge crane as part of a recent fabrication shop expansion. The total weight of the crane is 450,000 pounds. The new building is 85' high.

The company has invested over \$12 million in three expansions and employs approximately 50 people.



Gov. Phil Bryant names Glenn McCullough, Jr. as MDA Executive Director



Governor Phil Bryant named Glenn McCullough Jr. as executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority. Bryant made the announcement at the 66th annual meeting of the Mississippi Economic Council. 'McCullough is the former chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, former director of the Appalachian Regional Commission and former mayor of Tupelo, MS. During his tenure at TVA, the utility earned national recognition for its economic development efforts and achieved record goals for capital investment and job growth.

STEEL DYNAMICS



Steel Dynamics, Inc. recently announced a \$100 million expansion of its' Columbus, Mississippi plant. The expansion includes the addition of painting and galvanizing capability and will add 40 new jobs to the current payroll of 630 employees.

MISSISSIPPI SILICON



Construction of the \$385 million Mississippi Silicon Plant in Burnsville, MS is proceeding as scheduled. The first of two electric arc furnaces is scheduled to commence production in August of this year.



Aerial view of the Burnsville Industrial Park. Mississippi Silicon plant is under construction on Lot#1. The remaining sites have utilities installed and are ready for immediate development.

LUCAS PORT CONTAINER ON BARGE



On Friday May 22, 2015, SEACOR AMH began regular container service from the Raymond Lucas Port at MB 338.5 on the Tenn-Tom to the APM Terminal Facility at the Port of Mobile. This much anticipated intermodal shipping operation is expected to result in the annual shipment of over 12,000 containers to and from the Tenn-Tom region. The current operation involves the handling of containerized freight for Tronox but SEACOR expect to move cargo for Weyerhaeuser, Steel Dynamics and the Yokohama Tire Company in the near future.

Barges of containers will depart Mobile on Tuesday morning, arrive at Lucas Port on Fridays, pick up loads and return to Mobile in a weekly cycle.

USCG SECTOR MOBILE

CHANGE OF COMMAND



A Change of Command ceremony was held in Mobile on Thursday, May 21, 2015. Rear Admiral David Callahan, Commander Eighth Coast Guard District presided. Captain Duke Walker retired from active duty after twenty- eight years of service and Captain Joseph Snowden was given orders to become the latest Commander of Sector Mobile.

You will have the opportunity to meet Captain Snowden as he will be attending and speaking at our August Conference

TRENT KELLY ELECTED TO CONGRESS



Republican Trent Kelly was elected to serve the citizens of Mississippi's First Congressional District in a special-election runoff held on Tuesday June 2, 2015. Kelly received over 70% of the popular vote in his quest to fill the vacant seat of Rep. Alan Nunnelee who died of cancer last February.

Kelly, a district attorney serving approximately one-third of the First Congressional District, is expected to continue the strong traditional support of industrial and economic efforts in the region which includes the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.



Governor Steven Beshear has appointed **Dr. Joe Ellis** of Benton, Kentucky as a member of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority.

[News about Members](#)

Paducah McCracken Announces New Executive Director



The Board of Directors of the Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority has announced the selection of William Miller as the new Executive Director effective June 1, 2015. He will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of long time Executive Director Ken Canter.

Mr. Miller has extensive maritime experience negotiating and administering contracts for more than fifty ports in sixteen countries. He has a wealth of experience in helping underperforming operations return to profitability and has been successful in expanding revenue through creative business development solutions. He is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University with a B. S. in Accounting and a minor in Business Administration.

Miller and his wife have three children and plan to make their home in Paducah in the next few weeks once the children complete the school year in Camden, NC.

KEN CANTER RETIREMENT



Mr. Ken Canter, former Chair of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council, retired from his position as Executive Director of the Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority on Friday June 5, 2015. Ken began his career over forty years ago as an employee of Herbert Materials, where he began his life long relationship with marine transportation that included a series of positions with Ingram industries and finally led him to the Riverport Authority in 1993. He was named Executive Director in 2001. With Ken's leadership the Port has experienced a five fold increase in tonnage shipped annually and has acquired a \$4.5 million flat top crane that has established the Port as a major player in the container and heavy lift business.

Ken carries with him the best wishes and congratulations from his many friends in the navigation and port business as he looks forward to the next phase of his life.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



These are certainly challenging times for the Tenn Tom and the inland navigation industry as a whole. Our industry is struggling to secure adequate funding to maintain an aging navigation infrastructure in the face of shifting and uncertain National priorities while continuing to attempt to educate industry and decision makers about the value of the marine transportation system. The facts are a reminder of the urgency of our efforts.

- The US inland navigation system moves approximately 885 million tons of domestic cargo annually. Traffic is projected to increase by 61% by 2040 and current unscheduled lock outages already cost \$385 million per year.
- 65% of our USACE dams are over thirty years old and nearly half that number have surpassed their intended fifty year life.
- The USACE Civil Works Program creates an annual estimated National Economic Development net benefit of \$87.1 billion that results in a 16 to 1 return in terms of overall economic benefits and a 5 to 1 return in direct revenue to the Treasury. Despite this, investment in existing and future water related infrastructure remains far too low.

In the recreation area, the 4,933 USACE recreation sites in forty three States are underfunded and forced to operate on limited hours despite the fact that they support 270,000 full and part time jobs and generate over \$18 billion annually in trips and durable goods sales. Closer to home, the Tenn Tom is struggling to continue the recovery of our traditional tonnage levels that will allow us to remain a moderate use waterway, open on the 24/7 basis that is essential to our ongoing economic development efforts.

While your continuing support and hard work are acknowledged and appreciated, we must all commit ourselves to greater effort on behalf of our Nations and this regions valuable marine transportation assets.

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway | PO Drawer 671, Columbus, MS 39703
Phone: 888-896-6866 | Fax: 662-328-0363 | Web: www.tenntom.org

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

. August 25 – 27, 2015 • **Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Opportunities Conference**. Marriott Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama. Contact: ttw@tenntom.org or call TTW (888) TENNTOM; internet www.tenntom.org

September 9 – 11, 2015 * **Alabama Water Resources Symposium and Conference**, Perdido Beach Resort and Convention Center, Orange Beach, Alabama

September 16 – 18, 2015 • **National Waterways Conference**, Little Rock Marriott. Contact: NWC, Phone (703) 224-8007

October 19 – 21, 2015 • **Alabama-Mississippi Rural Tourism Conference**, Joe Wheeler State Park, Rogersville, Alabama. Contact: ttw@tenntom.org or call (662) 328-8936.

Tennessee – Tombigbee Waterway Development Opportunities Conference

Marriott's Grand Hotel
August 25-27, 2015
Point Clear, Alabama

Make your room reservations by calling (800) 544-9933 and ask for the Tenn-Tom block of rooms using code TTAA. Rate: \$145.00
Reservation for the Conference can be made by calling (662) 328-3286 or email: azaiontz@tenntom.org. Forms can be found on our website: www.tenntom.org