

Administrator Sought

The Tenn-Tom Authority is seeking qualified candidates for its administrator's position, who will also serve as president of the waterway council. Those vacancies are due to the resignation of Bruce Windham who suffered a stroke on September 22nd. He is at home recovering and with therapy and rehabilitation he is expected to fully recover. The job notice is shown below. Please forward it to anyone who may have an interest in the position and meets those stated qualifications. Applications will be accepted until December 1. Plans are to have someone on board by early next year.

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority, headquartered in Columbus, MS, seeks an administrator to lead its programs and activities. The Authority is an interstate compact, comprised of the states of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee, and ratified by the U.S. Congress to promote the development of the waterway and its impacts on the region and nation. The administrator is appointed by the Authority members and serves at the pleasure of this 24-member body, including the four governors. The position is responsible for formulating and implementing the policies, programs, and other activities of the compact under the direction of its members and has overall supervision of its office and staff. The administrator also serves as the president of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council, a sister waterway organization.

Qualifications for the position include:

- A minimum of a bachelor's degree with a background or equivalent experience in governmental relations, economic development, water transportation, or promotion and marketing;
- Proven effective leadership and management abilities, including oral and writing skills;
- The ability to work with both political parties and develop and maintain close working relationships with the waterway's stakeholders as well as with state and federal officials, including the U.S. Congress;
- A self-starter, who can identify and address potential opportunities or impediments, related to the development of the waterway;
- The ability to operate an agency with increasing program needs but with limited budget resources; and,
- The ability to plan and conduct successful conferences, seminars, and meetings.

The position also requires frequent travel and a familiarization and use of a computer. The Authority will establish the annual salary based on the applicant's experience and qualifications. Excellent employee benefits, including medical insurance coverage, participation in the State of Mississippi's retirement program, and a generous sick and annual leave policy are included in the compensation package.

Additional information about this position and its duties and responsibilities is available by contacting the Authority's office at 1-888-TENNTOM or ttw@tenntom.org. Resumes along with a cover letter should be sent no later than December 1, 2014 to the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority, P.O. Box 671, Columbus, MS 39701 or electronically to ttw@tenntom.org.

Save The Date!

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

Authority and Council Elections

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority members elected new officers for the coming year during its recent quarterly meeting in Paducah, KY. **Governor Steve Beshear** of Kentucky will succeed **Governor Phil Bryant** of Mississippi as chairman of the compact. This will be Governor Beshear's second term as chairman and he also served as an Authority member when he was Lt. Governor from 1983 to 1987. **Brian Roy** of Benton, KY was elected vice-chairman, succeeding **Nick Ardillo** of Columbus; MS. Brian is the deputy director of the Kentucky Association of Counties and a long time member of the waterway compact. **T.L. "Bud" Phillips** of Columbus was reelected Treasurer.

The Authority's sister organization, the Tenn-Tom Waterway Development Council, will also be operating under new leadership in 2015. **Lucian Lott** of Mobile will succeed **Ken Canter** as chairman. Lott is sales manager with Cooper T. Smith Stevedoring of Mobile. Other officers are: Steven Surlles of Nashville, Vice-Chairman; **Terry Freeze** of Columbus, Treasurer; **Josh Tubbs** of Benton, KY, Secretary; and **Ken Canter** of Paducah KY is Past Chairman.

The following members were elected or reelected to a two-year term on the Council's 27-member board of directors: **David Abbott** of South Pittsburg, TN; **Phillis Belcher** of Eutaw, AL; **Joy Foy** of Jackson, MS; **Ken Canter** of Paducah, KY; **Stephen Surlles** of Nashville, TN; **Fred Hansard** of Demopolis, AL; **Skip Skaggs** of Amory, MS; **Jim Scharner** of Cincinnati, OH; **Frank Fogarty** of Mobile, AL; **Mark Hommrich** of Nashville; **David Stewart** of Trussville, AL; **Tim Weston** of Fulton, MS; and, **Josh Tubb** of Benton, KY. The officers and new slate of directors were approved at the Council's annual meeting on August 27.

In Memmori

The Tenn-Tom Waterway lost two of its most loyal and influential supporters with the recent deaths of the **Honorable Terry Brown** of Columbus, MS and **Eugene Bishop** of luka.



Terry died on September 4 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was serving as the President Pro Tem of the Mississippi State Senate at the time of his death. He had been in the senate since 2004 and had previously served in the State house for 3 terms. Terry played a critical role in securing some of the largest industrial projects in northeast Mississippi, including a \$1.6 billion steel mill near Columbus. He was one of the waterway's most effective advocates and ambassadors. The Authority members at its recent quarterly meeting unanimously passed a resolution requesting MDOT and the State Legislature to name the US Highway 82 bridge across the Tenn-Tom near Columbus as a memorial to Terry.

Eugene, who died on October 17 of natural causes, had directed the Yellow Creek Port's operations for the past 23 years and was instrumental in attracting a cluster of steel service plants to the state-owned port that employ over 400 workers,. His most recent accomplishment was helping locate a \$200 million silicon metals industry to the port's waterfront industrial park near Burnsville. Eugene was an active member of the Tenn-Tom Council and other waterway associations. He served as the Council's chairman in 2005 and in 2006.



Both will be greatly missed.

News about Members

On a night when Republicans swept the country, **Mike Miller**, a long time Democrat, handily won reelection as Judge Executive of Marshall County, KY. This is the 10th time Mike has won a four-year term, dating back when he first ran and was elected as a 30 year old. Congratulations Mike.

Governor Robert Bentley has appointed Authority member, **Horace Horn**, to the Alabama State Port Authority. Horace is a vice-president for PowerSouth Energy. He joined **Tim Parker III** of Parker Towing, who was appointed to the port authority earlier by the governor.

Hal Greer, director of the Florence, AL Port Authority, was recently elected President of the Tennessee River Valley Association at its recent annual meeting in Nashville. **Ron Coles** of WR Coles and Associates of Nashville moved from the president's position to serve as the group's chairman for the coming year. **Charlie Smith** who is now with Barge, Waggoner Sumner and Cannon of Nashville was elected to one of the group's four vice president positions.

Angel Camp has been named Transportation Manager for Steel Dynamics, formerly Severstal, in Columbus.

Greg Deakle is now Director of Ports & Waterways Intermodal Operations for R. J. Corman Railroad Group in Nicholasville, Kentucky. He was formerly with the Port of Itawamba County, Mississippi Port in Fulton, MS.

Jason Minga is now the Site Safety, Health, Environmental & Quality Manager for TRONOX in Hamilton, Mississippi replacing **Terry Freeze** who retired recently.

Tim Haskell is now the Project Manager for Hanson Professional Services in Nashville, Tennessee.



Mississippi Transportation Commissioner and former Tenn-Tom Authority Administrator, **Mike Tagert**, has publically announced he supports a 5-cent/gallon increase in the state's fuel tax. This tax increase would generate an additional \$110 to \$120 million of much needed revenues to improve the state's deteriorating highways and bridges. MDOT claims it needs much more, \$400 million or more each year, just to repave roads and repair bridges. Hopefully this commendable and politically bold pronouncement by Mike will encourage other state officials to support such a tax increase.

The Lowndes County Port Authority has selected **Will Sanders**, a local businessman, as its port director. Will succeeds John Hardy, who retired last summer.



James "Buddy" Skinner of Nashville passed away in September. He was 75 years old. Buddy was a leader in the waterway industry in the 1970's and 80's. He was appointed to the Tenn-Tom Authority by then Governor Lamar Alexander and served as the waterway compact's vice-chairman in 1979 He also was Chairman of the National Waterways Conference, Inc.

TIGER Grants Reek of Politics

According to an Associated Press article dated October 31, projects located in Democrat held congressional districts received 48 percent of the \$600 million of TIGER grants awarded by USDOT this past September. GOP held districts were awarded 33 percent of the grants while the remaining funds went to projects that cross district lines. The awards in 2013 were similarly slanted to Democrat districts. Projects in 30 districts held by Democrats received grants totaling \$303 million while Republican-held districts were awarded grants totaling \$140 million. Two projects in two or more districts involving both parties received \$13 million.

"Just by the numbers one has to say that it looks like politics is involved because Democratic districts fare far better, significantly better than Republican districts", said Sen. David Vitter, R-LA. "This is more about funding President Obama's political needs than funding

our infrastructure needs". His state received 3 awards, including \$10 million to improve the deepwater port at Lake Charles. The awards could likely help the state's other senator, Mary Landrieu (D) who is in a hotly contested reelection race.

A quick review of the 72 grants that were awarded only found 3 other commercial navigation projects in addition to the Lake Charles project. These involved deepwater port improvements at Seattle, Norfolk, and Newark, NJ, container terminal.

Those awards received by the four waterway states were a \$125,000 planning grant to the City of Birmingham; \$17.5 million for highway improvements benefiting three counties in southwestern Mississippi near the MS River; \$24 million to improve the Mt. Parkway in eastern Kentucky; and a study grant for the City of Chattanooga. In total, USDOT received nearly 800 applications from 49 states amounting to \$9 billion.

It awarded 72 grants totaling \$600 million in 46 states.

The congress imposes few directions to USDOT on the allocation of the TIGER funds with the exception that some grants must be spent on projects in rural areas. Such broad discretion allowed by the congress while abrogating its constitutional prerogatives by self-imposing a continued ban on anything remotely related to an earmark will guarantee more of the same political hijinks when final decisions are made on spending discretionary funds. This problem is particularly acute for funding projects and programs of the Corps of Engineers.



Aerial photo furnished by G. Matthews

As shown above, construction of the Mississippi Silicon plant at Yellow Creek Port's industrial park near Burnsville, MS is well underway. The \$200-million facility will manufacture silicon metals for the automotive aluminum and chemical industries. It will have access to barges at the port's terminal on the Tenn-Tom. The plant when completed will employ 200 workers.

New Industry For Waterway

Global Energy Solutions LLC of Selma, AL has announced it will build a \$160 million wood pellet plant at Port Epes in Sumter County, AL. The project will be built in 3 phases, including a chip mill and a \$20-million barge terminal. The pellets and chips will be barged to Mobile, presumably for export to Europe. These new facilities will employ about 100 workers and create an additional 400 jobs to support these operations. It expects to produce 1 million tons of wood pellets annually making it one of the largest plants of this kind in the South.

Another company may soon announce that it plans to build a wood pellet plant on the Tenn-Tom in Northeast Mississippi. Estimates are that wood pellet consumption will grow to as much as 29 million metric tons by the year 2020, mainly fueled by demands in Europe as those countries switch from coal to renewable sources for generating energy. The Tenn-Tom region with its abundant forestry resources and efficient barge transportation serving deepwater ports along the eastern Gulf, is certainly positioned to capitalize on these growth opportunities.

Did You Know That.....

.... On December 12, it will be 30 years since the final "plug" was excavated from the Tenn-Tom channel at Amory, MS. This commemorated the completion of the waterway after 12 years of construction to the exact day at a total cost of just under \$2 billion.

.....The Yangtze River in China is the world's busiest waterway. In 2011, it moved over 1.6 billion tons of commerce. By comparison, less than 400 million tons are shipped on the Mississippi River, this country's busiest waterway. Over 6 million 20-foot equivalent containers were shipped during the first 6 months of 2014 along the 3700-mile long river that spans 11 provinces. China has launched an extensive program to develop the infrastructure needed to sustain this kind of growth. Delays to transit some of its locks now exceed 18 hours.

....Parker Towing Company has bought the Port of Decatur from Decatur Transit. It is the busiest port on the Tennessee River handling about 5 million tons annually. Also **Josh Gibson** has been promoted to sales representative for the company. He joined Parker in 2012.

.....Wilson's main lock on the Tennessee River is scheduled for a 6-week closure next year. The smaller, more antiquated lock will only be available to carriers from May 5 to June 11. In addition, Pickwick pool has been lowered to winter pool of 409 MSL for seismic studies to ensure the earth section of the dam meets safety standards. This drawdown should not affect barge traffic at this time. There are no lock closures scheduled for the Tenn-Tom in 2015.

Time is Running Out

The public has until Friday, November 14 to comment on EPA's proposed rule that would greatly expand the definition of so-called "navigable waters" to include virtually all waters of the U.S. Some like the Farm Bureau believe these regs would have EPA controlling all farming and land uses by regulating insignificant water courses, such as ditches and wetlands that only contain water when it rains. Everyone concerned about this overreach is encouraged to voice their objections to EPA and the

Corps before the November 14 deadline. For more information about this issue and how to respond check out the Farm Bureau's website, Ditch The Rule, at <http://ditchtherule.fb.org>

Federal War on Coal

EPA is also on a mission to kill any use of coal on the pretense of addressing climate change. These proposed greenhouse gas rules, if implemented along with other regulations already in place, would cost the U.S. economy thousands of jobs with no measurable benefits for addressing global warming. George Clark, president of Manufacture Alabama, recently published an article in the Tuscaloosa News that vividly described the adverse impacts of the Obama Administration's efforts to kill coal production on the nation's economy. The following are excerpts from this article.

"The EPA's rules will make it harder to produce energy and more expensive to buy it. This will mean fewer jobs for our workers and higher prices for their families."

"The EPA plan calls for a 30 percent cut in green-houses gases by 2030. It would artificially and arbitrarily cap carbon dioxide emissions in Alabama and every other state, even during peak summer and winter months."

"According to the National Mining Association, over 20 percent of the country's coal powered electricity would be removed from the energy grid by 2020, if not sooner."

"Climate change is a global challenge that calls for a global solution. China alone accounts for about one-fourth of the world's CO2 emissions. A single coal plant in Taiwan emits more carbon dioxide than the country of Switzerland. Russia is in talks to build an even larger one."

The EPA plan will "not impact the climate in any meaningful way." Testified Charles McConnell, Obama's assistant secretary of energy from 2011 to 2013. "Americans will pay double for power and in the top electricity-producing states like Alabama, "three times or four times more."

"At the U. N., Obama pledged to "answer the call" on climate change. He's also promised an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy. The EPA's plan achieves neither. And all Americans, manufacturers and consumers alike will pay the price."

The public has until December 1 to comment on these proposed regs.

European Steel Industry May Disappear

In a recent News+Update, **Lance Brown**, Executive Director of Partnership for Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) cited a recent opinion printed in the Wall Street Journal, concerning the bleak future of steel production in Europe. The opinion was written by Aditya Mittal, CEO of ArcelorMittal (AM), the world's largest steel and mining company. He stated that Europe's plan to significantly reduce greenhouse gases by 2030 by aggressively increasing use of renewable power will "lead to a significant decline in European Industry". Mr. Mittal estimates that these ambitious plans could cost his steel company as much as \$2.5 billion each year. Europe's steel industry now supports 1.5 million jobs and accounts for 4 percent of region's gross domestic, much of could be lost by these decarbonization plans.

PACE has previously reported that European companies are beginning to make investments in other countries. Germany's "green" energy policies have caused power costs to increase by 60 percent during the last 5 years, putting manufacturing and other energy users at risk. Earlier this year, AM and Nippon Steel bought the ThyssenKrupp (TK) steel plant at Calvert, AL north of Mobile. The partnership bought the plant for \$1.6 billion, a bargain price considering TK invested \$5.5 billion in the facility.

Looper Traffic at Marinas on the Tenn-Tom



Photos by Margaret Ritter, Midway on the Tenn-Tom Marina, Fulton, MS





Photos by Kim Hansard, Demopolis Yacht Basin/King Fisher Bay

It is that time of the year when large pleasure boats make their way from the upper Midwest, including the Great Lakes, via the Tenn-Tom, to warmer climes in the South for the winter. Like migratory fowl, they return in the spring. The Tenn-Tom is the preferred route for these transient boaters since it is a shorter and safer route than the Mississippi River. Also, a marina that offers friendly and competitive service is always nearby along the entire route. Ginger Connor of Midway Marina and Fred Hansard of Demopolis Yacht Basin both report that business has been brisk this season as evidenced by these photos.

Upcoming Events

March 9-11, 2015 • **National Waterways Conference 2015 Legislative Summit**, The Loews Madison, Washington, DC Contact: NWC, Phone (703) 224-8007

May 17 – 19, 2015 • **Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway Association**, annual meeting. Marriott Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama. Contact: WTWA, (251) 431-9055; internet www.warriortombigbee.com

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

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

September 16 – 28, 2015 • **National Waterways Conference**, Little Rock Marriott. Contact: NWC, Phone (703) 224-8007

Welcome New Members

Mr. Tom Leatherbury
SSA Marine
Mobile, Alabama

Mr. Raman Kadevari
CEMEX, INC.
Houston, Texas

Mr. Jamie Kennedy
Economic Development Specialist
Tennessee Valley Authority
Tupelo, Mississippi