

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council NEWSLETTER



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Amory Welcomes Largest Single Investment Ever

Amory, MS – Steel Development Co. recently broke ground on its new \$175 million rebar manufacturing plant. The facility will be located near the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in the Amory Port Industrial Park. The investment represents the largest single investment in Monroe County, Mississippi to date.



State and local officials took part in the groundbreaking ceremony. Amory **Mayor Howard Boozer** (3rd from left) and **Governor Haley Barbour** (center) and **John Correnti** (3rd from right) took part in the activities.

The 80,000 square-foot plant will create 200 jobs on site, 100 satellite jobs, and require an additional 500 - 600 workers during the construction phase. Average salaries are expected to range from \$60 to \$70 thousand annually.

Inputs for manufacturing include scrap steel automobiles, primarily transported to the facility via barges on the Tenn-Tom and railroads. From every 350,000 tons of recycled scrap steel, the plant will produce 300,000 tons of rebar rod.

Tony Green, executive director of the Monroe County Chamber, understands the value of the Tenn-Tom Waterway in locating such an investment. Green cited the Tenn-Tom Waterway and the general workforce makeup as the major assets in locating the company. The plant is scheduled to open in the spring of 2010.

Dynasteel Announces Expansion

Iuka, MS – Dynasteel Corp. is expanding its current facility in Tishomingo County, MS. Dynasteel is a specialty fabricator of pollution-control equipment for electric power plants, process equipment for cement mills, and other specialty products. The Iuka expansion involves a 42,000 square-foot building with 45-foot hook height and bridge cranes ranging from 20 to 50 tons. With 150 employees, the facility is seeking to add 50 new welders to the company's roster. Because of the size of such products, waterborne Development

Foundation, said that the port was essential for Dynasteel's expansion. Being located on the Tenn-Tom Waterway has made the initial investment and this expansion possible. Local Board of Supervisors President, Brandon Grissom, said, "Dynasteel has seen steady growth over the last five years, and this is the company's second expansion within the last two years. Dynasteel's commitment to quality and timely delivery means the company will continue to compete well in the global marketplace." The expansion is expected to be completed before January.



transportation is the mode of choice and access to the Tenn-Tom is a must. **Gary Mathews**, executive director of the Tishomingo County

Dear Council Members and Stakeholders:

This has been a great year for the waterway and the region. With significant financial investments and thousands of jobs created, we are seeing the emergence and realization of the initial vision for the waterway. This vision continues to bring profitability, jobs, and recreational opportunities to the industries utilizing the waterway, as well as, local communities and their citizens. The future of the waterway has never been as bright.

The past year has seen many challenges, as well. We've experienced near-record gasoline prices and a global economic meltdown. These unique and challenging economic times have enabled us to highlight the advantages of the world's safest, most environmentally-friendly, and cost-efficient mode of transportation. It is our job to show the true value of the waterway. Yet, there is still much work to be done in this area.

We will soon see a change in the political climate, as well. This change may bring new opportunities for the waterway. Our task will be to make certain that our new leaders, both state and federal, understand the importance of waterborne transportation and the Tenn-Tom Waterway. I'm confident that we can do so and that they will represent us well.

Who knows what 2009 will hold, but I'm certain that we are ready. Whether the challenges involve funding constraints, unfavorable public policy or opinion, I'm optimistic that we are ready for any such challenges. Never before has the Tenn-Tom had such success combined with unparalleled interest in its assets and capabilities.

I would like to personally thank each of you for your support of me and this organization during my first year. I will continue to work toward the realization of the economic benefits of the waterway. I wish a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season to each of you and your families.

Mike Tagert
President

Mobile Container Terminal Officially Opens

The Mobile Container Terminal, LLC, has been operating since July but officially opened its facility on November 6th. The \$300 million investment has an initial capacity of 350,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU's), with potential capacity reaching 800,000 TEU's when all phases of construction are completed.



The terminal was conceived to take advantage of future growth opportunities at the port and within the entire region. The Panama Canal expansion, scheduled for completion in 2014, will allow larger vessels to pass through and will potentially open gulf ports to increasing cargo traffic from the Far East. This traffic could lead to increased container-on-barge traffic throughout the Tenn-Tom and other inland waterways. CMA CGM, a French-based shipping company operating world-wide, owns 20% of the new facility. “We Development Foundation, said that the port was essential for Dynasteel’s expansion. Being located on the Tenn-Tom Waterway has made the initial investment and this expansion possible. Local Board of Supervisors President, Brandon Grissom, said, “Dynasteel has seen steady growth over the last five years, and this is the company’s second expansion within the last two years. Dynasteel’s commitment to quality and timely delivery means the company will continue to compete well in the global marketplace.” The expansion is expected to be completed before January.

AEP River Operations Announces New Paducah Facility

By Jeff L. Yates of the *The Waterways Journal*

The Paducah, Kentucky skyline and riverfront continue to morph into a modern and welcoming gateway to a growing hub of river transportation centers and related enterprises through the announcement of a new operations and training center for AEP River Operations.

The 24,000-square-foot, three-story, brick building will be constructed along the cities riverfront at the junction of the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers. Plans for the new facility were unveiled October 23.

The new facility will also include a 10,000-square-foot warehouse along the riverside of the floodwall that will house a 2,000-square-foot engineering training center, 8,000 square feet of warehouse space and additional parking for vessel crew members. Company officials say the new facility will be the central location for AEP River Operations' boat operations group.

The announcement was made at the Greater Paducah Economic Development Council (GPEDC) headquarters, where Chairman Rex Smith introduced Keith Lay, senior manager AEP locking rivers group, who presented the architect's rendering and site plan. The new facility will be built adjacent AEP's current location – the former B&H Towing Company Headquarters – on Oscar Cross Boulevard. The site at one time was the location of the former Walker enterprises, which included Walker's Dock, Walker Midstream and Walker Towing Corporation in the 1950's and 60's.



From Left, **Van Newberry**, McCracken County Judge-Executive; Paducah **Mayor Bill Paxton**; **Keith Lay**, Senior Manager – Locking River Group, AEP River Operations; **Jeff James**, Vice-President of James Marine Inc.; **Jim Garrett**, Operations Support, AEP River Operations; and **Ronnie James**, President of James Marine.

The new three-story headquarters will be adjacent to the new Crouse Corporation headquarters – which opened October 24 – and within sight of the Ingram operations center completed in 2006. Also in view is Western Kentucky Navigation, which moved into its current facility in 2005. In June, the City of Paducah changed the name of South Second Street to Marine Way to recognize the many marine-oriented businesses now located along the thoroughfare.

The riverside structures will be constructed on property leased from **Ronnie James**, while the three story headquarters facility will be built on the “city side” of the floodwall on property sold to AEP by James. He told the WJ he has worked on this project with AEP and predecessor B&H Towing owners for eight years and is glad to see construction about to begin. “It has fit well into our business and the local marine industry to have them located here,” James said. “We’re all working hand-in-hand.”

With construction of its new headquarters imminent, AEP River Operations has rented the former Crouse Corporation headquarters at 2626 Broadway and was to move its Paducah personnel into that facility on November 1. The new facility should be ready for occupancy by

the second quarter of 2010. “We are grateful to the City of Paducah, McCracken County, GPEDC and the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development for their support for this existing industry expansion,” Lay remarked. “State incentives certainly helped us make a favorable decision.”

Paducah **Mayor Bill Paxton** said, “You’ve heard me say this many, many times. Paducah is the capitol of the inland waterways.” He attributed his conclusion to location and the fact that other marine firms are located in the area and they have become a hub of river activity. He said, Paducah has embraced the river industry and has made river firms feel comfortable. “We’ve helped them expand and we’ve given them support,” he said. “And we’re going to continue to give them support.”

Paducah Sun business editor Joe Walker reported the day prior to the formal announcement that there had been sporadic rumors of the AEP expansion since late May when the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority gave preliminary approval for job training funds for the project, which according to state records, involves an investment of about \$4 million and the creation of 39 jobs.

The company currently employs 13 people in the Paducah office, which was leased when AEP chartered boats and hired crews and employees from the former B&H Towing Company earlier this year. That number will increase to 53 when the new structure is completed. He said the majority of the new staff will come from the operations and personnel offices in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Some may come from the Lakin, West Virginia and St. Louis offices as well, Lay added.

Prior to the press conference, AEP President **Mark Knoy** said, “This will improve our overall efficiency because it will locate our personnel close to several vendors and services that we use in the Paducah area.” Main headquarters of AEP River Operations will remain in St. Louis, he added. AEP River Operations’ fleet consists of 56 towboats and nearly 2,900 hopper barges utilized in transporting grain, steel, cement, fertilizer and other bulk commodities.



U. S. Army Corps of Engineers



Nicholas Baggett was recently named Natural Resource Manager of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee-Tombigbee Water-way. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a B.S. in Parks and Recreation Management and the University of South Alabama with a M.S. in Park Administration.

Nick’s duties will include the management of all natural resources on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers properties located within and/or adjacent to the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, management of real estate transactions involving the sale and/or lease of public property located along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, management of 180,000 acres of wildlife mitigation properties and management of all Corps parks and campgrounds located along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

Nick has been with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for 17 years. He previously served as a Project Manager with the USACE Regulatory Division within a 30 county area of North Mississippi and North Alabama. We look forward to working with Nick.

News About Members

The Parker Towing Company recently christened the **M/V Bobby Joe James**. The motor vessel Bobby Joe James was built in 1975 by Fredman Shipyards in Carlyss, Louisiana.



The following members of the Council were elected to the Board of Directors of the National Waterways Conference at their annual meeting held recently in New Orleans, Louisiana: Secretary and Counsel - **William H. Satterfield, Esq.** (Pictured at Left). Executive Committee: **W. R. (Ron) Coles, Mark Hommrich, Terah Huckabee, Sharon Kvak, and Donald Waldon.**



Representing Associations: **Mike Tagert.** Representing Carriers: **Mark Hommrich, Terah Huckabee** and **Mark Mayfield.** Representing Public Members: **James Lyons** and **Jimmie Mills.** Representing Shippers: **Sharon Kvak.** Representing Waterway Services: **W. R. (Ron) Coles** (pictured above right), **Michael McQuillan,** and **Donald Waldon.**

The Tombigbee Valley Water Management District has announced the retirement of Executive Director **Jimmie Mills.** His successor, **Joseph Tanko,** worked previously for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District, for 25 years in the Operations Division. He earned his B. S. Degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Southern Mississippi. We welcome Joe and wish Jimmie the best in his retirement.



Members of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority recently presented the SeverStal Transportation Team, of Lowndes County, MS, with a customized aerial photograph displaying the intermodal connections for the manufacturer. The Tenn-Tom Waterway continues to play a vital role in the Company's movement of raw materials and finished products. Pictured Left to Right: **Charlie Furman, David Chapman, Donna King, Bud Phillips** (Authority Board Member), **Michelle Spradlin,** and **Nick Ardillo** (Authority Board Member).

The West Point/Clay County Mississippi Growth Alliance has hired a new President. The Growth Alliance has named **Jeff Rowell** as the new leader of the organization beginning in

January 2009. Rowell comes to the Growth Alliance from the Natchez-Adams County Development Authority, where he served as Executive Director since 2005. He graduated from the University of Alabama with a B.S. Degree in Commerce and Business Administration. Rowell replaces **Tim Climer**, who will be leaving the position at the end of the year.

Jim Loew will be leaving the Florence/Lauderdale Port at the end of the year to pursue a new career. Good luck to Jim on his new career path.

Mayor Billy McKinzey of Aliceville, Alabama received the 2008 David M. Cochran Award, the West Alabama Regional Commission's highest honor. Mayor McKinzey was elected to a fourth term as Mayor of Aliceville, a town of approximately 2,500. With McKinzey at the helm, Aliceville has made more than \$8 million in capital and infrastructure improvements.

Congratulations to **David Work**, the Director of the Rosedale-Bolivar County Port and Mayor of Cleveland, Mississippi. He was recently honored as the Mississippi World Trade Center Member of Distinction at its international business awards gala held in Jackson, Mississippi.

Fred Bush, Jr., a litigation and alternative dispute resolution attorney with Phelps, Dunbar LLP's has been honored by The Mississippi Bar's 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award. Fred served on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority Board of Directors from 1980-1984.

Welcome New Members

Robert Burt

Mississippi Department of Transportation
Jackson, Mississippi

John Morris

Alabama Power Company
Birmingham, Alabama

Lee Wagner

Boyd Brothers Transportation
Clayton, Alabama

Mark Your Calendar

2009 Development Opportunities Conference

August 25 – 27, 2009

Marriott's Grand Hotel

Point Clear, Alabama

Reservations: (800) 544-9933

\$149.00 per night Code: TTWTTWA

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

February 12 – 13, 2009 ☸ Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association Annual Meeting. Monroeville, Alabama. Contact: CARIA, (334) 265-5744 or email: cariainc@bellsouth.net

March 9 – 11, 2009 ☸ National Waterways Conference 2009 Budget Summit. The Phoenix Park Hotel, Washington, D. C. For reservations call: 1-800-824-5419 or reserve online at www.phoenixparkhotel.com. Group Code 12602. Contact: (703) 243-4090 or info@waterays.org

April 29 – May 1, 2009 ☸ Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals Annual Conference, Drake Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: admin@irpt.net

May 7 – 9, 2009 ☸ Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway Association Annual Meeting, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Contact: WTWA (251) 431-9055 or email Warriortom@aol.com

August 5 – 7, 2009 ☸ Joint Mississippi Water Resources Association - Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute Annual Conference . Harrah's Grand Hotel, Tunica, Mississippi www.mswater.org.

August 25 – 28, 2009 ☸ Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Opportunities Conference. Marriott's Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama. Contact: Agnes Zaiontz (662) 328-3286 or email azaiontz@tenntom.org

September 6 – 9, 2009 ☸ SmartRivers Conference: Vienna, Austria. Contact: Otto Schwetz, email: Otto.schwetz@tinavienna.at or www..smartrivers.org

October 2 – 4, 2009 ☸ Trash & Treasures along the Tenn-Tom - 234 miles of Yard Sales. Contact: (800) 386-4373 or (800) 457-9739

October 26 – 28, 2009 ☸ Alabama-Mississippi Rural Tourism Conference. Holiday Inn, Sheffield, Alabama (256) 381-4710. Contact: Tenn-Tom Tourism Association at (662) 328-8936 or (800) 457-9739 or email azaiontz@tenntom.org



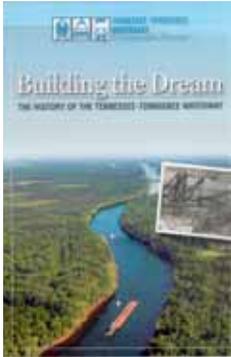
Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority Retains Museum Project Coordinator

As we begin the physical construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Transportation Museum, a need has developed for a person to work solely on the museum project. In Rufus Ward of West Point, Mississippi, we have found that person. He is an attorney who has been writing an archival guide book for the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library. Rufus has a B. A. in Education and a Juris Doctor from Ole Miss and is a life long area resident with many ties throughout the waterway region. He not only has many years experience as an attorney but he also brings an extensive background in history and historic preservation. A long time friend of the waterway, he worked on the history exhibit at

the waterway's dedication festival in 1985 and has served on the Board of Directors of the Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District. As part of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority's commitment to the Transportation Museum we are pleased to announce that Rufus has been retained as a project coordinator to help guide the museum to completion. In this role, his duties will range from helping develop exhibits and

programs to obtaining grants and funding for the museum's completion and operation. Rufus can be contacted at (662) 328-8936 or museum@tenntom.org.

Mrs. Agnes Zaiontz
Museum Director



While awaiting the physical renovation of museum facilities, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Transportation Museum has proceeded with outreach efforts to inform and educate the public on the history and importance of transportation in the Tenn-Tom corridor. The museum's efforts to tell the story of the waterway have included a video production, public presentations, and the posting of related material on its website. Resource materials including a 26 minute video on the history of the Tenn-Tom Waterway produced by Don Waldon, the former administrator of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority, have been developed. This video is available at a cost of \$20.83 including tax and shipping by contacting the Museum office at (662) 328-8936. Beginning in January 2009, resource materials and programs will be made available to schools across the region.

HELP YOUR TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

Your donation will help enable the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Transportation Museum to preserve the history and educate the public about commerce in the Tennessee-Tombigbee region. In order to ensure the excellence of exhibits and educational programs, donations are needed from our friends who share an interest in the waterway and in both the history of and future of river centered intermodal transportation. Your donation will help pay for developing programs and exhibits, and for providing educational outreach and operational expenses. It will be only with the assistance of our friends that we can provide both an enjoyable and educational experience to the public. For additional information, contact Rufus Ward at: museum@tenntom.org.

Please complete this form and mail it with your donation made payable to the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Transportation Museum, Inc., P. O. Drawer 671, Columbus, MS 39703.

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

I have enclosed a donation for \$ _____ to be a _____ (level) sponsor.

Donation Levels:

Founder	\$5,000+	Platinum	\$2,001 - \$4,999	Gold	\$1,001 - \$2,000
Silver	\$500 - \$999	Donor	\$101 - \$499	Individual	\$10 - \$100

The Museum is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation and all donations are tax deductible.

