

**Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Opportunities  
Conference  
&  
Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Council**

**Annual Meeting**

**Schedule of Events**

**\ Tuesday, August 29, 2006 \**

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Registration Desk Open

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Chairman's Reception

Sponsored by:

**Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Council**

**Dinner on your own**

**\ Wednesday, August 30, 2006 \**

7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Registration Desk Open

8:30 a.m.

**Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council  
Annual Meeting Convenes**

Presiding: Mr. Eugene Bishop

Council Chairman &  
Executive Director  
Yellow Creek Port Authority  
Iuka, MS

**Reports by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:**

Colonel Peter Taylor  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mobile, AL

Mr. Wynne Fuller  
Chief of Operations Division MDO  
Mobile, AL

Mr. Rick Saucer  
Tenn-Tom Operations Manager  
Columbus, MS

Report by the U. S. Coast Guard

Captain James Bjostad, Commander

U. S. Coast Guard  
Mobile, AL

**Break**

10:30 AM Meeting continues

Presiding Mr. Tim Weston, Treasurer

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Council  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Tupelo, MS

Latest Developments on the Tenn-Tom

Mr. Eddie Lehner, CFO  
SeverCorr  
Columbus, MS

Mr. Mike Ferree, Vice President  
Southern Ethanol  
Salida, CO

Mr. Gerald Valgora, President  
Roll Form Group  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

11:30 A.M.

**Council Membership meeting**

Treasurer's Report  
Nominations Committee Report  
Chairman's Report

**Adjourn at Noon**

*Lunch on your own*

**Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Opportunities  
Conference Convenes**

2:00 p.m. First Session

Welcome & Announcement

Mr. Thomas Griffith, Administrator  
Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Authority

Presiding: Mr. Nick Ardillo, Vice-Chairman

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Authority

Keynote Remarks

Honorable Roger Wicker  
United States Congress (MS)

Honorable Seth Hammett, Speaker  
House of Representatives  
State of Alabama  
Honorable Skila Harris, Member

Board of Directors  
Tennessee Valley Authority

LTG Carl Strock  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Washington, D. C.

Break

Second Session

Presiding: Ms. Martha Segars, Board Member

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Authority  
Iuka, MS

Speakers

Mr. Jim Kruse, Director  
Center for Ports & Waterways  
Texas Transportation Institute  
Houston, TX

Mr. Chris Dager, Navigation Economist  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Knoxville, TN

7:00 p.m. Reception

7:45: p.m. Dinner

Presiding: Mr. Eugene Bishop, Chairman

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Council

Speaker:

Mr. Bryan Townsend  
Professional Speaker & Writer  
Talledega, AL

\ Thursday, August 30, 2006 \

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Third Session  
Presiding Mr. Ken Canter, Board Member

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Council  
Port Director  
Paducah/McCracken County  
Riverport Authority  
Paducah, KY

U. S. Barge Industry Update

Mr. Gene Taft, Regional Vice President  
Kinder Morgan  
Sorrento, LA

Mr. Tom Vorholt, Vice President  
Dry Cargo & Sales  
Ingram Barge Lines  
Nashville, TN

10:00 a.m. Spouse's Program Joy Phillips, Hostess

10:30 AM Break

10:45 AM Fourth Session

Presiding: Mr. Bill Cleveland, Board Member

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Authority  
Tupelo, MS

Speakers: Mr. Jonathan Adler

Assistant Professor of Law  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland, OH

Ms. Worth Hager, President  
National Waterways Conference  
Washington, D. C.

12:00 Noon Luncheon Buffet

1:00 p.m. 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Tenn-Tom  
Golf Scramble Tournament  
Tunica National  
Bob Day, Event Chairman  
Paducah, KY

7:30 p.m. Reception & Dinner Buffet

*The Tunica Queen Riverboat*

## ***η* Federal Funding *η***

Thanks to **Senator Thad Cochran** and the waterway's other Senate supporters, the U.S. Senate recently approved a sizeable increase in funding for Tenn-Tom, above that recommended by the President and approved earlier by the U.S House for next fiscal year. The House and Senate Bills now go to conference to iron out some major differences in the

two spending bills, including some controversial budget polices. These differences may prevent approval of a conference bill before the fiscal year begins and may have to be finally passed during an expected lame duck session after the November elections.

The Senate bill provides \$24.5 million for operation and maintenance of the waterway, which is the current level of funding. Also \$4 million were added to the Tenn-Tom O&M budget by the Senate to build mooring cells near Columbus to improve safety conditions during high water and better accommodate increased barge traffic. The bill also included \$2 million for payments to the States of Alabama and Mississippi to administer the Tenn-Tom Wildlife Mitigation Project.

The Senate, at the urging of most waterway support organizations, will continue to appropriate O&M funds to individual projects instead to allocating these funds to large watersheds areas as proposed by OMB and approved by the House. Lumping funding for a number of projects by watersheds or basin accounts would be most detrimental to Tenn-Tom and other projects that have strong congressional support. Waterway interests are encouraged to contact their senators and urge them to continue funding projects at specific levels and kill the watershed accounts approved by the House.

### **η Intermodal Transport Symposium II η**

On June 14 the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council sponsored the Intermodal Transport Symposium entitled *Building New Links to the Global Supply Chain* at the International Trade Center in Mobile. The agenda was impressive and featured experts in their respective fields. **Mr. Scott Hercik** represented the Appalachian Regional Commission. **Mr. Chad Miller** with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and **Mr. Gregory Harris** from the University of Alabama, discussed the launching of international distribution for companies in Hong Kong and Vietnam. Some of the consumer goods mentioned are hardware, building materials, and candy. Both of these men were very knowledgeable of global trade originating in the Pacific Rim and the movement of goods to other parts of the world. **Mr. Ron Coles** with R. W. Coles & Associates, Hanson Professional Services in Nashville gave a report on the freight mobility study sponsored by the Council of Alabama Waterway Associations (CAWA). There were two freight forwarders in attendance who discussed their role in bringing goods from China and Vietnam and distributing them in the United States. **Ms. Pam Berry** and **Mr. Joe Pugh** with Marisol International in Memphis also explained this process. **Mr. David Smith** with Air-Sea International in Mobile deals in a similar market with some of his shipments in containers coming in to the Port of Mobile. There were presentations by **Mr. David Stewart** with H & H Equipment Service and **Mr. Derrick Metts** with Taylor Machine Works of Louisville, MS on equipment they sell to handle containers. The meeting concluded with a tour of the Port of Mobile and Choctaw Point led by **Mr. Mark Sheppard**, Vice President of Alabama State Docks Department.

### **η Water Supply Meeting η**

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority sponsored the Multi-State Water Supply meeting on July 18 in the LINK Auditorium in Columbus. **Mr. Nick Ardillo**, vice-chairman of the Authority, welcomed the group of approximately fifty people.

Speakers on the program included **Commissioner Bo Robinson**, Mississippi Public Service Commission, Northern District, **Mr. Pat Robbins**, Director of Public Affairs, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, **Mr. Gene Gibson**, PE, Manager of Water Supply Special Service, TVA, **Mr. Tom Littlepage**, State of Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs, Office of Water Resources, **Mr. Sam Mabry**, Director of the Office of Land & Water Resources for the State of Mississippi, **Mr. Paul Davis**, Director of Water Pollution Control for the state of Tennessee, and **Mr. Jimmie Mills**, representing the Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District in Tupelo. **Mr. Don Waldon**, former Administrator of the Authority, urged the attendees to remember that water can be used as long as it does not affect navigation purposes for the Tenn-Tom. It was the general feeling that this is not an unlimited source of water, and that in the future there must be parameters placed on its availability. The group wants to meet again in a year, or sooner if needed.

### ***η Visit with Governor Bob Riley η***

**Mr. Thomas Griffith** and **Mr. Don Waldon** joined other members of the CAWA organization for a meeting in Montgomery with Governor Bob Riley's Chief of Staff, Mr. Toby Roth. The purpose of the meeting was to update the Governor and his staff on the status of the freight mobility study being conducted by Mr. Ron Coles of W. R. Coles and Associates and other activities on the waterways in Alabama.

### **Economic Development**

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#### ***η New Barge Facility for Ledbetter, KY η***

Three Rivers Boat and Barge, Inc. is developing a new 38 acre barge construction site on the Ohio River at Ledbetter, KY. This is the first new boat construction facility in the area in twenty years.

#### ***η New Megasite Certified by TVA η***

Crossroads has received certification by TVA as another megasite in the Columbus area due to the efforts of the Columbus/Lowndes Development Link. This is an 1800-acre site that is located in the Gulf Opportunity Zone, which is an area of Mississippi that was designated by the federal government for special incentives as a result of hurricanes of 2005. The site has many advantages to a large user, most notably up to \$400 million in incentives for the right tenant. The Link met with a group of consultants recently and the Authority was asked to assist on water transportation issues.. The Link and county and city leaders are to be commended for putting this second megasite together.

#### ***η New River Homes to locate in Burnsville η***

New River Homes recently began operation in the Burnsville Industrial Park and currently employs 145 workers producing manufactured housing. The company plans to grow the company to approximately 200 employees by 2007.

### **η American Eurocopter Plans Expansion in Mississippi η**

In July, American Eurocopter and parent company, EADS North America, announced that its UH-145 helicopter was selected by the U. S. Army for its light utility helicopter mission.

The aircraft will be built in the Columbus, Mississippi plant. Expansion plans call for increasing the size of the plant from 92,000 square-feet to approximately 257,000 square-feet or a \$35 million investment. The number of new jobs expected to be created is about 200, almost tripling the size of the current workforce.

Engineering is currently underway, and final plans should be ready in September. American Eurocopter is eager to begin construction toward the end of October.

### **Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District elects officers**



Newly elected officers for the Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District for 2007 are from left, **Mr. Earl E. Thomas** of Kemper County, vice president; **Ms. Ann Berryhill** of Pontotoc County, secretary; **Mr. Tommy Johnson** of Lowndes County, president; and **Mr. James Chatham** of Itawamba County, treasurer.

### **η Council Membership Drive η**

The Tenn-Tom Council membership drive is underway. **Mr. Steve Alley**, membership chairman, reported 7 new members since the beginning of the campaign. He also suggested a contest giving the person who sells the greatest number of memberships a 2-night stay at the Marriott Grand Hotel for the 2007 annual meeting. The Council approved this suggestion. It was also approved that the staff would compile a listing of all agencies, associations, or industries in the waterway corridor that could benefit from a membership in the Council. Letters and membership applications will be sent to those entities and a list given to members for followup.

### **η News About Members η**

**Steve Alley**, vice-chairman of the Tenn-Tom Waterway Development Council, has been honored by Ingram Barge Company by having the M/V Steve Alley named in his honor



Steve is director of sales for Ingram Barge Company in Ft. Mitchell, KY. He is responsible for dry cargo sales in a territory which includes Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, and part of Alabama. He has over 22 years experience in the marine transportation industry. He joined Ingram in 2002 after the acquisition of Midland. Steve has been a faithful supporter of the Tenn-Tom Council, and we congratulate him for receiving this honor.



West Point, MS has changed the West Point Chamber of Commerce to the West Point/Clay County Community Growth Alliance which is called the "Growth Alliance." The first president hired is **Mr. Tim Climer** who began work on June 1. Tim was previously the executive director of the Sunflower County Economic Development District in Indianola, Mississippi.

**Mr. Jeffrey Rupp** of Columbus has resigned his position as Mayor of Columbus, MS effective August 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Rupp has accepted a position with Mississippi State University and will be working with **President "Doc" Foglesong** as Director of Community and Government Affairs.



**Rick Saucer** has been named Operations Manager on the Tenn-Tom Waterway. He is responsible for the management of a broad range of missions related to navigation, recreation and natural resource management on the Tenn-Tom plus flood control on various tributaries in the Tombigbee River basin.

Mr. Saucer was named Operations Manager effective 25 June 2006, after serving as the Assistant Operations Manager and Chief of the Project Support Branch for the Tenn-Tom Project Office. He is originally from Greenville Alabama. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Auburn University in 1978. He worked 2 years in Operations Division in the Mobile District Office prior to transferring to the Tenn-Tom Project in January of 1981. He has also held the positions of Chief of Survey and Inspection and Chief of Navigation.

## **η Welcome New Members η**

**Greg Radar**  
Columbus Scrap Materials, Inc.  
Columbus, MS

**Marty Parker**  
Boise Paper  
Jackson, AL

**Ms. Cheryl Gary**  
Pickens County Commission  
Carrollton, AL

**Ms. Tammy Irons**  
The Irons Law Firm  
Florence, AL



Mayor Dan Deason  
City of Scottsboro  
Scottsboro, AL  
η In Memoriam η

On May 12, 2006, the nation and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway lost a great leader and a strong supporter of the waterway in the death of former **U. S. Representative G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery**. Congressman Montgomery was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in November, 1966, and was sworn in and took office in January, 1967. A lock on the northern end of the waterway was named in honor of Congressman Montgomery.



**TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY  
DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE**

Name & Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Organizations: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**I PLAN TO ATTEND:**

Entire Conference (\$300.00) includes all sessions \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

Golf Tournament (\$65.00) includes cart and green fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REGISTRATION** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate method of payment:**

- Payment enclosed.  
 Bill my organization

**Make check Payable to:** Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
Development Authority  
P.O. Drawer 671  
Columbus, MS 39703  
Email: [ttw@tenntom.org](mailto:ttw@tenntom.org)  
FAX: (662) 328-0363