

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council

NEWSLETTER

Council Elects Board Members and Officers

The annual membership meeting of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at the Marriott Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama with Chairman Tim Weston presiding over the meeting. Those members in attendance elected the following to a two year term, beginning on January 1, 2010, on the organization's Board of Directors:

David Abbott, Nickajack Port Authority, South Pittsburg, TN; **Phillis Belcher**, Greene County Industrial Board, Eutaw, AL; **Ken Canter**, Paducah/McCracken County Riverport Authority, Paducah, KY; **Steve Edwards**, Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, MS; **Fred Hansard**, Riverview Marinas, Demopolis, AL; **John Hardy**, Lowndes County Port Authority, Columbus, MS; **Fred Rickert**, Consultant, Birmingham, AL; **Jim Scharner**, The David J. Joseph Company, Cincinnati, OH; **Paula Shaw**, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Nashville, TN; **Mark Sheppard**, Alabama State Port Authority, Mobile, AL; **David Stewart**, H & E Equipment Services, Trussville, AL; **Tim Weston**, Tennessee Valley Authority, Tupelo, MS; **Dean White**, Consultant, Daphne, AL

The full Board of Directors elected the following to serve a one year term as officers of the Association:

Chairman – **Tim Weston**, Tennessee Valley Authority, Tupelo, MS; Vice Chairman – **Fred Hansard**, Riverview Marinas, Demopolis, AL; Treasurer – **John Hardy**, Lowndes County Port Authority, Columbus, MS; **Ronnie Pritchard**, Consultant, Brentwood, TN; President – **Mike Tagert**, Columbus, MS; Past Chairman – **Steve Alley**, Ingram Materials, Ft. Mitchell, KY

The full Board of Directors also elected the following to serve a one year term as members of the Association's Executive Committee. Officers of the Council may also serve as ex-officio members of the Committee. **W. Ron Coles**, W. R. Coles & Associates, Nashville, TN; **Charlie Haun**, Parker Towing Company, Inc., Tuscaloosa, AL; **Sharon Kvak**, Garick Corporation, Cleveland, OH; **Tom Murphree**, Kinder Morgan Terminals, Memphis, TN.

Congratulations to the elected leadership and to all members of the Council.

Darcy confirmed as new Assistant Secretary of the Army



On Friday, August 7, 2009, the Senate confirmed the President's candidate to be the new Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). **Jo-Ellen Darcy** most recently served as the Senior Environmental Advisor to the Senate Finance Committee. In her new role, she will have primary responsibility over the Department of the Army's programs for conservation and development of the nation's water resources, including flood damage reduction, river and harbor navigation, environmental restoration and protection, water supply, shore protection, hydropower, and recreation.

Previously, Ms. Darcy was the Senior Policy Advisor to the Senate Committee

on Environment and public works. Prior experience includes stints as the Executive Director of the Great Lakes and Water Resources Planning Commission in Michigan, the Assistant Director of Personnel for Gubernatorial Appointments for the Governor of Michigan, and Policy Analyst in the U.S. House of Representatives Banking Subcommittee on Economic Stabilization.

Panama Canal Trade Mission

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council recently organized and led a trade mission to the Republic of Panama. Participation was open to all respective members, companies, and stakeholders of the Waterway and all those interested in the effects of the Canal Expansion on the inland waterway system. Participants included private shipping and transportation companies, policy analysts, developers, and transportation officials. Also, representatives from the *Institute for Trade and Transportation Studies* attended portions of the meeting which took place on September 16-20, 2009.

The mission of the trip was to provide private and public partners with opportunities for new business operating through the Canal and secondly, to learn of the emerging opportunities due to the expansion of the canal and changing transportation patterns within the Central American region.



During the visit, participants received briefings from **Rudolfo Sabonge**, Vice President of Market Research and Analysis for the Panama Canal Authority, as well as **David Hunt** of the American Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Sabonge (Pictured left) provided a briefing on the current flow of goods as well as the future projections and effects within the region. Participants were also provided briefings and one-on-one meeting opportunities with Panamanian business and industry leaders related to their specific markets. For more information on the Canal expansion and emerging business opportunities, you can view a copy of Mr. Sabonge's briefing at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway website at www.tenntom.org and by clicking on News/Conference Presentations.



(Above) **David Hunt**, Executive Director, American Chamber of Commerce and Industry provides a briefing on the current business climate in Panama and Central America.



Although traffic within the canal has decreased significantly in 2009, many ships such as this transit the canal, daily.



Near the Miroflores Locks, containers are being off-loaded to the terminal deck.



In the distance, ships wait to enter the Pacific side entrance to the canal.

Council Opposes H.R. 2454 “Cap and Trade” Bill

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council recently passed a resolution in opposition to the current energy bill (H.R. 2454) also known as “Cap and Trade” legislation. The council joined a number of other associations in the region who have opposed the bill.

According to the National Association of Manufacturers, the proposed legislation could result in significant economic losses estimated at \$3.1 trillion in gross domestic product and as many as 2.4 million jobs, thereby impacting nearly every segment of the Nation’s economy. The Southeastern States which primarily use fossil fuels for generating electricity stand to bear the brunt of these losses and hence cripple the regions ability to grow and compete globally.

The goal of this legislation should be to provide clean, affordable and dependable sources of energy to meet the Nation’s needs while improving the environment and lessening our dependence on foreign oil. In order to accomplish this goal, all energy sources should be utilized. The Council’s resolution calls upon regional and national officials to insist that all sources of energy be included in any federal legislation including wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, as well as hydropower, nuclear, natural gas, and clean coal technologies.

The Bill narrowly passed through the House of Representatives earlier this year, but is currently facing strong opposition within the Senate. For an update or to receive a copy of the resolution, please contact the Council office at 662-328-0812.



Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority and Council name representatives to Transportation Museum Board

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council recently named representatives from their respective agencies to the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Transportation Museum Board of Directors.



Representing the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority for a two (2) year term will be **T. L. (Bud) Phillips** of Columbus, MS and **Martha Segars** (pictured at right) of luka, MS. Mr. Phillips currently serves as Chairman of the Museum Board of Directors.

Representing the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council will be **Donald Waldon**, former administrator of the Authority of Fayette, AL and **Milton Sundbeck** of Southern Ionics in West Point, MS.

The Tenn-Tom Tourism Association will also appoint two representatives to the Museum Board of Directors at their fall meeting.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) awarded a grant to the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority to establish a museum in its headquarters in Columbus, Mississippi.

The goal of the Museum board is to raise \$1 million including grants and outside contributions to complete the project. The bidding process is on-going and construction is expected to begin in December, according to **Agnes Zaiontz**, the Museum Director. The Museum is a 501(c)3 not for profit corporation.

The museum will highlight the uniqueness of the waterway with its lock and dam system and will eventually incorporate artifacts and information regarding the connectivity of the waterway to rail and highway transportation. It will show the evolution of the Tenn-Tom region's transportation system with emphasis on the waterway. Included will be historical items obtained from the Smithsonian Institute and from state and federal archives. The exhibits in the museum will change periodically to provide a continuing source of new information.

At a silent auction during this year's Development Opportunities Conference, the group raised more than \$5,000 for the Museum. The auction had a wide variety of items for bidders including woodwork art pieces, jewelry, art, quilts, autographed footballs by a number of South Eastern Conference football coaches and other collectibles. Thanks to those who participated in the event by either donating or purchasing one of the many auction items!

Don C. Hines, Ph.D., a longtime friend and supporter of the inland waterways system passed away on August 26, 2009. Dr. Hines was instrumental in developing research on the waterways and supported efforts for advancement. He spent much of his career in the Alabama higher education system, and served as president of the University of West Alabama in Livingston from 1994 until 1998 after having served as Dean of the School of Business in the 1980s. Among other positions, he served as Dean of the Sorrell College of Business at Troy University and was on the cabinet of Governor Guy Hunt's administration as Division Chief of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) where he served as an alternate to Governor Hunt on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority Board of Directors. He also served as Chairman of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council from 2001 to 2002. Dr. Hines was instrumental in starting a rodeo team, a personal passion of his, at both the University of West Alabama (Don C. Hines Rodeo Complex) and Troy University. Donations may be made in his memory to the Don C. Hines Endowed Scholarship fund, c/o Troy University Foundation, Troy University, Troy, Alabama 36082. He will be greatly missed.



NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

Hank Stevens recently retired from Big River Systems in Alpharetta, Georgia. We wish Hank well in his retirement and look forward to work with his successor, **Richard Lawler**.

Hal Greer, a former director of the Hickman-Fulton County, Kentucky Riverport Authority, is now director of the Florence-Lauderdale County, Alabama Port Authority.

Brian Wilson has announced his departure from the Noxubee County, MS. Alliance effective January 1, 2010.

Troy Wayman was recently named Vice President of Economic Development for the Mobile, Alabama Chamber of Commerce.

Several members were recently appointed to the Alabama Inland Waterways and Intermodal Infrastructure Advisory Board, as administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. Council members serving on the board include **Terah Huckabee**, Parker Towing Company, Inc., Tuscaloosa; **Neal Wade**, Director of the Alabama Development Office, Montgomery; **Phillis Belcher**, Greene County Industrial Development Board, Eutaw; **Branson Williams**, PowerSouth Energy, Andalusia; **Jimmy Lyons**, Alabama State Port Authority, Mobile; and **Mike Tagert**, Administrator, Tennessee-Tombigbee Water-way Development Authority.



The Coalition of Alabama Waterway Associations recently conducted their annual fall congressional visit to Washington. Pictured (above, left to right) are **Larry Merrihew**, **Bill Satterfield**, **Judith Adams**, **Ralph Clemens**, **Billy Houston** and **Cline Jones**.

Several Council members were recently elected to three-year terms on the National Waterways Conference (NWC) Board of Directors. The election took place in Charleston, West Virginia at their annual meeting. Those members elected include: **Sharon Kvak**, Garick Corporation, Cleveland, OH; **Milton Sundbeck, Jr.**, (pictured at left) Southern Ionics Incorporated, West Point, MS and **J. Craig Stepan**, Natures Way Marine, Mobile, AL. Council members continuing to serve include **William Satterfield**, Balch & Bingham, LLP, Birmingham, AL; **Mark Mayfield**, Tennessee Valley Towing, Inc., Paducah, KY; **Jimmy Lyons**, Alabama State Port Authority, Mobile, AL; **Terah Huckabee**, Parker Towing Company, Tuscaloosa, AL; **Ron Coles**, W. R. Coles & Associates, Nashville, TN; **Donald G. Waldon**, Dawson and Associates, Fayette, AL; and **Mike Tagert**, Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council, Columbus, MS.





West Virginia Governor **Joe Manchin, III** addressed the NWC membership and expressed his support for the entire inland waterway system. Pictured (left to right) is **Donald Waldon**, Dawson and Associates; **Patrick Donovan**, West Virginia Port Authority; West Virginia Governor **Joe Manchin, III**, and **Mike Tagert** of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Bethany Stich

Assistant Professor
Mississippi State University

Honorable Travis Childers

United States Congressman
Mississippi First District
Booneville, Mississippi



LOCK CLOSURES

Old Hickory Lock (Nashville District)
October 27 – November 17, 2009

Selden (Warrior-Tombigbee) is scheduled to
re-open on October 15, 2009



**Development Opportunities Conference
Marriott's Grand Hotel ♦ Point Clear, Alabama
August 25 – 27, 2009**







