

Crosscurrents

Serving the St. Paul District since 1977

Vol. 49 No. 1 | Winter 2023



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®

St. Paul District

**Snow surveys
-Page 5**



(cover) Survey Technicians William Long (left) and Cheyanne Carlin (right), take snow surveys in Forest Lake, Minnesota, Feb. 27. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson



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Articles and photography submissions are welcome. Submissions may be emailed. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format. Photos should be at least 5 in. x 7 in. at 300 dpi.

The mission of *Crosscurrents* is to support the commander's internal information program for the St. Paul District and its stakeholders. *Crosscurrents* also serves as the commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies and command philosophy to the St. Paul District community and its customers.

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Contents

Snow surveys provide vital insight to reduce flood risk	5
First in the nation contract awarded for an environmental project under the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program	6
St. Paul District team receives water safety award	8
Locks and Dams 3 and 4 winter maintenance on schedule	9
St. Paul District conducts annual ice measurements	10
First barge of the 2023 navigation season arrives in St. Paul, Minnesota	10
Fountain City Service Base mooring system gets an upgrade	11
St. Paul District makes waves with a new aquatic invasive species program	12
Partnership efforts benefit community, recreation	13
District map maker takes over as librarian	14
Corps Employee Service Board renews its commitment to serve all employees	16
Emerging leaders visit Washington, D.C.	17
District holds its first safety workshop	18
Around the District	19
Corps marches on despite cold weather	20
2022 by the numbers	21
Employees of the Month: The MVPs of MVP	22
News and Notes	23

NEW EMPLOYEE BRIEFING

Thurs. April 6
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DEAN ZWIEFEL



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Comments From The Top: A message from Col. Eric Swenson

Teammates,

Happy spring! The weather is slowly getting warmer, and we are celebrating the return of longer days and more sunlight. We also celebrate the return of many of our seasonal employees – at our locks and dams with Corrine Hodapp, on the Dredge Goetz with Brian Krause and at our parks with Randy Urich.

We welcomed the first tow of the 2023 navigation season, March 12 (Page 10). Our hard-working teammates aboard the Dredge Goetz and at our locks and dams will make sure we maintain the 9-foot navigation channel and keep commerce moving on the Upper Mississippi River. Our navigation mission is vital to the economy and continues to be the “greenest” way to ship goods, also saving industries around \$430 million annually.

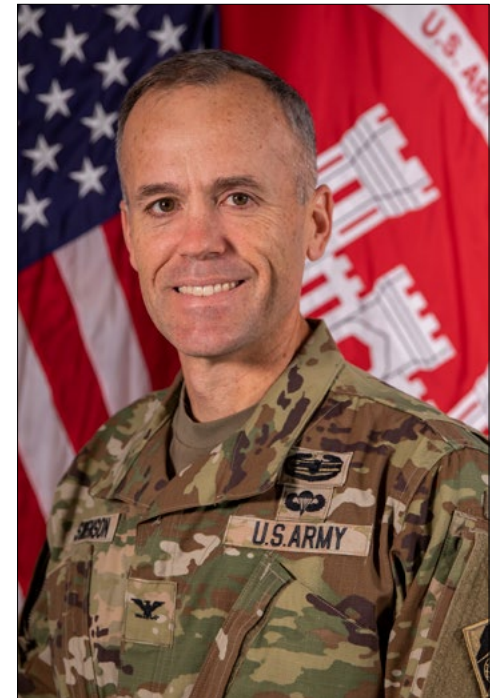
Last year, our parks saw more than 165,000 visitors, and we anticipate similar numbers this

summer. Our staff works hard to ensure an AWESOME experience for our park visitors and in many instances, they are the first people that the public interacts with. They are often the “face” of the Corps.

March is an exciting time in the St. Paul District for the reasons above, but it is also an exciting month because we get to celebrate and recognize the great women in our lives and in our Corps family. March is Women’s History Month! In recognition of our great women, on April 5, Theresa Gant-Gaines and our Special Emphasis Program Committee, will host Maj. Gen. Diana Holland, Mississippi Valley Division commander, for a special diversity, equity and inclusion forum. I hope you all will be able to “tune-in.” Women are a vital part of our workforce and have made significant contributions to the nation. I hope you can join our division commander to hear her inspiring remarks.

We are also working with Jim Rand and our readiness operations center; Elizabeth Nelsen and our water management branch; and our partners at the National Weather Service to assess the flood risk around the region with the historic amount of precipitation we’ve received this winter. We have a talented and committed group of folks ready to step up if we are needed.

While I was in Fargo, North Dakota, the other week, I had the opportunity to present Jerry Cudney, one of our construction inspectors, with the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal (Page 25). The de Fleury is the highest honor in the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment. The bronze de Fleury is presented to Army Engineers who distinguish themselves over a long career of service to the regiment. It was a great honor for me to present this award to Jerry. In addition to his job with the St. Paul District, he is also a first sergeant in the Army Reserves and spends many nights and week-



ends leading citizen soldiers from around the greater Minnesota/ North Dakota area.

We had a great turnout of volunteers for our St. Patrick’s Day parade in downtown St. Paul (Page 20). With the wind chill, it was definitely a parade I will remember for years to come! This

Story continued on Page 4

Comments From The Top: A message from Col. Eric Swenson

Story continued from Page 3

was a great way to show community engagement and promote water safety with Bobber, our water safety dog. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to march, and thanks for those that turned out to watch the parade!

It's sure to be a busy spring and summer, and as we continue making progress, make sure to remember that we only win when we complete the mission SAFELY. Safety should always be at the forefront of your mind. Keep the safety good catches coming. As of March 20, we've had 12. Though this may seem high, it speaks to your keen eyes and clear focus on workplace safety. These good catches raise awareness of safety risks before they cause harm or damage.

Speaking of safety, if you are going through a rough patch, feel the stresses of life are getting the best of you, or just need to talk to someone, we have a Critical In-



Col. Eric Swenson (right), district commander, meets with St. Paul District regulators Bill Sande (left), Daryl Wierzbinski and Karen Eklund, in Wisconsin. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo

cident Stress Management team in the district. [Here is a link](#) that will connect you to a team member. Every teammate is a valued member of our district.

We will celebrate the completion of our first Tribal Partnership Program project at Sturgeon Lake, near Red Wing, Minnesota, with a tree planting in May. We will also be breaking ground on our

district's first Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program project in Pool 2, near Hastings, Minnesota (Pages 6-7), which is the nation's FIRST ecosystem restoration project under this program. We'll continue breaking ground as we celebrate the start of Upper Pool 4 Islands project.

We continue to press forward with our missions and remember

our motto of Essayons, which means "Let us try." As always, remember that people are our number one asset. Reach out to someone who you don't know and make a connection, you never know what will happen! I can't wait to see what this district will accomplish next!

Respectfully,
Col. Swenson

Snow surveys provide vital insight to reduce flood risk

Story by Melanie Peterson

Despite freezing rain and bone-chilling temperatures, St. Paul District survey technicians forged ahead to complete their annual snow surveys. New survey technicians Cheyanne Carlin and William Long, drove an hour on slick roads from Hastings, Minnesota, to Forest Lake, Minnesota, to begin their week-long journey around the state, Feb. 27.

Carlin and Long are one of two teams surveying the district's area of responsibility. The two teams cover about 100 snow survey locations.

"This is vital information that we provide to our partners and the water management section, so we are prepared for the spring melt," Long said.

Surveys are also completed by park rangers in the Mississippi River Headwaters region and western area reservoirs at about 200 additional locations. This information assists the district's water management officials in determining how much water is contained within the snowpack. This information is shared with

other agencies, such as the National Weather Service and the U.S. Geological Survey, and helps determine what steps to take to reduce flood risks across the region.

The snow survey process involves going to a predetermined location, collecting snow through a tube and weighing the collected snow sample to determine how much water is contained within the snowpack, using a mathematical formula.

Every year, floods sweep through communities across the United States, taking lives, destroying property, shutting down businesses and causing millions of dollars in damage. The Corps assists communities in building projects that reduce risk from floods while managing several reservoirs designed to reduce excess flooding. Additionally, the Corps assists states in reacting to floods when the response required exceeds a state's capabilities.



Cheyenne Carlin, survey technician, collects snow survey data in Forest Lake, Minnesota, Feb. 27. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson

First in the nation contract awarded for an environmental project under the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program

Story by Melanie Peterson

The St. Paul District Pool 2 wing dam modification project, in the Mississippi River, downstream of St. Paul, Minnesota, is the first ecosystem restoration contract in the nation awarded under the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program, or NESP.

NESP is a long-term program of navigation improvements and ecosystem restoration for the

Upper Mississippi River System. The primary goals of the program are to increase the capacity and improve the reliability of the inland navigation system while restoring, protecting and enhancing the environment.

“It’s exciting to work with the Rock Island and St. Louis districts to determine how this program will operate for the next 15

years,” said Kimberly Warshaw, project manager. “If we’re able to execute NESP, it will lead to hundreds of millions of dollars in ecosystem restoration projects in the three districts, adding environmental benefits to the Upper Midwest.”

The \$324,000 Pool 2 contract was awarded to Togiak Management Services of Anchorage, Alaska on Nov. 29, 2022. Construction is expected to start in spring/summer with construction estimated for completion in September.

The Pool 2 wing dam modification project area is in the middle and lower half of Pool 2 of the Upper Mississippi River south of St. Paul and spans Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties in Minnesota. A wing dam is a rock structure that diverts the water to the center of the river channel. The contractor will notch out rock from 17 wing dams to encourage depth and flow diversity of river habitat for fish.

According to Trevor Cyphers, biologist, this is a transition area with a variety of habitat types, resulting in high fish diversity. These species could include channel catfish, smallmouth bass, walleye, bluegill, freshwater drum, or paddlefish.

“This project has been in development for two years, and NESP has provided the financial capability and opportunity to complete the project,” Warshaw said. “Under NESP, we will continue to execute projects that support navigation infrastructure while also providing funding for ecosystem restoration projects.”

There are two more NESP environmental projects that could start construction as soon as 2025, she continued: the Pool 3 Northern Sturgeon Lake project and the Pool 4 Wacouta Bay project. Both these projects will also include collaboration with engaged partners, Prairie Island Indian Community and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Story continued on Page 7



An aerial map of Pool 2 of the Upper Mississippi River. USACE St. Paul District map

Story continued from Page 6

for Sturgeon Lake and the Wisconsin and Minnesota departments of natural resources for Wacouta Bay.

NESP background

Transportation, boating, fishing and a myriad of other business and recreational uses of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterways provide approximately \$1 billion annually in net benefits to the nation's economy. Equally important is the high environmental value these rivers provide the nation. Balancing these combined, and sometimes conflicting, factors make managing the river system challenging, with many individuals and organizations championing great and varying interests.

In 1986, the Upper Mississippi River System was declared by Congress as a "nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system." This led to a navigation study in 1990 that looked at the constraints of the navigation system and the effect of increasing locks to allow bigger locks and improve efficiencies in the navi-

gation system, according to Terry Birkenstock, chief of regional planning and environment division north.

In 1993, The Upper Mississippi River - Illinois Waterway System Navigation Feasibility Study was initiated to further study waterway improvements.

"During these studies there was controversy from the environmental community," Birkenstock said. "They wanted equal expenditure on ecosystem and navigation, so they agreed to collaborate and attend the public meetings."

Coupled with recommendations from the National Research Council and based on input from a federal agency task force, the study was restructured in 2001 with the goal of an environmentally sustainable navigation system that ensured efficient transportation for the future. The report was finalized and signed in 2004.

In 2007, Congress authorized NESP in the Water Resources Development Act. The first dual-purpose program of its kind to enhance and improve the Upper

Mississippi River System.

"After that, it was on the back burner," Birkenstock said. "Industry and other organizations have been lobbying Congress for years to fund construction and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law finally made it happen. The appropriations from the law, signed in January 2022, will propel projects

to modernize navigation on the Upper Mississippi River System and restore the environment.

For more information, see: <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NESP/>



A view of Pool 2, near St. Paul, Minnesota. USACE St. Paul District photo by Aaron McFarlane

St. Paul District team receives water safety award

Story by Melanie Peterson

The Mississippi Valley Division, recently awarded the Corps' St. Paul District Small Boat Instructor Team its 2023 Water Safety Award for the work they have done teaming up with local emergency management services to conduct water rescue near locks and dams.

The purpose of the water rescue training is to highlight roles and responsibilities of each organization during emergencies at a Corps lock and dam, explain restricted areas near the Corps' facilities and gain an understanding of how flow conditions create hazards at the dam.

"I'm incredibly proud of our team and the hard work that we are doing. Safety is always our number one priority," said Joel Herman, Lock and Dam 6 working supervisor and instructor for the small boat operator course.

Boats on the Mississippi River are restricted 600 feet upstream

of the dam and 150 feet downstream of the dam. These restricted areas are marked off with buoys and signage on the shore or lock walls. Not obeying these signs can lead to loss of property and loss of life. Remember to always wear a life jacket in, on or around water.

The St. Paul District's navigation program provides a safe, reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally sustainable waterborne transportation system on the Upper Mississippi River for the movement of commercial goods and for national security needs.



St. Paul District staff, along with 13 members of the Trempealeau Fire Department, conduct on-water orientation and demonstration to develop procedures on how to respond to a disabled/distressed boater at Lock and Dam 6, near Trempealeau, Wisconsin, Sept. 6, 2022. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo

Locks and Dams 3 and 4 winter maintenance on schedule

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Timing is of the essence when it comes to maintenance and repair for the St. Paul District's locks and dams on the Mississippi River to ensure they are ready for the navigation season.

It was the first time Locks and Dams 3 and 4 near Red Wing, Minnesota, and Alma, Wisconsin, received anchor bar replacements and upgraded anchorage components to the miter gates, or lock systems that control the water depths for vessels moving up and down river.

"The construction activities are scheduled for completion by mid-March," said Jim Cook, project manager. "The maintenance work improves safety for the Corps' lock operators and industry deckhands. It also facilitates future upgrade projects, such as the eventual installation of new miter gates."

Cook, who is responsible for the scope, schedule and budget, said the design work for this project began in July 2022 and maintenance and repair crew teams were ready to start work on the locks in December.

"We have a very deliberate timeline for crews to perform work on the system because they have to disable the locks and that's something we cannot do during the navigation season," Cook explained. "We have very skilled maintenance and repair operators, and they are working hard to get the job done in less than three months."

"It is a team effort," said Mike Gunderson, maintenance and repair supervisor for 17 years.

St. Paul District divers helped raise the miter gates so they can replace the anchorage systems with new structural elements to support the lock. Divers work in very low visibility and feel their way around the entire structure. Rock Island District maintenance and repair crew members also stepped in with their expertise to augment the St. Paul District team.

Winter maintenance on the locks is important to ensure navigation vessels can efficiently lock through and provide transportation in the Upper Midwest.

"The Corps enables transport of bulk commodities, grain, concrete – things that industry can move up and down the river by barge far less expensively than truck or train," Cook said.

The St. Paul District's navigation program provides a safe, reliable and cost-effective and environmentally sustainable waterborne

transportation system on the Upper Mississippi River for the movement of commercial goods and for national security needs. To do this, the district maintains a 9-foot navigation channel and 13 locks and dams from Minneapolis to Guttenberg, Iowa. Keeping this system open is vital to the nation's economy.



Noah Andow, maintenance and repair, getting a gudgeon pin shims cleaned and ready for installation at Lock and Dam 3, near Red Wing, Minnesota, Feb. 21. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

St. Paul District conducts annual ice measurements

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Each year, the St. Paul District conducts ice measurements on Lake Pepin, near Red Wing Minnesota. Lake Pepin's ice thickness is measured because it's the widest naturally occurring part of the Mississippi River. The lake's ice is the last major barrier for vessels reaching the head of the navigation channel in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Link to ice measurements [here](#).



Brandon Olson, survey technician, drills through ice on Lake Pepin, near Red Wing, Minnesota, Feb. 17. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson



The Motor Vessel Phillip M Pfeffer with six barges is locked through Lock and Dam 2, in Hastings, Minnesota, March 12. USACE St. Paul District photo by Patrick Moes

First barge of the 2023 navigation season arrives in St. Paul, Minnesota

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

The St. Paul District locked the Motor Vessel Phillip M Pfeffer with six barges through Lock and Dam 2, in Hastings, Minnesota, March 12, en route to St. Paul, Minnesota. The lockage marks the unofficial start to the 2023 Upper Mississippi River navigation season. This year's first tow was about one week ahead of the average. In the last 30 years, the average opening date of the navigation season has been March 20; last year, it was on March 21. The earliest date for an up-bound tow to reach Lock and Dam 2, was March 4, which happened in 1983, 1984 and 2000.

Fountain City Service Base mooring system gets an upgrade

Story by David Elmstrom

This winter, the dredge fleet – the Goetz, Taggatz and the Warren – were scheduled to be in drydock for the offseason, which happens every five years. In addition, the fleet responsible for lock and dam maintenance will support scheduled maintenance projects at two of St. Paul District’s locks.

That’s giving the Fountain City Service Base, in Fountain City,

Wisconsin, – known as the “Boatyard” – an opportunity to get more construction work done in the off-season.

The base is in the middle of a two-phase project that will upgrade its facilities, including the mooring for ongoing maintenance of equipment and boats.

The first phase, with a

\$10.2 million contract awarded to Newt Marine Service of Dubuque, Iowa, began in 2021 and will replace deteriorated mooring dolphins on the west side of the Fountain City bay. A new mooring system will replace the previous wood mooring dolphins. That phase is scheduled for completion this spring, according to Adam Loven, plant and facilities manager.

That will give the service base upgrades to welcome back its dredge and lock maintenance fleet in the spring.

“It was good timing for the drydock,” Loven said.

Loven said initial work for Phase 2 began last summer, with an \$18.6 million contract awarded to Kraemer North America of Plain, Wisconsin. This phase includes straightening out the existing harbor wall, leveling the grade at the service base, adding two crane cells and updating electrical and water infrastructure. The project is scheduled for completion by June 2024.

“In addition to safety and security improvements, we are taking steps to make operations and maintenance activities at the base more efficient,” said Kristin Moe, chief of the navigation branch overseeing Fountain City.

The Fountain City Service Base is key to the St. Paul District’s navigation mission. The Corps has used this facility for the construction, repair and maintenance of vessels and equipment used for river improvement projects for more than a century. Since 1895, more than 200 towboats, tenders, snag boats, dipper and hydraulic dredges, quarters’ boats, barges, launches and skiffs have been serviced at the “Boatyard.”

“For over a century, the Fountain City Service Base has been essential for maintaining the navigation channel on the Upper Mississippi River,” Moe said. “This modernization of our infrastructure is important for the St. Paul District to safely deliver the navigation mission over the next century.”



Crews begin work to upgrade the harbor walls at the Fountain City Service Base, in Fountain City, Wisconsin. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo

St. Paul District makes waves with a new aquatic invasive species program

Story by Melanie Peterson

The St. Paul District is paving the way with the first Corps-led aquatic invasive species, or AIS, cooperative program, in the Midwest region. Invasive species cost the public more than \$137 billion annually, according to the Engineer Research and Development Center, and more than

100 nuisance species are introduced to U.S. waters annually.

The program was recently expanded to the national level. The program includes three components: direct funding for research and development for AIS, cost-share funding for the control and

prevention of AIS and emergency action to provide immediate support.

Hydrilla and flowering rush are specifically listed as part of the program, but through research and development efforts, treatment can be applied to other invasive and nuisance species as well.

The first part of the program, research and development to combat AIS, is 100% federally funded. States can submit a proposal that the federal government can approve and fund.

The second part of the program is a 50% cost-share program with non-federal sponsors. It involves the state's submittal of annual workplans, performing the work and then requesting reimbursement. This part of the program is to control and prevent the spread of AIS and could include watercraft inspections, equipment purchases, supplies, services, along with outreach and education.

The third component of the program includes emergency action.

This could involve a brand-new presence of AIS in a sensitive area. Once this program is established, the Corps can immediately provide support.

"From my position, the biggest role we play is helping communities collaborate and prevent the spread of invasive species across borders – international borders and state boundaries. Aquatic invasive species don't stop at state lines. Now we can reach out to multiple states, and even Canada, to prevent the spread," said Eric Hanson, senior ecologist.



A person holds a strand of Hydrilla, an invasive aquatic plant at Mosquito Creek Lake, in Cortland, Ohio, Sept. 28, 2021. USACE Pittsburgh District photo by Michel Sauret



A photo of flowering rush, an aquatic invasive species. USACE Buffalo District photo by Andre Hampton

Partnership efforts benefit community, recreation

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

An idea years in the making is coming to fruition at the Cross Lake Recreation Area in Crosslake, Minnesota, as the staff finalize a partnership to create the National Loon Center.

The loon center is designed to be both an eco-tourism attraction and educational facility for the education and preservation of loons, loon habitat and water quality.

“There are lots of moving parts to this development,” said Cross Lake Recreation Area Supervisory Park Ranger Corrine Hodapp. “However, it’s a win-win for both the Corps and the loon center to offer park improvements and continued interpretive programs and exhibits to the community.”

Loon-focused learning opportunities will extend beyond the interpretive exhibits and into the bay and throughout a trail system along the shoreline. An interpretive trail, multi-slip docks, and shoreline protection measures will provide visitors with a unique and educational experience, she explained.

“The location and proximity to the water is key to this new development,” Hodapp said. “Having hands-on educational programs teaches our guests respect and stewardship to the loons, their new habitat, shoreland and lakes.”

Projections suggest the facilities will draw 80,000 visitors each year to the recreation area, Hodapp said.

“This is a highly developed community, and we have goals to establish even more opportunities for the public and users that they can continue to enjoy and support through the years,” Hodapp said.

In 2017, the loon center signed a \$2.6 million, 25-year lease, with the Corps that sets the foundation and authority in a mutual cooperative agreement for the benefit of the public.

It’s the first time the St. Paul District is allowing a nonprofit organization to build and operate within a Corps managed recreation area.

Hodapp explained the recent

upgrades to the park and what future planning looks like moving forward.

The first part of the project started in June 2022, with the center funding \$1.5 million in outdoor improvements for newly installed sidewalks, public docks, signage and the completion of a shoreline restoration project.

“These outdoor upgrades will benefit outdoor exhibits that are planned at the facility for the public to enjoy,” Hodapp said.

The second part of the project is the lease for the construction and building of the center on Cross Lake Recreation Area proper-

ty. Hodapp said many factors are considered. Engineers are evaluating how to protect the shoreline and dike wall by reviewing the building’s proximity to each. Changes in water runoff, landscape design, height of the building, and even the look of the structure are also considered to assure the best outcome for both the loon center and the Cross Lake Recreation Area.

The third phase of the project is the groundbreaking and facility construction, which is scheduled for summer 2023.

The final phase is the grand opening, projected for 2024.



A common loon. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Digital Library

District map maker takes over as librarian

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

He's a cartographer, digital archivist and librarian offering cross-functional skills to the St. Paul District's library in preserving cultural history during a time of digital transformation.

Byron Williams, a district cartographer for 23 years, found the vacant librarian position a natural progression of his skills with an eye on digital while preserving traditional hard copy resources.

"This is a critical role for the district, and Byron brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the library. We need that one-stop shop for all the project critical documents such as plans and specs, design reports, periodic inspections dam safety and more," said Kenton Spading, project manager.

The district library was recently named the Henry P. Bosse Memorial Library after the renowned draftsman and photographer. The library serves as the district's collection point of cultural heritage, valuable artifacts and reading materials with more recent access to online/digital platforms, providing a more expansive role

for the librarian.

Williams' experience as a cartographer and in document management systems, will play a key role as the district librarian.

"Access to information is the most important thing, especially when we are in a major flood crisis, and employees need to retrieve documents as quickly as possible," Williams said. "We have a vast collection of original documents and map files (drawings) critical to Corps projects and emergency applications. Digital access is convenient, however, maintaining a print reference is key to continuity of operations and long-term use."

It's thinking about how digital and (physical) paper can support each other and about the space that will facilitate this effort and libraries can do that, he said.

"One of my top priorities for the library is making it accessible," Williams said. "The library is strategically positioned near the commander's executive suite in

Story continued on page 15



St. Paul District Librarian Byron Williams inventories artifacts that are unique to the district for safekeeping and continuation of the cultural heritage, in St. Paul, Minnesota, Feb. 1. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann.

Story continued from Page 14

our new district building. We want employees and guests to see the library, to see the history and appreciate it as an opportunity to gather and learn more about the district's historic topics and leaders that have been part of the district's rich history."

Libraries have long depended on microfilm, and this remains an important means of preserving and providing access to critical documents for the St. Paul District, he added.

As of the recent district move, the microfilm collection is now housed in the library, which includes project specifications and 90% of the district's drawings and project specifications. Microfilm along with design reports, period inspections, project specifications and dam safety reports were previously stored in the same room which caused concern if there were a fire, power loss or emergency situation.

In the coming months, Williams has his work cut out for him, as he plans to relocate and organize engineering and construction division's periodic inspection reports and related documents. He also plans to organize project specification documents in both

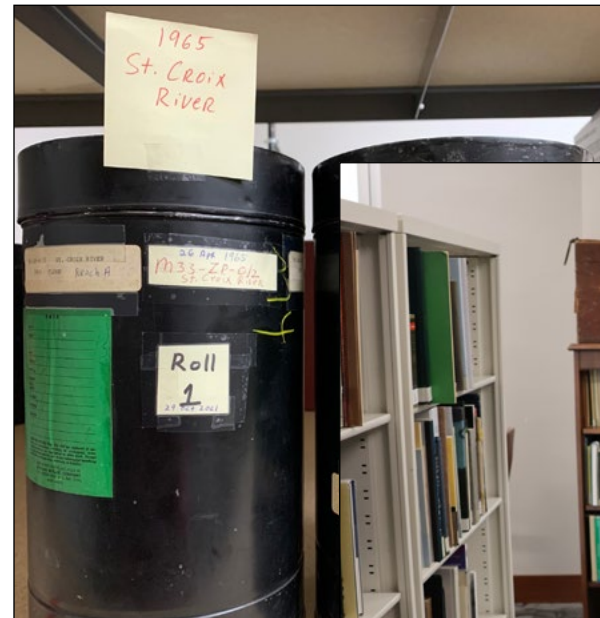
microfilm and print formats for continuity of operations.

"We also have numerous boxes containing important documents and photos collected during the district move that need to be reviewed and organized," Williams added. "This process follows specific guidelines for the disposition of Corps project documents."

Williams said he's looking forward to the design and renovation of the library that will include oak bookcases, a conference table and leather chairs. The library will feature a facsimile of one of Henry P. Bosse's albums that is protected in a glass-covered case and 17 framed Bosse photographs. The album was discovered on the decommissioned U.S. Dredge William A. Thompson in 1990.

"I really enjoy the history of the Corps of Engineers and the legacy of engineers who have paved the way providing value to the nation," Williams said. "The Henry Bosse Library is open daily for everyone to find a book, access project documents, have a conversation or hold a meeting."

Another important responsibility that Williams and Spading are collectively working on is the engineering and construction aerial film collection that dates to 1927. Canisters of film were recently sent to the Department of Defense Visual Information Resource Center who will scan/digitize the film at no cost to the district. The regional program will ultimately tell users where the original film and the scans are located. The original film will be transferred to the National Archives Records Administration for underground film storage near Lenexa, Kansas.



A canister of film. USACE St. Paul District photo by Kenton Spading



St. Paul District Librarian Byron Williams preserves traditional hard copy resources with an eye on digital in his new role, in St. Paul, Minnesota, March 2. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Corps Employee Service Board renews its commitment to serve all employees

Story by Melanie Peterson

The Corps Employee Services Board, or CESB, is back in business after a pause in operations for nearly two years. As of September 2022, the board is back up and running on all cylinders with a few administrative and operational changes from years past.

Administratively, the board filled two vacant board member positions, and added three new at-large board member positions to give interested staff a way to support the organization without a significant initial commitment. Operationally, the CESB added the responsibilities of the former Employee Benefits Association, or EBA, and updated its mission to include logistical support for St. Paul District employee events and support for employees experiencing significant life events (both positive and negative).

The CESB is a nonprofit organization that was started in 2015 to support St. Paul District employee events. “Sometimes, unique obstacles are encountered when planning and executing these events,” said Eric

Hanson, CESB president. “As a nonprofit organization, the board maintains a bank account it can use to pay security deposits for venues and vendors for goods or services at employee events. We can also sign rental contracts and assume the liability risk that goes along with it. Often, the risk of liability is too strong an obstacle for the Corps to sign such documents. Being a separate nonprofit entity allows us that capability.”

In the past, the board has supported events such as the summer and winter award ceremonies, Corps Day, and the winter military ball. “These are great opportunities to not only recognize Corps employees but also have some fun,” Hanson said.

Within the last year, the board combined the organization roles of CESB and the EBA to increase organizational efficiency and reduce administration. The EBA formerly solicited annual dues from individuals, and employees had to be a due-paying member to receive support from the EBA for a significant life event.

“While incorporating EBA, we can support employees at a much higher level. We have a representative on the board specifically dedicated to EBA, and we can now support all employees equally without the need for annual dues,” Hanson said.

Hanson said the board is here to support the whole district, including those outside the district office.

Employees can reach out to the board at any time with questions and concerns. Supervisors that have employees experiencing a significant life event, should contact Melanie Peterson, employee benefits representative, [here](#).



Eric Hanson, senior ecologist and CESB president. USACE St. Paul District photo by Emily Chavolla

Emerging leaders visit Washington, D.C.

Story by Suzanne Grim and Pedro Rosario Gonzalez

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division emerging leaders participated in Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute, or GAI, held in Washington D.C. at the Rayburn House office building, Jan. 30-Feb. 2.

The two-year emerging leaders program strives to professionally develop Corps employees through a variety of experiences that challenges participants through training, mentoring, developmental assignments, senior leader shadowing while developing leaders' regional perspectives and growing effective leadership traits.

Nineteen leaders from St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg, and New Orleans districts participated in the week-long GAI "Washington Week", including Theresa Gant-Gaines and Jeff McCullick from the St. Paul District.

Worth Hester, Jr., assistant director and senior fellow of GAI, led the course with the end goal of providing leaders congressional education. Some of the topics

included: key stages in the legislative process, congressional appropriation process, the role of the Government Accountability Office, Congress and media. These topics were supplemented by former Congress representatives and journalists.

"Attending GAI week with the emerging leaders program was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career," said Gant-Gaines. "During the course of the week we were able to attend congressional briefings, learn and understand how the Corps fits into the congressional process, and network with lawmakers and staffers at the highest level of our government. GAI week also included a personal tour of the U.S. Capitol and the Pentagon. I am very grateful to the St. Paul District and Mississippi Valley Division for the opportunity."

Washington Week is one of the most anticipated events for the emerging leaders. Participants expanded their understanding of the legislative processes in our country and how these processes effect budgets, funding, and programming for the Corps.



Theresa Gant Gaines (left front), engineering and construction, and Jeff McCullick (back right), operations, join other Mississippi Valley Division emerging leaders with Command Sergeant Major of the Army Michael A. Grinston. USACE Mississippi Valley Division courtesy photo

District holds its first safety workshop

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

The St. Paul District Safety Office held its first Collateral Duty Safety Officer, or CDSO, workshop at the district office, Jan. 24-26. Lead by the district's safety team, 25 safety officers spent a week discussing all things safety related.

Operations Safety Specialist Aaron Pieplow was the driving force behind the concept of the district's first safety workshop. He's committed to making safety a priority in the organization and expanding the CDSO program across the district.

"The safety officers are where the rubber meets the road, they are the backbone of the safety program," Pieplow said. "Every officer takes on the responsibilities not for glory or honor, but to help provide a better work environment. They care about each other and at the end of the day, safety is all about taking care of each other. One team, one fight!"

With the support of the St. Paul District safety officers Dustin Strand and Jeff Kirkey, Pieplow quickly engaged operations leadership to propose a rough outline of the workshop and quickly gain support by operations leadership.

"You are your own community of practice, to support and engage with each other," Cameron told the officers. "You are the key to our strong culture of safety, and I am grateful that you have stepped up to fill this role for your site, to anchor us in safety, and get us all home safely at the end of the day."

Officers across multiple departments within operations spent three days learning safety specific duties, mentoring with lead-

ership, and sharing experiences from the field.

Pieplow said personal protective equipment is usually the first thing everyone thinks about when it comes to safety but it's actually the last resort to keep you safe. "Overall, we want to communicate that safety is a shield that is here to protect employees, not a sword to attack. We are all on the same team working together for a common purpose, the wellbeing and safety of all employees," Pieplow said.

Feedback from CDSO workshop attendees was very encouraging and laid the groundwork to improve future sessions for our safety officers who protect people, equipment and property for future generations to enjoy, Strand said.



Brad Bauer, electrical engineer, presents at the safety workshop, in St. Paul, Minnesota, Jan. 26. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo

Around the District

Nathan Wallerstedt (right), project management and development branch chief, and a city of River Falls, Wisconsin, official signed a feasibility cost shared agreement to restore the Kinnickinnic River aquatic ecosystem to its natural setting, in River Falls, Wisconsin, Feb. 28. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann



Curtis Marty (left), head operator at Lock and Dam 5, and Nathan Osmundson, lock and dam equipment mechanic at Lock and Dam 5, assess potential housing sites in Lee County, Florida, Jan. 11. USACE New Orleans District photo by Alison Hebert

The Tier 2 leadership development program group toured the Fountain City Service Base, in Fountain City, Wisconsin, Feb. 28. USACE St. Paul District photo by Tamara Cameron



Kim Warshaw (front), project manager; Col. Eric Swenson (back left) district commander; and Al Vanguilder (back right), supervisory civil engineering technician, look at the Sturgeon Lake Tribal Partnership Program, the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program and the Sturgeon Lake project sites, in Pool 3, near Red Wing, Minnesota, Feb. 10. USACE St. Paul District photo by Kim Warshaw

Corps marches on despite cold weather

Story by Melanie Peterson



Despite bone-chilling temperatures, volunteers from across the district marched in the annual St. Paul St. Patrick's Day parade. Bitterly cold winds made it feel about -5 ° Fahrenheit. Marchers were greeted by hundreds of onlookers on the streets and in the skyway. Bobber, the water safety dog, made an appearance to remind everyone to wear their life jacket!



Volunteers from the St. Paul District line up to march in the St. Paul St. Patrick's day parade, March 17. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo



Col. Eric Swenson, district commander, poses with Bobber, the water safety dog, at the St. Patrick's Day parade in St. Paul, Minnesota, March 17. USACE St. Paul District photo by Wendy Wells

Caree Kovacevich, regulatory senior project manager, poses with Bobber, the water safety dog, at the St. Patrick's Day parade in St. Paul, Minnesota, March 17. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson



2022 by the numbers

NAVIGATION

606K cubic yards

dredged river sand provided for beneficial use:

- habitat projects
- municipal developments
- cattle bedding
- road maintenance

818,000 cubic yards dredged from 33 different dredging jobs

12M tons of goods



passed through Lock 10

- 1,969 commercial vessels passed through lock 10
- 29,153 total lockages at MVP locks

401 surveys

completed by survey crew covering 30,019 acres

RECREATION

168K guests at campsites



- 921,241 day use recreation visitors
- 19,241 volunteer hours worked
- fee revenues totaled over \$1M

ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

placed

\$169M

in construction [highest ever for MVP]

- Provided engineering support to 35 USACE districts and centers



EMERGENCY MGMT

108 deployments

10 in support of others
98 disaster response

SAFETY

28 good catches

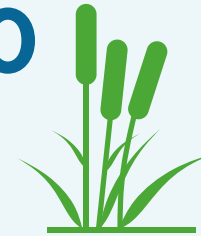
HQ recognized program sharing information to aid in the prevention of mishaps



REGULATORY

Wetland Actions Authorized

3,900 permit actions processed



18 outreach events

reached 800 participants

Wetland Mitigation Banks

20 mitigation banks approved

with approximately 800 projected credits

OFFICE OF COUNSEL



35 FOIA requests processed

- Over 2,600 pages of information

CPAC

134 new hires

13 retirements



PROJECT MANAGEMENT

\$11.9M

Section 594 N.D. Environmental Infrastructure Program

\$115M

Red River Structure contract (largest in district history)



1st Construction Contract

awarded under Navigation and Ecosystem Restoration Program (NESP)

- \$55M in Upper Mississippi River Restoration, highest in 35+ years
- \$140M in federal construction awarded at the Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan Project

Recognizing our Employees of the Month: The MVPs of MVP



December
Mike Walker
*Regional Planning and
Environment Division North*



January
Andy Huffman
*Programs and Project
Management*



News and Notes

New Employees

Robert Ashby, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Clayton Corken, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, Rock Island, Illinois

Brittney-Anne Echt, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, Rock Island, Illinois

Amanda Goldstein, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Paul, Minnesota

Mallory Gross, regulatory specialist, regulatory, St. Paul, Minnesota

Peyton Hamm, regulatory specialist, regulatory, Brainerd, Minnesota

David Kelly, human resources specialist, civilian personnel advisory center, St. Paul, Minnesota

Bryn Langrehr, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Erik Madaus, office automation assistant, regulatory, St. Paul, Minnesota

Mark Madaus, civil engineer, project management, St. Paul, Minnesota

Michael Madson, archeologist, regulatory St. Paul, Minnesota

Robert Mangaudis, civil engineer (geotechnical), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Michael Mireau, architect, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Laken Parrish, archeologist, regional planning and environment division north, Rock Island, Illinois

Morgan Peterson, realty specialist, real estate, St. Paul, Minnesota

Charles Ross, human resources specialist (classification/recruitment and placement), civilian personnel advisory center, Weymouth, Massachusetts

Collin Smith, civil engineer (hydraulics), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

David Smith, human resources assistant, civilian personnel advisory center, St. Paul, Minnesota

Friend Solberg, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Thomas Sowinski, biologist, regulatory St. Paul, Minnesota

Molly Stansberry, office automation assistant, regulatory St. Paul, Minnesota
Michael Swenson, hydrologist, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Samantha Thury, budget analyst, resource management, St. Paul, Minnesota

William Thomson, civil engineer, programs and project management, St. Paul, Minnesota

Jeremy Webb, realty assistant, real estate St. Paul, Minnesota

Cody Wiig, facilities specialist, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Anne Wurtenberger, community planner, regional planning and environment division north, Rock Island, Illinois

Joel Zietz, maintenance and repair coordinator, operations, Valley City, North Dakota

Promotions

Calvin Aulwes, lock and dam operator, operations, Guttenberg, Iowa

Daniel Adams, landscape architect, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Craig Bauer, 3rd assistant engineer PLD class I, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Sanjay Bimali, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Amber Black, human resources specialist (classification/recruitment and placement), civilian personnel advisory center, Holly Springs, North Carolina

Christopher Botz, natural resources specialist (ranger), operations, Valley City, North Dakota

Brady Dehnke, leverman (DR), operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

April Erickson, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Benjamin Everson, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Kathryn Fechter, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Louis, Missouri

Valeshka Mussenden Ferdinand, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

News and Notes, continued

Paul Fleming, engineering technician (civil), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Troy Frank, lockmaster, operations, Genoa, Wisconsin

Theresa Gant-Gaines, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Justin Garrett, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Louis, Missouri

Gregory Hammons, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Adam Howard, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Theodore Hecht, contract specialist, contracting, St. Paul, Minnesota

Jason Ilefson, cook, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Joshua Isakson, operator, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Roberta Just, contract specialist, contracting, St. Paul, Minnesota

Trevor Kough, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Long Le, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Dylan McCullick, lock and dam operator, operations, Alma, Wisconsin

Thanri Meyers, civil engineer (geotechnical), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Emily Moe, civil engineer (hydraulics), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Elizabeth Moriarty, attorney-adviser (environmental), office of counsel, St. Paul, Minnesota

Kacie Opat, civil engineer (hydraulics), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Jeffery Rindal, master, tender, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Elizabeth Royce, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Louis, Missouri

Arash Shams, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Rebecca Smith, technical support assistant, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Johnathan Stumm, lock and dam operator, operations, Red Wing, Minnesota

Mitchell Weier, water management data manager, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Daniel Williams, natural resources specialist, operations, Crosslake, Minnesota

David Wivinus, realty specialist, real estate, St. Paul Minnesota

Retirements

Nanette Bischoff, civil engineer, project management, St. Paul, Minnesota

Peter Crary, realty specialist, real estate, Fargo, North Dakota

Jeffrey Hallam, lock and dam operator, operations, Hastings, Minnesota

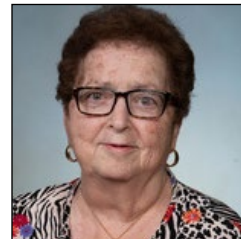
Denise Lepke, lock and dam operator, operations, Genoa, Wisconsin

Michael Seibel, leverman, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Randy Sickles, lock and dam operator, operations, Genoa, Wisconsin

Terry Zenker, contract specialist, contracting, St. Paul, Minnesota

Taps



Rita Beaudry passed away Dec. 17, 2022. Beaudry worked as an administrative support assistant at Bald-hill Dam / Lake Ashtabula for 20 years.



Gary Lauer passed away Jan. 7. He completed his 35-year career with the Corps at Lock and Dam 4 in Alma, Wisconsin, as the electrician/maintenance operator.

News and Notes, continued

Congratulations



Marissa Merriman, regulatory, and husband Michael, welcomed Savanna Vine Merriman, Jan. 23 at 6 pounds and 1 ounce and 17.5 inches.



Brian Yagle, regulatory, and wife Emily Zempel, welcomed Callan Edward Yagle, Jan. 12 at 7 pounds, 14 ounces and 20 inches.



Col. Eric Swenson, district commander, (left) and **Chris Bowen**, chief of engineering and construction, (center), receive a Mississippi valley Division Safety Now award on behalf of the Eastern Area Office for the safe execution of the Fountain City Service Base Phase 2 project at the Associated General Contractors of America conference, Feb. 16.



(left) **Jerry Cudney**, construction inspector, receives the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal from **Col. Eric Swenson**, district commander in Fargo, North Dakota.

Ben Rhoda, resident engineer for the Hastings, Minnesota, construction of-fice recently received an Air Force level civil engineer award. As a leader for the district, he is also a commander for the 934th Airlift Wing Civil Engineering Squadron. The squadron received the 2022 Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Unit Award (Air Reserve Component Unit) for best civil engineer unit in Air Force Reserve Command for inspections, readiness, training, wartime preparedness and global support efforts.



Rachel Perrine, plan formulation, and **Eric Wittine**, engineering and construction, were recognized as two of 12 graduates from the 2021-2022 Risk Management Graduate Certificate program through Notre Dame of Maryland University.