

Cross Currents

Serving the St. Paul District
Vol. 49 No. 2 |
Spring 2023

Another milestone for
the Fargo/Moorhead
project
-Page 5



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

(cover) Dominick Holloway, construction representative, conducts a rebar inspection of the Red River Structure foundation, south of Fargo, North Dakota/Moorhead, Minnesota, May 5. USACE St. Paul District photo by Patrick Moes



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

Teammates,

Whether you go by Memorial Day, or the calendar start of summer (June 21), it's hard to deny that it feels like summer is here! It's been a long winter and a busy spring. In this issue, you will read about some of our flood response work. Our team members stepped up during the rising waters to provide technical and material assistance to communities in our district. In Campbell, Wisconsin (page 8), we saved 71 homes from flooding! Thank you to all our flood responders. Disaster response is an important facet of our mission.

As we enter hurricane season, I know we will have even more members of our team deploying to help the people of our great nation. I look forward to seeing what you all accomplish.

June is National Safety Month, and safety is something I take very seriously. So far this year we've have 34 "good catches."

We need to stay vigilant and assess every situation to determine if we are doing the right, and safe, thing. While you are at work or out enjoying the weather, think of your loved ones. They want you to make the safe decision. Speaking of weather, we've already had some hot days out there. Make sure you are staying hydrated and taking lots of breaks. Jeff Kirkey, chief of safety and occupational health, sent out a good email on recognizing heat illness and how to prevent it (June 6). Make sure you always keep a look out for your teammates as well.

Safety extends to mental health as well. May was Mental Health Awareness Month and it's a topic we don't talk about enough. In order to maintain a ready, resilient and productive team, we each need to take care of our mental health. Don't be afraid to reach out for help. Our Critical Incident Stress Management team is standing by to assist

you. We also have the Employee Assistance Program, which can provide resources to you. It's available to all employees. Please take advantage of these programs or let your first-line supervisor know that you are struggling. We can only function as a team if we take care of each other. Ask someone how they are doing or say hello to a new team member. These little things can make a BIG difference.

I mentioned these things in my weekly email, but here they are again because they are worth repeating. This is how we create a safe environment:

1. We assess, we slow down, we ask questions, we ask our experts for advice, we ask those at the front lines what they think, we as leaders put ourselves in the shoes of the doers and ask, "would I be ok doing what I am asking my subordinate to do?" Communication is key!



2. Second, we train ourselves and our people so that we have the skills necessary to do the job. Training takes time but is it necessary. Training is how we build competency and confidence in our teammates and in our skills.

3. We inspect. That is as simple

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

Continued from Page 3

as relying on our training and our senses. If it does not look right, feel right, sound right, etc., it probably isn't.

4. We standardize. If you are working on the locks, you should have reflective and protective gear on. It should be distinguishable. If we are on a project site, we should follow our procedures and wear safety gear (hardhats, vests, protective shoes, etc). If we are in our offices, we should check our posture, take breaks to stretch, stand more than we sit, etc.

5. Finally, we empower our teammates. Leaders cannot be everywhere all the time. Everyone is a safety officer and everyone must feel empowered to make a correction, stop an operation, call a timeout, throw a flag, etc. in the name of ensuring safety. There is no rank when it comes to calling out unsafe acts.

We recently hosted the Regional Governance Meeting as well as the Executive Governance Meeting (page 14). Thank you to everyone who contributed to make these successful. As always, I am impressed by your dedication and professionalism. We held both meetings in the Fargo, North Dakota/ Moorhead, Minnesota area, and were able to show off our Fargo/Moorhead flood risk management project. You can read in this issue (pages 5-7) about some of the recent milestones that we've reached with this project.

We also celebrated the kickoff of the Upper Pool 4 habitat improvement project with a groundbreaking in Bay City, Wisconsin (page 13). This project is really a win-win because it will beneficially use river sand to create avian and bird habitat in a vital area of the river. Speaking of habitat, I had the honor of attending a ceremonial tree planting with the Prairie Island Indian Com-



Col. Eric Swenson, district commander (left) and Maj. John Walleser, geotechnical engineer (right), meet with a city of Chaska official at a levee near Chaska, Minnesota, May 23. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo

munity on Buffalo Slough Island as part of the completion of the Sturgeon Lake project. This was the first project completed under the Tribal Partnership Program in the Mississippi Valley Division and only the second in the nation! I look forward to continuing to strength our relationships with

tribal communities as well as benefiting the ecosystems. Thank you for all your hard work. Remember that my door is always open. Have a great summer team!

Respectfully,
Col. Eric Swenson

A major concrete placement marks another milestone for the Red River Valley

Story by Patrick Moes

It took more than 200 trucks and nearly 14 hours to place nearly 2,300 cubic yards of concrete at the Red River Structure, south of the Fargo, North Dakota/ Moorhead, Minnesota Metro Area, May 5.

The concrete placement, one of the largest in the Fargo Moorhead Metro Area history, was needed to build a 10-foot-thick structure slab, which will serve as the foundation for the structure.

Mat Andersen, civil engineer and contracting officer's representative for the Red River Structure, said the structure is the final one of three to be built by the Corps to ultimately divert flows around the metro area and reduce the flood risk. Andersen said the 2,300 cubic yards of concrete is the equivalent to more than 10 miles of sidewalk that is 3.5 feet wide. He said the the entire project, once complete, will reduce the flood risk to nearly 260,000 people and 70 square miles of infrastructure in the communities of Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo, Horace, and Harwood and will

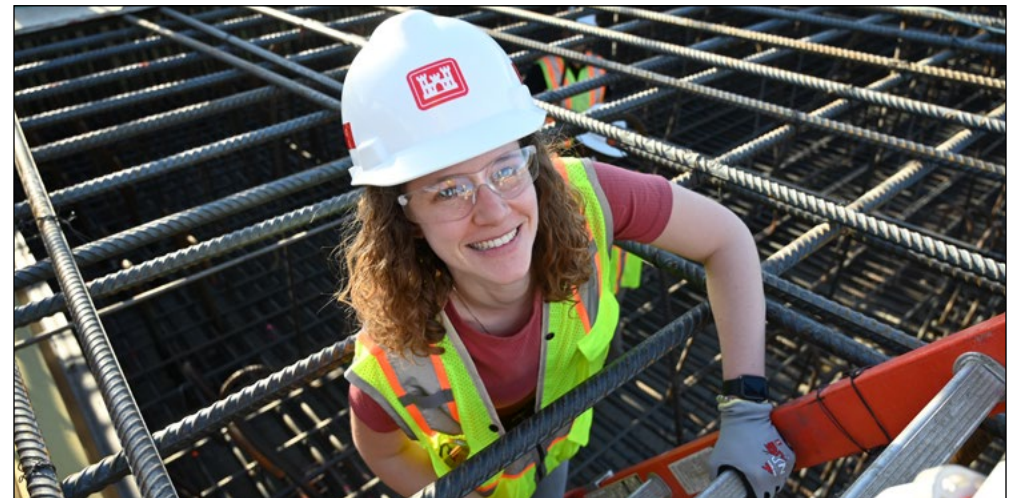
save the nation money by reducing the risk of having to respond to a flood within the communities and the potential flood damages.

"I'm from the Fargo/Moorhead area, and I've spent many springs in the past when I was in high school getting let out of school to help sandbag, to help the local community's flood fight," Andersen said. He added that it's a good feeling to deliver this project to the local community and take away the fears of the annual flood threat. "We're taking that uncertainty away and providing long-term protection to the community where springs can come and go without the constant worry of flooding," he said.

Duane Perkins, structural engineer and technical lead for the project, echoed Andersen's comments about the importance of the project in reducing the flood risk within the communities. Having went through the Red River of the North flood in 1997 in his hometown of Breckenridge, Minnesota, Perkins said he understands it on a personal level

to know what a flood can do to a community. "We lost our house in that flood," Perkins said. The flood waters devastated many river towns like Breckenridge; Wahpeton, North Dakota; Fargo; Moorhead and Grand Forks, North Dakota; and East Grand Forks, Minnesota. With projects in place to reduce the flood risk in many of these communities, the Fargo/Moorhead Metro Area remains one of the last areas to have a permanent flood risk management project.

Perkins said that the importance of the Fargo/Moorhead project to him means that people will no longer have to volunteer to fill sandbags for weeks on end. "If this community were to flood, people would potentially lose their jobs. Schools would close and it would take years to rebuild," he said. "How would people provide for their families? That is a whole other level of stress that will hopefully be taken care of with the completion of this project."



Lexi Ousky, civil engineer, inspects rebar for the Red River Structure foundation, south of Fargo, North Dakota/Moorhead, Minnesota, May 5. USACE St. Paul District photo by Patrick Moes

Fargo-Moorhead project completes major milestone

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Corps officials recently diverted the Wild Rice River through a gated concrete structure, a project first, near Horace, North Dakota, March 31.

“It’s a pretty special day,” said Duane Perkins, technical lead engineer for the project. “It’s a huge milestone for the project being able to witness the river get diverted through the structure, something that we have all worked on for the last 15 years. Personally, for me, from Breckenridge, I’ve seen the flooding happen there, so providing flood protection to Fargo/Moorhead is special.”

Perkins explained the river has been in its original channel for thousands of years but the new design diverts the river through the structure so there is complete control of the river. This reroute will allow for construction of a dam embankment across the existing Wild Rice River channel so the river can flow its natural course through the structure.

The Wild Rice River Structure is a concrete control structure with two 40-foot wide Tainter gates.

Upon completion of the entire diversion project, the Wild Rice and Red River structures will regulate flows through the metropolitan area during large flood events.

The Red River Structure is also under construction and the permanent reroute of the Red River through that structure is anticipated in the next two to three years. The structures will not be used to control flooding until the entire diversion project is complete and approved for operation.

The Wild Rice River Structure is a part of the congressionally authorized Fargo-Moorhead diversion project which includes 30-mile-long diversion channel in North Dakota with upstream staging. The plan includes a 21-mile-long southern embankment, multiple highway and railroad bridges, three gated control structures and two aqueduct structures.

The Corps is working in partnership with the cities of Fargo and Moorhead and the Metro Flood Diversion Authority to build this project, which will provide flood risk management for nearly 260,000 people and 70 square

miles of infrastructure in the West Fargo, Horace and communities of Fargo, Moorhead, Harwood.



Tony Feilzer, south resident engineer, talks to a reporter at the Wild Rice River structure near Horace, North Dakota, March 31. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Corps of Engineers supports town of Campbell, WI, flood response

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

The St. Paul District, deployed flood response engineers and emergency management specialists, along with pumps and hoses to support the town of Campbell, Wisconsin, as the Mississippi River continued to rise from moderate to major flood conditions.

“The Corps of Engineers immediately responded to our request for help,” said town of Campbell Fire Chief Nate Melby. “We started discussing the volume of water, locations and strategizing pump configurations throughout the town.”

Seven high-capacity pumps and hoses came to the town of Campbell from a storage facility near Orwell Dam in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Jeff McCullick, emergency management specialist said the teamwork and communication were critical components of the Corps of Engineers support to the community.

“Upon arrival on scene, the crisis response team worked effortlessly over the weekend with local personnel to get the pumps and hoses ready to safely and efficiently operate,” McCullick said.

Melby added that pumps were up and running the very next morning after submitting the request to the Corps and the pumps provided an immediate impact.

With the sheer volume of flood waters, Corps staff and town officials designed a daisy chain-like system to pump and drain hundreds of gallons of water per minute to a water treatment plant in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and

then return it back into the Mississippi River.

“The town exhausted all their resources,” McCullick said. “Without our help, the town would be inundated, houses and infrastructure would be lost.”

According to the National Weather Service, the Mississippi River, near the town of Campbell and La Crosse, Wisconsin, crested near 15.89 feet. This is the third highest flood within the community with the second highest flood in 2001, at 16.41 feet. The historic flood of record occurred April 22, 1965, with a flood elevation of 17.89 feet.



Jeff McCullick (right), emergency management specialist, and the town of Campbell Fire Chief Nate Melby (left) discuss flood response as the Mississippi River continues to rise from moderate to major flood conditions in Campbell, Wisconsin, April 26. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann



A pump and a hose in Campbell, Wisconsin, April 26. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Teams provide key flood data for partner agencies, local communities

Story by Dave Elmstrom

The St. Paul District's water management section works every day to maintain the Mississippi River and regulate the flows through St. Paul District reservoirs and dams.

When a flooding event like the 2023 spring flood happens, all three sections (hydrologic engineering, hydraulic design, and water management) move into an "all hands on deck" response, developing detailed hydraulics and hydrology modeling, and working with sister agencies, partner organizations and local communities to forecast water flows and predict possible flooding outcomes.

The team's response began in January, when the hydraulics and hydrology branch met with state officials and partners at the National Weather Service to take a look at what the spring flood outlook might be in the four basins of the St. Paul District: the Mississippi, Minnesota, Red and Souris rivers.

In February and March, the group monitored conditions and conducted snow surveys throughout the region to validate the models

predicting the amount of snow on the ground.

"We had a lot of snow water equivalent on the ground, the probabilistic forecasts were showing some flood potential and we needed to step up our efforts from a modeling standpoint," said Kari Hauck, chief of the hydraulics and hydrology branch. "We sent reconnaissance teams out into the field to get a feel for what kind of snow we had out there and how the melt is proceeding."

Heather Henneman, chief of the hydrologic engineering section, said the forecasting is a bit art, and a bit science, because there are so many variables: how "wet" the snow is, how frozen the ground is to allow for absorption into the ground, speed of melt and various spring weather events, are just several of many variables that can impact flooding.

The hydraulic design section develops modeling for what real world flooding impacts may be. Using the Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System modeling software, the data on

the level of water flow in the spring is translated into how that water will behave in the river and overland as it flows downstream. This information helps the St. Paul District communicate and support communities at risk of flooding so they can make informed and timely decisions in the event they need to prepare and deploy flood fighting measures.

The modeling provides the extent

and depth of flooding used to generate inundation maps, which show where flooding may occur over a range of water levels.

"I think we provide a lot of good information," Hauck said. "Our partnership with the National Weather Service is one of the things that we prize, and we put a lot of time and investment in to make sure that we're all working together."



The hydrology and hydraulics teams (left to right) Charles Boyd, Mike Snyder, Jeremiah Jazdzewski, look over flood modeling during this year's spring floods, in St. Paul, Minnesota, May 11. USACE St. Paul District photo by Dave Elmstrom

Corps sends reconnaissance teams in preparation for spring flooding

Story by Melanie Peterson

In anticipation of high water, the St. Paul District sent out flood reconnaissance teams in April. The teams included Terry Zien, senior program manager and hydraulic engineer.

Zien said the team used maps and previous flood records to anticipate trouble spots.

“We have several functions when we go out on flood reconnaissance duty,” Zien said. “First, we have a responsibility to the district. We visit our projects and make sure they’re properly functioning and ensure there’s no physical damage from winter conditions.”

Zien and the team also made critical observations from the field that were used by the Corps’ hydraulics and hydrology branch and the National Weather Service.

“We were in constant communication with the hydraulics and hydrology branch,” Zien said. “We would find out what information was needed for their modeling and then take those measure-

ments. We were able to give the engineers an idea of how much water was coming into the reservoirs.”

The teams also observed snow cover and river ice, which can affect runoff for the flood.

“As the snow is melting, it’s important that everybody knows where there’s still snow and if the fields are wet and draining,” Zien said. “We would also make observations on ditch conditions and culverts, and we would send that information to the National Weather Service. The service would incorporate that data into their daily forecasts as part of their overall report.”

Formal interagency coordination began in January and continues until the flood threat ends in late spring.

Zien said this is the eighth flood he’s done reconnaissance for, and the fifth one in the Minnesota basin. “For the Upper Mississippi River, this is what I would characterize as a well-behaved flood,” Zien said. “There was high water,

and it was out of the banks, and into the fields in some places, but

it wasn’t stressing our projects too much.”



Terri Zien, senior program manager, stands near Shakopee Creek at the confluence with the Chippewa River near Benson, Minnesota, April 10. USACE St. Paul District photo by Grant Halvorson

Corps provides aid to communities experiencing flooding

Story by Melanie Peterson

Alex Le, a senior hydraulic engineer in the hydrologic engineering section serves as the planning chief for the emergency operations' crisis action team and the primary flood engineer for the Mississippi River locks and dams.

From the hydraulics and hydrology perspective, he works with forecasting and coordination with the National Weather Service.

"Anticipating snow melt conditions on the Mississippi River and its tributaries, was vitally important in coordination with area engineers on the needs and concerns of local communities," he said. This included sending out reconnaissance teams to collect real-time snow cover information.

From the emergency operations center perspective, Le was involved with coordinating requests for technical or material assistance from local communities, updating senior leadership on the status of the basins, public engagement, and serving as a liaison between the hydraulics and hydrology branch and the emergency operations center.

"For the most part, the Corps is the last point of contact when communities are unable to meet their resource needs," Le said. "Normally, they will use up all their resources, then seek help from the county and then the state. If the county or the state don't have the materials they need, the Corps would be that safety net."

The Corps provides community support with pumps, hoses, flood barriers and sandbags as needed.

Assistance can also include technical assistance. "I've had communities reach out asking what they could do to prepare for rising waters. Some communities had issues with their culverts backflowing, and others weren't sure if they would be well enough protected. We're able to go into these communities and advise them," Le said.

Beyond supporting the local communities, Le also noted that the Corps coordinates with state emergency managers as well as outreach to tribal leaders before challenges arise.



(left) Maj. John Walleser, geotechnical engineer, and (right) Alex Le, senior hydraulic engineer, participate in an emergency operations center exercise in the office in St. Paul, Minnesota, March 2. USACE St. Paul District photo by Wendy Wells

Corps conducts sandbag training

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

A pile of sand, shovels, gloves and sandbags were the scene for a training event held for emergency managers at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Alma Marina Beneficial use site.

The St. Paul District provided hands-on training to the Wisconsin Emergency Management team during their West Central Region's May meeting in Alma, Wisconsin.

Winona Resident Engineer Scott Baker and emergency operations

response team members talked about sandbag protection by demonstrating how to properly fill and place sandbags for a temporary levee. They also learned how to build other types of flood barriers such as a flash board levee using ground stakes and plywood. Before finishing, Baker advised using a heavy plastic sheeting over the sandbags to protect the levee.

Baker said this type of training helps emergency managers build their skills needed to carry out

flood responses in their community.

Corps officials also took advantage of this training event to produce a "how to make a sandbag levee" video for future use, which

will be made available soon on YouTube.

The Alma Marina is a beneficial use site of river sand and is open and free to the public on a first come, first served basis.



An excavator puts river sand into a truck, which will be used to fill sandbags, near Alma, Wisconsin, May 16. The river sand is available at the Alma Marina beneficial use site for the public. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann



Scott Baker, Winona resident engineer, places sandbags at a sandbag training near Alma, Wisconsin, May 16. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Lake Pepin groundbreaking ceremony kickstarts habitat improvement project

Story by Patrick Moes

More than 120 people gathered along the banks of the Mississippi River in Bay City, Wisconsin, to celebrate the groundbreaking of a multi-year effort to improve habitat within Lake Pepin May 16.

The Mississippi River Upper Pool 4 habitat project is a nearly \$27 million project, with more than \$20 million in contributions from the Corps of Engineers, and one of the first in the nation to use riv-

er sand from the Mississippi River navigation channel and backwaters to improve habitat.

The project is one of 10 to initially receive the green light under the authority of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, said Tom Novak, project manager. He added that the project is the culmination of years of cooperation among several agencies at every level of government.

“This project is a testament to what can be accomplished when everyone works together,” Novak said. “The project is a victory for our navigation mission, the environment and the communities and people that rely on the Mississippi River for everything from water to recreation, tourism and beyond.”

The project is like other habitat improvement projects but is unique in its funding delivery. Novak said the Section 1122 authority provides the Corps of Engineers an opportunity to beneficially use river sand previously dredged from the navigation channel to improve habitat. “I like to think of this as a win-win solution,” Novak said. “We not only ensure the navigation channel remains open for safe operation, but we also gain storage capacity for future dredging operations while also improving the environment.”

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers echoed Novak’s sentiments on the value of the project to the community and the environment.

“We are grateful for all of the partners that have worked together to develop each feature of this dynamic pilot project,” Evers said. “Projects like this are a great example of what we can accomplish when we make this work a priority.”

Col. Eric Swenson, St. Paul District commander, expanded even further on the value of the project and its impact to the region. He said the pilot program was focused on protecting, restoring and creating aquatic ecosystem habitat, stabilizing stream systems and enhancing shorelines, promoting recreation and public safety, and reducing the cost of dredging and dredged material placement. “I can safely say that this project achieves all of those goals,” Swenson said. “Together, we plan to utilize up to 300,000 cubic yards of [river sand] from Lower Pool 4 alone to improve the ecosystem here at the head of Lake Pepin.”

Rylee Hince, Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance executive direction, said

Story continued on Page 13



Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers (center); St. Paul District Commander Col. Eric Swenson and members of the Corps; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, project sponsors and more, throw sand during a groundbreaking ceremony in Bay City, Wisconsin, May 16. USACE St. Paul District photo by Patrick Moes

Story continued from Page 8

the groundbreaking was an exciting accomplishment for all the partners. Having worked on the plan for more than nine years, Hince said one of the key highlights for her in developing the project was when she realized how many municipalities were willing to provide funding for the project. "This [project] is going to benefit both Minnesota and Wisconsin, and the habitat that exists between them," Hince said. "I am so honored to be a part of it." Hince added that in addition to the Corps of Engineers' financial contributions, funding was also provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources;

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council; Pepin County, Wisconsin; village of Bay City; village of Stockholm, Wisconsin; city of Red Wing, Minnesota; Ducks Unlimited; and the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance.

Some of the key features of the project include building peninsulas, access dredging, and shoreline protection near Bay City at the head of Lake Pepin. The improvements will support fish and wildlife habitat.

The contractor, LS Marine, Inc., of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, is scheduled to begin construction this summer with an estimated completion of 2027.



Col. Eric Swenson, district commander, delivers remarks at the Mississippi River Upper Pool 4 habitat project, in Bay City, Wisconsin, May 16. USACE St. Paul District photo by Patrick Moes

Dredge Goetz goes to drydock for maintenance



(above) The Dredge Goetz goes into drydock for its scheduled five-year maintenance, in St. Louis, Missouri. USACE St. Louis District photo by Janet Meredith



Adrian (AJ) Loewenhagen, first mate, examines the Dredge Goetz in drydock, in St. Louis, Missouri. USACE St. Louis District photo by Janet Meredith

St. Paul District hosts governance meetings

Story by Shannon Bauer

The St. Paul District hosted both a regional and executive governance meeting in the Fargo, North Dakota/Moorhead Minnesota metropolitan area this past spring, three weeks apart. For both events, the district provided attendees with a tour of the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Flood Risk Management project, currently under construction.

Mississippi Valley Division leadership, commanders and senior civilians from each of the division's six districts, as well as participants of the division's emerging leadership group, participated in the Regional Governance Meeting, or RGM, in Fargo, North Dakota, April 17-21.

Headquarters leadership, as well as commanders and senior civilians from across the agency, participated in the Executive Governance Meeting, or EGM, in Moorhead, Minnesota, May 8-12. In addition to the project tour at this event, several district subject matter experts were called upon to brief best practices in the areas of cultural, construction, project management, real estate, regulatory and more.

The RGM, held three weeks prior to the EGM, allowed the district an opportunity to rehearse different aspects before the EGM, said Kevin Wilson, deputy district engineer. Both events took a great deal of effort by a lot of folks in the district.

"For close to two years, Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, Chief of Engineers, had been talking about holding the EGM in Fargo to showcase the Fargo Moorhead Metro Diversion project," Wilson said. "Normally, the host district does a welcome and maybe a short project tour for a few hours in the morning. Otherwise, the discussions are orchestrated and run by the senior leadership. At this EGM, the St Paul District provided or participated in 70% of the discussions."

"The EGM is a great opportunity to showcase some of the unique and innovative work the district is doing. All those involved did an amazing job and the senior leaders were very complimentary of the entire event," he continued. "I could not be prouder of the St. Paul District team."



Duane Perkins, structural engineer, and Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, chief of engineers, look at plans at the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Flood Risk Management project near Fargo, North Dakota/Moorhead, Minnesota, May 9, as part of the Executive Governance Meeting. USACE St. Paul District photo by Shannon Bauer

Civil servants of the year announced



DeLisa Kviz *Resource Management* Customer Service

Kviz proved herself to be an invaluable member of the district's team and is relied upon for her outstanding support, professionalism, and commitment. Kviz identified and resolved issues, while providing excellent service to her customers and being a supportive mentor for her employees. She expertly led her team to

ensure the district financial transactions met the standards necessary for a clean audit opinion for the fifteenth straight year in a row.

"Thank you for the honor. It is an incredible moment, and I am having a hard time finding the right words to convey my appreciation. The biggest honor goes to my fellow team members since they play a huge role in getting us this far. I feel fortunate to be part of a great organization that is St. Paul District! Yes, always to People First!"

- Position title:** Chief of the finance and accounting branch
- Total Years with St. Paul District:** 24 years in St. Paul, District and 34 years with the Corps
- Previous positions/employment:** Former Department of Army accounting intern, chief of control section and systems accountant
- Education:** Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting, Dallas Baptist University; Certified Public Accountant license with State of Texas since April 1993
- Hobbies:** Traveling, reading, photography, digital scrapbooking and cooking



The Western Area Office - The Team Award

The Western Area Office demonstrated exceptional skill and proven resilience while administering around \$100 million in civil works construction workload in 2022. Their ability to recruit, train and mentor new staff while administering critical dam-safety construction is unmatched. The safety-focused mindset of the staff facilitated nearly 750,000 work hours of construction without any major accidents in the most dangerous industry in the U.S., establishing them as a beacon of excellence within the industry.

The Western Area office team members include:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Wayne Arnold | Dominick Holloway | Thomas Schmit |
| Mathew Andersen | Gregory Hammons | Robert Slininger |
| Sanjay Bimali | Shane Hargreaves | Richard Tollefson |
| Jack Carter Jr. | Carnot Joseph | Aung Than Win |
| Jerry Cudney | Roy Lawson | Randal Melby |
| April Erickson | Kambili Nkem-Ossai | |
| Clarence Fredericks | Virginia Regorrah | |
| Anthony Feilzer | Vincent Schuyler | |
| Adam Gamblin | Rebecca Smith | |

Around the District



(left to right) Andy Huffman, program manager, Toni Wasgatt, contract specialist, and Ray Marinan, realty specialist, represent the St. Paul District at the small business government procurement fair. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo



The Tier 2 intermediate Leadership Development Program participants celebrate graduation from the program in St. Paul, Minnesota, May 3. USACE St. Paul District photo by Wendy Wells



Kacie Opat, hydraulic engineer, talks to a member of the public at the Robinson Lake public meeting in Wabasha, Minnesota, May 17. USACE St. Paul District photo by Patrick Moes



Corps employees meet with a member of the public at Doors Open Minneapolis in Minneapolis, May 13. USACE St. Paul District photo by Dean Zwiefel

Corps employees promote water safety



Recognizing our Employees of the Month: The MVPs of MVP



February
Kenneth Mertes
Operations



March
Paul Leffler
Regulatory



April
Theresa Gant-Gaines
Engineering and Construction



News and Notes

New hires

Noah Edlin, park ranger, operations, Spring Valley, Wisconsin
John Farone, lock and dam operator, operations, Hastings, Minnesota
Levi Gieseke, lock and dam operator, operations, Guttenberg, Iowa
Edward Glimme, lock and dam operator, operations, Genoa, Wisconsin
Mason Huth, lock and dam operator, operations, Alma, Wisconsin

Isaiah Keating, park ranger, operations, Grand Rapids, Minnesota
Lorin Renea Kinney, regulatory project manager, regulatory, Greenville, South Carolina
Andrew Linder, lock and dam operator, operations, Minnesota City, Minnesota
Natalia Ivonne Ramirez Irizarry, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Louis, Missouri
Jason Robinson, lock and dam operator, operations, La Crescent, Minnesota

Al-Aa Nashat Saleh, engineering technician, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota
Brian Anthony Schmit, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Henry Stanford, park ranger, operations, Brainerd, Minnesota
John Swanson, lock and dam operator, operations, Eastman, Wisconsin
Kelsey Lynn Voytovich-Berndt, accountant, resource management, St. Paul, Minnesota

Promotions

Daniel Anderson, mechanical engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Jonathan Bakken, biologist, regulatory, Hayward, Wisconsin
Trevor Blake, lock and dam operator, operations, Alma, Wisconsin
Michelle Butler, program analyst, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Darcy Calabria, archaeologist, regulatory, St. Paul, Minnesota
Samantha Coungeris, ecologist, regulatory, St. Paul, Minnesota

Priscilla Dimbo, secretary, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Tamryn Frauenshuh, supervisory facilities operations specialist, operations, McGregor, Minnesota

Corrine Hodapp, supervisory facilities operations specialist, operations, Crosslake, Minnesota

Sean Kelly, regulatory project manager, regulatory, Brainerd, Minnesota

Samantha Kitchen, regulatory project manager, regulatory, Brookfield, Wisconsin

Jeff McCullick, emergency management specialist, emergency management, St. Paul, Minnesota

Melissa Jo Murray, accounting technician, resource management, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Mark Noack, lock and dam operator, operations, Guttenberg, Iowa

Coralys Nunez-Orta, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Angelita Phipps, equal employment opportunity specialist, equal employment opportunity, St. Paul, Minnesota

Scott Rolbiecki, lock and dam equipment mechanic, operations, La Crescent, Minnesota

Hunter Simonson, natural resources specialist, operations, McGregor, Minnesota

Lenona Vierra, secretary, operations, St. Paul, Minnesota

Morgan Vinyard, biologist, regulatory, St. Paul, Minnesota

Michael Vogt, lock and dam operator supervisor, operations, Hastings, Minnesota

Gregory Wachman, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Helen Walz, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Colleen Whaley, human resources specialist, civilian personnel advisory center, St. Paul, Minnesota

News and Notes, continued

Retirements

Kathy Halverson, secretary, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota, retired March 11.

Congratulations



Tim Orlowski, regulatory, and Lindsay, welcomed Alina Josephine March 23. She weighed in at 7 lbs., 15 oz., and measured 20 in.

Taps



Shane Hargreaves, engineering and construction, passed away over Memorial Day weekend. He joined the Western Area Office in 2020 as a construction control representative.



Duane Isle passed away May 15. His federal career spanned nearly 34 years, first as a Marine and then in the St. Paul District for 9 years. He retired as logistics' facilities specialist in April 2021.



Deborah Lawrence passed away March 31. She retired as a purchasing agent from the contracting division in 2022.



Matthew Mohlke passed away April 14. He served on the Dredge Goetz.



Dave Zeller, passed away May 4. He was a dam tender at Baldhill Dam from 1959-1969.