

Crosscurrents

Serving the St. Paul District since 1977

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Major work completed at
Lock and Dam 2
-Page 7



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

St. Paul District

(cover) Justin Bernau, marine machinery mechanic, works on the Lock and Dam 2 dewatering in Hastings, Minnesota, Jan. 30. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann



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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.

District Commander	Col. Eric Swenson
Public Affairs Chief	Shannon Bauer
<i>Crosscurrents</i> editor	Melanie Peterson
Contributing authors	David Elmstrom
	Patrick Moes
	Elizabeth Stoeckmann
	Dean Zwiefel

Address all inquiries to:
Editor, *Crosscurrents*
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
332 Minnesota St., Suite E 1500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 290-5679 | cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil

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

Teammates,

As always, a huge THANK YOU for your work and dedication this winter. As you all know, our work is never finished. While it is the off-season for navigation, our staff from the locks and dams and from the maintenance and repair section are performing work on multiple vessels and locks, to include a full dewatering on Lock and Dam 2 to ensure that we can support our navigation mission come spring. You can read more about the Lock and Dam 2 dewatering in this issue. This type of maintenance takes a huge effort from multiple areas of our district.

As always, we need to remain vigilant with safety, whether you are at a lock and dam, at your desk, at home, at a recreation area or at one of our many other sites. If something doesn't "sit right" with you, inform your chain of command so they can address the issue. We can all be a part of the solution.

You can also read about regulatory's People First committee. I'm extremely proud of this effort to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility into the workplace. All of us should commit to furthering these efforts in the workplace, as part of our policy of putting people first. If you have ideas about how to improve these aspects of our workplace, contact our equal employment opportunity, or EEO, office.

In this issue, the city of Wabasha, Minnesota, began unloading river sand from a Corps-owned placement site to support channel maintenance in lower Pool 4. This is the most demanding location in our area of responsibility for managing high volumes of sedimentation. This partnership was made possible through the Section 217 agreement and is a tremendous success story.

A huge shoutout to everyone who has deployed and to those who will continue to deploy to the Maui Wildlife response. This is a huge,

ongoing effort and I appreciate your willingness to help. Also, a huge thank you to those that are covering for their coworkers who are deployed. This is often a thankless job.

As the winter months seem to drag on, please take care of yourself and check in with your loved ones. The dark winter months can often be a hard time. If you need help, please get in contact with someone on our Critical Incident Stress Management, or CISM, team. These are employees that are specifically trained to help you through difficult times. You can also utilize our Employee Assistance Program, which can provide resources if you are going through a rough patch.

I am continually impressed with your hard work and selfless service as I travel around the district and meet many of our staff. Your commitment to the mission does not go unnoticed. I hope you all can take PRIDE in the services that we provide to the nation.



BUILDING STRONG!

Respectfully,
Col. Eric Swenson

Lawson receives National Hard Hat of the Year Award

Story by Dave Elmstrom

Roy Lawson was selected as the 2023 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Hard Hat of the Year recipient.

Lawson is the lead construction representative for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Project and is based in the district's Western Area Office in Fargo, North Dakota.

Lawson was chosen for the award based in part for his technical knowledge and expertise, his teaching and mentoring skills and his ability to build teams and inspire confidence, which have been critical to the current success of the project. The district, and its partners, the cities of Fargo, North Dakota; Moorhead, Minnesota; and the Metro Flood Diversion Authority, are working cooperatively to implement this critical project and the Corps' first public private partnership, or P3, project in the nation.

"It's really great to see the recognition for one of the key individuals in the field for the Fargo-Moorhead projects," said Virginia Regorrah, Western Area

Office area engineer, and Lawson's supervisor. "His leadership, knowledge, construction expertise, training skills and ability to work with people have been so important to our work out here."

Lawson's focus on learning and creating teams has resulted in an atmosphere of acceptance within the office and resulted in recognition of the district's successes by outside organizations such as the recent selection as the National Academy of Construction Recognition of Special Achievement Award.

Lawson joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2003, after previously working for multiple construction contractors. In 2021, he was the first in the district to be given the title of "lead" construction representative. He lives in Warren with his wife, Shirley, who works for the American Legion, and they have two adult daughters and one granddaughter. He has supported many flood fights in the Red River Valley starting with the historic 1997 floods and has been on multiple deployments to help with hurricane recovery.



Roy Lawson, lead construction representative and 2023 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Hard Hat of the year recipient. USACE courtesy photo.

Hunt receives national legal services award

Story by Dave Elmstrom

Molly Hunt was selected as a national 2023 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers E. Manning Seltzer Award recipient for outstanding legal service to the Corps.

Hunt is a senior assistant district counsel at the St. Paul District. She was honored for her “incredible dedication and perseverance” to the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Project.

Her efforts led to the successful authorization and initiation of the project with innovative funding mechanisms. She found legal paths forward through several issues to include environmental, litigation, and legislative setbacks.

Hunt joined the St. Paul District in 2003 after attending the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Named after the chief legal advisor to the chief of engineers and general counsel of the U.S. Corps of Engineers from 1956 to 1977, the E. Manning Seltzer Award recognizes an attorney who has made one or more special contributions to the Corps’ legal service mission.



Molly Hunt, senior assistant district counsel and 2023 recipient of the E. Manning Seltzer Award for outstanding legal service to the Corps. USACE St. Paul District photo by Emily Chavolla



The Motor Vessel Thomas Erickson departs Lock and Dam 10, near Guttenberg, Iowa, Dec. 3, 2023. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo

Last tow heralds start of winter maintenance

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

The St. Paul District, saw the last tow of the 2023 navigation season as the Motor Vessel Thomas Erickson, departed Lock and Dam 10, near Guttenberg, Iowa, Dec. 3, with 15 barges.

The 2023 season started March 12, when the Motor Vessel Phillip M. Pfeffer broke its way through the ice of Lake Pepin to travel to St. Paul, Minnesota.

With the end of the 2023 navigation season, St. Paul District staff are busy with maintenance projects at Lock and Dam 2, near Hastings, Minnesota; Lock and Dam 3, near Welch, Minnesota; Lock and Dam 4, near Alma, Wisconsin; and Lock and Dam 7, near La Crescent, Minnesota. The work is scheduled for completion in March 2024, and will help ensure the navigation channel continues to support the regional economy for the movement of bulk commodities such as corn, soybeans, cement and fertilizer.

Banitt selected for national fellowship

Story by Melanie Peterson

Ann Banitt, a senior hydraulic engineer, was recently selected as a member of the 2024 class of Society of American Military Engineers' Academy of Fellows.

Banitt, who has been with the St. Paul District for over 32 years, said she started with the Society of American Military Engineers, or SAME, just a year after she started with the Corps. She is also a Mississippi Valley Division regional technical specialist in hydrologic modeling and serves on the Corps' national hydrologic engineering committee.

"It's quite an honor to be nominated and selected. The whole application experience was a mentoring opportunity I didn't expect," Banitt said. "This has given me a new reflection on how my career has progressed and my contribution to the profession."

According to the SAME website, the society has bestowed the title of Fellow on select members since 1972, and only has about 800 members of the Academy of Fellows nationwide.

"The real focus of the SAME Academy of Fellows is to focus on mentorship and continue to promote the society, building relationships and trust between the government, industry and the community," Banitt said.

There will be a formal investiture ceremony in May at the SAME's annual Joint Engineering Technical Conference, where new fellows will share a commitment statement of what they intend to do as a fellow. Fellows provide guidance to the national SAME board, mentor local post's leaders and make connections with other posts that don't have a local fellow, Banitt said.

"When I first started with SAME, I was meeting new people and gaining some technical knowledge, but over the years I'm growing these relationships and will have opportunities in leadership and mentoring. I'm also becoming more aware of what industry is doing," Banitt said.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul Post, the post where Banitt belongs, also supports education in Science, Technology, Engineering

and Math, or STEM, opportunities, providing scholarships and grants to teachers and students.

"Those types of activities are something we're all proud of, to extend the passion for STEM into

our communities," Banitt said. "SAME provides opportunities to sharpen our toolbox in leadership skills, set aside time in the month to learn new things and build relationships with other professionals."



Ann Banitt, senior hydraulic engineer. USACE St. Paul District photo by Emily Chavolla

Major work completed at Lock and Dam 2

Story by Melanie Peterson

There is major work happening at Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings, Minnesota. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, performs rehabilitative work on each of the district's 13 locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi River every 15-20 years. This year, it was time for Lock and Dam 2, in Hastings, Minnesota, to be dewatered for the first time since 2007. The Corps closed Lock 2 on Dec. 4, 2023, to complete the necessary work by a target date of March 5.

"This is a relatively short time period to get a lot of work done," said Chris Stai, chief of the maintenance and repair section. "Weather is always a concern in the winter, but we've had a great start with the warm weather here."

The maintenance and repair staff and seasonal lock operators that would have otherwise been laid off, are completing all the maintenance work in-house.

There are about three dozen Corps employees working on the project that come from all over the St. Paul District.

"We're fortunate that we can take advantage of the non-navigation season to do maintenance and not hinder navigation during the season with needed repairs and maintenance," Stai said.

The \$3.5 million project includes inspection and repair of the concrete walls, the miter gates, the bubbler system and renovation of the weepholes. A weep hole is a hole in the lock chamber that helps relieve the water pressure on the concrete floor.

This is the first dewatering that has been done with the new miter gates, which were replaced at Lock 2 in 2021, Stai said. The team can ensure proper fitting of the gates with the lock chamber during the dewatering and make adjustments so the gates operate smoothly.

The St. Paul District maintains 13 locks and dams from Minneapolis to Guttenberg, Iowa, and manages 243.6 miles of the Mississippi River 9-foot navigation channel. Keeping this system open is vital to the nation's economy. The commercial navigation industry

transported 6 million tons of commodities through Lock 2 during the 2023 navigation season. The industries making these ship-

ments within the St. Paul District saved nearly \$400 million by using the inland waterways instead of overland shipping methods.



The dewatered lock chamber at Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings, Minnesota, Dec. 13, 2023. USACE St. Paul District photo by Patrick Moes

Wabasha, Corps partnership in managing Mississippi River dredged sand pays dividends

Story by Patrick Moes

The Upper Mississippi River near Wabasha, Minnesota, is traditionally quiet during the winter as the river freezes, halting large tow boats shipping grains, fertilizer and other bulk commodities.

While the river remains frozen this year, albeit less than normal ice thicknesses, there is a lot of activity going on within Wabasha to help ensure the navigation channel will open this spring. The city of Wabasha and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, are working under a historic agreement to remove around 135,000 cubic yards of dredged sand at a temporary placement site to make room for future dredging activities.

The city's contractor, Kohner Materials, hopes to move around 2,000 cubic yards of sand per day over the next 90 days or so to complete the project. Trucking operations are currently Monday–Friday during daylight hours and use U.S. Highway 61 rather than city streets. The material is being moved from the Corps' temporary placement site on the northside of Wabasha to an old gravel pit a mile south of there, where it

will be used to reclaim the pit for potential future uses.

This work is made possible due to a Section 217 agreement between the city and the Corps of Engineers, the first of its kind for inland waters within the United States and the first time that such an agreement has been used for managing sand removed from the navigation channel.

"It's a win-win-win for all," said Paul Machajewski, St. Paul District dredged material manager. "The city wins by having a say where the material goes; the Corps of Engineers wins by having the ability to maintain the navigation channel; and the taxpayers benefit because it's the least costly way to manage the sand."

The agreement is unique in terms of paying the city a tipping fee to manage the river sand as opposed to the traditional model of having the Corps hire a contractor to move the material. This new approach allows the city to explore options that might not be

Story continued on Page 9



Paul Machajewski, dredged material manager, talks about the 217 agreement with the city of Wabasha, in Wabasha, Minnesota, Jan. 17. USACE St. Paul District photo by Patrick Moes

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cost effective from the Corps' perspective due to a variety of reasons to including shipping costs or the amount of material that can be used at a given location.

Machajewski said the cost of transporting the material is always a major consideration for the Corps and typically one of the larger costs associated with managing the sand. He added that the agency is always doing what they can do to reduce cost to the taxpayer while ensuring that channel maintenance activities are environmentally acceptable. He said the Corps typically removes around 250,000 cubic yards of sand from the river within the greater Wabasha area or roughly 25% of the annual dredging requirements for the agency.

Machajewski said the city's involvement allows them to move the material to locations where they only need a small amount to raise an area out of a flood plain or fill an old gravel pit. These types of activities are typically not cost effective when managing a large amount of material but can provide great opportunities to the community on a smaller scale.

Wabasha Mayor Emily Durand said this type of partnership

means so much to the city, because it affords them the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Corps of Engineers and other agencies to develop solutions that benefit the region. She said, "We all have to be aware of our authorities and be creative while understanding that sometimes we have to look for more nuanced solutions and not expect that the regular way of operating is going to get us there."

John Friedmeyer, Wabasha Port Authority president, said the

agreement is a success story for the community. He said you hear about small towns that want to have a voice on issues such as managing sand removed from the Mississippi River but thought it was never an opportunity for the city until it happened.

"It's about the health and well-being, and the safety of our community," Friedmeyer said. "With this [agreement], it allows our community to be what it's always been, but it also becomes an opportunity and an enterprise

fund for the port authority that will help the community thrive into the future."

Friedmeyer said he's optimistic about the future of the community as he looks ahead. He added that the novel approach of the agreement between the city and the Corps for small communities is a true success story.



An excavator removes sand from a temporary dredged sand placement site in Wabasha, Minnesota, Jan. 22. USACE St. Paul District photo by Patrick Moes

People in the spotlight with regulatory committee

Story by Melanie Peterson

The St. Paul District regulatory division is making waves with its People First committee. Originally called the diversity, equity and inclusion committee, it was formed in 2020 to increase representation and inclusion across the division.

Rachel Gralnek, regulatory project manager, and Meghan McKinney, regulatory systems administrator, lead the committee.

“Our team is experimental in a lot of ways. From what we understand, we are the first diversity, equity and inclusion team in regulatory nationwide,” McKinney said. “Our team has a lot of staying power in part because our focus on regulatory and our division as a whole.”

As an area of the Corps that works with the public, McKinney says she views the committee to improve customer service. “We may not personally come from a certain culture, so we may not always be aware of certain things such as, for example, religious fasting days,” McKinney said. “We want to make sure we’re not

holding a public meeting in the middle of something that is important to a community.”

“Our mission statement in general is just being opening, welcoming and understanding. We may not always understand everyone’s culture diversity, but we can appreciate their background and skillsets to empower a stronger relationship,” Gralnek added.

“We’ve discussed the importance of developing meeting guidelines for hosting a productive meeting while considering cultural differences and what resources, such as an interpreter, are necessary for a successful meeting,” McKinney said.

Gralnek said she came to work for the Corps right after completing her undergraduate degree, where open dialogue was a major focus. She noticed that there was room for improvement when talking about diversity, equity and inclusion at the Corps and became interested in the team, working with them in its beginning stages.

McKinney said she was interested in the team when it first came up because she started with the Corps through a recruitment program for college students with disabilities.

“I have what our team would refer to as an invisible disability; when you look at me, you can’t tell that I have a disability,” McKinney said. “In a lot of ways, it was the first time I was able to

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(left) Rachel Gralnek, project manager, and Darcy Calabria, archaeologist, discuss the regulatory People First committee newsletter. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Story continued from Page 10

acknowledge to myself that I was welcomed as a disabled person. This opportunity is very meaningful to me to express my identity while still being able to provide meaningful public service.”

“It’s valuable to see so many people participating on the team, given their high workload,” McK-inney said. “We don’t have a set requirement for how many hours a week to participate or anything like that. People join us as time allows and it’s been a really great way to get to know our team-mates.”

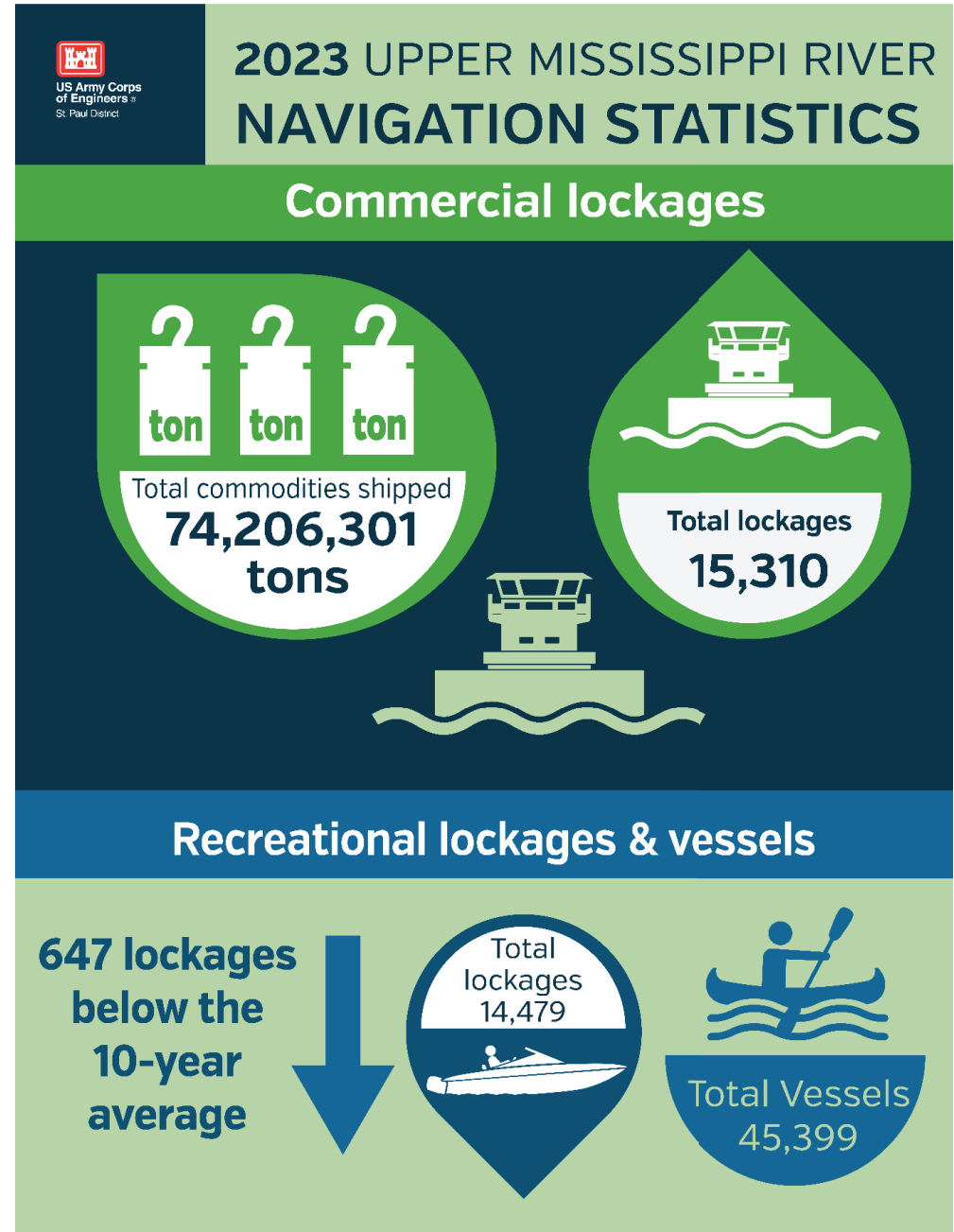
While the committee initially began as a narrow scope within the regulatory division, it has now expanded into working on priorities for the district commander as well as having sub teams and a newsletter published once a quarter.

“It’s creating more of a welcoming community that has helped our division with retention and hiring practices and overall workplace morale,” Gralnek said.

“Our mission statement in general is just being opening, welcoming and understanding.”

-Rachel Gralnek
Regulatory project manager

McKinney added that her family has a strong history of military service and while she couldn’t serve in the military as an active-duty soldier because of her disability, she can still serve in this way.



St. Paul District employee supports Antarctica science program

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Brad Bauer, St. Paul District electrical engineer, was among a group of Corps headquarters professionals that recently deployed to Antarctica in partnership with the National Science Foundation, or NSF.

In addition to being a design engineer for the district, Bauer is the team lead for the electrical high hazard working group, a Corps initiative that provides technical expertise on matters related to electrical safety and hazardous energy control.

Bauer, along with representatives from the fall protect and load handling equipment high hazard working groups, deployed as part of a recently signed interagency agreement between the Corps and the foundation.

“I am honored to play an integral role in enhancing the capabilities of both organizations while supporting vital research throughout Antarctica,” Bauer said.

The group reported to the sub-zero region at McMurdo Station for two weeks. Bauer’s primary mission was to become familiar with

the station while gaining a better understanding of the unique challenges associated with operating in such a remote environment.

“Both the Corps and the foundation place great emphasis on conducting operations safely and depending on the severity of the mishap, may conduct a safety investigation board,” Bauer said. “The purpose of these investigation boards is to prevent similar accidents from occurring in the future. Typically, board members will travel to the accident location to conduct the investigation.”

Bauer said that one of the many challenges associated with working in Antarctica is that traveling to the continent is typically limited to the summer season.

“Should an accident occur during the winter season, it would be nearly impossible for a board member to travel to the remote location,” he said. “Being familiar with the station will allow board members to remotely conduct their investigation should an accident occur during the winter season.”

Additionally, Bauer performed electrical service safety inspections at the research center. He provided assessments for existing facilities, reviewed site-specific training requirements, and provided a final report to foundation officials outlining opportunities for improvement that he observed during the visit.

The inspection was conducted last fall during the transition between the winter and summer seasons when activity at the station is at its highest. This allowed the team to observe many activities that only occur once a year including the opening of remote research locations and the opening of a second airfield.



(left to right) Preston Dahl, northwest division load handling equipment program manager; Jason Walsh, headquarters safety and occupational health manager; and Brad Bauer, St. Paul District electrical engineer, at Phoenix Airfield in Antarctica. USACE courtesy photo

The Corps' temporary housing team lays groundwork for those displaced by Maui wildfires

Story by Erin Jimenez

Shelter is a basic human need that is crucial for survival. Providing shelter for victims after disasters helps to establish a sense of normalcy for the individuals and communities who have been affected.

Providing temporary housing involves a coordinated effort by various organizations to provide safe and secure accommodations for people who have been displaced.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received a \$1.9 million Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, mission assignment Oct. 28 to provide conceptual design for temporary housing sites.

Once a design is approved, the Corps will prepare the sites for FEMA to install the units. The units will house those displaced by the Aug. 8 wildfires that destroyed more than 2,000 properties on Maui.

Working alongside FEMA, the Corps will prepare pads, provide plans, specifications, and construction management activities

associated with the emergency temporary housing mission.

There are currently six temporary housing planning response teams throughout Corps district offices in Huntington, West Virginia; Los Angeles, California; New York, New York; Jacksonville, Florida; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Huntsville, Alabama.

Each team is comprised of a management and support element with the management element deploying in advance, and the support element following as the mission develops.

The 10-person team managing the mission on Maui is made up of Corps employees from both the St. Paul and Huntington districts. The team consists of engineers, surveyors and mission specialists.

Corps Temporary Housing Mission Manager, Jeff McCullick said, "Housing missions involve a myriad of moving pieces. Site assessments need to be done, then there's zoning and utility needs."

Temporary housing is a normal mission assignment for the Corps. However, no two disasters are ever the same.

"The mission on Maui is unique in that the Corps is not doing the installation of the units," said McCullick. "We are preparing the

pads with utilities so FEMA can procure and install the units."

McCullick said the group is one week into the process but gaining momentum. "Although we are still in the initial stages, the team has hit the ground running and is working with FEMA to get people into homes as soon as possible."



(right) Anne Wurtenberger, temporary housing mission specialist and (center) Jeffery McCullick, mission manager, visit with (left) Stephen Caldwell, surveyor, at a proposed temporary housing site map. USACE photo by Brigida Sanchez

Corps helps tribe with wastewater lagoons

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

North of the Twin Cities, the St. Paul District is finding solutions to improve wastewater disposal and solid waste disposal facilities to tribal homes and communities.

District project managers are working with the Indian Health Service, or IHS, for the first time on a wastewater treatment design and engineering project located on the Bois Forte Indian Reservation in St. Louis County, Nett Lake, Minnesota.

“Working with the Indian Health Service’s engineers on technical assistance, we have developed a trusted partnership that ensures tribes can sustain improved facilities and deliver intended health protection to their communities,” said Clayton Tallman, project manager.

The wastewater lagoon design project will convert two of the existing leaking primary cell ponds into one larger pond at a higher elevation on approximately five acres of land. The multiple pond system controls discharge flow after testing into a wetland area which drains into Nett Lake. The

pond system will be designed to treat 50,000 gallons of discharge per day.

“This project has several aspects that complicate the design, and both the Corps of Engineers and their consultant have done a great job at managing these issues. While still early in the project, it has been a very positive design process. IHS looks forward to continuing to work with the Corps of Engineers in the future,” Michael Termont, Indian Health Service project manager, said.

The timeline for this project is to complete design by fall 2024. The Corps of Engineers will be responsible for administering the contract and reviewing contract specifications within the scope of the project.

“Breaking ground with another federal agency is very meaningful to the tribes and our district,” Tallman said. “We are opening doors in supporting tribal water resources today and in the future.”



Members of the St. Paul District team met with the contractor, Indian Health Services staff and the tribal sanitation facilities supervisor at the sewer lagoon to examine existing conditions, in Nett Lake, Minnesota, Nov. 13. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo

Construction complete at Fisher Island

Story by Ben Nelson

Construction was recently completed at Fisher Island, a temporary river sand storage site along the Mississippi River in Pool 5, near Buffalo City, Wisconsin.

The Corps stabilized the area from erosion caused by flowing water. The stabilization will reduce the shoreline fluctuations and restore function for routine channel maintenance.

Routine mechanical and hydraulic dredging of the Mississippi River navigation channel places materi-

al, mostly sand, on the site. The project consisted of modifying the bank slope and constructing riprap vanes.

In the spring of 2024, the Corps will plant sandbar willow cuttings to help establish vegetation on the newly created sand berm.

This project was funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed November 15, 2021, commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



Fisher Island, near Buffalo City, Wisconsin, during construction 2023. USACE St. Paul District photo by Dan DeVaney



Bethany Hoster, chief of environmental planning and Mississippi Valley Division emerging leader, speaks at the Regional Governance Board, in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Oct. 16, 2023. USACE courtesy photo

Emerging leaders represent at regional governance board

Story by Stephanie Failla and Micki Meier

Leaders from the Mississippi Valley Division gathered for a regional governance board in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Oct. 16-20, 2023, to discuss lessons learned and best practices in order to enhance the Corps' program and project delivery going forward. In attendance were participants of the division's emerging leaders program, which is a two-year regional leader development journey that offers career broadening leadership opportunities. Emerging leaders had the opportunity to attend breakouts with senior leadership in the division.

St. Paul District celebrates the holidays *USACE St. Paul District photos by Wendy Wells and Dave Elmstrom*



Recognizing our Employees of the Month: The MVPs of MVP



October
Eric Dykman
Operations



November
Marianna Aho
Programs and Project Management



Around the District



Sara Rother, forester, oversees the implementation of a prescribed burn on approximately 130 acres at West Newton Prairie, near Kellogg, Minnesota, Nov. 13, 2023. West Newton Prairie is a river sand placement site that is being restored to native prairie. USACE St. Paul District photo by Andy Meier



Lt. Col. Robert Wilkins presents Colleen Meyer, environmental protection technician, with a Meritorious Civilian Service Medal at her retirement ceremony, Nov. 29, 2023. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson

Terry Zien, senior program manager, is presented with the Bronze de Fleury Medal at his retirement ceremony in St. Paul, Minnesota, Dec. 13, 2023. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson



(left) Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, Corps of Engineers commanding general and (right) Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Galick present (center) Tamryn Frauenshuh, St. Paul District recreation and natural resources planner, with the 2023 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence at the National Awards Ceremony in Washington D.C., Nov. 29, 2023. USACE courtesy photo



Icy conditions at Lock and Dam 5 in Minnesota City, Minnesota. USACE St. Paul District photo by Judy Denzer



NAVIGATION

735K cubic yards

dredged river sand provided for beneficial use:

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

1,360,000 cubic yards dredged from different dredging jobs

10M tons of goods



passed through Lock 10

- 1,748 commercial vessels passed through lock 10
- 29,772 total lockages at St. Paul locks



420 surveys

completed by survey crew covering 43,026 acres



ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

placed **\$156M**



in construction

[2nd highest ever for St. Paul]

- Provided engineering support to 37 USACE districts and centers

EMERGENCY MGMT

140 deployments

in support of disaster response

SAFETY

62 good catches



RECREATION

156K

guests at campsites



- 787,226 day use recreation visitors
- fee revenues totaled over \$1M

OFFICE OF COUNSEL



36 FOIA requests processed

- Over 1,950 pages of information

HUMAN RESOURCES

116 new hires

retirements **19**



Fiscal Year 2023 (Oct. 2022-Sept. 2023)

CONTRACTING

590 contracting actions



\$114M in awarded contracts

SMALL BUSINESS

94%

of contract dollars went to small businesses

- 8.6% of contractors were first-time proposers.
- 45% of the first-time proposers received awards.

News and Notes

New Employees

Shwan Al Mandalawi, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Stephen Anderson, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Corey Dopkins, cabin attendant, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Dawn Johnson, cook, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Leif Johnson, geologist, engineering and construction, North St. Paul, Minnesota

Carrie Nelson, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Paul, Minnesota

Amy Shaunette, forester, regional planning and environment division north, St. Paul, Minnesota

Christina Shivel, nurse (occupational health), safety and occupational health, St. Paul, Minnesota

Dalyson Sorm, lock and dam operator, operations, Hastings, Minnesota

Timothy Tumberg, archeologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Paul, Minnesota

Noah Ward, construction control representative, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Brittany Wysokinski, attorney-adviser, office of counsel, St. Paul, Minnesota

Promotions

Noah Andow, welder, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Cole Atkinson, engineering technician, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

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

Joshua Clark, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Daniel DeVaney, channel maintenance manager, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

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

David Francksen, engineering technician, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Ryan Frykman, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Joseph Gassen, engineering technician, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Levi Gieseke, lock and dam operator, operations, Guttenberg, Iowa

Edward Glimme, lock and dam operator, operations, Genoa, Wisconsin

Tyler Hammond, lock and dam operator, operations, Eastman, Wisconsin

Brett Hoff, lock and dam operator, operations, Winona, Minnesota

Leah Huff, regulatory specialist, regulatory, Mesick, Michigan

Sierra Keenan, community planner, regional planning and environment division north, Duluth, Minnesota

Andrew Linder, lock and dam operator, operations, Minnesota City, Minnesota

Bradley Mussman, lock and dam operator, operations, Red Wing, Minnesota

Thomas Rohrer, facility operations specialist, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Janel Shafer, secretary, operations, St. Paul, Minnesota

Thomas Sowinski, biologist, regulatory, St. Paul, Minnesota

Aaron Springer, natural resources specialist, operations, Crosslake, Minnesota

Michael Vogt, safety and occupational health specialist, safety and occupational health, St. Paul, Minnesota

Kory Warrington, lock and dam operator supervisor, operations, Eastman, Wisconsin

Retirements

DeLisa Kviz, accounting officer, resource management
Keith LeClaire, supervisory cartographer, regional planning and environment division north
Colleen Meyer, environmental protection assistant, regulatory
Terry Zien, civil engineer, engineering and construction

Congratulations

Edward Ho, engineering and construction, passed the Professional Engineers exam
Hlee Moua, engineering and construction, welcomed baby Emmett to her family Jan. 5
Brian Schmidt, engineering and construction, passed the Professional Engineering exam
Evan Strand, Lock and Dam 2, and wife Hannah welcomed their first born, Stetson Evan Strand. Stetson was born Jan. 1 at 7lbs. 7oz.
Helen Walz, engineering and construction, passed the Professional Engineering exam



Travis Zabinski, Lock and Dam 8, was promoted from Sergeant First Class to Master Sergeant and presented the Bronze de Fleury Medal for 20 years of dedicated service in the engineer field

Taps



Nancy Hausauer passed away Dec. 22, 2023



Lon Meixner, former lockmaster at Lock and Dam 4 in Alma, Wisconsin, passed away Dec. 6, 2023



Joseph Schladweiler passed away Nov. 8, 2023. Schladweiler worked for the Corps of Engineers at Eau Galle Recreation Area in Spring Valley, Wisconsin