Register Now for NWC’s Annual Meeting
Keynote Address by The Honorable R.D. James

Amid Congressional negotiations for a Water Resources Development Act in 2018 and debate over the appropriate Federal role in water resources project development and oversight, New Orleans plays a fitting host to NWC’s 58th Annual Meeting. Founded 300 years ago near the mouth of the Mississippi River, New Orleans retains much of the French and Spanish culture and architecture that reflect its diverse and rich heritage. Today it is a vibrant city, proving its resilience over time.

Our conference program will include a Keynote Address by The Honorable R.D. James, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Speakers from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters include Major General Scott Spellmon, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations; James Dalton, Director of Civil Works; and Edward Belk, Chief of the Programs Integration Division.

Providing a regional focus will be Col. Michael Clancy, New Orleans USACE District Commander; Brandy Christian, President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans, and Sean Duffy, Executive Director of the Big River Coalition. Delving into alternative financing options will be Nicki Fuller, Executive Director of the Southwestern Power Resources Association, and Jorianne Jernberg, the WIFIA program manager at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Stakeholder perspectives and priorities will be discussed by Sean Strawbridge, CEO of the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, and Earl Lewis, President of the National Water Supply Alliance.

Additional speakers continue to be added, representing all segments of the water resources community. Register today and join NWC and our local host, the Port of New Orleans, as the city celebrates its Tricentennial.

Waiting on WRDA

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee’s version of WRDA, the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA), awaits time in the crowded floor schedule. It’s in line behind the various appropriations “minibuses” and aviation reauthorization. Also percolating, the hearings and floor debate on the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to fill the seat of retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. While Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Majority Leader, has given notice that he intends to cancel the August recess, it’s unclear when the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Visit us at waterways.org. Send your ideas and suggestions for the National Waterways Conference to info@waterways.org.
Appropriations Update

“Moving Dirt” to Invest a Record $24.2 Billion in the Civil Works Infrastructure

Under the leadership of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R.D. James, the Corps is moving ahead to invest more than $24 billion in the nation’s water infrastructure. The fiscal year 2018 funding of $6.8 billion, combined with $17.4 billion storm damage supplemental funding, provide a historic opportunity to address critical water infrastructure needs.

Along with the work plans detailing the allocations from the annual appropriation, the Corps has released details on how it plans to use the funds provided in the disaster supplemental in six appropriations accounts: Investigations; Construction; Mississippi River and Tributaries; Operation and Maintenance; Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies; and Expenses.

In Construction, funds will go to 60 flood and storm damage reduction projects in 16 states and one territory. Investigations funds will complete flood and coastal storm damage reduction studies in 14 states and two territories. Funds directed to the Mississippi River and Tributaries account will construct levee and channel improvements and repair damages to 10 projects in seven states.

The $608 million allocated to the Operation and Maintenance account will go to 69 projects in 18 states and one territory. Approximately $645 million of the $810 million in the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies account will repair damages to 81 locally owned flood risk management projects in 16 states and one territory. Final details on some of these funds are still pending.

In releasing these details, Mr. James stated, “In providing the current working estimates of funds required to fully fund these studies and construction projects, the Corps is showing its commitment to “moving dirt” and, more importantly, to completing studies and construction.” The tables listing the studies and projects receiving funding are posted at http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Budget/ under Supplemental Appropriations for Disasters 2018, in two categories, Long-Term Disaster Recovery Investment Program and Short-Term Repairs.

FY 2019 Funding Chugging Along

A conference committee has been convened to reconcile the differences in the FY19 energy and water bills from their respective House and Senate Appropriations committees. Bundled together in the Senate as a “mini-bus” as the Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, the civil works program would receive $6.927 billion, compared to the $7.28 billion in the House. While the funding levels in the two bills are not far off, policy provisions could hamper negotiations, particularly those applicable to other, unrelated programs. Discussions will continue, with an eye towards the new fiscal year beginning on October 1st.
Hydropower Funding Model
Customer Funding of Infrastructure

BY NICKI FULLER

With all the discussion of “Public Private Partnerships” or “P3”, I would like to highlight a long, successful P3 program in the southwest. Beginning in the 1990s, federal power customers began noticing increased unscheduled outages at Corps and Bureau of Reclamation hydropower plants. These outages were increasing costs to the PMA customers because significant outages often make it necessary for PMAs to purchase expensive replacement energy to meet their contractual obligations to their customers. Further, because of federal budget cycles, waiting for appropriated funding for a crippled plant that requires significant equipment repair and/or replacement before returning to service might extend the outage—and the cost—over multiple years, all while the customers pay the bill.

Even though there was increase in outages due to maintenance issues, the Southwestern Power Resources Association (SPRA) saw significantly decreased appropriations for maintenance of this infrastructure. Reduced appropriations to the federal power program do not represent savings to the U.S. Treasury. We pay the costs, whether we provide the funding directly to the Corps or indirectly through appropriations that are subsequently returned to the Treasury. By paying up front, before the equipment failed, we

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Building Awareness of the Benefits and Risks of the Nation’s Levees

BY CATHERINE SANDERS, NLD PROGRAM MANAGER, AND JAMIE MCVICKER, P.E., USACE TECHNICAL LEVEE MANAGER

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) launched the updated version of the National Levee Database (NLD) on June 5, 2018. The NLD is a living, dynamic information source that provides visualization and search capability on the location and condition of levee systems nationwide. The NLD is located at https://levees.sec.usace.army.mil.

“The National Levee Database is a public view into the information that builds understanding of the benefits and potential risks levees pose for the communities in which they exist,” said Eric C. Halpin, P.E., USACE deputy dam and levee safety officer. “The database now contains levee information within the USACE program, FEMA, and other states and federal agencies. We continue to work closely with additional federal, state, and local agencies and tribes to include the information about other levees on a voluntary basis.”

The NLD updates are centered on providing essential information about levee systems to the

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public and various stakeholders in the Levee Safety Community including flood risk management, emergency management, states, Federal agencies, and local levee owners. Levee system information is presented in an easy to understand manner moving the user from an overview of the levee system through a series of “tabs” to more detailed information. Users can also now more easily identify and access basic information about the physical attributes of the levee system relevant to flood fighting, design, construction, operation, maintenance, repair and inspection.

An interactive map view along with an updated ability to search and find information are all new to the NLD website. The new website design also enables users with ready access to levee risk information and visual map displays.

Other important components of the new NLD include the levee “home page” or the Executive Summary of the levee system that displays the most critical information about that system in one location. This tab includes an overall Project Description of the levee system to help orient the reader about the levee system. There is also a new Risk Tab providing details on the consequences and risk screenings along with a written explanation of the risk characterization for the levee system. More detailed information including System or Segment data/Levee Survey Profiles/Inspections/or key documents can be located from the Executive Summary page (Figure 1). FEMA accreditation status in addition to helpful links to other FEMA programs is also found on a subsequent tab.

The updated NLD currently provides users with information

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Illinois Soybean Association Hosts Inland Waterways Solution Summit

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) convened a diverse group of stakeholders in Washington, D.C., to facilitate a national discussion and develop a strategy to address critical funding challenges facing the inland waterways. Scott Sigman, ISA’s transport and export infrastructure lead, opened the day-long session as “a critical collaboration to ensure a reliable, robust and resilient inland waterway system.”

While the inland waterways are the most economical, efficient and environmentally friendly mode for transporting cargo, Sigman noted they are facing a crisis due to deferred maintenance and lack of federal funding. Panel discussions during the day focused on innovative funding models, federal and non-federal roles in maintenance and investment, and ongoing collaboration for finding critical solutions. NWC President Amy Larson participated in the discussion, sharing examples of funding options utilized by other water resources stakeholders, including the hydropower funding model discussed on page 3.

Attendees engaged in robust discussion throughout the day, seeking more details on novel funding options, as well as challenging alternatives that would upend traditional approaches. Understanding that working towards improvements for the inland waterways is an ongoing process that will take involvement and resource support of many stakeholders, ISA intends to continue its collaborative approach, believing that working together will yield positive results.
USACE Employee Profiled for Promoting Water Availability Issues

Kelly J. Barnes, an Intergovernmental and Communications Program Specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Institute for Water Resources (IWR) since 2006, was featured in the USA Today special edition USACE 2018 for her work on the ‘Women, Water, and Wells’ photography exhibit (photos by Mr. Gil Garcetti) which “helps publicize the need for preserving the world’s most valuable resource: water.” As an art history major in college, she uses her creative skills to help the public understand why this is such a crucial issue.

“A photo can immediately command attention and capture the spirit of the issue,” stated Ms. Barnes. “We hope that viewers will have an emotional response to the photos, which in turn will hopefully inspire change. Water availability is an issue that affects our world, from Cape Town, South Africa, to Sacramento, California. Access to clean drinking water is a huge issue for many populations, and what better way to bring this issue to the forefront than with strikingly beautiful photos.”

As a communications and association executive, Kelly focuses on committee operations, membership development, relationship building and outreach, strategic planning, logistics, program and budget development, website, marketing, and newsletters. She also specializes in conference planning, previously managing PIANC’s Smart Rivers Conference series and Dredging Conferences. In 2013, she served USACE’s Office of the Commanding General as the Assistant Executive Officer to LT GEN Thomas P. Bostick, and received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from the Department of the Army.

NWC Calls for Consultation and Public Dialogue on Proposed USACE Civil Works Restructuring

In response to the Administration’s proposal to consolidate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program with the Departments of Transportation and Interior, NWC has urged that before any reorganization takes place, the Administration must conduct an open and transparent process, taking into consideration the input of local governments, states, and other water resources stakeholders. Under the civil works program, the Corps is responsible for carrying out the Federal role in planning, designing, constructing, operating and maintaining much
of the nation’s water resources infrastructure, including inland and deep-draft navigation, flood control, hydropower generation, water supply, aquatic ecosystem restoration, regulation of certain water-related activities and ancillary activities such as outdoor recreation. The vast majority of these are multi-purpose projects, from which accrue tangible and long-lasting benefits that maximize the nation’s economic investments while protecting our precious natural resources.

The Congress and the Corps have both recognized the need to streamline the Corps business model, improve project delivery, and provide greater responsiveness to impacted stakeholders and the public. Both the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 and the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 enacted policy reforms towards this end. Similarly, the Corps has taken additional steps to review its rules, regulations, policies and guidelines to ensure they are serving the nation’s needs. Moreover, pending legislation in the Congress, the House-passed Water Resources Development Act of 2018, and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee’s America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, both call for a comprehensive study on the Corps’ structure and organization, whether it should be modified to lead to greater efficiency, coordination, transparency and cost savings, and the effects of transferring its functions to an existing or new agency.

Managing water for multiple purposes can and often does lead to conflict among competing interests. Keeping appropriate federal activities in water resources consolidated within a single agency offers an opportunity to optimize these competing interests, allows federal responsibilities for water to be properly coordinated with those at state and local levels, and protects the multiple benefits produced from the water resources projects. In turn, such an approach assures the protection of the nation’s economic investments and the environment alike.

Dr. Joe Manous Named as New Director of Institute for Water Resources

The Institute for Water Resources welcomes new Director, Dr. Joe Manous. Dr. Manous oversees a multi-disciplinary Field Operating Agency that supports USACE’s Civil Works missions through water resources planning, policy and decision-support model development; hydraulic and hydrological engineering; dam and levee safety; and training and national/international interface with academia, professional societies, and non-government organizations.

Prior to becoming IWR Director, Joe served as a Water Resources Engineer and Manager for International Activities at IWR, where he specialized in the areas of water resources and environmental security issues associated with water. He also worked closely with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Headquarters USACE, and was an Adjunct Professor at George Mason University teaching courses in engineering economics and water resources. Dr. Manous is a retired USACE officer and his last active duty assignment was as Academy Professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he taught courses in environmental engineering, water resources, and environmental security.
on approximately 30,000 miles of levees. The current dataset of levee systems is a reflection of both FEMA and USACE levee inventories. The current inventory contains about 15,000 miles of levees from FEMA Mid Term Levee Inventory with the remaining 15,000 miles associated with USACE programs. USACE levees alone reduce flood risk to more than a trillion dollars of public and private property, including homes and businesses, critical infrastructure, such as highways, hospitals, schools, utilities, and significant environmental and cultural resources. Over 11 million people live and work behind USACE levees, making the NLD an invaluable resource for those who want to understand more about their local levee system and their flood risk.

Moving forward, USACE will continue to refine and add enhancements to the NLD. Building the Nation’s inventory of levees remains a key goal for both agencies along with ensuring data quality and data freshness for all levee systems. Adding key information from general condition, to risk assessment, or as simple as a levee survey, provides valuable information about a levee system. The success of the new NLD is to share and explain information to support the levee community along with states, local owners or Federal agencies in managing levee systems, supporting emergency management and flood risk management activities. Most importantly, the NLD helps build awareness of the risks and benefits of levees for those who live and work behind a levee system.

Authorized through the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, USACE is leading an effort to review levees across the nation by partnering with state agencies, tribal nations and their levee operators/owners on a volunteer basis. The level of partner involvement ranges from USACE conducting the inventory and review to sharing best practices on levee safety that enables levee owners/operators to manage their own levees. USACE activities currently underway that will extend into future years include the following:

- Identifying the location of levees and their owners/operators
- Conducting a one-time field inspection (Figure 2) and risk assessment (Figure 3) on levees at no cost to levee owners and operators
- Providing results of inspections and risk assessments to assist with flood hazard mitigation planning and budget prioritization
- Offering training and technical assistance on best practices in levee safety for interested parties
- Gathering lessons learned, challenges, and best practices to inform future levee activities

For more information on inventorying, inspecting and conducting risk assessments on non-USACE levees, please contact us at DLL-CEERD-NLD-General-Support@usace.army.mil or 1-877-LEVEEUS (1-877-538-3387). A local USACE team member will be available for assistance in these efforts.

For more information about the National Levee Database, please visit: http://nld.usace.army.mil
“HYDROPOWER FUNDING” FROM PAGE 3

could save millions of dollars for our utility customers and sustain this important federal infrastructure.

With this in mind, SPRA in partnership with the Corps and the Southwestern Power Administration (SWPA), put together the Trust Memorandum of Agreement (Trust MOA). Under this agreement, the customers meet with the Corps and Southwestern to determine the funding needs for the following fiscal year. Together we rank projects based on need and risk of failure and then choose the projects to be funded in the next fiscal year. This cooperative process allows the customers, the ones that pay the expenses, to have input on how their money is spent and it allows the Corps to have a predictable revenue stream to sustain this federal infrastructure. We have committed to the Corps that we will fund through the Trust MOA about $2.4 billion for hydropower infrastructure over the next 30 years to complete rehabilitation of all 24 Corps hydropower plants marketed by Southwestern. Through this process we are able to keep local control and oversight, sustain federal infrastructure, and assure the longevity and future of the federal hydropower program.

Nicki Fuller is the Executive Director of Southwestern Power Resources Association and serves on National Waterways Conference’s Board of Directors.

The Value of Ports and Inland Waterways to the Nation

Testifying before the Senate Finance Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness, Mary Ann Bucci, Executive Director of the Port of Pittsburgh Commission, stressed the importance of ports and the inland waterways transportation system to the nation’s economy, trade and competitiveness. Bucci, who serves on NWC’s Board of Directors, implored the committee to continue robust investments in the nation’s water resources infrastructure, noting that ports and waterways also provide one of the best returns on investment, generating $10 in annual net economic benefits to the Nation for every $1 spent on civil works projects.

Testimony on H.R. 5556

George Taylor, Deputy General Counsel of Oglethorpe Power Corporation, and a member of NWC’s Board of Directors for the Southeastern Federal Power Customers, testified before the House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee in support of H.R. 5556, the Environmental Compliance Cost Transparency Act of 2018, which would require disclosure of compliance costs with environmental laws impacting fish and wildlife. As Mr. Taylor testified, “every cost impact on rural electric cooperatives or public power utilities is passed on directly to our customers—many residents of rural areas who are already struggling... If enacted into law, H.R. 5556 would provide another important tool in helping us manage costs for our customers.”
Industry Events

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 1-3</td>
<td>Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gicaonline.com">www.gicaonline.com</a></td>
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<td>August 7-18</td>
<td>Mississippi River Commission</td>
<td>Low water inspection trip</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil">www.mvd.usace.army.mil</a></td>
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<td>August 21-23</td>
<td>Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Opportunities Conference</td>
<td>Point Clear, AL</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tenntom.org">www.tenntom.org</a></td>
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<td>August 22</td>
<td>Red River Valley Association</td>
<td>Sulphur, OK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rrva.org">www.rrva.org</a></td>
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<td>August 30</td>
<td>Inland Waterways Users Board</td>
<td>Paducah, KY</td>
<td>703-428-8083</td>
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<td>October 1-3</td>
<td>The Fertilizer Institute</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tfi.org">www.tfi.org</a></td>
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<td>October 7-10</td>
<td>American Association of Port Authorities</td>
<td>Valparaiso, Chile</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aapa-ports.org">www.aapa-ports.org</a></td>
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<td>October 10-12</td>
<td>Pacific Northwest Waterways Association</td>
<td>Vancouver, WA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pnwa.net">www.pnwa.net</a></td>
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<td>October 17-19</td>
<td>Texas Water Conservation Association</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
<td><a href="http://www.twca.org">www.twca.org</a></td>
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<td>November 14-16</td>
<td>Waterways Council, Inc.</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td><a href="http://www.waterwayscouncil.org">www.waterwayscouncil.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6-8</td>
<td>Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
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Upcoming NWC Events

- **September 12-14, 2018**
  - Annual Meeting
    - New Orleans, LA

- **March 4-6, 2019**
  - Legislative Summit
    - Washington, DC

- **September 17-19, 2019**
  - Annual Meeting
    - Memphis, TN