



Operation Watershed - Recovery

Responding to the Historic Mississippi River Flood of 2011

MR&T 2011 POST FLOOD EVALUATION



KEY MR&T TALKING POINTS

- The Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project is one of the world's most comprehensive and successful flood control and navigation systems.
- More than a dozen significant floods have tested the MR&T over the past eighty years, but none as extensively as the 2011 record flood.
- The system contains pre-flood deficiencies of which some were not tested by the flood and remain a risk. An example of such underlying/residual risks relates to the 11 percent of the MR&T System on-going construction efforts that may continue for decades.
- In 2011, the MR&T system performed as designed by accommodating the river while using only 85 percent of its design capacity. Yet at the same time, not a single life was lost.
- More than \$230 billion in flood damages were prevented by the MR&T during the 2011 record flood.
- Since its inception, the MR&T system is credited with preventing \$612 billion, or in excess of half a trillion dollars, in cumulative flood damages. At an investment level of \$14 billion, those savings result in a \$44 return on every \$1 invested.
- We owe a debt of gratitude for the wisdom, tenacity and efforts of our forbearers who devised, funded, constructed and maintained this innovative system that has proven so beneficial to so many for so long.
- We extend our sincere appreciation to the thousands of local land owners, levee boards, cities, states and other partners who desperately fought the flood fight alongside us and who continue to stand with us during the path to recovery.
- After more than 1.5 years of evaluation and documentation, the expansive MR&T 2011 Post Flood Report and the condensed "*Room for the River*" booklet will serve as educational tools and reference points for our citizens, decision makers and future flood fighters.
- Facts, figures and lessons learned from the 2011 flood serve to hasten and guide our endeavors to rebuild and improve the MR&T project, ensuring continued safety and security of our citizen's lives and livelihoods.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Mississippi River Commission, working hand-in-hand with our strong partners, continue to keep an ear to the past, maintain a hand on the present and project a steady voice for our nation's bright and productive future.