

Dear Mr. Behrhorst:

Thank you for your presentation during the public meeting of the Mississippi River Commission held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 11, 2003. In your statement you recommended using the mat sinking unit to provide a long-term solution for bank erosion along the inland waterway system.

We agree that erosion is a major concern to the navigation industry, as well as the individual landowners along the waterways. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been actively evaluating potential solutions regarding bank erosion in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW). A General Investigations Reconnaissance Study addressing bank erosion along the entire portion of the GIWW located in Louisiana is nearing completion. A feasibility study that would investigate the problem in more detail is estimated to cost \$6.5 million and take 3-5 years to complete. The study cost would be cost shared 50/50 with the non-Federal sponsor. One of the tasks that must be addressed during a reconnaissance study is the assessment of the level of interest and support from non-Federal entities in the identified potential solutions and cost sharing of the feasibility phase and construction. A letter of intent from the local sponsor stating the willingness to pursue the cost-shared feasibility study described in the Project Study Plan and to share in the costs of construction is required. Unfortunately, we have been unable to identify a non-Federal cost-share partner for this study. Consequently, we are unable to recommend proceeding to the feasibility phase of the study at this time.

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The Commission is pleased to hear that Corps employees have been cooperative and responsive in providing support for the new National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa.

The Commission appreciates receiving the views of the National Rivers Hall of Fame and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission