

March 21st, 2020

Dear General Toy,

District #3 and the St. Francis Levee District Boards have been working to alleviate some drainage priorities and I would like to briefly mention these, as they are under the control of the Corp of Engineers. As you may know I am a Board Member of the St. Francis Levee District of Pemiscot County, and is Board member of Drainage District #3 of Pemiscot County. As a representative of our Boards, we have been working with our cities, residents, and farmers, to alleviate drainage issues that have arisen within the last several years due to the Mississippi River flooding and excessive rainfall.

Specifically,

1. As the Belle Fountain begins just west of Truman, it is filled with debris, silted in, and sluffed in. As you move west toward interstate 55, the issue just gets worse. Within the last few years, heavy rain has caused residents on the north side of the ditch to have difficulty with gaining access to their homes, and other issues common to flooding. Area businesses are now being affected. This same ditch passes the south ½ of Hayti and water movement has become an issue for those residents, farmers, and businesses alike. The Belle Fountain also handles 50% or more of the water from Hayti, as well as Steele (100% of their water), and Cooter (100% of their water), Holland, Braggadocio, along with countless acres of farmland. Without attention to this major waterway, problems will continue to mount.
2. D3 Lateral #5 runs out of the east side of Caruthersville, running south and this ditch carry's the lion's share of water from rainfall and seep water from Caruthersville. It also handles all **relief well** water. It is in bad shape with silting and scouring. This ditch is in desperate need of work. This ditch affects not only a significant number of city residents, homes and businesses, it also protects county residents, their homes, and farming assets as well. District #3 has worked hard to obtain NRCS funding to clean out this ditch, and this has been approved. The work will begin in early spring. However, water from this ditch ends up in the Belle fountain southwest of Caruthersville, just west of Highway D and north of highway 164. So again, the Belle Fountain has significant importance to relief well water, residents, farmland, etc.
3. D3 Main 3 is another main drainage ditch for Caruthersville water. This ditch was cleaned out in 2019, and has provided some relief, however, it drains to the Bell Fountain southwest of Caruthersville as item 2 in this letter. So again, the Belle Fountain is significant to moving water.

The Department of the Army, Memphis District, Corps of Engineers made these comments in the March 1981 General Design Memo NO 111, Volume 1:

- a. Page 33: In 1981, estimates were over 26900 acres would be adversely affected. \$873,000 annual urban damages are estimated at \$873000. This was the estimates in 1981, so we can only imagine the increased damages if not managed.
- b. Page IX-1: Belle Fountain Basin encompasses approximately 212 square miles or 43% of Pemiscot County's land area. Towns affected account for about eight square miles of the Basin.
- c. The last sentence of paragraph of page 33 reads: A no action alternative is a choice to continue with flood damages which will significantly reduce outputs from some of the most productive farmland in the nation, require the expenditure of public funds for disaster assistance relief, depress the local economy, and degrade the quality of life in the area.

We regret we cannot speak to the Corps of Engineers March 30th but encourage you to visit the area and examine the Belle Fountain. I would be available to take you to the worst areas to evaluate. The residents of

Pemiscot County, St Francis Levee District, District #3, and countless farmers and residents appreciate your assistance in improving the Belle Fountain system.

In closing, on behalf of the St. Francis Levee District, the residents and businesses of Caruthersville, and farmers of Pemiscot County, thank you to the Corps of Engineers for the dedication, hard work, and diligent efforts to replace the Sea Wall in Caruthersville. We recognize and appreciate you more than you know.

Sincerely,



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