

Interagency Recovery Task Force

Together...restoring the third largest watershed in the world!

How it began:

- Monumental Flooding in the Mississippi River Valley Watershed
- Activation Memo from HQ Signed May 13, 2011 to establish the Interagency Recovery Task Force (IRTF)
- Invitation letters to join the IRTF signed by MG Walsh and sent May 20, 2011.
- Meetings:
Teleconference, 27 May
Memphis, TN, June 22
Pearl, MS, 23 Aug
New Orleans, LA, 20 Oct
- Next meeting, 14 Dec
St. Louis, MO

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Mississippi IRTF Meeting, 20 Oct



Signing the IRTF Charter: (from left) Joseph Klinger, State of IL, Jerome Zeringue, State of LA, Bob Hainly, USGS, MG Mike Walsh, USACE, CDR Tim Wendt, USCG, Mike Womack, State of MS, & James Murphy, MARAD.

The 4th Interagency Recovery Task Force meeting was held 20 October in New Orleans, Louisiana. Our gracious host was the State of Louisiana, Coastal Restoration, lead by Jerome Zeringue. In attendance were 4 states (MO, IL, MS, LA) and 7 agencies (NWS, FEMA, USDA, USGS, USCG, MARAD, USFWS).

Topics discussed were critical to our collaborative efforts and transparent communication. The meeting started off with a welcome from MG Walsh. He continues to share the message that the probability of a supplemental appropriation for this flood is very low. At this time, there are 10 funded projects that are high priority items. The rest of the repairs are unfunded and that will leave the system vulnerable and at risk for the coming spring floods and possibly through the next decade under a self-financing model. Next, Mr. Zeringue welcomed everyone and discussed the importance of protecting the Louisiana coastline. He explained losing the coastline is a significant loss to both the natural ecosystem and flood damage reduction.

The Corps Headquarters has taken a national perspective on the System Performance Evaluation and recovery efforts. MG Walsh explained to the members that part of our guidance from Headquarters on the System Performance Evaluation report is to look at the MR&T system but will be a part of the entire watershed approach. It was easier to get around the flood when it was only us. Then other floods and tropical storms have made HQ take a nationwide per-



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Jeff Grascel, NWS, listening to presentations.

Mississippi IRTF Meeting, 20 Oct, cont.

spective. To create a comprehensive report, this will require the research and support of two other divisions: North West Division (NWD) and Lakes and Rivers Division (LRD). Because our emergency situation ended before theirs, our Division already has damage assessments completed and our list of priorities. HQ needs to review our list of priorities with the lists from the other Divisions in order to have a comprehensive list of repair items for the watershed. So, at this time MVD cannot share our priority list.

Next was a review of Operation Watershed components. Damage assessments are complete. Phase I, critical interim repair prioritization has revealed 93 hot spots, plus five PL84-99 projects, which totaled \$800M. Our top 10 funded projects totaled \$75M. As damage assessments continued, a Phase II list added an additional 44 items of concern, totaling \$120M. The 142 items completes the damage assessment review process, reaching close to our initial estimate of \$1B to reset the system before spring. The Corps has been self financing the top 10 projects. The Secretary of the Army moved funds from fully funded projects to life and safety issues. Out year funds are being put toward this flood. This is how life and safety issues will be taken care of without a supplemental. Updated maps of the critical list items to 137, by District, were shared along with an updated spreadsheet of items by state. MG Walsh brought up the fact that in order to restore the MO levees, seepage issues on the IL side need to be taken care of at the same time to keep from adding pressure to one side or the other. Proactive efforts are underway to attain ROW in IL and MO to get construction underway when possible. Not fixing the levees will get them an unacceptable rating, which will bring up the cost of insurance. At the meeting, the System Performance Evaluation team update was given. This is a system wide effort and involves subject matter experts from all 6 districts in the division. Other federal and state agencies, as well as stakeholders and NGOs will partner with the team. The IRTF will be part of the review process.



Mike Womack, MEMA, and CDR Tim Wendt, USCG, were part of the discussion.

The State perspective started with a need to focus on planning and communication. BPNM was part of the plan. Are we taking enough mitigation measures? Nationally we need LIDAR to make accurate flood and inundation maps. States need to know what stakeholders are being communicated with, in case there are others who should be getting the messages. Response points of contact may not be the same for recovery. MS has 2 levee boards with different priorities. Personal challenges: MS has had households with repetitive loss and no way to help low income households. There are Hazardous mitigation grants and FEMA grants but only one can be used.

The Federal perspective started with an update that the NWS report will be completed in January. It evaluates flood forecasting. We need to enhance communication and coordination to have accurate data. FEMA has the challenge of risk mapping for public assistance with no additional funding. USGS asked the question "What is the cost if we don't make repairs?" That needs to be put forward ~ \$120B damages avoided, 600,000 people would have been evacuated from Baton Rouge and New Orleans. \$800M in repairs vs. \$120B in damages avoided. USDA/NRCS will work with requests for damages in floodplain easements. Drainage cleanup worth \$25M was done prior to flood. They now need \$70M in cleanup. USCG has a waterway plans that needs to compare trigger points in their plan with damage areas listed by the Corps. MARAD informed



Scott Whitney listens to Bob Hainly's presentation.

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all that navigation continued to operate during the flood; 600M tons in commodities, most of which was moving in April and May. Commodities need to move by river to save air quality and protection from on road use.

The next meeting will be hosted by the State of Missouri, but to save time, money, and convenience of location, the meeting will be held at the Corps, St. Louis District

Construction News!

Funded Projects



Jerome Zeringue, State of Louisiana, signing the charter.

Feature	Flood Damaged Site	CORPS DISTRICT	STATE	COUNTY / PARRISH	Estimated Cost	FY11-12 Funds Allocated
MRL	BPNM Floodway - Make Safe and Stable	MVM	MO	Mississippi	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000
CI	Cache-Cairo	MVM	IL	Alexander	\$26,110,000	\$26,110,000
MRL	City of Cairo, IL	MVM	IL	Alexander	\$4,600,000	\$4,600,000
MRL	Cairo Parcel 5	MVM	IL	Alexander	\$10,400,000	\$10,400,000
MRL	Above Cairo Parcel 2A - Relief Wells	MVM	IL	Alexander	\$6,769,221	\$6,769,221
MRL	Above Cairo Parcel 2 - Slurry Trench	MVM	IL	Alexander	\$1,900,514	\$1,900,514
MRL	Buck Chute	MVK	MS	Warren	\$2,640,000	\$338,375
MRL	Albermarle Slide	MVK	MS	Issaquena	\$1,006,000	\$207,400
MRL	Duncan Point	MVN	LA	E Baton Rouge	\$8,850,000	\$8,850,000
MRL	Baton Rouge Front	MVN	LA	E Baton Rouge	\$1,762,000	\$1,762,000
CI	Third District	MVN	LA	Orleans	\$11,400,000	\$6,375,000
Struct	Morganza Control, Piezometers and relief wells	MVN	LA	Pointe Coupee	\$2,420,000	\$2,420,000
CI	Merriwether-Cherokee, top bank and revetment deep reach	MVM	TN	Lake	\$24,115,000	\$2,200,000
CI	Presidents Island	MVM	TN	Shelby	\$26,689,000	\$2,200,000
PL84-99	Souris River	MVP	ND	Ward	\$5,000,000	\$2,030,000
PL84-99	Scott County Levee Breach	MVS	IL	Scott	\$1,716,000	\$1,716,000
TOTALS					\$160,377,735	\$102,878,510

Memphis District

Birds Point - New Madrid. Memphis- and Vicksburg-District hired labor forces continue to work at the upper and center crevasses as weather permits. Rain and snow suspended earthwork for four days this week, until Thursday. Center crevasse completion is now forecast for early December. Work at upper crevasse has shifted to prepositioning sand at the land-side toe in case HESCO bastions are required. Water in the existing blue hole is rising now. Packaging of desensitized blasting agent is required to be reconfigured to ensure stability during transport and removal is delayed. Missouri DNR is assisting with permits. Project updates are published by email to stakeholders and posted on the District homepage on a 48-hour cycle. http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/executiveoffice/weekly_updates.asp



Crews reconstruct the levee at the center crevasse Friday. Earthwork resumed Thursday afternoon.

Cache-Cairo Revetment project is 85% complete with Phase I. Phase I entails placing riprap stone to construct a stone toe/stone blanket and pave degraded areas for overall bank stability. Currently, Geotech analysis is complete, environmental and cultural clearances have been obtained, and P&S is being finalized. ROW are still in the works.

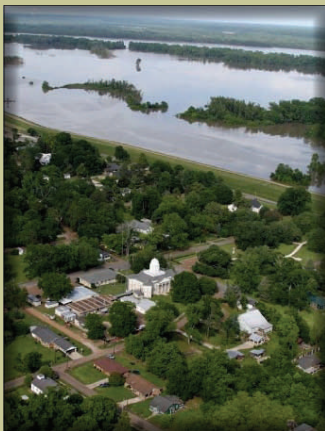


MG Walsh is first to sign the charter.

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“Speed to
Momentum”



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US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG

Construction News!

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City of Cairo – Geotech has provided preliminary plans to the sponsor and is awaiting boring results to complete analysis.

Cairo Parcel 5 – Geotech has provided preliminary plans to the sponsor and is awaiting boring results to complete analysis.

Above Cairo, IL Relief Wells Parcel 2A was awarded 29 Sep 11 - Contractor has mobilized to site and is performing clearing and grubbing operations. Contractor is installing piezometers and performing pilot hole drilling.

Above Cairo, IL Slurry Trench Parcel 2 was awarded 26 Sep 11 - Contractor has mobilized to site and is performing clearing and grubbing operations.

Merriwether – Cherokee Revetment – A 2700 linear foot portion of top bank eroded away, and caused scouring. Recommended action is to place stone to rebuild top bank and stabilize the existing scour hole by using a phased construction process 1-4. Phase I will construct a 2,700 ft. long stone structure built to an elevation of 272 ft with a 14 foot crown width, a notch, and stone apron. Construction of Phase I began 26 Oct and is 16% complete.

Presidents Island Revetment – A 3,200 foot section of river bank failed from water overtopping with excessive velocities in an attempt to create a cutoff. Scour hole extends 2,000 ft inland and is approximately 1,000 ft wide. Recommended action is to place stone to reconstruct top bank and place fill in the landward scour hole to the original grade and section using a phased construction process 1-3. Phase I contract was awarded 26 Oct and is 60% complete.

Vicksburg District

Buck Chute and Albemarle: Construction items 458-L and 465-L are on the same contract to construct landside seepage berms and install 30 relief wells. Currently, all vertical and horizontal wells are in place. Contractor is placing berm material at both sites. Progress is 47% complete with a scheduled completion of 12 Jan 2012.

New Orleans District

Duncan Point Seepage Control was awarded as a MATOC low bid on 30 Sept 11. The repair requires a seepage berm roughly 210ft wide and 1000ft long. River road is adjacent to the landside toe of the levee in this location; therefore the road will be relocated and placed on top of the completed berm section in its current alignment. The contractor has mobilized and completed clearing and grubbing and prepping the borrow pit. The utility owners initiated relocating impacted utilities. Embankment work has begun and is 40% complete. Remaining embankment is on schedule to begin 6 Dec 2011. The contract is on track to complete on 10 April 2011.

Baton Rouge Front Rock Berm is scheduled for award on 9 Dec 2011. The solicitation was posted on 2 Nov 11. A pre-bid conference was conducted with all the MATOC contractors on 7 Nov 11. The project consists of breaking up the existing slope pavement and placement of a rock berm on the floodside of the levee. The project will be marine-based with estimated contract duration of 120 days. This project will be completed before the peak of the 2012 high water season.

Third District Revetment area is protected with 100 – year old willow mats. Surveys show 38 ft. of scour. Recommended repair is a stone blanket and stability berm. The stone blanket was completed 1 Nov. The stone berm is the next order of business.

Morganza Piezometers and Relief Wells – 90% of relief wells and piezometers are inoperable. P&S to be completed by 28 Dec. Contract advertisement on 29 Dec and award scheduled for 15 Jan 2012.

Chalmette Seepage Control was awarded as a MATOC low bid awarded on 12 Sept 11. The site is characterized as thru-seepage. The repair will consist of a sheetpile cutoff wall. The sheetpile will be driven thru the centerline of the levee crown to an elevation 2 ft below the crown surface. The estimated construction completion date is January 2012. This project is on track to be in place by the peak of high water season 2012.