

**White River Coalition Statement Presented to the Mississippi River Commission  
Memphis, TN., August 17th, 2015**

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Recently, individuals representing the White River Coalition, the Arkansas Waterways Commission, staff members from the congressional offices of Senator John Boozman, Representative Rick Crawford and several Jackson County citizens met with officials from the Memphis District Corps of Engineers. The topic at hand was how should we proceed to return navigability on the White River to its authorized level. The Memphis District team advised us that a three-year plan is the approach we should follow:

Year One (1) would focus on conducting environmental and cultural surveys.

Year Two (2) would involve clearing and snagging with some dredging necessary to return the channel to its former condition.

Year Three (3) would require dredging, repair work to bank cavings and cut-offs.

The Arkansas Waterways Commission is working to secure funding for Year I and it has some funding committed as it continues to work with the Governor and legislature to develop a solution that will increase shipping dependability on the White River.

A paragraph from a previous WRC statement I think explains why this work is so vital to this region of our state:

***Recently, Mr. Jon Chadwell serving as Director of the Newport Arkansas Economic Development Commission was visited by an industrial prospect wishing to locate a facility in Newport that would create 800 to 1000 new jobs. The firm required highway, rail and water transportation infrastructure. When they completed their survey, the only lacking feature was a waterway with sufficient dependability. Those new good paying jobs went elsewhere! This disappointment is not the only one we have suffered. We've missed other opportunities.***

In closing, this proposal should not be met with opposition from any of the stakeholders because it's basically updating an un-met maintenance schedule. I do appreciate your time and consideration and I would welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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