

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION**  
**Public Hearing, Memphis, TN**  
**August 17, 2015**

By: Randy Richardson, Executive Director – Memphis and Shelby County Port Commission

Good morning General Wehr, distinguished members of the Commission and Col. Anderson, I am Randy Richardson, Executive Director of the Memphis & Shelby County Port Commission and Vice President of Port and Industrial Properties for EDGE. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Col. Anderson and the Corps of Engineers' Memphis District staff and the MVD staff for the continued support related to the recovery efforts from the flood of 2011. The flood related projects should all be completed within the next 3 years. Upon completion, the Corps of Engineers will have spent approximately \$45 million in shore side repairs in the Memphis area.

General and Commissioners, I am going to spare you the slides today because later this afternoon, I will have the unique honor of giving you a waterside guided tour of Presidents Island and the McKellar Lake harbor. I have talked to many "Old Timers" in the Corps and this tour will be a first. Therefore, I will keep it short and reserve the balance of my time for Rob Rash and let him do the heavy lifting.

The tour will start south of the I-55 bridge. After passing through the I-55 bridge and turning west, you will see 6,179 feet of repaired shoreline along the north bank of Presidents Island. Approximately 75% of the Mississippi River's flow was crossing Presidents Island at this location on May 10, 2011. The repair included 2 million cubic yards of fill from the river and 1 million tons of stone. The final price was \$32.2 million dollars.

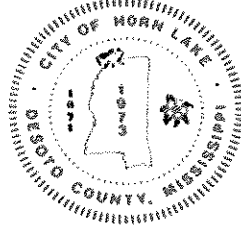
The second item will be the annual dredging operations at the mouth of McKellar Lake being conducted by Inland Dredging Company. The mouth of the Memphis harbor is the main artery allowing freight to flow into an economic engine that produces over \$8 billion dollars in annual economic impact and over 16,000 jobs. Upon seeing the number of barges staged for the harvest season, you will better understand how important continued dredging funds are for the vitality of this nation.

Next, just within the mouth, along the north bank, you will see an area that was damaged by the outflow when the Mississippi River changed course during the peak of the flood in 2011. 2,600 feet of shoreline has been repaired, but recently, secondary erosion issues have occurred that are threatening power lines that supply electricity to the FAA lights on the TVA river towers. The Memphis District and the Port Commission will start repairs on this damaged area within the next 2 months. Beyond this point, the bulk of the tour will be looking at the 52 harbor fronted facilities within the McKellar Lake harbor.

The conclusion of the tour, at the east end of the harbor, will be the \$52 million dollar public terminal replacement project. The public dock facility, originally built in 1953, will be demolished starting next week. The new facility will be built in phases consisting of 1 fixed primary loading point with 3 separate floating dock facilities. The new facility will also be able to handle unit trains of 100 cars or more for the first time on Presidents Island. The impact to this region will be significant.

I will wrap up with my usual ending, General. Now that you are in your second year, I hope that you have lived and served on the MRC and the Mississippi River long enough to have a little mud in your veins. May it never leave you. It is a pleasure working with you and the staffs that represent you so well. Members of the Commission, thank you for your time. I will be happy to answer any questions. For those going on the tour, it will start in the pilot house after lunch.

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Mississippi River Commission  
Low Water Inspection Trip in Memphis District  
August 17, 2015

Statement by: City of Horn Lake

### **Horn Lake Creek Basin**

In the past, the COE has provided several studies on this basin which led to some channel improvements mainly along the Cowpen Creek Tributary. Since that time, there has been a significant amount of development within the basin that has added to the stormwater runoff. During the storm event in May of 2013, there were approximately twenty (20) homes that flooded and over thirty (30) roadway intersections. In September of 2014 we experienced another storm and flood which resulted in the loss of two of our businesses. Looking at the most recent FEMA maps, the floodplain areas for this basin is expanding slightly and is a trend we want to reverse. Therefore, the City has begun a proactive plan for maintenance to help keep the drainage ditches clean and recently made a major equipment purchase to do this. In addition, Desoto County and the Horn Lake Creek Drainage District has teamed to help with these maintenance efforts.

Beyond this, the City is looking to provide a long-term solution with addition of diversion ditches, detention and channelization along the basin. Presently, the City owns property along the basin that should provide sufficient R.O.W. for a project of this scope and is seeking funding to study and provide construction through the Memphis Metro program. Not only would this provide flood reduction measures, but would also be an economic benefit by providing less development cost to the end user.

Should any future projects require channel work on the lower end of the basin outfall, several jurisdictions and a more regional approach would be required, that hopefully the COE could provide assistance in obtaining access and permits needed.

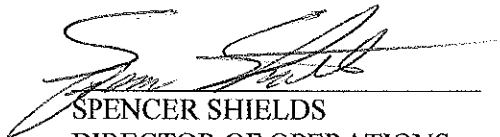
### **Planning Assistance to States Program**

About three (4) years ago, the City became a Sponsor under the PAS program. This program funding has been used by the City to Provide a Utility Master Plan which included; GPS mapping, data collection and analysis of their water and sewer systems. The plan was developed in three (3) phases and to date, the City has completed the sanitary sewer system and is presently working on the water system. This allowed us to gather very detailed information on each system. Just to give a little drill down of the information we collected on the sanitary sewer system; every manhole location, with associated elevations of all flow lines, pipe sizes and photograph of the interior and on the water system; all valves, hydrants, pipe sizes and material.

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This information is the basic information needed to establish an asset management program for these utilities. With this information the City is able to determine areas of these utility systems that are in need of repair or replacement and to prioritize for a Capital Improvement Plan.

In addition, as the City continues to grow, this information allows the City to provide immediate information to businesses looking to locate concerning adequate capacities for water and sewer. Therefore, we look forward to the continued support and partnership with the COE to help provide this vital information to help sustain and facilitate the increasing growth of the City.



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*For the Record Only*

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