

STATEMENT PRESENT TO:

Mississippi River Commission  
Vicksburg, MS  
April 13, 2016

Good morning General Wehr and other members of the Mississippi River Commission.

As most of you know, I am Reynold Minsky, President of the Fifth Louisiana Levee Board, and I am here today on behalf of the Board of Commissioners for the Fifth Louisiana Levee District.

We are pleased to acknowledge that since our last meeting, construction has begun on Item 377-R. Also, clearing will begin on Item 374-R within the next month or so.

Construction is finally complete, with the exception of turfing, on Item 420-R. This project has been extremely complex and we appreciate everyone's efforts with this project.

Items 357-R and 422-R are also complete with the exception of turf establishment.

Rights-of-way have been released to USACE for relief well work in Madison Parish and the contract was recently awarded which will provide an additional 25 relief wells in Madison Parish.

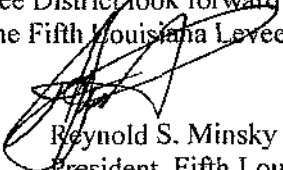
Items 398-R and 416-R are still in the design phase.

The recent high water made it very clear how important the relief wells are; we appreciate all the work being put into adding more relief wells. We have also been in communication with the appropriate corps personnel, and have requested assistance on a few issues that have come up concerning some of the screens clogging up.

The Fifth Louisiana Levee District has joined forces with other levee district to support the passage of an emergency supplemental appropriations bill (\$2 billion dollars) to repair flood damage to the system and infrastructure; yearly funding in the amount of 500 Million dollars for continued maintenance of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project; the passage of a comprehensive flood control and navigation project for the upper Mississippi River Basin to protect people and property throughout the entire Mississippi River Valley.

I would still like to see more attention concerning groundwater issues in our district. Water levels continue to decrease and with the number of farmers pulling from this great resource increasing, we feel that a coordinated response is needed to address this before it becomes a crisis for our region. Along with the depleting water levels, there have also been numerous reports of salt intrusion in the irrigation wells within our district. In my opinion, this causes great concern and reasoning as to why we should direct some of our focus on the use of surface water as opposed to ground water.

Thankfully, this has been another great year for both the Levee District and USACE, and like always, it has been a pleasure working with everyone. We would like to thank all involved in the recent flood fight, and also those that work with the Levee District on a daily basis. We at the Levee District look forward to the joint effort to help insure better flood protection for the people in the Fifth Louisiana Levee District.



Reynold S. Minsky  
President, Fifth Louisiana Levee District  
102 Burnside Drive  
Tallulah, La 71282