

General Wehr, Members of the Commission, Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm Jim Carroll, III. I serve as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Piney Drainage District, which is located in Monroe and Lee Counties in Eastern Arkansas. I thank you for this opportunity to again appear before this group to remind you of the on-going drainage problems in the area of Piney Drainage District.

Last year I came before this group to provide you with information concerning the flooding and drainage issues affecting our part of Eastern Arkansas. In 2014 unprecedented spring rains resulted in flooding of homes, streets, county roads and farm land. The Board of Commissioners of our drainage district determined to assess a maintenance tax on the property within the district as a way of building up funds to try to address as many matters as could be done with limited funds. The District also received loan funds through the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. Using local funds and a portion of the loan funds from ANRC our District was able to clear debris in an area

near the Northern end of the District, located in the Eastern area of the City of Brinkley (an area plagued by years of flooding which includes a housing area, a park and the airport for the City.) The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission also assisted by performing some clearing of debris from the ditches surrounding Lake Greenlee, which is adjacent to the area. The operations were conducted on the top end of the drainage district, which we as farmers, and from our engineers, realized was not going to ultimately solve the drainage or flooding issues, but we hoped it would be possible relief to a chronic problem in the area. The preliminary work was completed last fall, but twenty inches of rain in March of this year, indicates the problem has not been solved. Flood waters still linger in the area. Because of congestion and debris in the drainage area there is no relief. I, along with many other farmers in the area, have fields that the calender indicates it is time to plant, but the fields remain under water.

Last year, General Wehr remarked the area of the Mississippi Valley is the breadbasket of the world. The agricultural products grown in our region provide food throughout the world, but are also used in numerous ways in our every day lives. The impact of the inability to cultivate crops impacts businesses and individuals well beyond the agricultural sector.

The Memphis District of the Corps has received funding to conduct a preliminary assessment of Piney Drainage District. Some of your personnel have already been to the area to begin the assessment. It is our hope the assessment will lead to the determination to accept our area as a Corps project. In the mean time we continue to do as much as we can with the funds we have available. We have determined to attempt right of way access and preparations beginning on the lower end of the Drainage District. This will utilize grant funds from the State of Arkansas and also local funds from the local tax assessment to prepare for what we hope to be the beginning of the solution to our decades old problem.

Respectfully Submitted,

James H. "Jim" Carroll, III  
Chairman  
Piney Drainage District  
310 South Main  
Brinkley, AR 72021  
870-734-8522

Piney Drainage District  
c/o John W. Martin, Attorney  
PO Box 472  
Brinkley, AR 72021  
870-734-1787  
[jwmartin@arkansas.net](mailto:jwmartin@arkansas.net)