Crosscurrents

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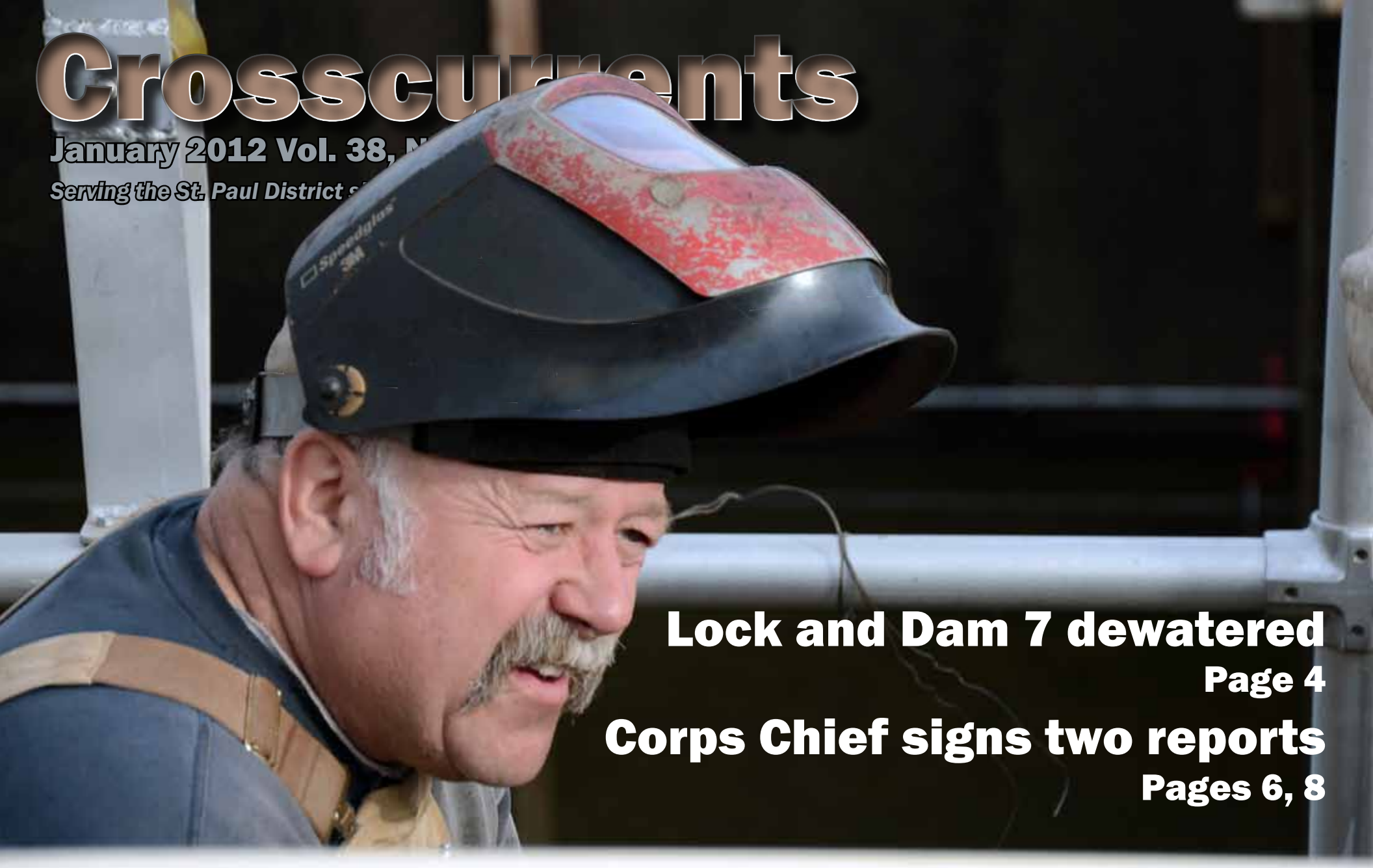
Serving the St. Paul District s



Lock and Dam 7 dewatered

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Corps Chief signs two reports

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

BUILDING STRONG®

On the Cover

Kim Wenger, Channels and Harbors Section, works on installing a gudgeon pin on the miter gate at Lock and Dam 7, near La Crosse, Wis., Jan. 11.

Photo by Vanessa Hamer

Crosscurrents is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published monthly for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District.

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Articles and photography submissions are welcome and must arrive by the 15th day of the publishing month for consideration. Submissions can be mailed or e-mailed.

Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format for all written copy and photos should be no smaller than a 5 x 7 at 300 dpi. All photographs appearing herein are by the St. Paul District Public Affairs Office unless otherwise accredited.

The mission of *Crosscurrents* is to support the commander's internal information program for the St. Paul District and its stakeholders.

Crosscurrents also serves as the commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies and command philosophy to the St. Paul District community and its customers.

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Public Affairs Chief (Acting) — Shannon Bauer
Crosscurrents Editor — Patrick Moes

Crosscurrents
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What's inside...

Next month's *Crosscurrents* issue includes:

- **25 years of environmental restoration**
- **District gets a new towboat**

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Comments from the top

Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division Commander

"Good things come to those who wait," was one of my first thoughts when I learned that I was going to command the Mississippi Valley Division.

Many commanders are given a dream sheet to list the job they'd really like to have, and I'd requested Mississippi Valley Division about four years ago. For whatever reason, the Chief of Engineers decided I would instead command the Great Lakes and Rivers Division, and I had a wonderful four-year tenure, working in Cincinnati, engaging with many fascinating issues.

So when the Chief told me this summer that I would be leading the Mississippi Valley Division, I was pleasantly surprised and very grateful for the opportunity to tackle the many issues we face here in the world's third largest watershed along "America's Greatest River."

I would like to discuss my leadership philosophy and guiding principles with you, and to hopefully offer you insights into my expectations and goals for the future. First, I believe effective leaders rely on the collaborative effort of a team to achieve shared goals. I will rely heavily on your expertise, because I believe each member of my team plays a defined role with professional responsibilities.

I also believe a team works best when everyone knows the rules, what the next play is going to be and what your role is in the execution of each play. To borrow a sports metaphor, I firmly believe that a team who huddles up to discuss the next play will always beat the team that doesn't. That's why communication is key, and why I want all of my team members to be informed and engaged. Above all, I believe a team must be values-based, which means that we can be trusted to do what we say we will do, that we will treat all of our fellow team members with dignity and respect and that we will always keep the safety and security of our team members at the forefront of all that we do. Bottom line is that we take care of our team with integrity, respect and safety.

I also believe effective leaders direct from the front by providing good examples, by providing a clear focus and by making difficult decisions. Leaders can also best deliver on their promises and commitments by delegating tasks to the subject matter experts on their team who can get the job done efficiently.

I also believe strong leaders establish and provide a worthwhile purpose, and that the Corps has a clear sense of purpose because we are one of the best federal agencies when it comes to providing value to our Nation.

Effective leaders also communicate clear direction by providing context for their decisions and by creating a clear line of sight to our shared goals. This context and clarity will help our team accomplish the mission for our customers on time and within budget. Exceptional leaders also set and enforce high performance standards by determining clear decision points and by acting to influence when the decision points occur.

Essayons!

District dewaters lock and dam for maintenance

Story by Vanessa Hamer

The lack of ice and the presence of standing water at the bottom of Lock and Dam 7's dewatered chamber near La Crosse, Wis., marks a drastic change from last year's routine winter maintenance, when often times work was done during below zero temperatures. This year, with warmer than normal weather, everything is easier than normal, said Scott Uhl, the crew's foreman. The improved weather conditions have helped the maintenance and repair crew from Fountain City, Wis., to get slightly ahead of schedule.

The district is in charge of maintaining 13 lock and dams along the Upper Mississippi River from Minneapolis to Guttenberg, Iowa. These lock and dams go through a 15 to 20 year cycle of routine winter maintenance. Lock and Dam 7 received this maintenance three years ahead of schedule due to damage on the gates that forced the dam to not operate at its normal pace during the most recent navigation season.

The lock was dewatered at a rate of 6 inches per hour on Dec. 5, 2011, marking the end to the navigation season and the beginning of work for the 36-person repair crew. Maintenance this year includes repairing the miter gates, bubbler systems and deteriorated concrete on the lock walls, as well as a facelift with approximately two full barges of sand and zebra mussels being taken out before repairs could start. Even with the lock and dam getting maintenance three years ahead of schedule, "No repairs were out of the ordinary this year after the chamber was dewatered," said Uhl.

The affect of the warm weather is not the only difference from last year. The district became the owner of a new crane mounted on a barge this year. This crane has a 200-ton capacity and is used for placing stop logs outside the gates to prevent water from coming back into the dewatered chamber. These stop logs weigh about 76,000 pounds each and the pick-up beam weighs about 64,000 pounds, said Bryan Peterson, chief of the maintenance repair section. In previous years, Rock Island District's crane and crew were needed for this work. For Uhl, having their own crane to complete tasks allows the Fountain City crew to stay on the same page, which is another factor that has heped the crew get ahead of schedule.

Peterson said routine winter maintenance also provides an opportunity for district employees to complete other repair work that would normally be completed on land in a dry dock. This repair work includes the 90 barges that are owned and operated by St. Paul District. These barges used on projects such as mechanical dredging often need repairs after being heavily used during the navigation season, he added. Some of these barges are brought into the chamber loaded with equipment prior to dewatering the lock. They are then repaired during the winter for the upcoming navigation season. Even if there are only two barges being repaired, Peterson said it still saves money. “It is more efficient and reduces repair costs for the district every winter,” he said.

Lock and Dam 8 near Genoa, Wis., is scheduled for maintenance next year. But for now, Uhl said, the crew is happy to be working near their home. “The camaraderie that is made while spending every night in a hotel is amazing, but it is nice going home every night to your own bed.”

Photo by Vanessa Hamer

Photo by Shannon Bauer

(Above) Mike Gunderson, maintenance and repair section, leads a crew installing a gudgeon pin on the miter gate at Lock and Dam 7, near La Crosse, Wis. (Right) Andy Johns, channels and harbors section, maps the lock floor to indentify if there has been any settlement since the last time the lock was dewatered.

Corps' Chief of Engineers signs Fargo, N.D., final report

Story by Shannon Bauer

Officials from the district and the cities of Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn., as well as their respective counties, celebrated the Dec. 19 signing of the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Study by the Chief of Engineers with a ceremony and press conference in Fargo, Dec. 22.

"Today is a day of celebration," said Moorhead Mayor Mark Voxland at the ceremony. "There is no doubt."

By signing the report, the Chief of Engineers endorsed the district's decision to construct a $1.8 billion, 36-mile long diversion channel located in North Dakota that would divert the floodwater to the west of the Fargo/ Moorhead metropolitan area. If authorized and appropriated by Congress, the project would be one of the biggest projects ever tackled by the district.

The signing of the report also marked the end of a $22 million feasibility study process that was fast tracked from the normal five to seven years needed to complete such a study to a record 36 months. "This study is a standard maker for the Corps," said Col. Michael Price, St. Paul District commander. "People all over the Corps are looking at how this study was accomplished."

According to Brett Coleman, co-project manager for the study, it took a tremendous amount of effort to complete such a large task in such a short amount of time. Around 300 Corps employees from nine different districts and two labs spent around 114,000 hours working on the report, as did several 100 individuals from 26 different private, local, state and federal organizations.

Photo by Shannon Bauer

Col. Michael Price, right, district commander, presented the official Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan Study Report and Environmental Impact Statement to the Fargo, N.D./ Moorhead, Minn., Diversion Authority Chair Darrell Vanyo, left, Moorhead Mayor Mark Voxland and Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker Dec. 22. The report received the Corps of Engineers Chief's signature Dec. 19.

> *"This study is a standard maker for the Corps,"*
>
> *-Col. Michael Price, St. Paul District Commander*

"The team worked really hard on this. We met all of our milestones," said Coleman. "[The project managers] know that the team members have made some personal sacrifices to meet these milestones, and we appreciate it."

Jon Sobiech, environmental, was one of those team members. He spent 90 percent of his time for the past three years working on the study, averaging an additional 15 to 20 hours of overtime per pay period. "I felt like we had a great team that was committed to this project

and to each other," he said. "Without the great teamwork and dedication from the team, it would have been very tough."

With the feasibility study complete, the project has now moved into the design phase. In this phase, Coleman said the team will closely look at the diversion channel in three reaches to refine the plan – with work already underway on the first reach. He said design on this reach should begin later this year.

Congress authorized $11.4 million for the design of the diversion channel in fiscal year 2012. "This project is getting even bigger now," said Aaron Snyder, project management branch chief and program manager for this project. "We will be spending more money this upcoming year than we did for the last three years, and we will be involving even more people than we did before."

(Left) Jeff DeZellar, Roland Hamborg and Terry Williams, all with project management, review new proposed diversion maps at the district's headquarters in St. Paul, Minn. (Below) The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Study project managers are from left, Roland Hamborg, Brett Coleman, Terrry WIlliams, Jeff DeZellar and Joe Mose.
Photos by Patrick Moes

Marsh Lake aquatic ecosystem restoration project receives Corps of Engineers Chief's approval

Story by Vanessa Hamer

Marsh Lake's ecosystem restoration project located near Appleton, Minn., is shaping up to be one of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, or DNR, top projects in the state, said Dave Trauba, Marsh Lake area wildlife operations manager.

The project is aimed at restoring a nationally significant ecological resource and includes a successful stakeholder partnership between the DNR and the district.

Consisting of the upper portion of the Lac qui Parle Reservoir, Marsh Lake lies within the 33,000- acre Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area owned by the Corps and managed by the DNR. The large number and variety of aquatic and avian species present here make this area one of the Midwest's most popular destinations for outdoor lovers, according to the DNR. The Audubon Society also considers this are to be an important bird area of national significance.

The Corps' Marsh Lake ecosystem restoration project addresses the continuous degradation of the lake since the construction of the Marsh Lake Dam in the 1930s. One significant reason for the aquatic and riparian ecosystem decline was the artificially maintained water levels created by the dam. This created stagnant, often dirty water within the lake. A goal of the project involves returning the lake to more naturally functioning aquatic ecosystem.

The Marsh Lake restoration has been an ongoing project for the DNR since it was first mentioned in their books in 1988 and the Corps has been involved since 2007. Mike Wyatt, project management, said, for both agencies, the biggest obstacle in restoring the lake's ecosystem is balancing the diverse recreational interests invested in the area.

Trauba agreed. "Meeting everyone's goal was more about bringing the ecosystem process back and letting everything else follow," he said. "We need to work within the realm in which we can control." This balance is one of the factors attributing to the success of this project.

One way the balance between recreational interests is achieved, for example, is through installing a drawdown structure and maintaining seasonal drawdowns of the lake. This will allow approximately 90 percent of the lake to be drawn down or nearly 3,600 acres of the lake bed, according to the feasibility report. These drawdowns will address sediment accumulation, which is a large contributor to the ecosystem decline, by allowing vegetation to grow. These lower water levels will be put in place for winter, so as not to impact bird migration or the hunting season that occurs early in the fall. The drawdowns will also increase fish competition as a way to fight invasive carp and maintain diversity within the lake. The water levels will also be maintained at a specific level to protect Minnesota's largest breeding colony of American white pelicans, which nest on Marsh Lake's islands.

Along with tapping into the recreational activities that already contribute to Marsh Lake being a popular outdoor destination, Wyatt said, "The project will provide a push to diversify recreation and improve it."

Courtesy photo

The Bois de Souix River will be rerouted if the Marsh Lake restoration plan is authorized by Congress.

Trauba said, canoeing and kayaking would become easier with the rerouting of the Pomme de Terre River to its historic channel and features such as boat ramps, lake access points and interpretive signs will also be improved and expanded. Along with these improvements, new bike paths around the 5,000-acre lake and a bridge over the Marsh Lake Dam, are planned for the future.

Wyatt said, “The most significant success for the Corps lies in the Marsh Lake restoration cost effectiveness.” From an environmental standpoint, cost is measured per habitat unit. The average cost for a Corps project is around $2,000 per habitat unit. With the Marsh Lake project, the total cost is estimated to be around $10 million. The ecosystem restoration cost will be approximately $60 per habitat unit. This is a great cost effective project with significant positive impacts on Marsh Lake’s ecosystem and recreational opportunities, he said.

The next major step for the Marsh Lake ecosystem restoration project is receiving congressional authorization and appropriations to begin construction.

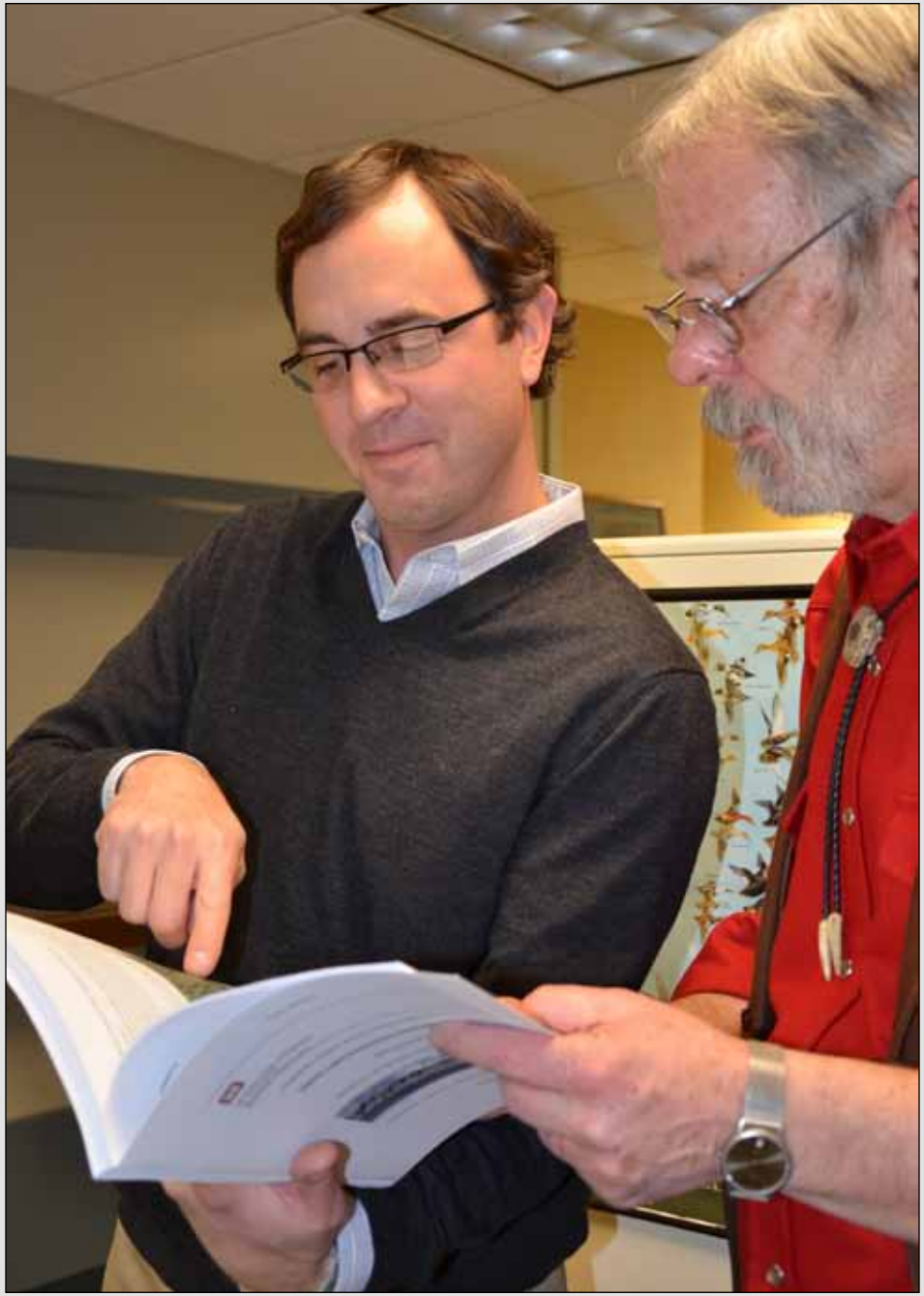

Photo by Vanessa Hamer

Mike Wyatt, planning, left, talks with Randy Devendorf, planning, about the wildlife species the Marsh Lake project will help.

Construction is nearly complete for lock and dam guidewall extension in Red Wing, Minn.

Story by Shannon Bauer

The district will complete the extension of Lock and Dam 3's upper guide wall later this month.

The 862-foot long extension is part of a $71 million renovation for this lock, which is located directly upstream of Red Wing, Minn. The renovation is being funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is intended to improve navigation safety at this site. It is also the largest ARRA project within the Mississippi Valley Division. Work also includes channel and embankment improvements and the construction of a closure dike to mitigate outdraft conditions.

Jane Flewellen, engineering, said before the improvements were made, down-bound navigation was difficult for commercial tows because the outdraft condition pulled barges toward the dam and a number of accidents occurred. Now, she said, operators are able to secure themselves to the guide wall and the combination of the extended guidewall and channel improvements has helped to correct the condition. "The commercial industry is pleased with the results," she said. "We've heard nothing but positive comments."

Extension of the guide wall began in the summer of 2010 by Corps contractor Edward Kraemer and Sons, Inc., of Plains, Wis. Work was delayed due to high water throughout the construction season. Currently, the only work remaining of the extension includes placing stone riprap along the navigation channel and completing the Red Wing Wildlife Bank Protection Project, which is part of the environmental mitigation effort for the project and includes bank stabilization in upper Pool 4 between river miles 792 and 793. The work consists of placing sand along the existing channel bank and installing rock and tree groins spaced 120 feet apart.

Improving the lower embankments of Lock and Dam 3 began in the summer of 2011, and the construction is also being completed by Edward Kraemer and Sons. A contract for this portion of the project was awarded in February 2010, but work has also been delayed by high water. The contract is currently 65 percent complete and construction is scheduled to re-start this spring with an estimated Sept. 15 completion.

Stats, facts and figures: *A look back at 2011*

Story by Shannon Bauer

Engineers love numbers. The Army loves metrics. Here are some of the more interesting numbers compiled from 2011. All numbers are calendar year 2011, unless otherwise noted. All numbers are approximate.

Along the river
Tonnage moved through a lock and dam: 92,306,035
Lockages (includes recreation vessels): 38,993
Recreation vessels that traveled through a lock and dam: 20,357
Cubic yards dredged*: 1,467,289
Cubic yards of dredged material unloaded from dredge placement sites: 829,000
Grounding reports (15-year average is 28): 86
Dredge placement site unloading projects: 3

Projects
Project expenditures: operations and maintenance: $57,900,000
Federal Control and Coastal Emergencies: $47,800,000
construction: $18,300,000
American Reinvestment and Recovery Act
and operations and maintenance: $35,200,000
Hours directly charged to projects: 752,521
Active projects: 149

Recreation
Visitor hours at a recreation site or lock visitor center: 32,092,903
Visitors at a recreation site or lock visitor center: 3,142,720
Volunteer hours spent at a recreation site or lock visitor center: 30,404
Fees collected at recreation sites and via natural resource permits: $872,972
Value of volunteer service hours performed at recreation sites: $649,429
Value of volunteer hours donated to natural resources: $8,715
Volunteers: 508
Shoreline use permits renewed: 73
Citations given at a recreation site: 3

Within the district
Public website hits: 3,535,147
Public website views: 1,906,519
Miles driven in the district's GSA fleet: 1,560,290
Gallons of unleaded gas purchased (district fleet only): 77,715
Gallons of diesel fuel purchased (district fleet only): 4,705
Travel settlements processed: 3,957
Gallons of E-85 fuel purchased (district fleet only): 2,955
Library walk-in use: 1,355
Number of fiction and other genres in library book swap: 425
Books added to district technical library: 104
Hired (includes temporary, permanent and re-employed annuitants): 71
Retirements: 41

Emergency Operations
Tons of debris removed in the Souris River Valley
after record flooding: 612,734
Sandbags distributed: 168,000
Housing pads completed in Minot, N.D.: 848
Taskers processed for flood fighting and recovery operations: 542
Individuals deployed by the district for flood fighting in the district: 80
Individuals deployed for recovery operations in the district: 71
FEMA missions assignments: 7

Seeds, trees and surveys
Tree seeds planted by natural resources and its volunteers: 3,450,000
Acres surveyed: 17,126
Acres of forest inventory completed: 1,700
Surveys completed: 320

* The district's average annual amount of material dredged from 1970 through 2010 is 923,057 cubic yards. There was a 50 percent increase from the average this year. For a good portion of the season, five dredges were operating at different locations in the district and, at one point, six dredges were operating. During a typical year, the district operates only two to three dredges at any given time.

Employees honored for excellence during awards ceremony.

Story by Patrick Moes

The St. Paul District saluted the end of another year at the district headquarters in St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 16, 2011.

Col. Michael Price, district commander, said 2011 was a year of historic events. “Within four days [in December], the district had two Civil Works Review Board approvals,” he said. “We saw the Marsh Lake Project and the Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan Feasibility Project both receive approval.”

In addition to new projects moving forward, the district also participated in major events throughout the region and the Mississippi Valley Division during 2011. District employees supported the Lower Mississippi River flood of record in May 2011, as well as working with partners in Devils Lake, N.D. They responded to tornado disasters in Missouri and Alabama; and they fought floods in three basins within the district.

All told, Price said, “We made it through a year of unknowns.” With the current economic situation increasingly impacting funding and division regionalization starting to take shape, Price said every employee needs to think about and do what is best for the nation.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the day included a holiday potluck and chilli cook off. Craig Evans, planning, took the inaugural ladle award after receiving the people’s choice award. Steve Clark, planning, earned the top prize as the judges panel awardee.

Photo by Patrick Moes

Randy Devendorf, environmental, displays some of the toys that were donated by district employees to Keystone Community Services of St. Paul, Minn.

(Left) Craig Evans, planning, receives the ladle award as the people’s choice recipient for the chili cookoff from Col. Michael Price, St. Paul District commander, during the 2011 winter awards ceremony in the James J. Hill room in St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 16, 2011.

Photo by Stefania Padalino

(Left) Steve Clark, planning, receives his award as the chili cookoff judges panel awardee from Col. Michael Price, St. Paul District commander, during the 2011 winter awards ceremony Dec. 16, 2011.

Photo by Stefania Padalino

2011 Spring flooding and severe storm response

Certificate of Appreciation

Shannon Bauer, public affairs
Jeff DeZellar, project management
Rick Magee, operations
Patrick Moes, public affairs

Vicksburg District tornado response

Certificate of Appreciation

Bonnie Greenleaf, project management
Byron Williams, planning

Fargo, N.D., / Moorehead, Minn., Metro Feasibility Study

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Jeff Hansen, engineering
Chanel Kass, engineering
Elizabeth Killian, engineering
Alex Nelson, engineering
Edith Pang, engineering
Grant Riddick, engineering
Sierra Schroeder, planning
Byron Williams, planning
Katie Young, planning

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Aaron Buesing, engineering
Brett Coleman, project management
Randy Devendorf, planning
Virginia Gnabasik, planning
Kurt Heckendorf, engineering
Molly McKegney-Hunt, legal
Dan Reinartz, engineering
Elliot Stefanik, planning
Terry Williams, project management

Superior Civilian Service Award

Lance Awsumb, planning
Craig Evans, planning
Aaron Snyder, project management
Jon Sobiech, planning

Global War or Terrorism Secretary of Defense Medal

Alan Nelson, operations

Overseas Contingency Operations Letter of Commendation

Kurt Reppe, real estate
Delene Moser, operations
Alan Nelson, operations

Environmental Management Program

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Jeff DeZellar, project management

2011 North Dakota flooding

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Karl Berg, engineering
Charles Boyd, engineering
Aaron Buesing, engineering
Richard Buttz, Alburquerque District
Miguel Cedeno-Morales, engineering
Jeff DeZellar, project management
Ed Eaton, engineering
Rick Femrite, engineering
Russel Fischer, engineering
Michael Grassley, Kansas City District
Bonnie Greenleaf, project management
Jeff Grow, real estate
Rick Hauck, engineering
Brian Johnson, engineering
Joel Johnson, operations
Paul Johnson, engineering
Paul Madison, engineering
Renee McGarvey, engineering
Aaron Mikonowicz, engineering
Joe Mose, engineering
Christine Moss, engineering
Liz Nelsen, engineering
Leon Opatz, engineering
Dick Otto, retired annuitant
Edith Pang, engineering
Matthew Parrish, Vicksburg District
Randall Piel, operations
Brian Remackel, operations
Grant Riddick, engineering
Mark Roenfeldt, St. Louis District
Zachary Santjer, operations
Michelle Schneider, engineering
Sierra Schroeder, planning
Rachael Snyder, regulatory
Brian Turner, operations
Phil White, security
Gary Wolf, engineering

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Teri Alberico, emergency management
Chris Atkins, operations
Shannon Bauer, public affairs
Chris Botz, operations
Lisa Buchli, engineering
Ferris Chamberlin, engineering
Kris Fairbanks, emergency management
Roland Hamborg, project management
Kevin Henricks, contracting
Edward Jenkins, Jr., Vicksburg District
Terry Jessessky, operations
Lisa Lund, operations
Jim Maybach, retired annuitant
Bryanna Sauer, resource management
Luke Schmidt, engineering
Rich Schueneman, operations
Barry Simmonds, safety
Robert Stewart, Vicksburg District
Michael Tolifson, operations
Mark Theis, information technology
Pat Vickman, engineering

News & Notes

Editor's Note

Do you have news you want to share with the district? Send your announcements of births, weddings, graduations, etc., to *Crosscurrents.* cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil.

Newcomers

Bobby Jackson, forester, La Crescent, Minn.
Kelli Phillips, natural resource specialist, Eau Galle Lake Project, Spring Valley, Wis.

Retirements

Eugene Alm, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 10, Guttenberg, Iowa
Pat Berczyk, human resources, district office
Scott Bratten, hydrologic technician, district office
Randy Brunet, resource management chief, district office
Thomas Dirnberger, accountant, district office
Neil Helming, civil engineer, district office
Terry Jessessky, area lockmaster, Lock and Dam 6, Trempealeau, Wis.
Jim Marquardt, survey technician, Fountain City, Wis.
Tim Meers, area lockmaster, Lower St. Anthony Falls, Minneapolis
John Mena, lock and dam operator, Upper St. Anthony Falls, Minneapolis
Leon Mucha, lock and dams operations manager, Fountain City, Wis.
Duane Putz, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 1, Minneapolis
Lewis Riggin, civil engineer, district office
Pat Rogers, security technician, district office
Steve Sandquist, civil engineer, district office
David Valen, electrical engineer, district office
Anthony Zacheretti, program analyst, district office

Taps

Frank Mazurkiewicz, passed away Nov. 22.
He worked in the regulatory branch. Services were held Jan. 6 at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Ore.
Vernon G. Gunderson, passed away Dec. 28.
He retired as the Master of the Dredge Thompson in 1991. Services were held Jan. 2 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fountain City, Wis.

Congratulations

Tony Delgado, executive office, was selected as a top quarterly performer for the Corps' Afghanistan Engineer District-South.
Brian Gray, operations, was selected as the new lockmaster for Lock and Dam 2, Hastings, Minn.
Karl Hunt, logistics, and his wife, Tiff, welcomed twins into their family Dec. 29. Brielle Claire was 4 pounds, 12 ounces; and Brayden Vincent was 4 pounds, 4 ounces.
Beth Killian, engineering, and her husband welcomed Kennedy Alexis Killian into their family Sept. 25, 2011. She was 7 pounds, 5 ounces and 19.5 inches long.
Roy Lawson, engineering, was selected as the 2011 district "Safe Government Employee of the Year.
Bryan Peterson, operations, was selected as the new locks and dams operations manager.
Tim Smith, regulatory, was selected as the chief of the technical support section.

District participates in Da Vinci Fest

Photo by Peter Verstegen

Aaron McFarlane and David Potter, both in planning, participated in the Da Vinci Fest in Stillwater, Minn., Jan. 7. More than 3,000 visitors participated in the annual science and art fair.