



NWC's 2008 Annual Meeting – A Tremendous Success!!

The 2008 Annual Meeting, held this year in fabulous New Orleans, was a tremendous success. The meeting's program – Our Nation's Waterways: Providing Value and Benefits - reflected NWC's broad-based mission and the diversity of its membership of water resources stakeholders. We were honored to have join us Major General Bo Temple, the incoming Deputy Commanding General of Civil and Emergency Operations; Steve Stockton, the Corps' Director of Civil Works; Brigadier General Michael Walsh, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division, and Rear Admiral-select Jake Korn of the Eighth Coast Guard District.

Along with many industry leaders, our distinguished speakers addressed such topics as Corps activities, the importance of waterways to regional economic development, the public value of flood protection projects, and the issues and challenges the water resources community will face with a new Congress and Administration. The collective message was the importance of our inland and coastal waterways to the National economy and the necessity to secure funding to build and maintain the waterways infrastructure. The 200 attendees also enjoyed New Orleans' festive nightlife and dining. Complete program information, including speaker presentations, is located on our website, www.waterways.org

New NWC Leadership

Congratulations to the newly elected NWC leadership. Gary LaGrange, President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans, has graciously agreed to serve another year as Chairman, joined by Fred Caver, President of Caver and Associates, as Vice Chairman. Scott McGeorge of the Pine Bluff Sand and Gravel Company will serve as First Vice President, along with Vice Presidents Brian Frennea of Logistic Services and Patrick Donovan of the West Virginia Public Port Authority, and newly elected Vice President Darwin Nelson of CDM. Bill Satterfield of Balch & Bingham, on behalf of Alabama Power Company, continues his service as Secretary and Counsel, and Jim Haussener of CMANC remains as Treasurer.

Newly elected members of the Board of Directors include Ellen Johnck of the Bay Planning Coalition, Mike Tagert of the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority, Wally Venable of the Upper Monongahela River Association, Marco Giamberardino of the Associated General Contractors of America, Mark Mayfield of Tennessee Valley Towing, Jimmy Lyons of the Alabama State Port Authority, Larry Dowdy of the Little River Drainage District, Jody Barber of Twin Pines Coal, Evelyn Suarez of Williams Mullen, and Don Waldon of Dawson & Associates. Thank you for your service to and support of NWC. A complete listing of the Board of Directors is on our website.

Special thanks to our sponsors this year, for making our Annual Meeting fantastic.

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Tri Rivers Waterway Development Association, Tulsa Port of Catoosa*

Washington Update

NWC's newly formed Legislative Policy Committee had a very productive meeting in New Orleans and is gearing up to address the issues and challenges presented by the 111th Congress and the Obama Administration. Below is a recap of Congressional activities and some of the issues the Leg Policy Committee will consider in the coming months.

▶ **Economic Stimulus Package:** Congress failed to enact an economic stimulus package during the lame duck session, getting mired instead in debate over an auto industry bailout. A stimulus package will almost certainly be introduced early in the 111th Congress, and NWC will urge the Congress to immediately enact a comprehensive measure with substantial investment in water resources infrastructure. The Democratic leadership has indicated that Congress will reconvene in December to consider a rescue proposal being crafted by the auto industry, but Republican leaders from both chambers have thus far opposed such a measure.

► **New Congressional Leadership:** In the House of Representatives, after a hard-fought battle, Representative Henry Waxman (CA) defeated Rep. John Dingell (MI) by a vote of 137-122 to take over as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Waxman has generally been more supportive of environmental issues than Dingell, which may cause concern for water resources initiatives. Waxman's move to the Energy and Commerce committee opens up his former seat as Chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. A decision on that spot was put off until next month. However, the next senior member of the Committee, Rep. Towns (NY), as well as Reps. Maloney (NY) and Cummings (MD), have expressed interest. Other chairs will remain the same as in the 110th Congress, including Appropriations (Obey), Natural Resources (Rahall), and Transportation and Infrastructure (Oberstar). On the Senate side, Senator Byrd has relinquished his position as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and will be replaced by Senator Inouye (HI). Senator Rockefeller (WV) will take over at the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

► **WRDA 2009:** Support for a water resources infrastructure bill has been expressed in both the House and the Senate. Senator Barbara Boxer (CA), Chairwoman of the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee, has indicated that a new water resources bill funding transportation and infrastructure projects across the nation will be a priority for her Committee, stating that failure to fund infrastructure projects is not an option. On the House side, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Oberstar supports getting water resources bills back on a 2-year schedule. In addition, House Republicans declined to adopt a moratorium on earmarks as had been previously indicated.

► The Maritime Administration has unveiled a program to establish a new national network of marine highways to help move cargo across the country in order to cut congestion on some of the nation's busiest highways. The "Marine Highways" initiative calls for the selection and designation of key maritime inland and coastal maritime corridors as marine highways. The program was introduced in an interim final rule with comments due by February 6, 2009. The Leg Policy Committee will be reviewing this issue. For further information, see Marad's Federal Register notice in my email dated 10/20/08.

► **Transition News:** Reports have indicated that President-elect Obama will name as his new director of the Office of Management and Budget Dr. Peter Orszac. Dr. Orszac currently serves as the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, a position he has held since January, 2007. He has significant experience in economic and budgetary policy issues. In other news, Louis Caldera, Secretary of the Army during the Clinton Administration, is on the team overseeing transition actions related to the Corps. The agency review teams for Energy and Natural Resources include: David J. Hayes, Bart Chilton, Carole Jett, Elgie Holstein, Elizabeth Montoya, Sue Tierney, Cecilia V. Estolano, Lisa Jackson, Robert Sussman, Rose McKinney-James, Keith Harper and John Leshy. The Transportation review team includes Seth Harris, Mortimer Downey, Jane Garvey, Michael Huerta, John Cullather, and Carol Carmody. Speculation abounds that Obama will announce cabinet appointments after the Thanksgiving holiday, including Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State, Bill Richardson at Commerce, and New York Federal Reserve President Tim Geithner at Treasury. Reports also indicate that former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers will serve as chief of the National Economic Council, and U.C. Berkeley economics professor Christina Romer will be the chair of the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

Welcome New Member!

We extend a warm welcome to the Southwestern Power Resources Association in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mr. Ted Coombes is the Executive Director, Ms. Barbara DelGrosso is the Director of Operations.

Southwestern Power Resources Association (SPRA) is the service organization representing rural electric cooperatives and municipally owned electric utilities in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas that purchase the hydroelectricity generated at 24 Corps of Engineers multipurpose projects. This energy and capacity is marketed to SPRA's members by the Southwestern Power Administration, and ultimately benefits close to seven million consumers in the six-state region. Southwestern Power Resources Association was established in 1957.

Our thanks to Bob Portiss of the Tulsa Port of Catoosa for his recruitment efforts.

New Membership Directory

NWC's Membership Committee is busy working on a new membership directory, to be available at the Budget Summit in March. Watch the mail in early December for membership profile update information. We appreciate your prompt return of this information to us. Sponsorship and advertising opportunities will also be available; information will be provided in the near future.

Please make a note: Membership renewal invoices will include a new line item for voluntary public awareness contributions. Your contributions will allow us to continue to carry out our mission and effectively address the issues faced by the water resources community. Thank you in advance for our continued support of NWC.

Budget Summit 2009

NWC's 2009 Budget Summit will be held on March 9-11, 2009, at the Phoenix Park Hotel. Located just blocks from the U.S. Capitol, this venue is the perfect location for visits to your Congressional delegation. Watch the mail for the Save the Date card and reservation information. If you are interested in joining the event planning committee, please let us know.