



Midwest Flood Control Association

Leading advocacy to protect communities, strengthen flood infrastructure, and support Midwest economies.

Executive Vice-President Update

March 31, 2026

Midwest Flood Control Association Board members,

Below, please find a concise update on the more strategic actions and developments since my last formal report last fall. Please feel free to share with your levee district board members or other interested parties that you feel will benefit from this information. Also, please continue to inform your levee districts, landowners and others about our annual meeting in St. Louis on June 17-18.

Testimony – HOUSE T&I WRDA Kick-Off (Dec 17)

Charles Camillo delivered a formal statement and answered questions before the Water Resources and Environment Sub-Committee. The statement focused on the Midwest Flood Control Association's priorities for the 2026 WRDA bill:

- 1) Limiting the applicability/use of the results of the Flow Frequency Study to planning purposes only until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers develops actionable solutions to address or offset any potential changes to water surface elevations and flood profiles.
- 2) Designating the results of the Flow Frequency Study as preliminary until the final disposition of the Upper Mississippi River System Flood Risk and Resiliency Study or any spin-off studies that posit actionable solutions to address or offset any changes to water surface elevations and flood profiles.
- 3) Preventing agencies from using the preliminary data from the Flow Frequency Study as a regulatory enforcement tool for P.L. 84-99 eligibility/enforcement or FEMA accreditation while the Flow Frequency Study is deemed preliminary.
- 4) Developing a means for levee and drainage districts to maintain the current level of protection and accreditation at their own expense when Flow Frequency Studies result in documented changes to water surface elevations.
- 5) Calling on the Administration to bring a commonsense approach to standardize and streamline the 408 permission process.

Rock Island District – Dredged Material Placement

The Midwest board met with COL Aaron Williams and the Rock Island District leadership team in December, 2025. This meeting served as a reset in our relationship with the district. One of the main topics where we saw some movement involved the issue of placement of dredged material. (Board Member Melissa Shriver-Hackmack

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testified to this issue before the Mississippi River Commission) The Rock Island District is open to using a program called Beneficial Use Decision Document Integration or BUDDI. This program can be incorporated into the existing Dredged Material Management Plans. This will potentially allow landowners with fee interest to grant a temporary real estate interest to USACE for the placement of dredged material, while retaining the ability to beneficially use that material or allow others to beneficially use it.

The relevant language contained in the expanded Standard Estate 28 is as follows: “Standard Temporary Work Area Easement (Beneficial Use By Others): A temporary easement and right-of-way... for a period not to exceed five (5) years... for use by the United States, its representatives, agents, and contractors as a dredged material placement area, including the right to deposit dredged material thereon... together with the right to clear vegetation, structures, or obstacles necessary for placement... while reserving to the landowner all rights that do not interfere with the easement.”

If your levee district is in the Rock Island District and you or your landowners are interested in this program, please contact the Dredged Material Management Program Manager, Wendy Frohlich at wendy.m.frohlich@usace.army.mil or call at 309-386-3172.

Capitol Hill Visits (March 23-24)

We met with the staff from Sen. Schmitt (MO), Sen. Hawley (MO), Sen. Duckwork (IL) and Sen. Grassley (IA). We also met with staff from Rep. Miller-Meeks (IA-01), Rep Hinson (IA-02), Rep Bost (IL-12) Rep Budzinski (IL-13), Rep Wagner (MO-02), Rep Graves (MO-06), Rep Smith (MO-08). Sen. Schmitt and Reps Bost and Smith have formally submitted the proposed WRDA language we are working closely with Rep Graves office that would achieve our priorities. Sens Hawley and Grassley, as well as Reps Hinson, Miller-Meeks, Budzinski and Wagner have not formally endorsed yet, but have indicated their general support of Chairman Graves’ initiatives. Sen. Duckworth’s office was non-committal, but generally positive. Her office’s support will most likely depend on the Corps of Engineers response under the Technical Assistance/Statement of Effects process. Now we wait for Corps of Engineers feedback. We expect this bill to go to mark-up sometime in June.

Testimony – Mississippi River Commission (March 23)

Tim Maiers represented our association during the Mississippi River Commission High-Water Inspection while the Capitol Hill team was in Washington, D.C. Tim delivered a formal statement on behalf of Chairman Sutter and submitted a formal statement filed for the record on behalf of Tom Waters, our board member and Chairman of the Missouri River Levee and Drainage Districts Association. In our statement to the commission, we thanked the commission for their strong support of our priorities as set forth in their 2025 Proceedings of the Mississippi River Commission. We also formally asked the Mississippi River Commission, the Mississippi Valley Division, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a whole, for their support as we continue to work through

our delegation to get legislation passed in the current WRDA bill that we believe helps us to preserve and maintain our current levels of protection and accreditation.

USACE Meeting – March 25

The Capitol Hill team met with Ryan Fisher, Acting Director of Civil Works at the Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Washington, D.C. This position is the highest ranking civilian position within the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Fisher formerly served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Three members of Mr. Fisher's staff also attended the meeting. We walked Mr. Fisher through our new association and our near-term and long-term objectives. We also asked for his support of the proposed legislation submitted by the T&I committee to the Corps of Engineers for Technical Assistance. Mr. Fisher indicated that he was not yet aware of and had not yet seen the draft language or the Corps of Engineers responses. This indicates that the request for technical assistance is still at the lower levels because it must go past his desk before moving forward. While remaining non-committal on support for the proposed language for legislation, Mr. Fisher did indicate that the timing could not be any better with all the ongoing Administration, ASACW and Corps of Engineers initiatives to stream line, decentralize and execute.

Senator Jil Tracy – IDNR Meeting (March 26)

Rodney Knittel and I participated in the meeting called by Sen Jil Tracy regarding her proposed bill to ease IDNR opposition to levee raises by amending worst-case analysis procedures. I was under the impression that IDNR asked for the meeting, which created hope on our end that the agency was considering possible changes. My assessment was not correct. IDNR does not intend to propose or implement any changes. IDNR was very upfront with Sen. Tracy that the agency's proposed rule-changes will not impact their current position on levee raises and permits. One positive takeaway from the meeting involved IDNR's commitment to the group and Sen. Tracy that the agency fully supports flood-fighting and does not intend to be an obstacle to flood-fighting in the future. The overall tone of the meeting was positive and we agreed to continue the dialogue.

Rep Sam Graves Retiring

Rep Graves announced on March 27 that he will not run for reelection in the 2026 mid-terms. This is a big loss for our association, but it is not at all unexpected. Rep. Graves and his team have done much serious heavy lifting for flood control advocates along the Missouri and Upper Mississippi and we will miss him. This will necessitate greater outreach from our levee districts to their congressional delegations as we look to fill the void left by Rep. Graves.



Charles Camillo
Executive Vice-President
Midwest Flood Control Association