

Midwest Flood Control Association

Executive Vice-President's Report

June 1-August 31

June 10 – Mr. Camillo travelled to Valmeyer, IL and met with Vice-Chairman Brinkman and representatives from the Harrisonville Levee District, Columbia Levee District, Stringtown Levee District, and Monroe County Emergency Management.

June 12 – Mr. Camillo met with St. Louis District Commander (COL Andy Pannier) and select staff from the Engineering Division and Water Control staff to discuss challenges and priorities.

June 27 – Mr. Camillo officially joined Midwest Flood Control Association as Executive Vice-President. Board approved the stated objective: to help our levee and drainage districts to maintain and preserve their current levels of protection and accreditation. Board also authorized offers to Rodney Knittel, Tom Waters, Mike Reed, Al Muhlenbruck and R.D. James as “at large” members to the board. Knittel, Waters and Reed accepted their offers; Muhlenbruck and James did not.

June 30 – Mr. Camillo met with Mark Gremaud at the Boise Brule Levee and Drainage District to thank the district for their support and to hear their challenges and concerns.

July 9 – Mr. Camillo met with Rock Island District Commander (COL Aaron Williams), Deputy for Project Management (Brad Houzenga) and Engineering Division Chief (Roger Perk) to discuss improved relationships, the new Association's mission and objectives, and challenges with the flow frequency study, unfunded PL 84-99 directives and use of dredged material.

July 10 – Mr. Camillo met with the Board of Regents for Two Rivers Levee and Drainage District to thank them for their support and to provide an update on the Association's objectives and challenges. Agreed to provide regular updates in person. Also met with Mike Walker to discuss history and challenges of the Green Bay Levee and Drainage District.

July 15-16 – David Human of Husch-Blackwell, Meghan Schmidtlein of HB Strategies, Chairman Sutter and Mr. Camillo held the following Congressional engagements in Washington, D.C to introduce the Midwest Flood Control Association and present its objectives and challenges:

HOUSE: Mary Miller, IL-15 (William Wadsworth); Ashley Hinson, IA-2 (Nick Bowser); Ann Wagner, MO-2 (Jordan Blackwell); Nikki Budzinski, IL-13 (Yusuf Nekzad); ; Sam Graves, MO-6 (John Harder); Eric Sorensen, IL-17 (Nadia Cortez); Mike Bost, IL-12 (Noah Barger), Mark Alford, MO-4 (Madelyn Derks); Bob Onder, MO-3 (Jeff Coulter); Eric Burlison, MO-7 (Hannah

Balash); and Jason Smith, MO-3 (Hilary Pinegar); House T&I FEMA Subcommittee (Johanna Hardy)

SENATE: Josh Hawley, MO (Taylor Blackwell); Eric Schmitt, MO (Bennett Lyday); Joni Ernst, IA (Alison Whitaker/David Bean); Chuck Grassley, IA (Sherry Kuntz); Tammy Duckworth, IL (Lizzy Olsen).

*Notes on Congressional Engagements: two due outs from congressional visits—1) develop cumulative impacts from potential flood line/accreditation changes resulting from flow frequency study changes and 2) secure USACE buy-in for 408 waiver if flood line changes after flow frequency study.

July 17 – Board approved Phil Held as an “at large” member to the board. Mr. Held accepted the offer.

July 30 – Mr. Camillo met with Fabius River Drainage District, Marion County Drainage District, South River Industrial (BASf), South River Drainage District, City of Hannibal, City of Canton, MO (AYERCO), Industrial Development and Port Authority of Lewis County, Hutchinson Engineering, Ursa Farmers Cooperative and Canton Marine & Towing to provide an update and discuss their challenges.

July 31 – Mr. Camillo met with Hunt-Lima Drainage and Levee District, Indian Grave Drainage District, South Quincy Drainage and Levee District and Sny Island Levee and Drainage District Board to discuss challenges and priorities. Sny board and local farmer agreed to testify before the Mississippi River Commission.

July 31 – Mr. Camillo met with members of the Neighbors of the Mississippi to discuss the formation, objectives and goals of the Midwest Flood Control Association and to solicit their concerns and objectives.

August 2 – Adam Telle confirmed as the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

August 6 – Provided an introduction of the Midwest Flood Control Association and its goals/objectives to the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA).

August 14 – Husch-Blackwell and the Midwest Flood Control Association board hosted a reception for the Mississippi River Commission at the HB Offices in St. Louis. Commissioners MG Kim Peeples, RDML Ben Evans, Hon. James Reeder, Hon. Riley James, Hon. Robert Miller attended, as did COL Andy Pannier, and several Mississippi Valley Division staff. Meghan Schmidtlein of HB Strategies also attended the reception. The reception provided an opportunity for the Association to introduce itself to the Presidential Commission and to discuss some of our challenges in an informal setting.

August 15 – Chairman Sutter, Vice-Chairman Brinkman and board members Mike Walker and Melissa Shriver-Hackamack presented formal testimony to the Mississippi River Commission. Chairman Sutter focused on the introduction of the Association, its mission and our challenges with respect to the Flow Frequency Study. Vice-Chairman Brinkman testified to same issue and its potential impact of billions of dollars to the Southwest Flood Prevention District. Mrs. Hackamack testified to loss of opportunity resulting from the USACE policy change in dredged disposal. Mr. Walker focused on the challenges and inefficiencies of the 408 permission process. Congressional staff in attendance at the public hearing included Mike Bost, IL-12 (Katie Main); Sam Graves, MO-6 (Bryan Nichols); Robert Onder, MO-3 (Seth York); Wesley Bell, MO-1 (John Wagoner); Nikki Budzinski, IL-13 (Kevin Brooks) and representatives from Senators, Hawley and Duckworth.

August 19 – The Husch-Blackwell team identified a new wrinkle with the FEMA pumping cost reimbursement issue that involved the release of a new pumping rate schedule.

August 20 – Mr. Camillo, along with David Human, provided an update to the Southwest Flood Prevention District and agreed to return for further updates. Mr. Camillo, along with David Human, Jr., also introduced the Association to the Riverport Levee District (Missouri River) and invited them to join the Midwest Flood Control Association, which they agreed to do.

August 27 – Mr. Camillo, along with Vice-Chairman Brinkman, toured the Monroe County Levee District with Rep Mike Bost's, IL-12 new legislative director (Lacey Bowersox). Mr. Camillo also updated the Earth City Levee District (Missouri River) and extended an invitation to join the Midwest Flood Control Association. Earth City agreed to become new members.

August 28 – The Husch-Blackwell team worked with T&I FEMA Subcommittee staff and HB Strategies to draft legislative fix the new FEMA pumping rate schedule.

Engagements to be Scheduled and Executed:

- Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
- USACE Headquarters, Washington, DC
- Ste. Genevieve Urban Levee
- Burlington City
- Burlington North Bottoms LDD
- Des Moines & Mississippi Levee District
- Gregory Drainage District
- Lakeside 370
- Henderson County DD 1 and 2
- Valley City DLD

Upcoming Events:

September 5 – Executive Vice-President Update Call

September 23-25 - National Waterways Conference – Norfolk, VA.

September 29-31 – POTENTIAL Washington, D.C. visit window (ASACW)

October 28 – UMRBA Quarterly meeting

Early November – Tentative window for in-person Board Meeting in Quincy area.