



Midwest Flood Control Association

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

Midwest Flood Control Association

Executive Vice-President's 2025 Annual Report

January 2026

Association members and flood control stakeholders,

Please allow this note to serve as a wrap-up of the Midwest Flood Control Association's activities since July 1, 2025 and as a glimpse into where we are heading in 2026 and beyond. We had a very productive six months, and I truly appreciate the strong support that the Board of Directors and I have received as we built the foundation for our nascent organization. To that end, this note serves as a plea for your continued support.

Shortly after you approved the formation of our new organization in June 2025, the Board of Directors authorized me to develop and implement a strategy to:

- 1) Elevate the profile of the Midwest Flood Control Association with Congressional members and staff, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the States of Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri;
- 2) Facilitate strong relationships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers across all levels;
- 3) Improve relationships with other regional stakeholders with a vested interest in flood control along the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers;
- 4) Assist our levee and drainage districts to preserve and maintain their current levels of protection and accreditation.

Since receiving that tasking, all my actions, mostly taken and executed in close coordination with our allies at Husch Blackwell and HB Strategies, have focused on achieving those four directives. Those actions are set forth in the Executive Vice-President Activity Reports posted on our website at www.midwestfloodcontrol.org. I encourage you to examine those reports in their entirety, but to summarize some of the key movements:

- 1) I met with the leadership from the St. Louis District, Rock Island District and Mississippi Valley Division in June, July and August, respectively, to discuss our desire for improved relationships, our mission and objectives, and our challenges with the flow frequency study, unfunded PL 84-99 directives and the Section 408 permission process.
- 2) The Husch Blackwell Team, HB Strategies Team, and MFCA Chairman Roger Sutter and I held Congressional engagements from July 15-16 in Washington, D.C with most of our delegations to introduce the Midwest Flood Control Association and present our objectives and challenges.
- 3) The Board of Directors and Husch Blackwell hosted a reception for the Mississippi River

Leadership

Executive VP– Charles Camillo
Executive Director – Tim Maiers
Chairman – Roger Sutter | Missouri
Vice-Chairman – Bruce Brinkman | Illinois
Secretary/Treasurer – Vicki Stoller | Iowa

Directors

Mark Gremaud | Missouri
John Winkelman | Missouri
Calvin Koeller | Illinois
Melissa Shriver-Hackamack | Illinois
Mike Walker | Iowa

At- Large Directors

Tom Waters | Missouri
Philip Held | Missouri
Mike Reed | Illinois
Rodney Knittel | Illinois
John Benson | Iowa

Commission when they were in St. Louis, which provided an opportunity for the Association to introduce itself to the Presidential Commission and to discuss some of our challenges in an informal setting.

- 4) Chairman Sutter, Vice-Chairman Brinkman, and board members Mike Walker and Melissa Shriner-Hackamack presented formal testimony to the Mississippi River Commission that focused on our challenges with respect to the Flow Frequency Study, the loss of opportunity resulting from the USACE policy change in dredged disposal and on the challenges and inefficiencies we see with the 408 permission process. (Our formal statements and the Commission's formal responses are posted on our website)
- 5) The Board of Directors and I met at the Pentagon with Adam Telle, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and shared the Association's objectives and the challenges we see as obstacles to achieving that objective: The Flow Frequency Study, 408 permissions and Dredged Material.

These actions, along with the others listed in the activity reports, served as the building blocks that culminated in a golden opportunity and defining moment for our new organization that truly announced our arrival as a key player in the region. On December 4, I received an invitation to testify on the Midwest Flood Control Association's challenges before the Subcommittee for Water Resources and Environment, House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on December 17. My formal written statement and a link to the video of my testimony is also listed on our website. I encourage you to review the formal statement as it will give you an indication of how we plan to achieve our near-term objective to preserve and maintain our current levels of protection and accreditation until a comprehensive flood solution is developed and implemented.

Two days later, we experienced another golden opportunity to shape our own future that resulted from our six months of engagement. The U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO) interviewed several Midwest Flood Control Association board members as part of its ongoing study on the role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in levee accreditations under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The GAO sought our advice on what changes could be made to the Section 408 program that would address our concerns and what changes could be made to FEMA's NFIP levee accreditation program to better account for and address flood risk.

Rock Island District Reset

On December 18, the Board of Directors and other association members travelled to the Rock Island District to meet with the Rock Island District Commander and members of his leadership team. The engagement, which was directed through the Mississippi River Commission response letters to our testimony, can only be described as a success. I believe the meeting created a reset condition in terms of the relationship between our member levee districts and the Rock Island District.

Next Steps

We will continue to push for legislative solutions to the challenges we face from Section 408 requirements, PL 84-99 unfunded mandates and the NFIP levee accreditation program. To do so, we will continue to mature relationships with the Corps of Engineers and regional

stakeholders. Our priority will be to develop our relationship with the various offices at the Corps' Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and the five states of the upper Mississippi Valley through the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA). We will need both in order to achieve our goals. The Board of Directors and I like what we are hearing from Corps leadership in Washington, D.C., at both the Corps Headquarters and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Both have publicly asked us to challenge them on policy and legislation.

Midwest Flood Control Association Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors and I need your help to maintain the momentum we have achieved. We will hold our inaugural annual meeting at the Husch Blackwell Offices at 8001 Forsythe Blvd in St. Louis, Missouri on June 17-18. The meeting will commence with an evening reception on June 17. For those who arrive in St. Louis early enough in the day, the St. Louis Cardinals host the San Diego Padres in a businessman's special at 1:15 in the afternoon, which will leave plenty of time to freshen up before the reception. We will hold the formal session, with an excellent line-up of speakers from the Corps of Engineers, other regional and national river stakeholders, and elected officials on the morning of June 18. The meeting will culminate with a closing luncheon early in the afternoon.

We need your attendance to demonstrate the strength and breadth of the Midwest Flood Control Association. The Board of Directors approved the waiving of all registration fees for our association members who have paid their annual dues in full to help offset travel and hotel costs. Please block these dates on your calendar and consider attending our annual meeting. Tim Maiers will organize a room block at nearby hotels and this information along with further meeting details and registration information will be available on our website as soon as it is available.

Thank you again for your support. We cannot accomplish our mission without you.



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