

Midwest Flood Control Association

Executive Vice-President's Report

September 1 – October 31, 2025

(www.Midwestfloodcontrol.org)

September 4 – At the invitation of the National Waterways Conference, Mr. Camillo participated in the monthly NWC Legislative Policy Committee Call/WRDA discussion. Mr. Camillo received an update on what was happening in Washington, D.C. with respect to the Appropriations process. Mr. Camillo also highlighted the change in policy for placing dredged material on private property. The Committee seems interested in helping with the issue.

September 5 – Mr. Camillo provided an update to the Midwest Flood Control Association Board of Directors during an Executive Vice-President Update Call. Mr. Camillo thanked the Executive Committee for the testimony they provided to the Mississippi River Commission in August and explained that their messages were well-received by the commission. Mr. Camillo also set forth how he will set an immediate path forward upon receipt of the official response letters to the testimony.

September 8 – Mr. Camillo received a call from Dru Buntin, Chief of Water Resources, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, to discuss the Flow Frequency Studies on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and potential avenues to move forward when new flow lines are established. Both agreed to continue to collaborate on the subject.

September 11 – Mr. Camillo received calls from Two Rivers Levee and Drainage District regarding concerns over 408 requirements being imposed by the Rock Island District. Mr. Camillo reached out to Roger Perk, Chief of Engineering, Rock Island District, to discuss the matter. Mr. Perk agreed to follow up with the Two Rivers Levee District and did so on September 12 and 15.

September 17 – Mr. Camillo met with Edward Belk, the recently retired Director of Civil Works for the USACE, (top civilian in the Corps) to gain his thoughts and insights into a manageable path forward on the Upper Miss flow frequency study and necessary levee improvements that might arise from the results of the study. Mr. Camillo ran several potential strategies by Mr. Belk to include reimagining the National Flood Insurance Program; decoupling the Flow Frequency Study and NFIP from levee certification/accreditation; limiting the applicability of the Flow Frequency Study to planning purposes only. (Board Meeting Discussion)

September 19 – Mr. Camillo participated in a call with Jon Harder, Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep Sam Graves, to highlight the Midwest Flood Control Association's objective

(maintaining and protecting current levels of protection and accreditation) and to get Mr. Harder's thoughts on the path forward to achieve that objective.

September 19 – The Midwest Flood Control Association Board of Directors authorized Mr. Camillo to offer an “at-large” board membership to John Benson, Homeland Security Advisor and Emergency Management Director for the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

September 23-25 - Mr. Camillo traveled to Norfolk, VA and participated in the National Waterways Conference. Of particular interest were comments made by Major General Jason Kelly, “The Corps cannot do our mission alone, and we don’t want to...We want to make sure you can communicate with us. We want to get creative...I am ready to go into foul ball territory. Challenge us on policy and legislation. Bring us clean asks, not pie in the sky...Give me something specific; something to sink my teeth into.” (Board Meeting Discussion)

September 25 – Mr. Camillo was elected to National Waterways Conference Board of Directors.

September 25 – Director John Benson, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, accepted our offer to serve as an “at-large” board member of the Midwest Flood Control Association. Director Benson appointed Jeff Jackson of the Iowa Levee Safety Office as his proxy when he is unable to attend.

September 30 – Mr. Camillo, David Human and Meghan Scmidtlein of HB Strategies met at the Pentagon with Adam Telle, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Mr. Camillo shared the Association’s objective and the challenges we see as obstacles to achieving that objective: The Flow Frequency Study, 408 permissions, Dredged Material. (Board Meeting Discussion)

October 12 – Mr. Camillo composed a draft concept strategy to address concerns the Association has with the Upper Mississippi Flow Frequency Study.

October 15 – Mr. Camillo held a follow-up discussion with the Husch Blackwell team on the draft concept strategy to address concerns with the Flow Frequency Study. The Husch Blackwell team made several strong recommendations for improving the concept plan.

October 22 – Mr. Camillo received and reviewed the Mississippi River Commission response letters to testimony provided by the Midwest Flood Control Association. (Board Meeting Discussion)

October 24 – Mr. Camillo participated in a call with Brad Houzenga, the Deputy for Project Management at the Rock Island District to discuss recommendations in the Mississippi

River Commission response letters for meetings between the Rock Island District and the Midwest Flood Control Association. (Board Meeting Discussion)

October 24 – Mr. Camillo participated in a call with Board Member Rodney Knittel to discuss the path forward with IDNR 3700.

October 28 – Mr. Camillo met with Heather Hampton Knodle, former Executive Director of UMIMRA. Ms. Knodle provided some great insights and was appreciative of the meeting. (Board Meeting Discussion)

Upcoming Events

2025

November 6: National Waterways Conference Policy and Legislation Monthly Call (Mr. Camillo only – 1st Thursday of every month)

November 13: Midwest Flood Control Association Board Meeting (Quincy/Hannibal area)

December 4-6: Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association Annual Meeting (New Orleans)

December 18: National Waterways Conference Board of Directors Meeting (virtual)

2026

January 24-25: Missouri River Levee and Drainage Districts Annual Meeting (Columbia, MO)

February 12-13: Potential Window for Midwest FCA Board Meeting (TBD)

March 9-11: National Waterways Conference Legislative Summit (Wash DC)

March 9-12: Possible Window for Congressional visits

March 19: Tentative MRC Public Hearing (Alton, IL)

June 17-18: Midwest Flood Control Association ANNUAL MEETING (St. Louis)