



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION
1400 WALNUT STREET
VICKSBURG MS 39180-3262

October 16, 2025

Ms. Melissa Shriver-Hackamack
Board Member
Midwest Flood Control Association
7134 S. 78th Street
Payson, IL 62360

Dear Ms. Shriver-Hackamack:

Thank you for joining the Mississippi River Commission during the 413th Session of its Annual Low-Water Inspection Trip and providing testimony at our public hearing in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 15, 2025. This tradition of listening, partnering and inspecting goes back to the Commission's very first inspection trip in 1879. Your participation in this historic tradition is critical for helping the Commission better understand and develop solutions to the water resource challenges facing the people of the valley.

We appreciate your insights regarding the challenges faced by the Hunt-Lima Lake Drainage District and other member districts of the Midwest Flood Control Association. Your testimony highlighted several critical areas of focus:

The Commission acknowledges the mutually beneficial process that allows landowners and levee districts to utilize dredged material for levee construction, berms, and flood-fighting efforts. This approach not only supports local flood protection but also helps the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) manage dredged material from the Nine-Foot Navigation Channel.

Your concerns regarding requiring fee title ownership of dredged material placement sites are noted. We understand the challenges this may pose for landowners and levee districts.

Current USACE policy requires the development of Dredged Material Management Plans for navigation projects to ensure that dredged material is managed sustainably, cost-effectively, and in accordance with environmental regulations while supporting the broader enterprise vision of promoting beneficial use practices. For known river locations with chronic sedimentation and reoccurring dredging needs, government owned fee-simple remains the approved and standard estate required by policy to support the long-term project dredge placement needs. However, as of 2023 we have new opportunities to work with others on alternative estates.

Congressional directives, such as Section 125 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 and Section 1130 of WRDA 2024, underscore a national commitment to advancing the beneficial use of dredged material. These provisions highlight the strategic value of dredged material as a resource for environmental restoration, habitat creation, flood risk management, and other beneficial applications.

Standard Estate 28, introduced in October 2023, established a standard temporary work area easement that enables USACE to place dredged material for beneficial use in collaboration with willing landowners. Per policy, USACE may acquire a temporary estate not to exceed five (5) years, to deposit dredged material, store and move equipment and supplies, and conduct

any necessary activities related to the placement of dredged material, while landowners retain full ownership of the property. This approach facilitates the use of private land for temporary operations without requiring permanent acquisition.

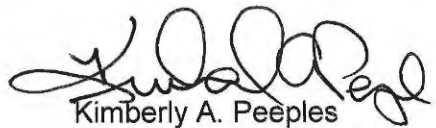
If you do not believe that Standard Estate 28 is an acceptable alternative for you to pursue, then the Commission recommends that you submit an official written waiver request to the Corps of Engineers for the type of easement you desire. The District can advise you what information needs to be in the waiver request. The District will review and process your waiver request, which will likely require a decision by Corps Headquarters.

As you noted, certain areas on the Mississippi River are subject to more frequent dredging. Dredging operations are often influenced by unpredictable factors such as weather events and fluctuating water levels. The selection of dredged material placement sites is based on multiple considerations, area dredging requirements, proximity and access to the placement site, site capacity, and available funding. When placement requirements are identified, the Corps of Engineers works proactively with local landowners and agencies to identify the placement sites and appropriate real estate interests necessary to support the 9-foot Navigation Channel Project and mission.

The Commission believes the most prudent course of action is direct engagement. We ask that COL Aaron Williams, Commander of the Rock Island District, and his staff to meet with you and your team to discuss the waiver process and the issues you brought to the Commission in your testimony.

Once again, thank you for your testimony. We look forward to hearing from you on future inspection trips ~~and~~ working together to improve the watershed so that future generations can continue to enjoy this incredible system we have inherited.

Sincerely,



Kimberly A. Peeples
Major General, U.S. Army
President, Mississippi River
Commission

cc:
COL Aaron Williams (MVR)