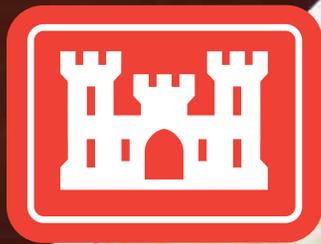


Crosscurrent

Serving the St. Paul District since 1977
Spring 2016 | Vol. 42, No. 1

Flood Diversion project

nears construction



®

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District



Terry Williams, project management, discusses the Fargo, N.D./ Moorhead, Minn. Metro Flood Risk Management Project March 23 at the district office in St. Paul, Minn.

Photo by Patrick Moes



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Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format for all written copy and photos should be no smaller than a 5 x 7 at 300 dpi. All photographs appearing herein are by the St. Paul District Public Affairs Office unless otherwise accredited.

The mission of *Crosscurrents* is to support the commander's internal information program for the St. Paul District and its stakeholders.

Crosscurrents also serves as the commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies and command philosophy to the St. Paul District community and its customers.

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Comments from the top

Team,

I want to start by thanking those of you that attended the 150th sesquicentennial celebration ball in February. We were honored to have Maj. Gen. Kent D. Savre, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood commander, and a former St. Paul District project engineer, serve as the guest speaker for the event.

Everyone said they had a great time at the ball. Thanks to the comments received during the after action review, the next ball will be even better.

The 150th year of the St. Paul District had even more excitement when the Corps of Engineers' Headquarters announced its annual Work Plan. The plan determines much of what projects get funded and by how much for the entire Corps. Our

district was fortunate to have several projects mentioned within the plan.

Specifically, the Fargo, North Dakota/Moorhead, Minnesota, flood risk management project was funded to begin construction pending the completion of outstanding environmental issues. This is a major milestone in the project's history. Many thanks to the team for their tireless commitment to the project, and to the residents of the Fargo/Moorhead communities. There is more work that needs to be done, but this is certainly good news for the district.

Another major project received full funding for construction. The Marsh Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project, near Ortonville, Minnesota, received \$7.6 million to begin and complete the project. Upon completion, the project will help restore critical waterfowl

habitat. This project was the only environmental restoration project to be funded within the Corps this year.

New construction starts weren't the only thing to celebrate. The district received initial funding to begin a feasibility study in the Souris (Mouse) River basin in north central North Dakota. This area was devastated by flooding in 2011. The study will look at all of the options available to reduce the flood risk for the communities along the river. We plan to have it completed within three years.

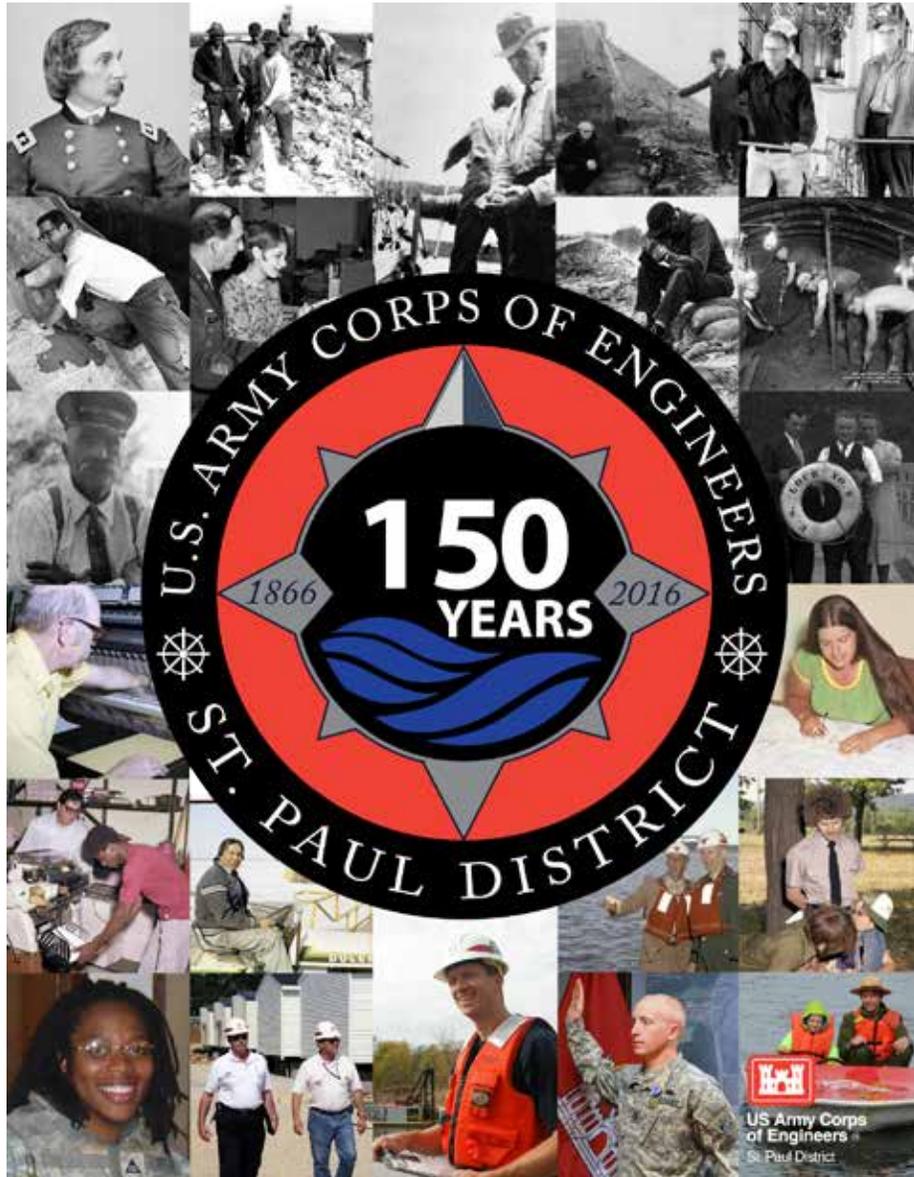
Another project that we received funding for was the Island View Sanitary Sewer Extension Project in Koochiching County. Located on the northern border near Rainy Lake, the project will improve the sewer system for the community.



Col. Daniel C. Koprowski
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District Commander

These projects are a direct reflection of your dedicated professionalism and commitment to the region and the nation. In my nearly three years as the commander, I continue to be amazed by the entire team's willingness to do what's right while respecting the opinions of others.

Respect is one of the Army's values. It's also a value that we must continue to uphold as we solve the challenges before us. By respecting and trusting that every one of you is doing your part to make the district better, we stand ready to continue building on our district's 150 years of history.



The St. Paul District was created in 1866 when Maj. Gouverneur K. Warren established the district office in downtown St. Paul, Minn.

Graphic by Wendy Medlin

District celebrates 150th birthday with ball

Story by Shannon Bauer

The St. Paul District kicked off its 2016 sesquicentennial celebration with an anniversary ball at the Lost Spur Golf Course in Eagan, Minnesota, Feb. 13. Hosted in the style of the military dining out, 208 people attended. Festivities included a social hour, formal program and dance.

Maj. Gen. Kent D. Savre, Edina, Minnesota, native and commander of the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, served as the guest speaker. Savre's previous assignments include being at the St. Paul District as a major and then at the North Atlantic Division as the division commander.

The 451st U.S. Army Band of Fort Snelling, Minnesota, provided music during the social hour and formal ceremony portions of the event. The University of Minnesota's Reserve Officer Training Corps provided a color guard. Showtime Entertainment provided the DJ service and photo booth.

Zoe Garrison, engineering and construction, and Capt. Dwight Howell, project management, led the volunteer committee that

organized and hosted the event. "The result of crossing a military function, with an enthusiastic collection of civilian employees, could have a scary outcome," said Garrison. "This was not the case for the 150th Anniversary Ball. It turned out to be an evening that will not be forgotten for some time to come."

Additional committee members included Shannon Bauer, public affairs; Cynthia Calhoun, regulatory; Emily Chavolla, visual information; Brett Coleman, executive assistant; Gwen Davis, small business manager; Capt. Phil Denker, planning; Kari Hauck, engineering and construction; Mark Koenig, readiness operations center; Wendy Medlin, visual information; Capt. Chris Raisl, engineering and construction; Bryanna Sauer, resource management; Tammy Wick, program management, and Lt. Col. Chris Thompson, former St. Paul District deputy commander.

"Each member of the planning committee brought a wide range of talent and experience to contribute to the event," said Garrison. "Their dedication to the project was what made this event an extraordinary success, and I was honored to work with this incredible group of people."



(1) District employees, guests and retirees enjoy the 150th Anniversary Ball Feb. 13, at the Lost Spur Golf Club in Eagan, Minn. (2) Following the formal part of the evening, a few participants dance the night away. (3) A few of the nearly 200 people that attended the ball enjoy the festivities. (4) Staff Sgt. Kyle Marks, left, prepares the grog bowl as Zoe Garrison, engineering and construction, and Capt. Phil Denker, planning and master of ceremonies, watch. (5) The ballroom is decorated with engineer red to honor the Corps of Engineers. (6) Col. Dan Koprowski, St. Paul District commander, addresses the attendees during the ball. (7) Maj. Gen. Kent Savre, left, Edina, Minn., native and commander of the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood, receives a Mississippi River Headwaters plaque from Col. Dan Koprowski, St. Paul District commander.

Photos by Wendy Medlin

Fargo-Moorhead diversion project receives federal funding for construction

Story by Shannon Bauer

The Fargo, North Dakota/Moorhead, Minnesota, Metro Flood Risk Management Project achieved another milestone Feb. 9, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its 2016 Work Plan which include a construction new start and funding in the amount of \$5 million for the project.

This action resulted from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, passed by Congress Dec. 18,

2015. Federal construction of the project can now begin.

The project will reduce flood risk for more than 225,000 people and 70 square miles of infrastructure and will involve the construction of a 36-mile long diversion channel located in North Dakota that will direct floodwater around the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. During major floods, the project will temporarily store up to 150,000

acre-feet of floodwater immediately upstream of the diversion channel inlet in order to minimize downstream impacts.

“Today’s announcement is the product of incredible effort by a dedicated team that’s been working on this since 2008,” said Col. Dan Koprowski, St. Paul District commander. “This is an important milestone for the project, as it allows us to move forward with

construction, but there’s more to do. We will continue to work with our partners and the community to secure future funding and refine the project so that we can deliver benefits faster and more efficiently.”

Now that the project has been funded for construction by Congress, the Corps, in partnership with the Diversion Authority, will proceed with execution of a project partnership agreement and initiate construction.



A few members of the Fargo, N.D./ Moorhead, Minn., Metro Flood Risk Management Project team celebrated a major milestone Feb. 9. The project was included in the Corps' 2016 work plan as one of four new construction starts.

Photo by Patrick Moes

Souris (Mouse) River Basin feasibility study receives federal funding

Story by Patrick Moes

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Headquarters approved \$200,000 in funding for the Souris (Mouse) River Feasibility Study.

The Corps announced the study approval with the release of its 2016 Work Plan Feb. 9

The purpose of the feasibility study is to assess the interconnected system of reservoirs, levees and

channels within the basin and recommend modifications to existing infrastructure and potential new measures to reduce the risk of flooding, said Nate Wallerstedt, project management.

To complete the study, the district is working in partnership with the Souris River Joint Water Resources Board.

The feasibility study is the first step toward a federal flood risk reduction

project. Its purpose is to provide Congress with the information it needs to authorize a project for implementation. Wallerstedt said the study will focus on the development of alternatives to address flooding within the Souris (Mouse) river basin.

"This is a significant step forward for the communities within the basin," said Wallerstedt. "The study will help us determine the path forward with

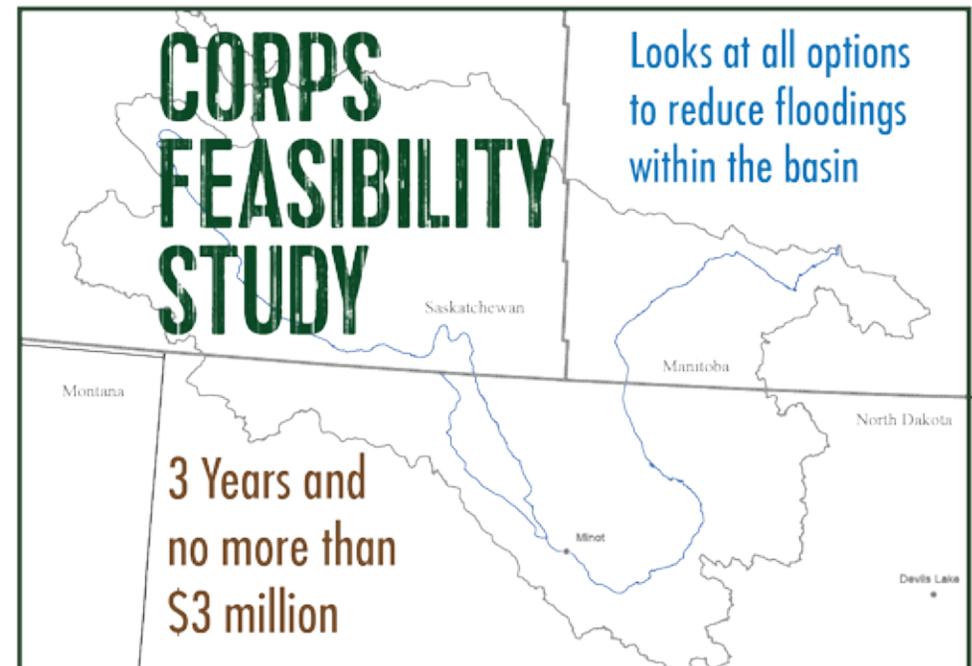
respect to determining whether there is a federal interest in constructing additional long-term flood damage reduction features in the basin."

The basin, located in north central North Dakota is unique because the Souris River begins in Canada and then dips into the United States where it becomes the Mouse River. The river bends north just after Minot, North Dakota, and then returns into Canada.



Debris collects near a house in Minot, N.D., during the 2011 Souris River flood.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Graphic by Wendy Medlin

Marsh Lake ecosystem restoration project receives the green light

Story by George Stringham

The announcement of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2016 Work Plan Feb. 9, included funding the full cost of the Marsh Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project.

The Marsh Lake project, near Ortonville, Minnesota, will receive \$7.6 million to complete the project design and award construction contracts.

Located on the Minnesota River within the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area, the project straddles Swift and Lac qui Parle counties and involves restoring the environment by improving the waterfowl habitat and the aquatic species in the area. The restoration plan includes rerouting the Pomme de Terre River to its historic channel, constructing a drawdown structure and a fish passage at the Marsh Lake Dam and breaching the abandoned fish pond at the dam.

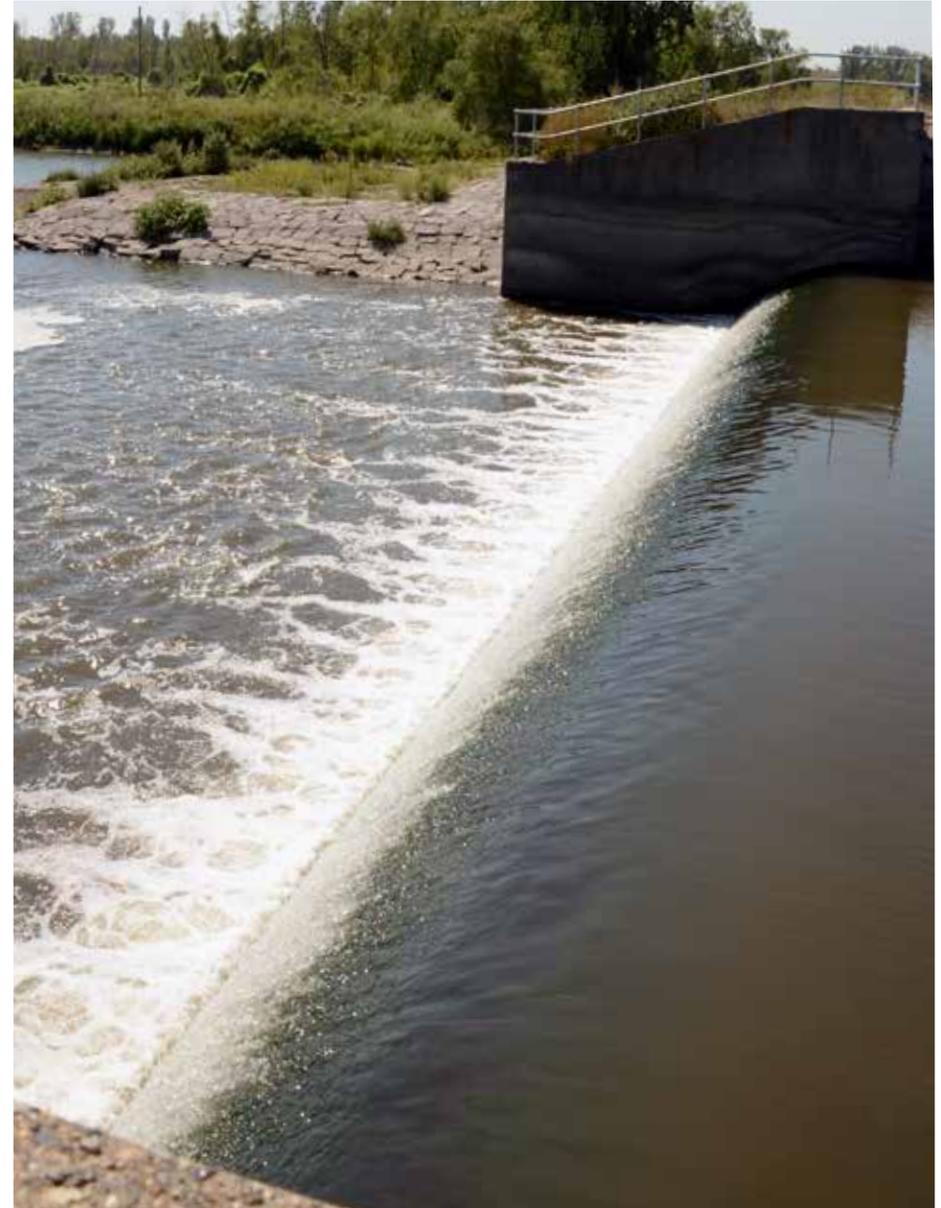
"We've been working at this for more than a decade and to finally get traction to get to this point where we have funding is a great step," said Capt. Dwight Howell, project management.

At less than 5 percent of the average cost for a habitat restoration project of this size, this project is

expected to provide a significant return in environmental and habitat restoration benefits. Project features will contribute toward restoring river habitat and providing for ecosystem connectivity. The natural flooding and drying cycles will also be restored, promoting growth of emergent vegetation, increasing waterfowl habitat and reducing sediment re-suspension. Restoration will benefit thousands of migratory waterfowl and many other species of birds and fish.

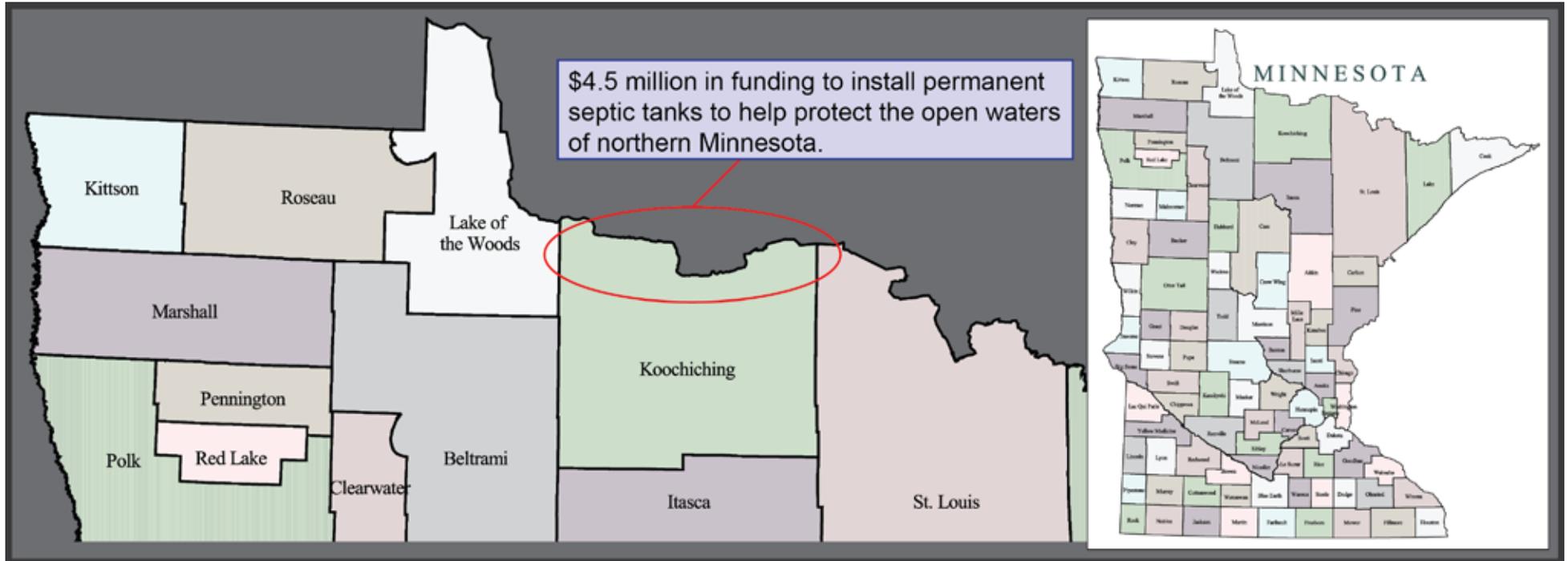
The Corps is working in partnership with the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District, as its non-federal sponsor, as well as other external stakeholders such as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, to ensure the project's success.

The Works Progress Administration originally constructed the dam and rerouted the Pomme de Terre River into the reservoir between 1936 and 1939. The Corps modified the dam between 1941 and 1951 as part of the Lac qui Parle Flood Risk Management project. During floods, the Marsh Lake Dam is inundated by the Lac qui Parle pool and serves no significant flood risk management purpose.



Water flows over the Marsh Lake Dam, near Ortonville, Minn.

Photo by George Stringham



Graphic by Wendy Medlin

Corps provides funds for sewer project in northern Minnesota

Story by Patrick Moes

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its 2016 Work Plan Feb. 9, which included \$4.5 million in funding for a sewer project in northern Minnesota.

The Island View Sanitary Sewer Extension Project is located near Rainy Lake in Koochiching County, Minnesota. The project, which is covered under the Corps'

Environmental Infrastructure Assistance Program, will help install permanent systems to replace the failing septic tanks in the gateway communities to the open waters of northern Minnesota. Bordering Canada, these open waters are of national and international significance, and the local communities are working to preserve

the water quality and prevent contamination from failing septic tanks, said Vanessa Hamer, project management.

Hamer said the project design is 95 percent complete using Koochiching County funds, and the county has secured \$8.35 million from the state of Minnesota. The \$4.5 million in federal funding

through the Corps' Environmental Infrastructure Program, also known in Minnesota as the Section 569 program, will provide the remaining funds needed to complete the project. The project will be beneficial to the Voyageur National Park, as it will connect to a new sewer line to be installed outside the park boundaries.



Dewatering the Mighty Mississippi at Lock 9

Story by Patrick Moes

The district's maintenance and repair crew, along with staff from the locks and dams project, again stood on the bottom of the Mississippi River this past winter.

The crew completed a major dewatering project at Lock and Dam 9, near Lynxville, Wisconsin.

The district performed the work to ensure the lock continues providing safe, reliable navigation, said Bob Edstrom, project management.

He said the maintenance happens on an approximate 20-year cycle at each of the district's 13 lock and dams. The work requires the water be drained, or dewatered, from the lock to perform maintenance such as concrete and miter gate repairs. Lock 9 was last dewatered in 1993. The Corps closed the lock Dec. 9, 2015. It was reopened March 13, and the Motor Vessel Ronald Wagonblast was the first tow to pass through the lock.



Branden Johnson, operations, repairs parts of the lock gates during dewatering maintenance at Lock and Dam 9, Jan. 26.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Kristin Moe, operations, is leading the maintenance and repair team during the Lock and Dam 9 dewatering. The project was completed March 13.

Photo by Patrick Moes



A survey team from Fountain City, Wis., prepares to take measurements during the Lock and Dam 9 dewatering.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Maj. Jason Toth, St. Paul District deputy commander, completes his first Lake Pepin ice surveys Feb. 17. Toth arrived in January. He replaced Lt. Col. Chris Thompson.

Photo by Patrick Moes

Toth takes his spot as new deputy commander

Compiled by Shannon Bauer

Maj. Jason Toth, the new St. Paul District deputy commander, said serving in the Upper Midwest was his first choice when it came to his next assignment. Here are six things you should know about the new deputy commander.

•What do you hope to get out of your assignment here at the St. Paul District? In other words, do you have any goals to accomplish while you are here?

My primary goal is to contribute to the outstanding team in the St. Paul District. At the same time, I would like to learn more about the wide variety of support the St. Paul District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides our local, state and federal partners. Lastly, my entire family is looking forward to exploring many of the beautiful outdoor areas this region of the country offers.

•Please describe your leadership style?

I seek to be a leader who is approachable, engaging, positive, enthusiastic and fair. Mentorship is one of my favorite roles but I also seek learning opportunities. I thoroughly enjoy serving our great nation as an Army officer and hope to impart that same spirit in others.

•What have you learned so far since you've arrived?

A slight breeze when it is 20 degrees below 0 can really change the dynamic of the weather that day! I have also been amazed at the good nature and friendliness of the many Corps employees I have met. It really is a great team of which I am glad to be a part.

•Name something that nobody else knows about you that you don't mind telling 650 of your closest friends?

My wife says I am a better cook than she is. But to keep my ego in check, she recently bought me an apron embroidered with the words "Sous Chef" to remind me who truly runs the kitchen. Also, despite the less balmy weather, this area and the assignment in St. Paul was our family's first choice of assignments, a place we've been looking forward to living for some time.

•Favorite activities outside of work?

My wife and I enjoy outdoor adventure and endurance athletics. Running, cycling, swimming, hiking, camping, climbing, skiing, kayaking, snowshoeing and the like.

•Favorite sports teams?

Born and raised in northwest Indiana so I am a Chicago sports fan: Bears, Bulls, Blackhawks and Cubs. There is also a special place in my heart for the Indianapolis Colts.

Annual ice measurements forecast navigation

Story by Patrick Moes

The sound of the district's airboat could be heard racing up Lake Pepin, near Red Wing, Minnesota, Feb. 17.

The ice survey crew from Fountain City, Wisconsin, was on the frozen lake collecting the first measurements of the year. The survey crew included Bill Chelmowski, Nick Lorenz and Brandon Olson, all in channels and harbors. The team was also accompanied by Maj. Jason Toth, deputy district commander.

With the precision of a global positioning system, the team measured locations as they made their way north on the lake from their start at Camp Lacopolis, just north of Reeds Landing, Minnesota.

The ice measurements are used by navigation industry officials to help forecast the navigational outlook on the Upper Mississippi River, said Al Van Guilder, channels and harbors.

The lake that is also a part of the Mississippi River between Red Wing

and Wabasha, Minnesota, is the location of choice because it's the last part of the navigation channel where the ice breaks up due to slower river currents.

During previous years, the ice thickness has measured nearly 3 feet. The thickness this year was significantly less. The first measurements of the year indicated there were pockets of ice that were around 19 inches. The ice thickness has quickly diminished since the first measurements.

Last year, the Motor Vessel New Dawn was the first tow to pass through Lake Pepin and reach St. Paul, Minnesota. She arrived March 25, 2015.

The Motor Vessel Ronald Wagonblast was the first tow to reach St. Paul this year. She passed through Lock and Dam 2, near Hastings, Minnesota, en route to St. Paul, March 13. The earliest date for an up-bound tow to reach the lock is March 4, in 1983, 1984 and 2000.

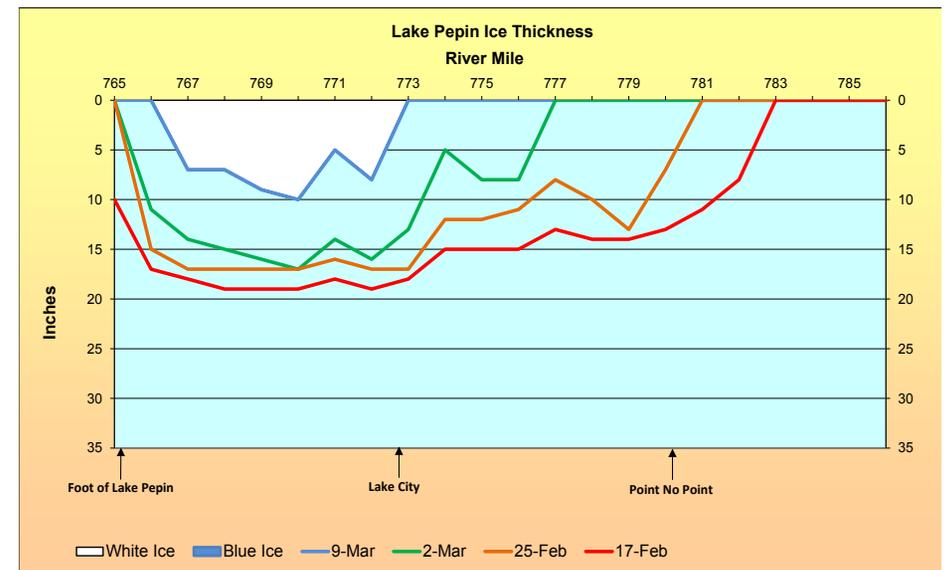
“The ice measurements are used by navigation industry officials to help forecast the navigational outlook on the Upper Mississippi River,”

Al Van Guilder, channels and harbors.



The survey crew completes the first ice surveys of the 2016 navigation season.

Photo by Patrick Moes



The 2016 Lake Pepin ice survey results

Courtesy graphic



Saying thanks from afar

St. Paul District employees recently sent care packages to deployed staff serving overseas. The packages were created and sent by Kristin Fairbanks, emergency operations and family readiness coordinator.

“Hope all is well back home in the district? Things are going very well as we continue moving forward into the spring of the year. I am currently a single person office; therefore, the workload continues to keep me busy 10+ hours a day, and I do not see any relief in sight. This tour again is very different.

“We had a very mild winter this year and us being 5,000 feet in the mountains, only had 5-6 inches (of snow) all winter. Today the temps were in the low 70s and expected to be that way all week. That said, I just want to express a sincere ‘thank you’ for the care-package you sent from the district! It truly means a lot!!”

-Kurt Reppe, real estate

“On behalf of the office: Thank you! Please know that we really appreciate your support out here. We really enjoyed the snacks, and I will wear the shirt with pride. Alex and I will send a picture soon. Whoever included the Poptarts is an evil genius.”

-Anthony M. Feilzer, engineering and construct;

-Alex Rossado-Rivera, regulatory

“Thank you so much for the gift package. Your kindness is truly what people need over here. The golf shirt is awesome! But it’s going to wait until I see green fairways. I am sharing the goodies with the others on my floor.”

-Joe Schroetter, project management

“Please thank all the folks in the St. Paul District for the box of goodies and the polo shirt. Received boxes are always special while on deployment, and they are greatly appreciated. As the temperatures continue to rise, the polo shirt is very welcome!”

“Hope everyone is doing well and surviving the Minnesota winter. I heard it hasn’t been too hard this year, but, then again, winter isn’t over.”

-Jeff Olson, regulatory

Editor’s Note

Do you have news you want to share with the district? Send your announcements of births, weddings, graduations, etc., to *Crosscurrents*. cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil.

Engineers go marching in a parade



Tom Crump, right, regional planning division north chief, is one of several district employees that volunteered to march in the St. Patrick’s Day parade in St. Paul, Minn., March 17. The employees marched in the parade to educate the public about the district’s 150th anniversary.

Photo by Shannon Bauer



Bringing the classroom outdoors



Andy Meier, left, operations, discusses forestry with elementary students from La Crescent, Minn., Jan. 8.

Courtesy photo

Taps

Dave J. "Duff" Taylor, former geotechnical section employee, passed away Jan. 18.

Donald Seymour, former Dredge Thompson crew, passed away Feb. 20.

Stu Jackson, former Rock Island District real estate chief, passed away March 1.

Annabelle K. Allen, former resource management employee, passed away March 14.

Cross Lake staff stir up another victory



Corrine Hodapp, operations, left, and Rod Nelson, Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association stir their soup during the Crosslake Winterfest Feb. 6. The Cross Lake Recreation Area's soup received the People's Choice Golden Ladle Award for the fourth consecutive year.

Courtesy photo

Training future scientists



Jon Sobiech, left, planning, discusses Mississippi River island projects during the Da Vinci Fest at the Stillwater Senior High School in Stillwater, Minn., Jan. 9.

Photo by David Potter

Retirees

Robert Schimming, operations, park manager, Orwell Dam, Fergus Falls, Minn.
Duane Skjeie, operations, lock and dam operator, Minnesota City, Minn.

Seasonal/New hires

Kristin Hafer, regulatory, biologist, district office.
Catherine Herman, operations, lock operator, Lock and Dam 10, Guttenberg, Iowa.
Susan Malin-Boyce, planning, archeologist, district office.
Ryan Markey, operations, lock operator, Lock and Dam 5A, Fountain City, Wis.
Travis McElmury, operations, lock operator, Lock and Dam 4, Alma, Wis.
Traycee Verdun-Chapman, planning, community planner, St. Louis.

First tow arrives in St. Paul, Minn.



The Motor Vessel Ronald E. Wagenblast is locked through Lock and Dam 2, near Hastings, Minn., March 13. She was the first tow to reach St. Paul, Minn., in 2016.

Photo by Chris Laine

Congratulations

Megan McGuire, planning, was selected as the district's value engineer officer.
Elizabeth Chapes, operations, was selected as Lock and Dam 8 administrative assistant.
Jane Mathison-Groth, operations, was selected as Lock and Dam 8 lockmaster.
Jason Foss, engineering and construction, and his wife welcomed their daughter, **Olivia Noelle**, Jan. 29. She was 6 lbs., 14 ozs. and 20.5 inches long.
Chanel Mueller, engineering and construction, and her husband, **Ryan**, welcomed their son, **Thomas Johann**, Jan. 5. He was 7 lbs., 12.2 ozs. and 20 inches long.