

# Crosscurrents

*Serving the St. Paul District since 1977*

Vol. 49 No. 1 | Winter 2023



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

St. Paul District

## Snow surveys -Page 5

In alignment with Department of Defense Instruction 5400.17 and recent Executive Orders issued by the President and orders from the U.S. Army, this content has been redacted.



**(cover)** Survey Technicians William Long (left) and Cheyanne Carlin (right), take snow surveys in Forest Lake, Minnesota, Feb. 27. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson



*Crosscurrents* is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published quarterly for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Articles and photography submissions are welcome. Submissions may be emailed. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format. Photos should be at least 5 in. x 7 in. at 300 dpi.

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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## NEW EMPLOYEE BRIEFING

Thurs. April 6  
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DEAN ZWIEFEL



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## Comments From The Top: A message from Col. Eric Swenson

Teammates,

Happy spring! The weather is slowly getting warmer, and we are celebrating the return of longer days and more sunlight. We also celebrate the return of many of our seasonal employees – at our locks and dams with Corrine Hodapp, on the Dredge Goetz with Brian Krause and at our parks with Randy Urich.

We welcomed the first tow of the 2023 navigation season, March 12 (Page 10). Our hard-working teammates aboard the Dredge Goetz and at our locks and dams will make sure we maintain the 9-foot navigation channel and keep commerce moving on the Upper Mississippi River. Our navigation mission is vital to the economy and continues to be the “greenest” way to ship goods, also saving industries around \$430 million annually.

Last year, our parks saw more than 165,000 visitors, and we anticipate similar numbers this

summer. Our staff works hard to ensure an AWESOME experience for our park visitors and in many instances, they are the first people that the public interacts with. They are often the “face” of the Corps.

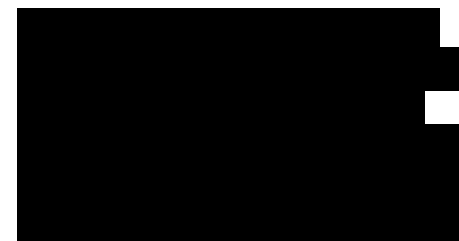


We are also working with Jim Rand and our readiness operations center; Elizabeth Nelsen and our water management branch; and our partners at the National Weather Service to assess the flood risk around the region with the historic amount of precipitation we’ve received this winter. We have a talented and committed group of folks ready to step up if we are needed.

While I was in Fargo, North Dakota, the other week, I had the opportunity to present Jerry Cudney, one of our construction inspectors, with the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal (Page 25). The de Fleury is the highest honor in the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment. The bronze de Fleury is presented to Army Engineers who distinguish themselves over a long career of service to the regiment. It was a great honor for me to present this award to Jerry. In addition to his job with the St. Paul District, he is also a first sergeant in the Army Reserves and spends many nights and week-



ends leading citizen soldiers from around the greater Minnesota/ North Dakota area.



**Story continued on Page 4**



## Comments From The Top: A message from Col. Eric Swenson

*Story continued from Page 3*



It's sure to be a busy spring and summer, and as we continue making progress, make sure to remember that we only win when we complete the mission SAFELY. Safety should always be at the forefront of your mind. Keep the safety good catches coming. As of March 20, we've had 12. Though this may seem high, it speaks to your keen eyes and clear focus on workplace safety. These good catches raise awareness of safety risks before they cause harm or damage.

Speaking of safety, if you are going through a rough patch, feel the stresses of life are getting the best of you, or just need to talk to someone, we have a Critical In-



*Col. Eric Swenson (right), district commander, meets with St. Paul District regulators Bill Sande (left), Daryl Wierzbinski and Karen Eklund, in Wisconsin. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo*

cident Stress Management team in the district. [Here is a link](#) that will connect you to a team member. Every teammate is a valued member of our district.

We will celebrate the completion of our first Tribal Partnership Program project at Sturgeon Lake, near Red Wing, Minnesota, with a tree planting in May. We will also be breaking ground on our

district's first Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program project in Pool 2, near Hastings, Minnesota (Pages 6-7), which is the nation's FIRST ecosystem restoration project under this program. We'll continue breaking ground as we celebrate the start of Upper Pool 4 Islands project.

We continue to press forward with our missions and remember

our motto of Essayons, which means "Let us try." As always, remember that people are our number one asset. Reach out to someone who you don't know and make a connection, you never know what will happen! I can't wait to see what this district will accomplish next!

Respectfully,  
Col. Swenson



## Snow surveys provide vital insight to reduce flood risk

Story by Melanie Peterson

Despite freezing rain and bone-chilling temperatures, St. Paul District survey technicians forged ahead to complete their annual snow surveys. New survey technicians Cheyanne Carlin and William Long, drove an hour on slick roads from Hastings, Minnesota, to Forest Lake, Minnesota, to begin their week-long journey around the state, Feb. 27.

Carlin and Long are one of two teams surveying the district's area of responsibility. The two teams cover about 100 snow survey locations.

"This is vital information that we provide to our partners and the water management section, so we are prepared for the spring melt," Long said.

Surveys are also completed by park rangers in the Mississippi River Headwaters region and western area reservoirs at about 200 additional locations. This information assists the district's water management officials in determining how much water is contained within the snowpack. This information is shared with

other agencies, such as the National Weather Service and the U.S. Geological Survey, and helps determine what steps to take to reduce flood risks across the region.

The snow survey process involves going to a predetermined location, collecting snow through a tube and weighing the collected snow sample to determine how much water is contained within the snowpack, using a mathematical formula.

Every year, floods sweep through communities across the United States, taking lives, destroying property, shutting down businesses and causing millions of dollars in damage. The Corps assists communities in building projects that reduce risk from floods while managing several reservoirs designed to reduce excess flooding. Additionally, the Corps assists states in reacting to floods when the response required exceeds a state's capabilities.



*Cheyenne Carlin, survey technician, collects snow survey data in Forest Lake, Minnesota, Feb. 27. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson*

## First in the nation contract awarded for an environmental project under the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program

Story by Melanie Peterson

The St. Paul District Pool 2 wing dam modification project, in the Mississippi River, downstream of St. Paul, Minnesota, is the first ecosystem restoration contract in the nation awarded under the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program, or NESP.

NESP is a long-term program of navigation improvements and ecosystem restoration for the

Upper Mississippi River System. The primary goals of the program are to increase the capacity and improve the reliability of the inland navigation system while restoring, protecting and enhancing the environment.

"It's exciting to work with the Rock Island and St. Louis districts to determine how this program will operate for the next 15

years," said Kimberly Warshaw, project manager. "If we're able to execute NESP, it will lead to hundreds of millions of dollars in ecosystem restoration projects in the three districts, adding environmental benefits to the Upper Midwest."

The \$324,000 Pool 2 contract was awarded to Togiak Management Services of Anchorage, Alaska on Nov. 29, 2022. Construction is expected to start in spring/summer with construction estimated for completion in September.

The Pool 2 wing dam modification project area is in the middle and lower half of Pool 2 of the Upper Mississippi River south of St. Paul and spans Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties in Minnesota. A wing dam is a rock structure that diverts the water to the center of the river channel. The contractor will notch out rock from 17 wing dams to encourage depth and flow diversity of river habitat for fish.

According to Trevor Cyphers, biologist, this is a transition area with a variety of habitat types, resulting in high fish diversity. These species could include channel catfish, smallmouth bass, walleye, bluegill, freshwater drum, or paddlefish.

"This project has been in development for two years, and NESP has provided the financial capability and opportunity to complete the project," Warshaw said. "Under NESP, we will continue to execute projects that support navigation infrastructure while also providing funding for ecosystem restoration projects."

There are two more NESP environmental projects that could start construction as soon as 2025, she continued: the Pool 3 Northern Sturgeon Lake project and the Pool 4 Wacouta Bay project. Both these projects will also include collaboration with engaged partners, Prairie Island Indian Community and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

**Story continued on Page 7**



An aerial map of Pool 2 of the Upper Mississippi River. USACE St. Paul District map



## **Story continued from Page 6**

for Sturgeon Lake and the Wisconsin and Minnesota departments of natural resources for Wacouta Bay.

### **NESP background**

Transportation, boating, fishing and a myriad of other business and recreational uses of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterways provide approximately \$1 billion annually in net benefits to the nation's economy. Equally important is the high environmental value these rivers provide the nation. Balancing these combined, and sometimes conflicting, factors make managing the river system challenging, with many individuals and organizations championing great and varying interests.

In 1986, the Upper Mississippi River System was declared by Congress as a "nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system." This led to a navigation study in 1990 that looked at the constraints of the navigation system and the effect of increasing locks to allow bigger locks and improve efficiencies in the navi-

gation system, according to Terry Birkenstock, chief of regional planning and environment division north.

In 1993, The Upper Mississippi River - Illinois Waterway System Navigation Feasibility Study was initiated to further study waterway improvements.

"During these studies there was controversy from the environmental community," Birkenstock said. "They wanted equal expenditure on ecosystem and navigation, so they agreed to collaborate and attend the public meetings."

Coupled with recommendations from the National Research Council and based on input from a federal agency task force, the study was restructured in 2001 with the goal of an environmentally sustainable navigation system that ensured efficient transportation for the future. The report was finalized and signed in 2004.

In 2007, Congress authorized NESP in the Water Resources Development Act. The first dual-purpose program of its kind to enhance and improve the Upper

Mississippi River System.

"After that, it was on the back burner," Birkenstock said. "Industry and other organizations have been lobbying Congress for years to fund construction and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law finally made it happen. The appropriations from the law, signed in January 2022, will propel projects

to modernize navigation on the Upper Mississippi River System and restore the environment.

For more information, see: <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NESP/>



*A view of Pool 2, near St. Paul, Minnesota. USACE St. Paul District photo by Aaron McFarlane*



## St. Paul District team receives water safety award

Story by Melanie Peterson

The Mississippi Valley Division, recently awarded the Corps' St. Paul District Small Boat Instructor Team its 2023 Water Safety Award for the work they have done teaming up with local emergency management services to conduct water rescue near locks and dams.

The purpose of the water rescue training is to highlight roles and responsibilities of each organization during emergencies at a Corps lock and dam, explain restricted areas near the Corps' facilities and gain an understanding of how flow conditions create hazards at the dam.

"I'm incredibly proud of our team and the hard work that we are doing. Safety is always our number one priority," said Joel Herman, Lock and Dam 6 working supervisor and instructor for the small boat operator course.

Boats on the Mississippi River are restricted 600 feet upstream

of the dam and 150 feet downstream of the dam. These restricted areas are marked off with buoys and signage on the shore or lock walls. Not obeying these signs can lead to loss of property and loss of life. Remember to always wear a life jacket in, on or around water.

The St. Paul District's navigation program provides a safe, reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally sustainable waterborne transportation system on the Upper Mississippi River for the movement of commercial goods and for national security needs.



*St. Paul District staff, along with 13 members of the Trempealeau Fire Department, conduct on-water orientation and demonstration to develop procedures on how to respond to a disabled/distressed boater at Lock and Dam 6, near Trempealeau, Wisconsin, Sept. 6, 2022. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo*



## Locks and Dams 3 and 4 winter maintenance on schedule

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Timing is of the essence when it comes to maintenance and repair for the St. Paul District's locks and dams on the Mississippi River to ensure they are ready for the navigation season.

It was the first time Locks and Dams 3 and 4 near Red Wing, Minnesota, and Alma, Wisconsin, received anchor bar replacements and upgraded anchorage components to the miter gates, or lock systems that control the water depths for vessels moving up and down river.

"The construction activities are scheduled for completion by mid-March," said Jim Cook, project manager. "The maintenance work improves safety for the Corps' lock operators and industry deckhands. It also facilitates future upgrade projects, such as the eventual installation of new miter gates."

Cook, who is responsible for the scope, schedule and budget, said the design work for this project began in July 2022 and maintenance and repair crew teams were ready to start work on the locks in December.

"We have a very deliberate timeline for crews to perform work on the system because they have to disable the locks and that's something we cannot do during the navigation season," Cook explained. "We have very skilled maintenance and repair operators, and they are working hard to get the job done in less than three months."

"It is a team effort," said Mike Gunderson, maintenance and repair supervisor for 17 years.

St. Paul District divers helped raise the miter gates so they can replace the anchorage systems with new structural elements to support the lock. Divers work in very low visibility and feel their way around the entire structure. Rock Island District maintenance and repair crew members also stepped in with their expertise to augment the St. Paul District team.

Winter maintenance on the locks is important to ensure navigation vessels can efficiently lock through and provide transportation in the Upper Midwest.

"The Corps enables transport of bulk commodities, grain, concrete – things that industry can move up and down the river by barge far less expensively than truck or train," Cook said.

The St. Paul District's navigation program provides a safe, reliable and cost-effective and environmentally sustainable waterborne

transportation system on the Upper Mississippi River for the movement of commercial goods and for national security needs. To do this, the district maintains a 9-foot navigation channel and 13 locks and dams from Minneapolis to Guttenberg, Iowa. Keeping this system open is vital to the nation's economy.



Noah Andow, maintenance and repair, getting a gudgeon pin shims cleaned and ready for installation at Lock and Dam 3, near Red Wing, Minnesota, Feb. 21. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

## **St. Paul District conducts annual ice measurements**

*Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann*

Each year, the St. Paul District conducts ice measurements on Lake Pepin, near Red Wing Minnesota. Lake Pepin's ice thickness is measured because it's the widest naturally occurring part of the Mississippi River. The lake's ice is the last major barrier for vessels reaching the head of the navigation channel in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Link to ice measurements [here](#).



*Brandon Olson, survey technician, drills through ice on Lake Pepin, near Red Wing, Minnesota, Feb. 17. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson*



*The Motor Vessel Phillip M Pfeffer with six barges is locked through Lock and Dam 2, in Hastings, Minnesota, March 12. USACE St. Paul District photo by Patrick Moes*

## **First barge of the 2023 navigation season arrives in St. Paul, Minnesota**

*Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann*

The St. Paul District locked the Motor Vessel Phillip M Pfeffer with six barges through Lock and Dam 2, in Hastings, Minnesota, March 12, en route to St. Paul, Minnesota. The lockage marks the unofficial start to the 2023 Upper Mississippi River navigation season. This year's first tow was about one week ahead of the average. In the last 30 years, the average opening date of the navigation season has been March 20; last year, it was on March 21. The earliest date for an up-bound tow to reach Lock and Dam 2, was March 4, which happened in 1983, 1984 and 2000.



## Fountain City Service Base mooring system gets an upgrade

Story by David Elmstrom

This winter, the dredge fleet – the Goetz, Tagatz and the Warren – were scheduled to be in drydock for the offseason, which happens every five years. In addition, the fleet responsible for lock and dam maintenance will support scheduled maintenance projects at two of St. Paul District's locks.

That's giving the Fountain City Service Base, in Fountain City,

Wisconsin, – known as the “Boatyard” – an opportunity to get more construction work done in the off-season.

The base is in the middle of a two-phase project that will upgrade its facilities, including the mooring for ongoing maintenance of equipment and boats.

The first phase, with a

\$10.2 million contract awarded to Newt Marine Service of Dubuque, Iowa, began in 2021 and will replace deteriorated mooring dolphins on the west side of the Fountain City bay. A new mooring system will replace the previous wood mooring dolphins. That phase is scheduled for completion this spring, according to Adam Loven, plant and facilities manager.

That will give the service base upgrades to welcome back its dredge and lock maintenance fleet in the spring.

“It was good timing for the drydock,” Loven said.

Loven said initial work for Phase 2 began last summer, with an \$18.6 million contract awarded to Kraemer North America of Plain, Wisconsin. This phase includes straightening out the existing harbor wall, leveling the grade at the service base, adding two crane cells and updating electrical and water infrastructure. The project is scheduled for completion by June 2024.

“In addition to safety and security improvements, we are taking steps to make operations and maintenance activities at the base more efficient,” said Kristin Moe, chief of the navigation branch overseeing Fountain City.

The Fountain City Service Base is key to the St. Paul District's navigation mission. The Corps has used this facility for the construction, repair and maintenance of vessels and equipment used for river improvement projects for more than a century. Since 1895, more than 200 towboats, tenders, snag boats, dipper and hydraulic dredges, quarters' boats, barges, launches and skiffs have been serviced at the “Boatyard.”

“For over a century, the Fountain City Service Base has been essential for maintaining the navigation channel on the Upper Mississippi River,” Moe said. “This modernization of our infrastructure is important for the St. Paul District to safely deliver the navigation mission over the next century.”



Crews begin work to upgrade the harbor walls at the Fountain City Service Base, in Fountain City, Wisconsin. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo

## St. Paul District makes waves with a new aquatic invasive species program

Story by Melanie Peterson

The St. Paul District is paving the way with the first Corps-led aquatic invasive species, or AIS, cooperative program, in the Midwest region. Invasive species cost the public more than \$137 billion annually, according to the Engineer Research and Development Center, and more than

100 nuisance species are introduced to U.S. waters annually.

The program was recently expanded to the national level. The program includes three components: direct funding for research and development for AIS, cost-share funding for the control and

prevention of AIS and emergency action to provide immediate support.

Hydrilla and flowering rush are specifically listed as part of the program, but through research and development efforts, treatment can be applied to other invasive and nuisance species as well.

The first part of the program, research and development to combat AIS, is 100% federally funded. States can submit a proposal that the federal government can approve and fund.

The second part of the program is a 50% cost-share program with non-federal sponsors. It involves the state's submittal of annual workplans, performing the work and then requesting reimbursement. This part of the program is to control and prevent the spread of AIS and could include watercraft inspections, equipment purchases, supplies, services, along with outreach and education.

The third component of the program includes emergency action.

This could involve a brand-new presence of AIS in a sensitive area. Once this program is established, the Corps can immediately provide support.

"From my position, the biggest role we play is helping communities collaborate and prevent the spread of invasive species across borders – international borders and state boundaries. Aquatic invasive species don't stop at state lines. Now we can reach out to multiple states, and even Canada, to prevent the spread," said Eric Hanson, senior ecologist.



*A person holds a strand of Hydrilla, an invasive aquatic plant at Mosquito Creek Lake, in Cortland, Ohio, Sept. 28, 2021. USACE Pittsburgh District photo by Michel Sauret*



*A photo of flowering rush, an aquatic invasive species. USACE Buffalo District photo by Andre Hampton*



## Partnership efforts benefit community, recreation

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

An idea years in the making is coming to fruition at the Cross Lake Recreation Area in Crosslake, Minnesota, as the staff finalize a partnership to create the National Loon Center.

The loon center is designed to be both an eco-tourism attraction and educational facility for the education and preservation of loons, loon habitat and water quality.

"There are lots of moving parts to this development," said Cross Lake Recreation Area Supervisory Park Ranger Corrine Hodapp. "However, it's a win-win for both the Corps and the loon center to offer park improvements and continued interpretive programs and exhibits to the community."

Loon-focused learning opportunities will extend beyond the interpretive exhibits and into the bay and throughout a trail system along the shoreline. An interpretive trail, multi-slip docks, and shoreline protection measures will provide visitors with a unique and educational experience, she explained.

"The location and proximity to the water is key to this new development," Hodapp said. "Having hands-on educational programs teaches our guests respect and stewardship to the loons, their new habitat, shoreland and lakes."

Projections suggest the facilities will draw 80,000 visitors each year to the recreation area, Hodapp said.

"This is a highly developed community, and we have goals to establish even more opportunities for the public and users that they can continue to enjoy and support through the years," Hodapp said.

In 2017, the loon center signed a \$2.6 million, 25-year lease, with the Corps that sets the foundation and authority in a mutual cooperative agreement for the benefit of the public.

It's the first time the St. Paul District is allowing a nonprofit organization to build and operate within a Corps managed recreation area.

Hodapp explained the recent

upgrades to the park and what future planning looks like moving forward.

The first part of the project started in June 2022, with the center funding \$1.5 million in outdoor improvements for newly installed sidewalks, public docks, signage and the completion of a shoreline restoration project.

"These outdoor upgrades will benefit outdoor exhibits that are planned at the facility for the public to enjoy," Hodapp said.

The second part of the project is the lease for the construction and building of the center on Cross Lake Recreation Area proper-

ty. Hodapp said many factors are considered. Engineers are evaluating how to protect the shoreline and dike wall by reviewing the building's proximity to each. Changes in water runoff, landscape design, height of the building, and even the look of the structure are also considered to assure the best outcome for both the loon center and the Cross Lake Recreation Area.

The third phase of the project is the groundbreaking and facility construction, which is scheduled for summer 2023.

The final phase is the grand opening, projected for 2024.



A common loon. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Digital Library



# District map maker takes over as librarian

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

He's a cartographer, digital archivist and librarian offering cross-functional skills to the St. Paul District's library in preserving cultural history during a time of digital transformation.

Byron Williams, a district cartographer for 23 years, found the vacant librarian position a natural progression of his skills with an eye on digital while preserving traditional hard copy resources.

"This is a critical role for the district, and Byron brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the library. We need that one-stop shop for all the project critical documents such as plans and specs, design reports, periodic inspections dam safety and more," said Kenton Spading, project manager.

The district library was recently named the Henry P. Bosse Memorial Library after the renowned draftsman and photographer. The library serves as the district's collection point of cultural heritage, valuable artifacts and reading materials with more recent access to online/digital platforms, providing a more expansive role

for the librarian.

Williams' experience as a cartographer and in document management systems, will play a key role as the district librarian.

"Access to information is the most important thing, especially when we are in a major flood crisis, and employees need to retrieve documents as quickly as possible," Williams said. "We have a vast collection of original documents and map files (drawings) critical to Corps projects and emergency applications. Digital access is convenient, however, maintaining a print reference is key to continuity of operations and long-term use."

It's thinking about how digital and (physical) paper can support each other and about the space that will facilitate this effort and libraries can do that, he said.

"One of my top priorities for the library is making it accessible," Williams said. "The library is strategically positioned near the commander's executive suite in

**Story continued on page 15**



*St. Paul District Librarian Byron Williams inventories artifacts that are unique to the district for safekeeping and continuation of the cultural heritage, in St. Paul, Minnesota, Feb. 1. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann.*



## Story continued from Page 14

our new district building. We want employees and guests to see the library, to see the history and appreciate it as an opportunity to gather and learn more about the district's historic topics and leaders that have been part of the district's rich history."

Libraries have long depended on microfilm, and this remains an important means of preserving and providing access to critical documents for the St. Paul District, he added.

As of the recent district move, the microfilm collection is now housed in the library, which includes project specifications and 90% of the district's drawings and project specifications. Microfilm along with design reports, period inspections, project specifications and dam safety reports were previously stored in the same room which caused concern if there were a fire, power loss or emergency situation.

In the coming months, Williams has his work cut out for him, as he plans to relocate and organize engineering and construction division's periodic inspection reports and related documents. He also plans to organize project specification documents in both

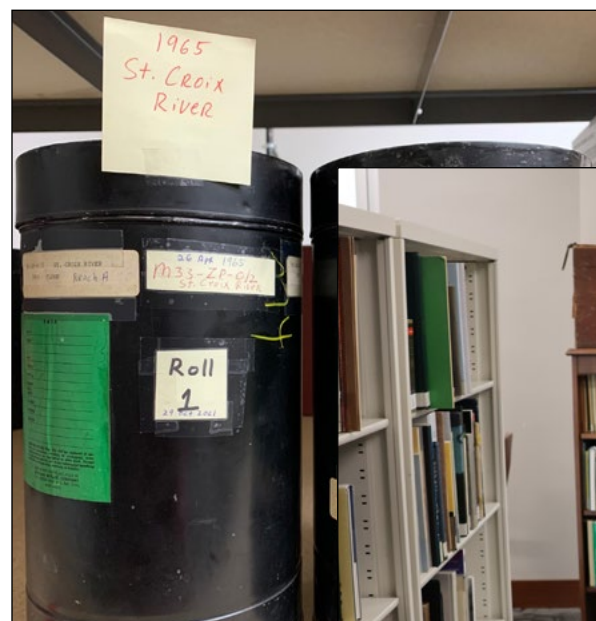
microfilm and print formats for continuity of operations.

"We also have numerous boxes containing important documents and photos collected during the district move that need to be reviewed and organized," Williams added. "This process follows specific guidelines for the disposition of Corps project documents."

Williams said he's looking forward to the design and renovation of the library that will include oak bookcases, a conference table and leather chairs. The library will feature a facsimile of one of Henry P. Bosse's albums that is protected in a glass-covered case and 17 framed Bosse photographs. The album was discovered on the decommissioned U.S. Dredge William A. Thompson in 1990.

"I really enjoy the history of the Corps of Engineers and the legacy of engineers who have paved the way providing value to the nation," Williams said. "The Henry Bosse Library is open daily for everyone to find a book, access project documents, have a conversation or hold a meeting."

Another important responsibility that Williams and Spading are collectively working on is the engineering and construction aerial film collection that dates to 1927. Canisters of film were recently sent to the Department of Defense Visual Information Resource Center who will scan/digitize the film at no cost to the district. The regional program will ultimately tell users where the original film and the scans are located. The original film will be transferred to the National Archives Records Administration for underground film storage near Lenexa, Kansas.



A canister of film.  
USACE St. Paul District  
photo by Kenton  
Spading



St. Paul District Librarian Byron Williams preserves traditional hard copy resources with an eye on digital in his new role, in St. Paul, Minnesota, March 2. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

## Corps Employee Service Board renews its commitment to serve all employees

Story by Melanie Peterson

The Corps Employee Services Board, or CESB, is back in business after a pause in operations for nearly two years. As of September 2022, the board is back up and running on all cylinders with a few administrative and operational changes from years past.

Administratively, the board filled two vacant board member positions, and added three new at-large board member positions to give interested staff a way to support the organization without a significant initial commitment. Operationally, the CESB added the responsibilities of the former Employee Benefits Association, or EBA, and updated its mission to include logistical support for St. Paul District employee events and support for employees experiencing significant life events (both positive and negative).

The CESB is a nonprofit organization that was started in 2015 to support St. Paul District employee events. “Sometimes, unique obstacles are encountered when planning and executing these events,” said Eric

Hanson, CESB president. “As a nonprofit organization, the board maintains a bank account it can use to pay security deposits for venues and vendors for goods or services at employee events. We can also sign rental contracts and assume the liability risk that goes along with it. Often, the risk of liability is too strong an obstacle for the Corps to sign such documents. Being a separate nonprofit entity allows us that capability.”

In the past, the board has supported events such as the summer and winter award ceremonies, Corps Day, and the winter military ball. “These are great opportunities to not only recognize Corps employees but also have some fun,” Hanson said.

Within the last year, the board combined the organization roles of CESB and the EBA to increase organizational efficiency and reduce administration. The EBA formerly solicited annual dues from individuals, and employees had to be a due-paying member to receive support from the EBA for a significant life event.

“While incorporating EBA, we can support employees at a much higher level. We have a representative on the board specifically dedicated to EBA, and we can now support all employees equally without the need for annual dues,” Hanson said.

Hanson said the board is here to support the whole district, including those outside the district office.

Employees can reach out to the board at any time with questions and concerns. Supervisors that have employees experiencing a significant life event, should contact Melanie Peterson, employee benefits representative, [here](#).



*Eric Hanson, senior ecologist and CESB president.  
USACE St. Paul District photo by Emily Chavolla*



# Emerging leaders visit Washington, D.C.

Story by Suzanne Grim and Pedro Rosario Gonzalez

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division emerging leaders participated in Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute, or GAI, held in Washington D.C. at the Rayburn House office building, Jan. 30-Feb. 2.

The two-year emerging leaders program strives to professionally develop Corps employees through a variety of experiences that challenges participants through training, mentoring, developmental assignments, senior leader shadowing while developing leaders' regional perspectives and growing effective leadership traits.

Nineteen leaders from St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg, and New Orleans districts participated in the week-long GAI "Washington Week", including Theresa Gant-Gaines and Jeff McCullick from the St. Paul District.

Worth Hester, Jr., assistant director and senior fellow of GAI, led the course with the end goal of providing leaders congressional education. Some of the topics

included: key stages in the legislative process, congressional appropriation process, the role of the Government Accountability Office, Congress and media. These topics were supplemented by former Congress representatives and journalists.

"Attending GAI week with the emerging leaders program was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career," said Gant-Gaines. "During the course of the week we were able to attend congressional briefings, learn and understand how the Corps fits into the congressional process, and network with lawmakers and staffers at the highest level of our government. GAI week also included a personal tour of the U.S. Capitol and the Pentagon. I am very grateful to the St. Paul District and Mississippi Valley Division for the opportunity."

Washington Week is one of the most anticipated events for the emerging leaders. Participants expanded their understanding of the legislative processes in our country and how these processes effect budgets, funding, and programming for the Corps.



Theresa Gant Gaines (left front), engineering and construction, and Jeff McCullick (back right), operations, join other Mississippi Valley Division emerging leaders with Command Sergeant Major of the Army Michael A. Grinston. USACE Mississippi Valley Division courtesy photo

## District holds its first safety workshop

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

The St. Paul District Safety Office held its first Collateral Duty Safety Officer, or CDSO, workshop at the district office, Jan. 24-26. Lead by the district's safety team, 25 safety officers spent a week discussing all things safety related.

Operations Safety Specialist Aaron Pieplow was the driving force behind the concept of the district's first safety workshop. He's committed to making safety a priority in the organization and expanding the CDSO program across the district.

"The safety officers are where the rubber meets the road, they are the backbone of the safety program," Pieplow said. "Every officer takes on the responsibilities not for glory or honor, but to help provide a better work environment. They care about each other and at the end of the day, safety is all about taking care of each other. One team, one fight!"

With the support of the St. Paul District safety officers Dustin Strand and Jeff Kirkey, Pieplow quickly engaged operations leadership to propose a rough outline of the workshop and quickly gain support by operations leadership.

"You are your own community of practice, to support and engage with each other," Cameron told the officers. "You are the key to our strong culture of safety, and I am grateful that you have stepped up to fill this role for your site, to anchor us in safety, and get us all home safely at the end of the day."

Officers across multiple departments within operations spent three days learning safety specific duties, mentoring with lead-

ership, and sharing experiences from the field.

Pieplow said personal protective equipment is usually the first thing everyone thinks about when it comes to safety but it's actually the last resort to keep you safe. "Overall, we want to communicate that safety is a shield that is here to protect employees, not a sword to attack. We are all on the same team working together for a common purpose, the wellbeing and safety of all employees," Pieplow said.

Feedback from CDSO workshop attendees was very encouraging and laid the groundwork to improve future sessions for our safety officers who protect people, equipment and property for future generations to enjoy, Strand said.



Brad Bauer, electrical engineer, presents at the safety workshop, in St. Paul, Minnesota, Jan. 26. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo



## Around the District

*Nathan Wallerstedt (right), project management and development branch chief, and a city of River Falls, Wisconsin, official signed a feasibility cost shared agreement to restore the Kinnickinnic River aquatic ecosystem to its natural setting, in River Falls, Wisconsin, Feb. 28. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann*

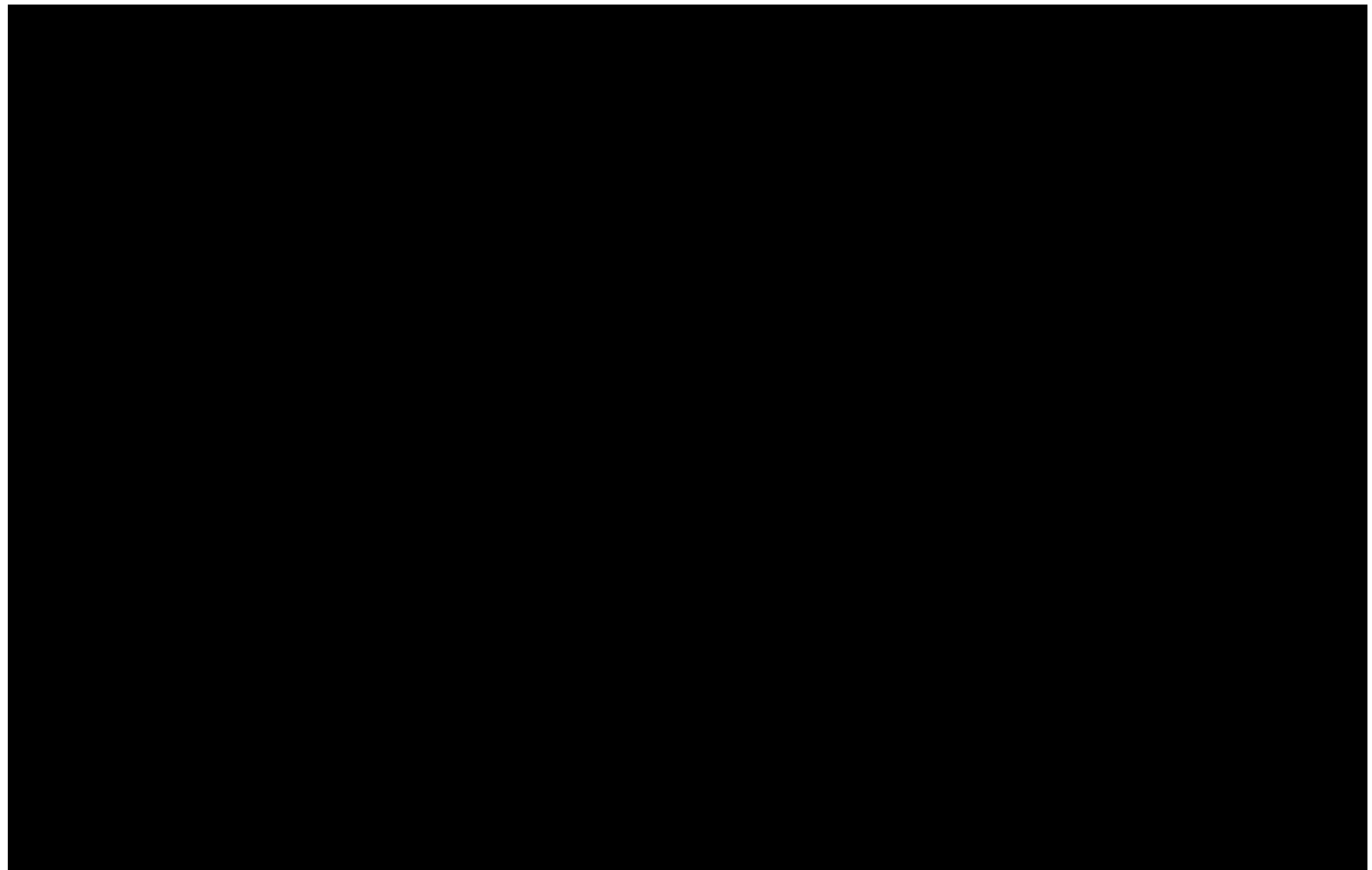


*Curtis Marty (left), head operator at Lock and Dam 5, and Nathan Osmundson, lock and dam equipment mechanic at Lock and Dam 5, assess potential housing sites in Lee County, Florida, Jan. 11. USACE New Orleans District photo by Alison Hebert*

*The Tier 2 leadership development program group toured the Fountain City Service Base, in Fountain City, Wisconsin, Feb. 28. USACE St. Paul District photo by Tamara Cameron*



*Kim Warshaw (front), project manager; Col. Eric Swenson (back left) district commander; and Al Vanguilder (back right), supervisory civil engineering technician, look at the Sturgeon Lake Tribal Partnership Program, the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program and the Sturgeon Lake project sites. in Pool 3, near Red Wing, Minnesota, Feb. 10. USACE St. Paul District photo by Kim Warshaw*





## 2022 by the numbers

### NAVIGATION

**606K** cubic yards

dredged river sand provided for beneficial use:

- habitat projects
- municipal developments
- cattle bedding
- road maintenance

818,000 cubic yards dredged from 33 different dredging jobs

**12M** tons of goods



passed through Lock 10

- 1,969 commercial vessels passed through lock 10
- 29,153 total lockages at MVP locks

**401** surveys

completed by survey crew covering 30,019 acres

### RECREATION

**168K** guests at campsites



- 921,241 day use recreation visitors
- 19,241 volunteer hours worked
- fee revenues totaled over \$1M

### ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

placed

**\$169M**

in construction [highest ever for MVP]

- Provided engineering support to 35 USACE districts and centers



### EMERGENCY MGMT

**108** deployments

10 in support of others  
98 disaster response

### SAFETY

**28** good catches

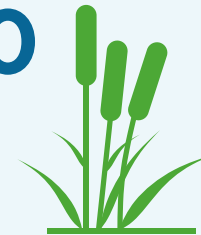
HQ recognized program sharing information to aid in the prevention of mishaps



### REGULATORY

Wetland Actions Authorized

**3,900** permit actions processed



**18** outreach events

reached 800 participants

Wetland Mitigation Banks

**20** mitigation banks approved

with approximately 800 projected credits

### OFFICE OF COUNSEL



**35** FOIA requests processed

- Over 2,600 pages of information

### CPAC

**134** new hires

13 retirements



### PROJECT MANAGEMENT

**\$11.9M**

Section 594 N.D. Environmental Infrastructure Program

**\$115M**

Red River Structure contract (largest in district history)



**1st** Construction Contract

awarded under Navigation and Ecosystem Restoration Program (NESP)

- \$55M in Upper Mississippi River Restoration, highest in 35+ years
- \$140M in federal construction awarded at the Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan Project

## Recognizing our Employees of the Month: The MVPs of MVP



December  
**Mike Walker**  
*Regional Planning and  
Environment Division North*



January  
**Andy Huffman**  
*Programs and Project  
Management*





## News and Notes

### New Employees

**Robert Ashby**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

**Clayton Corken**, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, Rock Island, Illinois

**Brittney-Anne Echt**, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, Rock Island, Illinois

**Amanda Goldstein**, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Mallory Gross**, regulatory specialist, regulatory, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Peyton Hamm**, regulatory specialist, regulatory, Brainerd, Minnesota

**David Kelly**, human resources specialist, civilian personnel advisory center, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Bryn Langrehr**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Erik Madaus**, office automation assistant, regulatory, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Mark Madaus**, civil engineer, project management, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Michael Madson**, archeologist, regulatory St. Paul, Minnesota

**Robert Mangaudis**, civil engineer (geotechnical), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Michael Mireau**, architect, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Laken Parrish**, archeologist, regional planning and environment division north, Rock Island, Illinois

**Morgan Peterson**, realty specialist, real estate, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Charles Ross**, human resources specialist (classification/recruitment and placement), civilian personnel advisory center, Weymouth, Massachusetts

**Collin Smith**, civil engineer (hydraulics), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

**David Smith**, human resources assistant, civilian personnel advisory center, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Friend Solberg**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Thomas Sowinski**, biologist, regulatory St. Paul, Minnesota

**Molly Stansberry**, office automation assistant, regulatory St. Paul, Minnesota

**Michael Swenson**, hydrologist, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Samantha Thury**, budget analyst, resource management, St. Paul, Minnesota

**William Thomson**, civil engineer, programs and project management, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Jeremy Webb**, realty assistant, real estate St. Paul, Minnesota

**Cody Wiig**, facilities specialist, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

**Anne Wurtenberger**, community planner, regional planning and environment division north, Rock Island, Illinois

**Joel Zietz**, maintenance and repair coordinator, operations, Valley City, North Dakota

### Promotions

**Calvin Aulwes**, lock and dam operator, operations, Guttenberg, Iowa

**Daniel Adams**, landscape architect, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Craig Bauer**, 3rd assistant engineer PLD class I, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

**Sanjay Bimali**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

**Amber Black**, human resources specialist (classification/recruitment and placement), civilian personnel advisory center, Holly Springs, North Carolina

**Christopher Botz**, natural resources specialist (ranger), operations, Valley City, North Dakota

**Brady Dehnke**, leverman (DR), operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

**April Erickson**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

**Benjamin Everson**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Kathryn Fechter**, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Louis, Missouri

**Valeshka Mussenden Ferdinand**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

## News and Notes, continued

**Paul Fleming**, engineering technician (civil), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Troy Frank**, lockmaster, operations, Genoa, Wisconsin  
**Theresa Gant-Gaines**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Justin Garrett**, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Louis, Missouri  
**Gregory Hammons**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

**Adam Howard**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Theodore Hecht**, contract specialist, contracting, St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Jason Ilfson**, cook, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin  
**Joshua Isakson**, operator, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin  
**Roberta Just**, contract specialist, contracting, St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Trevor Kough**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Long Le**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Dylan McCullick**, lock and dam operator, operations, Alma, Wisconsin  
**Thanri Meyers**, civil engineer (geotechnical), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Emily Moe**, civil engineer (hydraulics), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Elizabeth Moriarty**, attorney-adviser (environmental), office of counsel, St. Paul, Minnesota

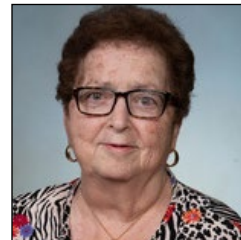
**Kacie Opat**, civil engineer (hydraulics), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Jeffery Rindal**, master, tender, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin  
**Elizabeth Royce**, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Louis, Missouri  
**Arash Shams**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Rebecca Smith**, technical support assistant, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota  
**Johnathan Stumm**, lock and dam operator, operations, Red Wing, Minnesota  
**Mitchell Weier**, water management data manager, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Daniel Williams**, natural resources specialist, operations, Crosslake, Minnesota  
**David Wivinus**, realty specialist, real estate, St. Paul Minnesota

## Retirements

**Nanette Bischoff**, civil engineer, project management, St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Peter Crary**, realty specialist, real estate, Fargo, North Dakota  
**Jeffrey Hallam**, lock and dam operator, operations, Hastings, Minnesota  
**Denise Lepke**, lock and dam operator, operations, Genoa, Wisconsin  
**Michael Seibel**, leverman, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin  
**Randy Sickles**, lock and dam operator, operations, Genoa, Wisconsin  
**Terry Zenker**, contract specialist, contracting, St. Paul, Minnesota

## Taps



**Rita Beaudry** passed away Dec. 17, 2022. Beaudry worked as an administrative support assistant at Bald-hill Dam / Lake Ashtabula for 20 years.



**Gary Lauer** passed away Jan. 7. He completed his 35-year career with the Corps at Lock and Dam 4 in Alma, Wisconsin, as the electrician/maintenance operator.



## News and Notes, continued

### Congratulations



**Marissa Merriman**, regulatory, and husband **Michael**, welcomed Savanna Vine Merriman, Jan. 23 at 6 pounds and 1 ounce and 17.5 inches.



**Brian Yagle**, regulatory, and wife **Emily Zempel**, welcomed Callan Edward Yagle, Jan. 12 at 7 pounds, 14 ounces and 20 inches.



**Col. Eric Swenson**, district commander, (left) and **Chris Bowen**, chief of engineering and construction, (center), receive a Mississippi valley Division Safety Now award on behalf of the Eastern Area Office for the safe execution of the Fountain City Service Base Phase 2 project at the Associated General Contractors of America conference, Feb. 16.

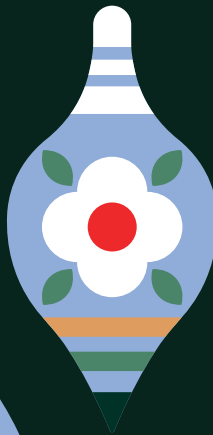
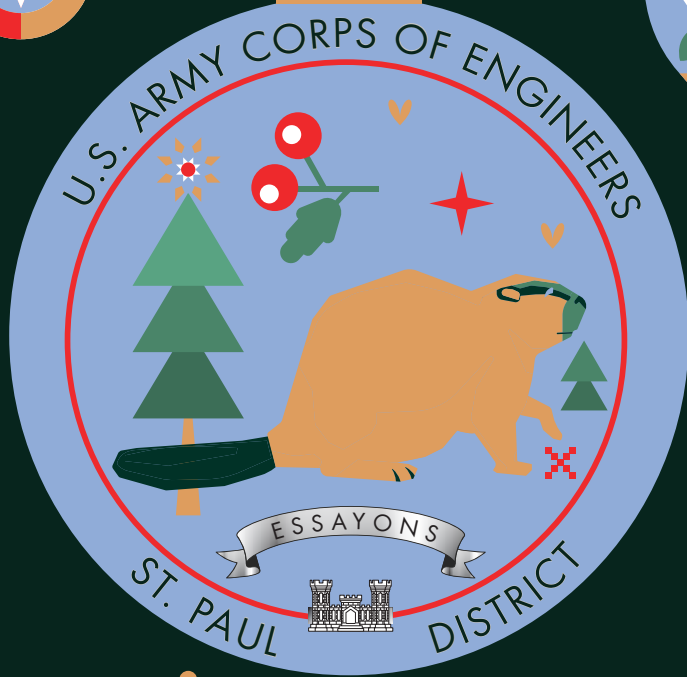


(left) **Jerry Cudney**, construction inspector, receives the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal from **Col. Eric Swenson**, district commander in Fargo, North Dakota.

**Ben Rhoda**, resident engineer for the Hastings, Minnesota, construction office recently received an Air Force level civil engineer award. As a leader for the district, he is also a commander for the 934th Airlift Wing Civil Engineering Squadron. The squadron received the 2022 Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Unit Award (Air Reserve Component Unit) for best civil engineer unit in Air Force Reserve Command for inspections, readiness, training, wartime preparedness and global support efforts.



**Rachel Perrine**, plan formulation, and **Eric Wittine**, engineering and construction, were recognized as two of 12 graduates from the 2021-2022 Risk Management Graduate Certificate program through Notre Dame of Maryland University.



Holiday  
Awards



# Message from Colonel Swenson



Greetings fellow MVP teammates!!!

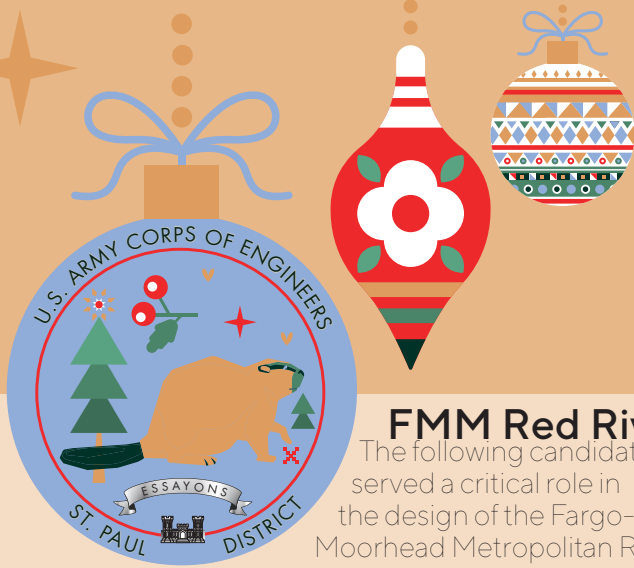
It's that time of year again when the mercury dips, the trees shed their leaves, and the cold wind blows. Fall is winding down and winter fast approaching. Winter may not be here until December 21, but by looking out my window, I think it came early.

The changing of the seasons means so much more than cold temperatures, poor commutes, and higher heating bills, it also means that we have made it through another construction, navigation, recreation, regulation and hurricane season. In all seriousness, December is a time when many employees take a deep breath, and the district slows down. We take annual leave, celebrate the return of college kids to the nest, spend time with elders, buy presents for loved ones and celebrate life with family and friends alike.

This December, like so many before, we, the leaders in this district, are taking the time to celebrate you and the accomplishments you made in large part while serving on great district teams. We have so many teams it's hard to remember them all. Here is a quick list: project delivery, lock operation and maintenance, park ranger, clean sand reclamation (Dredge Goetz and maintenance and repair), unmanned aerial reconnaissance and mapping, underwater [aka dive team], dam safety, levee inspection, natural resource enhancement, tribal liaison, logistical support, engineering, navigation support, real

estate, public affairs (covering all your great work), IT, building move, mailroom, contracting, security, planning and environmental, and our unsung heroes—the administrative teams that keep us clothed, fed, and sheltered. As I see it, we are a team of teams and that is our greatest strength. The booklet you are about to read contains the names and faces of our awardees. It also contains the write-ups justifying the award, but more specifically documents the hard work, blood, sweat and tears that you collectively gave in support of our mission. Every one of these awards was based on a recommendation or an observation by a teammate. I am immensely proud of all those being recognized today and for the efforts of those whose names may not appear in print, but whose sacrifice and dedication were critical to our success.

I wish all MVP teammates a safe and relaxing holiday. When life gets busy, whether at work or home, take a minute to reflect on all the good in your life. If you feel that you are adrift in your thoughts, set an achievable goal and then go out and achieve it. Find a colleague you have something in common with and get to know them better. Better yet, find a colleague you do not know and get to know them. If you are at the top of your game in life, share your gifts with others. If you are still struggling, write your own eulogy and highlight the kind of person you want to be remembered as. Post it on your wall and ask yourself each day, am I doing the things I need to do to be the person I want others to remember me by. We are never too old or too busy to learn something or someone new. Practice random kindness. It will make you feel better and undoubtedly make someone else's day. Finally, Happy Holidays. Julie and I wish each of you and your families the very best this holiday season.



# District Level Awards



## FMM Red River Structure Team

The following candidates served a critical role in the design of the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Red River Structure. They all provided exceptional expertise in their respective fields. They each went above and beyond expectations to ensure

that the design was completed. The team overcame challenges related to the pandemic, going into a completely remote virtual design environment and maintained the ability to complete the complex and difficult design process. Teammate Leon Opatz will be recognized posthumously at the first concrete placement for the structure.

## CIVILIAN SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

### THE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Aaron Buesing  
Kevin Denn  
Paul Fleming  
Daniel Flittie  
Bonnie Greenleaf  
Noeun Kol  
Renee McGarvey

Aaron Mikonowicz  
Hlee Moua  
Leon Opatz  
Coralys Nunez-Orta  
Lexi Ousky  
Duane Perkins  
Darold Sanderson

Luke Schmidt  
Friend Solberg  
Toni Wasgatt  
Denita Wesley

*From Other Districts*  
Javier Arias  
Brennen Burkland

David DePolo  
Thomas Lytle  
Michael McCollum  
Christopher Schumacher  
Ryan Smith  
Chong Walker

## CIVILIAN SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

### THE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Kent Hokens  
Michael Davis  
Jacob Fall  
Jason Foss  
Heather Henneman  
Paul Johnson

Brant Jones  
Erin Krug  
William Odell  
Kacie Opat  
Grant Riddick  
James Schneider

Loren Soma  
Sally Swenson  
Miray Welle

*From Other Districts*  
Michael Donohoe  
Matthew Fitzgerald

Tarris Greer  
Brian Hall  
Nathan Kabat  
Chase Keys  
Adrian Kollias  
Nicholas Koutsunis

## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Mathew Andersen  
Amy Dessner  
Anthony Feilzer  
Joseph Hemmer

Derek Ingvalson  
Roy Lawson  
Christine Moss  
Virginia Regorrah

Samuel Smith  
Elliott Stefanik  
*From Other Districts*  
Bjorn Boydston  
Cole Clements  
Ethan Dawson

Tu Ha  
Carl Leunig  
Patrick Luff  
Douglas Meier  
Marneshia Richard  
Colin Riddick



## Robert Slininger - CIVILIAN SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

For exceptional performance and service to the St. Paul District, in support of the St. Cloud Veterans Affairs. Robert's ability to adapt to an expanded mission

and his commitment to the customer were key to building a successful relationship with the St. Cloud Veterans Affairs.

## Richard Tollefson - CIVILIAN SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

For exceptional performance and service to the St. Paul District, during the construction of Fargo Moorhead Metro Wild Rice River Structure project. Richard's contract administration knowledge, communication, commitment to excellence and perseverance have

resulted in multiple improvements on the project, to include reduction in the number of outstanding modifications and incorporation of lessons learned from previous projects.







# District Level Awards



## The Upper Pool 4 Team

For outstanding performance on the Section 1122 Upper Pool 4 project, these

individuals provided expertise that resulted in project advertisement and contract award on schedule.

### CIVILIAN SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

THE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Jon Hendrickson  
Sean Johnston

Adam Rasmussen  
Jennie Tyrrell

### CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

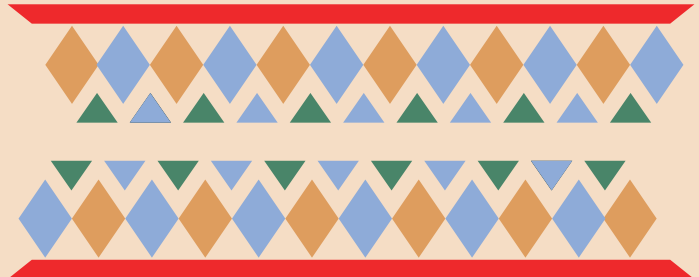
THE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Paul Fleming  
LeeAnn Glomski

Joseph Hemmer  
John Henderson

Thomas Novak  
Kacie Opat

Justin Rose



## Tribal Partnership Program Sturgeon Lake Island Erosion Project - COMMANDERS COIN

For outstanding achievement in support of the Sturgeon Lake Island Erosion project. The Sturgeon Lake Island Erosion project is only the second project under the Tribal Partnership Program to move into the design and implementation phase in the country, and the first

within the division. Each member of this team contributed toward the successful completion of the feasibility study, design and construction of the Sturgeon Lake Island Erosion project, a project that serves to protect culturally significant lands of the Prairie Island Indian Community.

THE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Vanessa Alberto  
Noah Andow  
Kipp Baures  
Re'Nisha Brown  
Travis Burrier  
Daniel Cottrell

Todd DeCosse  
Daniel DeVaney  
Josh Isakson  
Denise Julson  
Daniel Kelner  
Zachary Kimmel

Andrew Meier  
Katie Opsahl  
Melanie Peterson  
Justin Rose  
Kurt Schroeder  
Michael Snyder

Christopher Stai  
James Ulrick  
Denita Wesley  
Tammy Wick  
Kimberly Warshaw

## Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Program's Drayton Dam Fish Passage Mitigation Project - CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

The following candidates served a critical role in the preparation of the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Program's Drayton Dam Fish Passage Mitigation Project. They all provided exceptional expertise in their respective fields. They

each went above typical expectations to ensure that the Drayton Dam fish passage structure was designed in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the North Dakota Game and Fish and Department of Water Quality.

THE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Mark Angelo  
Greg Fischer  
Justin Fisher  
Paul Fleming  
Joseph Hemmer

Derek Ingvalson  
Roy Lawson  
Susan Malin-Boyce  
Abigail Moore  
Kambili Nkem-Ossai

Adam Rasmussen  
Grant Riddick  
Justin Rose  
Luke Schmidt  
Elliott Stefanik

Theresa Thury  
Kimberly Warshaw  
Denita Wesley  
Leigh Youngblood

# District Honorary Awards

## NEW EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

**Stephanie Mann** joined the Design Branch in the Engineering & Construction Division as a mechanical engineer in April. Her main projects have been the new miter gates for the locks on the Mississippi River. During the installation of the new miter gates at Lock and Dam 5A, there was an incident involving the

existing anchor bars that almost resulted in closing navigation. Stephanie was a key contributor in investigations that proved the anchor bars were safe, preventing the need to close navigation.



## INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

**David Klocker** joined Construction Branch in early 2022. Dave took initiative to coordinate with the Resident Management System (RMS) Center in developing a new custom

data query and report that was able to gather all the necessary information from the RMS database and display it in a format matching the prior manual reports. His effort greatly increased the efficiency of the monthly sponsor reporting effort, and it was just in time as the number of projects to report on doubled when construction season started in the spring.



## ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

**Andrea Sterling** is the glue that binds all of RPEDN together, which is made even more remarkable because our footprint interwinds with three districts St. Louis, Rock Island and St. Paul. Andrea's willingness to travel to Rock Island and St. Louis at least two times each year allows her the opportunity to help each RPEDN family member. She always puts each person

ahead of herself and she does whatever it takes to make sure our staff have what they need. Not only does Andrea take care of all RPEDN but she also reaches across the aisle and helps others within the Corps. Andrea truly does demonstrate what it means to be a team player as she has shown throughout this past year!!





# Honorary Awards



## OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN ADVANCING THE DISTRICT SECURITY MISSION AWARD

The Outstanding Leadership in Advancing the District Security Mission Award goes to Lockmaster **Brian Sipos** for his exceptional initiative in building partnerships with local law enforcement and emergency response personnel and fostering interagency cooperation by conducting a full response active shooter exercise.

Sipos's initiative and leadership exemplifies not only his exceptional security mission focus but also his outstanding and highly motivated team at Lock and Dam 9.

## OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FOR THE DISTRICT SECURITY MISSION AWARD

**Jay Grimsled and Dan Burger** are nominated for this award for their outstanding support for the district's security mission at Lock and Dam 9 and during this year's full performance active shooter drill. All of the team members of Lock and Dam 9 demonstrate on a daily basis that it takes exceptional people to make a highly motivated team that can overcome any obstacle and it takes a team to go above and beyond in accomplishing the district's security mission.



## PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR

**Craig Jarnot** had his hands full dealing with the highly visible Enbridge Line 3 project this past year. The project garnered him quite a bit of media attention and unsolicited public opinion, and he weathered the storm with civility and expertise. Through it all, Craig consistently maintained the utmost professionalism and shone a positive light on the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers by skillfully communicating the Corps of Engineers' roles and responsibilities regarding the project, permitting authorities and timelines to a variety of key publics to include elected officials, stakeholders, tribal partners, media representatives and concerned citizens.



# Engineering & Construction Honorary Awards

## EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

An employee within each Branch of Engineering and Construction Division who consistently displays the following qualities:

- Dedicated and dependable
- Helpful, cooperative and displays positive attitude towards fellow employees
- Performs duties at a high level, goes the extra mile to help us execute
- Freely shares knowledge to assist others
- Accomplished a significant task that would not have been possible without their efforts

- 1. Mission Possible Award** - Design Branch awarded to **Chris Afdahl**
- 2. Steward of the Waters Award** - Hydraulics & Hydrology Branch awarded to **Charles Boyd**
- 3. Critical Lift Award** - Construction Branch awarded to **Adam Gamblin**
- 4. Never Take You for Granite Award** - Geotechnical and Geology Branch awarded to **Grant Riddick**

## HONORARY AWARDS

RAISE YOUR HAND AWARD –

**Anthony Levine** is someone who is consistently ready to help when and wherever needed.

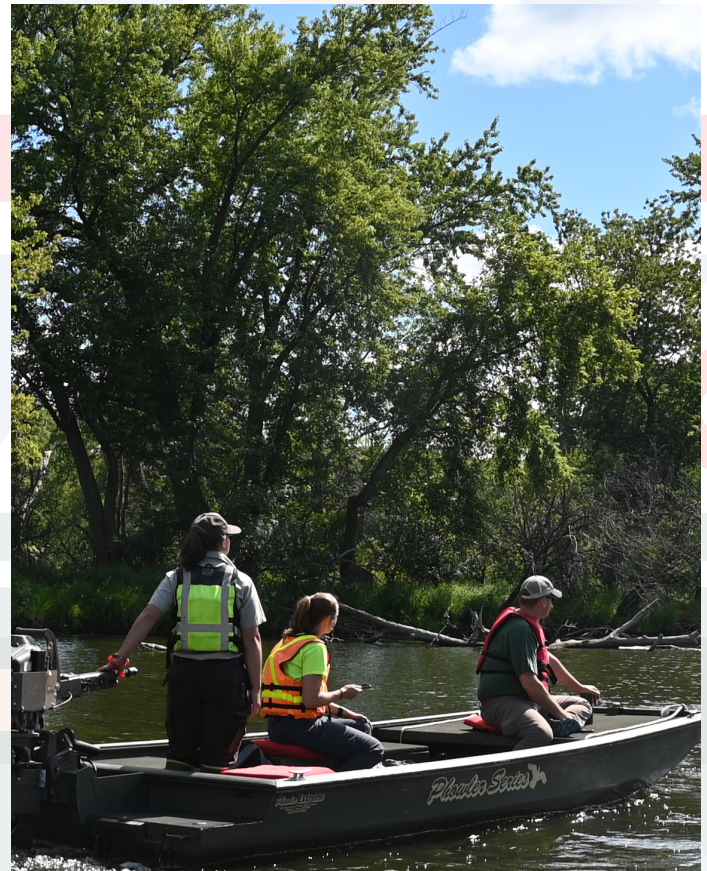


TEACHER AWARD –

**Greg Wachman** is someone who has taken the time to teach/mentor colleagues.

MOOD LIFTER AWARD –

**Faith Sandberg** is someone who's positive attitude benefits the entire division.







# Operations Honorary Awards



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE PROTECTION AT GOOSE ISLAND

The Fountain City Service Base maintenance and repair section was instrumental toward the successful operation and completion of 1,200 linear feet of cultural resource bank stabilization in Pool 8. Tremendous quality product delivery with in-house personnel!

### THE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

**Chris Stai**  
**Luke Anderson**  
**Nick Stanton**  
**Devon Bemis**  
**Justin Bernau**  
**Bob Kohner**

**Jason Schieffer**  
**Vanessa Alberto**  
**Trevor Cyphers**  
**Ray Marinan**  
**Jon Schultz**

## IMPLEMENTATION TEAM FOR RECREATION OPERATIONAL CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

Operational condition assessments are an important assessment and decision process for prioritizing maintenance and repair funding

for Corps assets. In 2022, recreation facilities were added to this nationwide Corps effort. **Brian Turner and Brad LaBadie** were chosen to spearhead the training and assessment effort for all St. Paul District recreation areas. Brian and Brad collaborated with headquarters natural resource management staff to learn the process, teach local staff, lead the St. Paul District assessments, troubleshoot issues and deliver high quality assessment data for corporate use.



## SANDY LAKE DAM REHABILITATION

Collaboration with other district elements for successful completion of the Sandy Lake Dam rehabilitation project.

Both **Tammy Frauenshuh** and **Hunter Simonson** provided valuable insight on dam operations and water level management during the 2-year rehab project.



## FALL CLEANUP AND WINTERIZATION OF NORTHERN HEADWATERS REC AREAS

This team worked together to accomplish the fall clean up of the recreation areas and winterization of the facilities. The staff completed the clean up of all the recreation areas and winterization of the facilities in the section saving approximately \$50,000 in contract costs over hiring local contractors.

### THE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

**Jeff Cook**  
**Andrew Buell**  
**Mathew Buchacker**

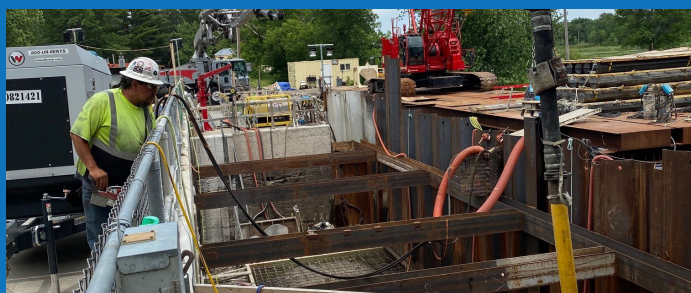
**Megan Severson**  
**Hunter Simonson**

## URGENT REPLACEMENT OF RESERVATION DAM BLADDER AIR LINE

Over the Fourth of July weekend, Lake Traverse's Reservation Dam low flow gate became inoperable. This was due to the air lines breaking that supplied air to the bladders that held each of the gates at the desired levels. With the loss of air in the system, the low flow gates dropped. Lake Traverse's project maintenance team immediately coordinated the install of bulkheads in the low flow to stop the release of waters in order to maintain the desired lake levels. The project team continued to pursue the purchase of new air lines, coordinate and execute repairs of the air lines with the company that originally designed and installed the gate system. Their efforts resulted in the low flow gates returning to full operation in a timely manner.

**Steve Kocher**  
**Tom Mattis**

**Zach Santjer**  
**Mike Tolifson**





# Operations Honorary Awards



## DREDGE GOETZ

With the low precipitation that is occurring on the Mississippi River basin, the lower Mississippi River is experiencing lower than normal water for navigation. The low water event has caused the movement of commodities to resort more to shallow water vessels and less utilization of the deep draft vessels. Also with the low water, there is an increased need for dredging to allow for the shallow draft vessels to navigate safely. The Dredge Goetz and crew have mobilized to aid in the effort to keep navigation moving. In order to support this effort, it has extended the crew and equipment past the normal dredging season. This also comes at a time when the Dredge Goetz and attending plant have a contract in place for the planned 5-year drydocking for below water repairs. The Goetz crew has pulled together to overcome many obstacles in order to support the effort during the low water event without impacts to preparational readiness for the next dredging season.

### THE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

<b>Luke Anderson</b>	<b>Thomas Loechler</b>
<b>Sam Banicki</b>	<b>Adrian Loewenhagen</b>
<b>Thomas Burrows</b>	<b>Andrew Lorenz</b>
<b>Eric Carlson</b>	<b>Wake Madsen</b>
<b>Ryan Danielson</b>	<b>Jon Miller</b>
<b>Brady Dehnke</b>	<b>Joel Miller-Oates</b>
<b>Kaleb Doerr</b>	<b>Ellamay Mitchell</b>
<b>Jason Eleffson</b>	<b>Matt Mohlke</b>
<b>Cody Fairey</b>	<b>Jon Nygaard</b>
<b>Thomas Fetting</b>	<b>Mathew Platteter</b>
<b>Jordan Fluekiger</b>	<b>Josh Przybylla</b>
<b>Susan Funke</b>	<b>Jeff Rindal</b>
<b>Forrest Gundersen</b>	<b>Matthew Rolbiecki</b>
<b>Ricky Hager</b>	<b>Scott Rolbiecki</b>
<b>Channing Helgeson</b>	<b>Dale Rud</b>
<b>Daniel Hentges</b>	<b>Michael Seibel</b>
<b>Chris Hill</b>	<b>Chad Simon</b>
<b>Jamie Hill</b>	<b>Logan Skoug</b>
<b>Logan Hoffmann</b>	<b>Jordan Skoug</b>
<b>Jacob Jandle</b>	<b>Langston Spencer</b>
<b>David Johnson</b>	<b>Nikita Sumbry</b>
<b>Heather Kern</b>	<b>Kristopher Taverna</b>
<b>Mike Kouba</b>	<b>Daniel Teigan</b>
<b>Brian Krause</b>	<b>Al Vanguilder</b>
<b>Jon Ledford</b>	<b>Jake Zanon</b>
<b>Kaden Lisowski</b>	

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

The MRPO administrative team consisting of **Wendi Baker, Melisa Murray, and Kay White** has overcome adversity time and again as they are consistently faced with staffing shortages. The group buckled down and took on additional duties while also working long hours. Additional support was provided from one of our admin professionals while on detail with resource management, as well as support from the operations administrative team. Without this full team effort, we would not have been able to provide adequate support to the navigation branch and free them up to complete their critical duties for the navigation mission.

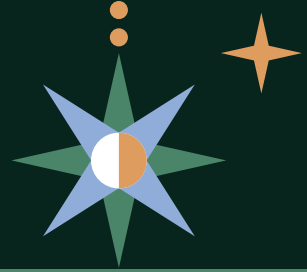
## LOCKS AND DAMS 5A AND 8 MITER GATE INSTALLATION

With a collaborated effort between Rock Island and St. Paul Districts, the lock chamber miter gates at Lock 8 and Lock 5A were replaced. The old miter gates were in service for more than 80 years and nearing the end of their useful life. Throughout the planning process to final installation, the team worked to overcome challenges that were presented. It is a true testament to the Corps that winning attitudes foster winning results.

### THE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

<b>Luke Anderson</b>	<b>Eric Lockington</b>
<b>Scott Baker</b>	<b>Stephanie Mann</b>
<b>Kipp Bauers</b>	<b>Stan Marg</b>
<b>Kraig Berberich</b>	<b>Ryan Markey</b>
<b>Justin Bernau</b>	<b>Lexi Ousky</b>
<b>John Bostrack</b>	<b>Angelo Pedretti</b>
<b>Jarrold Brown</b>	<b>Jon Peters</b>
<b>Wade Carr</b>	<b>Melanie Peterson</b>
<b>Nick Castellane</b>	<b>Aaron Pieplow</b>
<b>Jim Cook</b>	<b>Faith Sandberg</b>
<b>Eric Dykman</b>	<b>Arash Shams</b>
<b>Jeff Ferguson</b>	<b>Jordan Skoug</b>
<b>Jacob Gosnell</b>	<b>Loren Soma</b>
<b>Mike Gunderson</b>	<b>Chris Stai</b>
<b>Mike Holzer</b>	<b>Matt Stanton</b>
<b>Adam Kiedrowski</b>	<b>Nick Stanton</b>
<b>Keith Kirkey</b>	<b>Tim Tabery</b>
<b>Dakota Koenig</b>	<b>Nate Van Loon</b>
<b>Bob Kohner</b>	<b>Dexter Yoon</b>
<b>Erin Krug</b>	





# Programs & Project Management Honorary Awards

## PPMD EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

While this might sound routine, there is nothing routine about her. For the third consecutive year, **Denise Julson** is recognized by her peers as the programs and project management division Employee of the Year. The accolades from many include, "she always responds quickly, she is simply the best, teams function because of her, she is indispensable, she communicates constantly and efficiently, she finishes all her tasks, treats everyone with dignity and respect, she is the model team member, etc." Denise always has a "let's solve the problem" attitude and is committed to executing the mission second to none. Denise always keeps her cool and treats people in a way that makes them feel grateful they are a part of the team. Denise is truly a CHAMPION amongst her peers modeling the MVP values – Mission, Value, People.



## "YOU MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE" AWARD

There is always that person that makes the workplace around us a better place – **Bonnie Greenleaf** is recognized as that special person. Bonnie treats all of her peers like family, she brings in treats for co-workers, teams, and even her bosses. She recognizes birthdays, special events, or she might just make up something to make those around her feel even more valued. Bonnie is the one who will take coach, advise, mentor, or just give work to new employees, interns or whoever she can find – she will assure they are growing in their profession. She will always be there to support those around her and lend a helping hand and offer an encouraging word. Bonnie will make personal sacrifices to assure her work is completed and the public is served in a positive, professional and quality manner. As one coworker said, "Bonnie is the one in which we should all strive to emulate." Bonnie Greenleaf – you make it a better place!





# RPEDN Honorary Awards

## SILENT HERO



**Kelsey Hoffmann** is recognized for her significant role as a silent hero in our Rock Island office. Kelsey has taken it upon herself to help our new archaeologists with environmental compliance advice, teaching them our review procedures and report filing locations.

## CALMER OF STORMS

**Michelle Kniep's** ability to focus teams on the critical issues, help teams solve problems, and quietly motivate people through her own actions is what makes her such a critical part of RPEDN.



## PLANNER OF THE YEAR

**Karla Sparks'** dedication towards delivering high-quality work assigned to her is truly commendable. RPEDN success is tied to hard-working employees like Karla who maintain high standards.



## REGIONAL ROCK STAR

In more than twenty years with the Corps, **Dan Kelner** has carved out a niche as a leading mussel expert in our region. His expertise and contributions to his field are also well known by our partner agencies; his work with them has surely strengthened our relationships over the years. Dan does all of this with a humble and appreciative attitude, and never seeks any special recognition for it.



## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

One year ago, we were lucky enough to hire **Justin Garrett** away from the Louisville District Regulatory Program. Justin came with glowing recommendations and has continued that trend in his short time with RPEDN. Justin had several years of regulatory experience coming in, but this was his first foray into environmental planning. Despite this, Justin has shown an innate ability to dive right into the deep end of whatever tasks are thrown his way and get the job done with enthusiasm, very little supervision, and zero complaints.



## TEAM OF THE YEAR RPEDN ARCHAEOLOGISTS

The cultural resources team is recognized for its strength and unity within the Corps. The team demonstrated its ability to anticipate the needs of the organization and those we serve, remaining focused on the future, while preserving the past.

### THE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

**Vanessa Alberto  
Lara Anderson  
James Beers  
Darcy Calabria  
Kristen Fuld  
Katie Leslie  
Susan Malin-Boyce**

**Kelsey Myers  
Brad Perkl  
Brandon Sexton  
Matt Terry  
Meredith Trautt  
Amy Williams**







# Regulatory Honorary Awards

## TEAM BUILDER AWARD



**Jarrett Cellini** is recognized for his leadership within the regulatory division. His mentoring and leadership led to his new teammates developing essential project management skills, such as strategic planning, time management and prioritization, and expanded their expertise and knowledge of the regulatory program. His calm demeanor, effective communication, active listening, and willingness to spend the necessary time with his teammates has resulted in a resilient and highly adaptable team that is ready to tackle whatever challenges come their way.

## ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD

**Jonathan Bakken** is recognized for exemplifying loyalty and selfless service by willingly accepting challenging projects, high work volume, and providing leadership above and beyond expectations. His contributions are especially commendable while supporting the Hayward team during times of transition.



## REGULATORY AMBASSADOR AWARD



**Kyle Zibung** is recognized for outstanding representation, public service, and mentoring. While on temporary detail with the Albuquerque District, Kyle received a special note of gratitude from a private consultant for his responsiveness and great communication.

## DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

**Meghan Brown** is recognized as a knowledgeable and respected leader in the regulatory division. In addition to her usual duties of reviewing complex projects and providing programmatic improvements, she has provided exceptional mentorship to our south branch staff during a challenging transitional period. She leads by example but also by unselfishly and patiently using her time to walk through any issue.



## TEAMMATE OF THE YEAR

**Samantha Coungeris** is recognized as the Teammate of the Year Award. Samantha's welcoming personality and her emphasis on the people in MVP has ensured that our new teammate is on the path to become a productive member of regulatory division.



## TEAM LEADER OF THE YEAR

**A.J. Kitchen** has been integral to the success of the east branch because of his leadership and skill mentoring new staff. A.J. is consistently available to teach new staff our internal processes and technical aspects of our program to put them on path towards success. He has utilized effective communication skills to maintain organization within the team and to complete crucial stakeholder outreach. A.J. has excelled at these responsibilities all while maintaining a high level of quality in his permit workload.



## REGULATORY SUPPORT STAR



**Janel Shafer** has been critical to responding to the regulatory division's customers in a timely manner and ensuring the successful execution of our mission. She is a tireless worker and the ultimate teammate. She quickly and accurately processes her work and then immediately seeks out additional duties to the benefit of the team.

## NEW TEAMMATE OF THE YEAR

**Sam Kitchen** started with the regulatory division in April of this year as a project manager. She never shies away from a complex project or a tough customer and is always willing to provide support to her team. She is a team player at heart and is always willing to share new things she learns with her teammates. In addition to her permit workload, she has volunteered for additional efforts supporting the division.



## TEAM AWARD

For their work on the summer 2022 monitoring effort at wetland mitigation banks, the regulatory division selects **Leslie Day, Brian Yagle, Marissa Merriman and Eric Norton** for our Team of the Year Award.



# Support Staff Honorary Awards

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

**Kimberly Bahls** is our customer service representative for the district, and she is our resident subject matter expert on all things payroll. She is very resourceful in finding solutions to difficult problems and tries very hard to provide top-notch customer care to all district employees with their government travel card issues as well as ensuring timely monthly payments on the government purchase card. With the unprecedented 3- week CEFMS II outage in early fiscal year 2023, she quickly came up with plans addressing several possible scenarios and conducted behind the scenes actions to ensure everyone was paid on time, thus putting our district in a favorable position, where we did not need to invoke emergency payroll procedures. Her devotion to duty and dedication to the district timekeeping and payroll mission is valued and appreciated by the entire district.



## REAL ESTATE “DUE DILIGENCE” AWARD

This award recognizes the real estate employee who best exemplifies an unwavering commitment to ensuring the success of our projects and programs. It is through the recipient's due diligence that the organization gains the trust and respect of our customers and stakeholders. **Ken Peterson**, realty specialist, is recognized as the 2022 recipient of the St. Paul District Real Estate “Due Diligence” Award. Ken consistently demonstrates his commitment to the continued success of the real estate management and disposal program. When faced with a technical real estate question or controversial land management issue affecting the federal government's land holdings, Ken diligently gathers relevant data and reviews pertinent real property laws, regulations and policy documents to guide his decision-making process. Throughout the year, Ken's direct demeanor has gained the trust and respect of our team and customers as he has continually delivered quality products and services in a professional manner.







# Length of Service Awards

\*\* For a list of all length of service awards, see the latest Crosscurrents



## 25 YEARS



Brian Krause



Jim Rand

## 30 YEARS



Eric Carlson



Kathy Halverson



Kenneth Peterson

## 35 YEARS



Thomas Johnson



Denise Julson

# Length of Service Awards

## 40 YEARS



THERESA  
THURY

What is your current position with the Corps? *I am the project scheduler/analyst for the Fargo-Moorhead project in project management.*

What were some of your previous positions? *I started at the Corps as a temp GS-02 clerk/typist working in the file room in November 1981 and was let go under a reduction in force in the spring of 1982. I came back in May of 1984. In between I was a machinist at a plastics plant that made toys.*

What do you enjoy about working with the Corps? *I enjoy working with my teams and I like to help others solve problems. I have met many*

*wonderful friends along the way!*

What do you like to do outside of work? *My oldest son and wife have four children age 4 years and under. They keep me pretty busy and fill my heart with joy. I also sing in the church choir and love to travel and spend time at the cabin.*

What would be your advice for people just starting their careers with the Corps? *Learn how your job fits in with the bigger picture of what the St. Paul District does and don't be afraid to ask questions. Also get to know your coworkers and enjoy those relationships.*

