

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Mark N. Templeton, Director

www.dnr.mo.gov

AUG 11 2009

Mr. Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Department of the Army
Memphis District Corps of Engineers
167 North Main Street B-202
Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Dear Mr. Lambert:

In response to your letter dated June 4, 2009, the state of Missouri continues to endorse the implementation of the Lower Mississippi River Resources Assessment authorized in Section 402 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA 2000). The Department of Natural Resources has been an active member of the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee and supports developing the information required to properly manage the natural resources of the lower river.

The budget of the state of Missouri is facing significant challenges as a result of the current economic downturn. The Department of Natural Resources would be supportive of capturing any in-kind efforts that can contribute towards achieving the non-federal match goals for the project. However, the Department of Natural Resources is unable to commit specific funds to the Lower Mississippi River Resources Assessment at this time.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the planning process, and we look forward to participating in future studies and working cooperatively with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the states of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Mark N. Templeton
Director

MT:bhv

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



HAROLD LEGGETT, PH.D.
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 10, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA), concurs with its findings, and supports the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study. LDEQ is not currently able to commit funds to the LMRRA watershed study although it supports the project objectives.

Please contact Dugan Sabins in our Water Quality Assessment Division at 225-219-3553 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harold Leggett".

Harold Leggett, Ph. D.

c: Dugan Sabins



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Headquarters

2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180

Telephone: (573) 751-4115 ▲ Missouri Relay Center: 1-800-735-2966 (TTY)

JOHN D. HOSKINS, Director

July 24, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
U.S. Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street B-202
Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Missouri Department of Conservation is pleased that the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA) is proceeding and we look forward to continued participation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the effort. We are always interested in initiatives that seek to enhance fish and wildlife resources and we believe the LMRRA and its future studies and projects will be invaluable in helping improve natural resource conditions within the project area.

My staff has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the LMRRA and we support its primary recommendation to proceed with a watershed study to further identify specific fish and wildlife resource opportunities, including improving opportunities for river related recreation along the river. We have general comments on the draft reconnaissance report and these will be provided to you directly by Ms. Janet Sternburg.

Your letter of June 4, 2009, requests cost share support for the LMRRA and the recommended watershed study. While we will probably be able to provide work in-kind services to help meet the cost share requirement of the recommended watershed study, unfortunately we are unable to commit funds to the LMRRA watershed study at this time. Details on the work in-kind services we can provide cannot be identified until we learn more about the needs of the watershed study. We are interested in discussing this topic with you, and Ms. Sternburg will be your initial contact for these discussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the LMRRA and its future studies. We look forward to working with our federal, state and non-governmental organizational partners to improve fish and wildlife resources and river related recreational opportunities on the Lower Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. HOSKINS
DIRECTOR

COMMISSION

DON R. JOHNSON
Festus

CHIP McGEEHAN
Marshfield

LOWELL MOHLER
Jefferson City

BECKY L. PLATTNER
Grand Pass



Audubon

Mississippi River Field Institute
1208 Washington St.
Vicksburg, MS 39183
Ph. 601-661-6189
Fax 601-661-6364
www.mri.audubon.org

June 23, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis TN 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Mississippi River Field Institute of the National Audubon Society has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRAA). We concur with the report's findings and support the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

Audubon's Mississippi River Field Institute is interested in contributing \$10,000 worth of in-kind services toward the completion of the watershed study and will enter into negotiations with the Corps toward this end as appropriate.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Reid Bishop".

G. Reid Bishop, Ph.D.
Director, Mississippi River Field Institute



Audubon

Louisiana Coastal Initiative
6160 Perkins Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Ph. 225-768-0820
Fax 225-768-0821
www.lci.audubon.org

June 23, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis TN 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Louisiana Coastal Initiative of the National Audubon Society has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRAA). We concur with the report's findings and support the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

Audubon's Louisiana Coastal Initiative has already committed \$20,000 worth of in-kind services to the Redman Point-Loosahatchie Bar dike-notching project near Memphis, through a partnership with University of Memphis, Louisiana State University and Ohio State University to study wetland restoration and nutrient capture, among other things. We may be able to commit additional funds to the watershed study in the future and will maintain contact with your office as the study proceeds.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Paul Kemp".

G. Paul Kemp, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Louisiana Coastal Initiative



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

July 22, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Rm B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is currently unable to commit funds to the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA). However, IDNR does support the recommendation to proceed with the watershed study and would like to have the opportunity to review any subsequent reports.

The Mississippi River Basin drains 33% of the United States. Its importance to the Nation's economy and environmental health cannot be overstated. The Watershed Study for the Lower Mississippi River is critical to ultimately creating a sustainable Mississippi River system that provides for navigation while providing crucial habitat for wildlife and opportunities for recreation and tourism.

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Marc Miller
Director

July 22, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management
US Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 N. Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Nature Conservancy's Arkansas Field Office has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA), concurs with its findings, and strongly supports the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

The Nature Conservancy's Arkansas Field Office is not currently able to commit funds to the LMRRA watershed study although it strongly supports the project objective and understands that the Conservancy's Lower Mississippi River Program will lead efforts in partnering and contributing to the study and associated outcomes.

Please contact Matt Lindsey – Delta Project Manager for the Arkansas Field Office (mlindsey@tnc.org, 501-614-5087), should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Roger Mangham
Director of Conservation Programs
The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas Field Office



**TOURISM, ARTS, AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: (502) 564-3400
1-800-858-1549
Fax: (502) 564-0506
fw.ky.gov

Marcheta Sparrow
Secretary

Dr. Jonathan W. Gasset
Commissioner

July 21, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Rm B-202
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRAC), concurs with its findings, and supports the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

Our agency is not currently able to commit funds to the LMRRA watershed study although it supports the project objectives. Please keep us informed of any future plans regarding the proposed watershed study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Gasset".

Dr. Jonathan W. Gasset
Commissioner

JG/BTK/ss



Scott Henderson
Director

Mike Gibson
Deputy Director

Keeping the Natural State natural.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

David Goad
Deputy Director

Loren Hitchcock
Deputy Director

July 16, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Memphis District – USACE
167 North Main Street B-202
Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Subject: Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment

Dear Edward:

Your letter to Scott Henderson dated June 4, 2009, concerning the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA) Reconnaissance Report has been referred to me for reply.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission appreciated the opportunity to participate in the reconnaissance phase of planning for fish, wildlife and recreational resources in connection with the above subject Watershed Management Plan. We continue to be an active member of the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee and recognize the USACE as a very important partner in these efforts via the LMRRA.

Please be advised, we support project objectives particularly the development and management of fish and wildlife resources and other recreational opportunities along the Mississippi River, however, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is unable to commit funds to the LMRRA watershed study at this time.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the planning process and we look forward to participating in future studies and working cooperatively with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the states of Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Yours very truly,

Craig K. Uyeda, Chief
River Basins and Governmental Relations Division

CKU/kah

Cc: Mark Sattelberg, USFWS
Lower MS River Conservation Comm. Members

2 Natural Resources Drive • Little Rock, AR 72205 • www.agfc.com
Phone (800) 364-4263 • (501) 223-6300 • Fax (501) 223-6448

July 14, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management
US Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 N. Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Nature Conservancy's Kentucky Field Office has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA), concurs with its findings, and strongly supports the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

The Nature Conservancy's Kentucky Field Office is not currently able to commit funds to the LMRRA watershed study although it strongly supports the project objective and understands that the Conservancy's Lower Mississippi River Program will lead efforts in partnering and contributing to the study and associated outcomes.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Terry Cook
State Director

July 14, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management
US Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 N. Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Nature Conservancy's Mississippi's Field Office has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA), concurs with its findings, and strongly supports the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

The Nature Conservancy's Mississippi Field Office is not currently able to commit funds to the LMRRA watershed study although it strongly supports the project objective and understands that the Conservancy's Lower Mississippi River Program will lead efforts in partnering and contributing to the study and associated outcomes.

Please contact Stacey Shankle, Director of Conservation, at (601) 709-8077 or sshankle@tnc.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Jim Murrian
State Director

Our Mission

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

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July 10, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management
US Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 N. Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, TN 38103

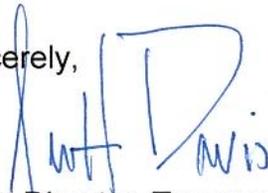
Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Nature Conservancy's Tennessee's Field Office has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA), concurs with its findings, and strongly supports the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

The Nature Conservancy's Tennessee Field Office is not currently able to commit funds to the LMRRA watershed study although it strongly supports the project objective and understands that the Conservancy's Lower Mississippi River Program will lead efforts in partnering and contributing to the study and associated outcomes.

Please contact either myself or Gina Hancock (Associate State Director) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



State Director, Tennessee Field Office



Lower Mississippi River Program
601 N. University Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72205

tel [501] 614-5077
fax [501] 663-8332
nature.org/greatrivers

July 9, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management
US Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 N. Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Nature Conservancy's Lower Mississippi River Program has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA), concurs with its findings, and strongly supports the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

The Nature Conservancy is interested in contributing approximately fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in in-kind services through our existing Scientific Partnership Agreement between our two organizations and will enter into negotiations concerning a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement and Project Management Plan upon the approval of the reconnaissance study by HQUSACE.

Please contact Lee Moore (501-614-5077, lmoore@tnc.org), should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lee Moore

Lower Mississippi River Program Director



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0435

JAMES H. FYKE
COMMISSIONER

PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR

July 1, 2009

Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Department of the Army
Memphis District Corps of Engineers
167 North Main Street B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894

RE: Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment

Dear Mr. Lambert:

Your letter of June 4, 2009, asked for a statement from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) regarding our interest and ability to participate in the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment.

TDEC remains committed to conservation efforts on the lower Mississippi, and we see the assessment to be a good opportunity to advance that objective. At this time, however, budget considerations do not allow us to responsibly make any financial commitment to the project. We would be pleased to discuss opportunities for us to contribute in other ways.

TDEC's contact for this project will be our LMRCC Representative, Paul Davis. He can be reached at 615-532-0632 or paul.estill.davis@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Sloan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul L. Sloan
Deputy Commissioner

PLS/ped

cc: Paul Davis
Jennifer Watson



291 Kenilworth Place
Memphis, TN 38112
Phone: 901.278.8459
Fax: 901.725.5240
dianathreadgill@comcast.net
www.msrivertn.org

June 29, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Rm B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert,

The Mississippi River Corridor – Tennessee (MRCT) has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA) and wholeheartedly agrees with its findings. We support the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

The MRCT mission is to identify, conserve and interpret the region's natural, cultural and scenic resources to improve the quality of life and prosperity in west Tennessee. We believe the pending watershed study will make a positive impact on the many tributaries, watersheds and land areas that are natural branches of our great Mississippi River – particularly in the areas of restoration, water quality and environmental conservation.

The MRCT is currently involved in the creation of a new budget for 2009/10 as June 30th is our year end. We are a small non-profit organization with a lean budget but we hope to contribute at least \$ 2000 to the watershed study. We will also help with in-kind services by providing public outreach educational materials or marketing expertise as needed. We hope that you will proceed with the proposed watershed study which is long overdue and will provide a much needed resource in our restoration efforts for the Mississippi River.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Diana Threadgill'.

Diana Threadgill
Executive Director



Mississippi River Initiative
2620 Forum Blvd. C-1
Columbia, Missouri 65203

June 23, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Rm B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

Audubon has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA), concurs with its findings, and supports the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

Audubon is interested in contributing \$50,000 in in-kind service (and will enter into negotiations concerning a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement and Project Management Plan upon the approval of the reconnaissance by HQUSACE).

Please contact Kevin Pierson should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin Pierson
Regional Conservation Director

501-244-2229
kpierson@audubon.org
mri.audubon.org



Audubon

Lower Mississippi River Program Office
1208 Washington St.
Vicksburg, MS 39183
Ph. 601-661-6189
Fax 601-661-6364
www.mri.audubon.org

June 23, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis TN 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Lower Mississippi River Program Office of the National Audubon Society has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRAA). We concur with the report's findings and support the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

Audubon's Lower Mississippi River Program Office is interested in contributing \$15,000 worth of in-kind services toward the completion of the watershed study and will enter into negotiations with the Corps toward this end as appropriate.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Reid".

Bruce Reid
Director, Lower Mississippi River Program Office



STRAWBERRY PLAINS **Audubon** CENTER

285 Plains Road
Holly Springs, MS 38635
Ph. 662-252-1155
Fax 662-252-8844

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Rm B-202
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, operating under Audubon Mississippi, has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA), concurs with its findings, and supports the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

Strawberry Plains Audubon Center/ Audubon Mississippi is not currently able to commit funds to the LMRRA watershed study although it supports the project objectives.

Sincerely,

Bubba Hubbard
Director, Strawberry Plains Audubon Center

**Lower Mississippi River
Subbasin Committee on Hypoxia
Room 1143
Energy, Coast, & Environment Building
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La 70803**

June 19, 2009

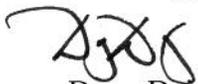
Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District
167 North Main St., Rm B-202
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert,

Thank you for your letter of 6/4/09 regarding the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA.)

The Lower Mississippi River Subbasin Committee on Hypoxia supports the project and the recommendation to proceed with the LMRAA watershed study. While we cannot commit funds assist the LMRRA, we are glad to participate in any way we can, such as review of drafts or other collaboration, and to have our participation count as in-kind assistance.

Sincerely,



Doug Daigle
Coordinator
504-258-7028 (cell)



**MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS**

Sam Polles, Ph.D.
Executive Director

June 17, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Rm B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

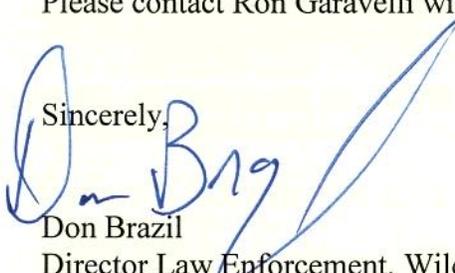
Dear Mr. Lambert:

Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA), concurs with its findings, and supports the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study.

MDWFP is not currently able to commit funds to the LMRRA watershed study although it supports the project objective.

Please contact Ron Garavelli with our agency (601)432-2200 should you have any questions

Sincerely,


Don Brazil

Director Law Enforcement, Wildlife and Fisheries

ADEQ

ARKANSAS
Department of Environmental Quality

July 14, 2009

Mr. Edward Lambert
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division
U.S. Army corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Rm B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has reviewed the draft reconnaissance report for the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA), concurs with its findings, and supports the recommendation to proceed to the watershed study. As a member of the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee, ADEQ has been working towards developing and capitalizing on the numerous social, economic, and environmental benefits of the lower Mississippi River. Implementation and completion of the LMRAA is the next step in this process.

At this time ADEQ is not currently able to commit monetary funds to the LMRAA, but is committed in supporting and participating in the study through in kind services whenever possible. Please contact Mr. Jim Wise, (501)-682-0663, if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,



Ryan Benefield, P.E.
Deputy Director

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Executive Vice President

HON. EDWARD WHITFIELD
President

HON. MIKE ROSS
First Vice President

Vice Presidents

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Tennessee

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1196 POPLAR VIEW LANE SOUTH, SUITE THREE TELEPHONE 901/861-9918 FAX 901/861-9919 COLLIERVILLE, TENNESSEE 38017
E-MAIL: lmvfca@bellsouth.net

EARL MATHERNE
Louisiana

Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association

DEDICATED TO FLOOD CONTROL • BANK STABILIZATION • DRAINAGE • NAVIGATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9 June 2009

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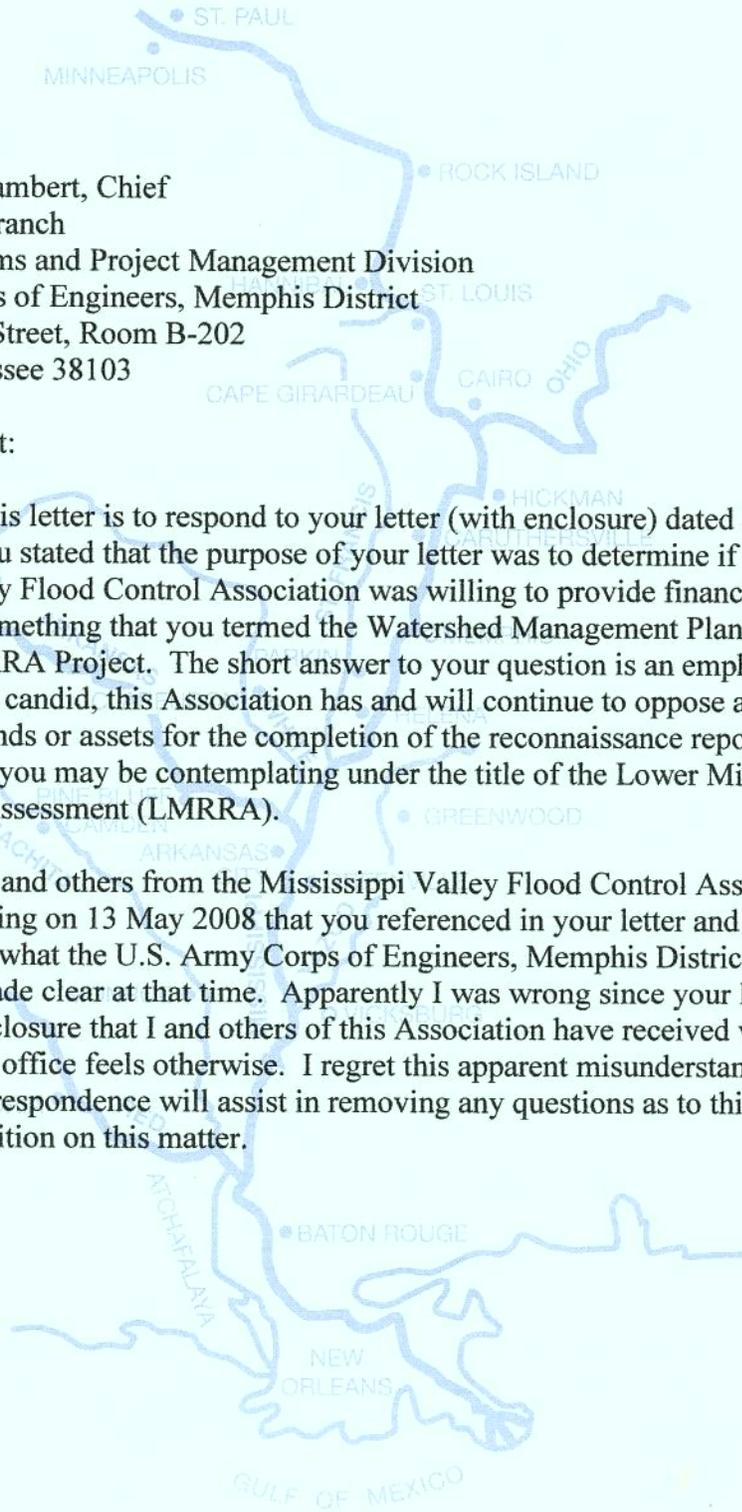
ED PREAU
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
REYNOLD MINSKY
Lake Providence, Louisiana

Mr. Edward P. Lambert, Chief
Environmental Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management Division
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your letter (with enclosure) dated June 4, 2009 in which you stated that the purpose of your letter was to determine if the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association was willing to provide financial support for developing something that you termed the Watershed Management Plan for the Section 402 LMRRA Project. The short answer to your question is an emphatic NO. To continue to be candid, this Association has and will continue to oppose any further expenditure of funds or assets for the completion of the reconnaissance report or any other studies that you may be contemplating under the title of the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA).

The undersigned, and others from the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association, attended the meeting on 13 May 2008 that you referenced in your letter and I felt that our opposition to what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, was proposing was made clear at that time. Apparently I was wrong since your letter and especially the Enclosure that I and others of this Association have received would indicate that your office feels otherwise. I regret this apparent misunderstanding but hope that this correspondence will assist in removing any questions as to this Association's position on this matter.



Mr. Edward P. Lambert
9 June 2009

Page Two

One of our objections to what this proposed study will surely recommend is additional recreational activities on the Lower Mississippi River. This, to we people that have spent many years closely associated with the River, is a Safety Problem that could become extreme in its consequences. I've posted here for your information two headlines from two separate publications that I noticed this last week. I think these headlines are self-explanatory and help to explain the inherit dangers associated with the Lower Mississippi River.

Five Dead After Fishing Boat Strikes Barge

Two Lost In River In Separate Incidents

One of five Objectives contained in the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association states in part that we are concerned with assuring the integrity of the Main River Levee System. Knowing how much a large segment of our population seems to enjoy running their ATV's and Four Wheelers up and down the Levee Slope, especially when the Levee is wet or, better for their pleasure, saturated, your recommendations would make the assuring of the integrity of the Main River Levee System much more difficult if not impossible.

The last of our five Objectives states: "To cooperate in every proper way with the Department of the Army, the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army, the Mississippi River Commission and other agencies to hasten the accomplishment of flood control in the Mississippi Valley." Please be assured that this cooperation, that began in 1922, shall continue. We are not aware of anything in your proposed study that will assist to hasten the accomplishment of flood control in the Mississippi Valley nor will there be any improvements made for Commercial Navigation on the River, another one of our Objectives.

Mr. Lambert, if I or this Association can ever be of assistance to you or the Environmental Branch of the Memphis District, please let me know.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant,



George C. Gruett
Executive Vice President

Gipson, Leighann C MVM

From: Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association [lmvfca@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 2:13 PM
To: Gipson, Leighann C MVM
Cc: St. Francis Levee District of Ark.; Larry Dowdy
Subject: FW: Comments on the LMRRA draft report

The purpose of this e-mail is to again respond to your request for comments on the LMRRA draft report.

Before offering comments, please note that this Association again objects to the short period of time allowed for comments. It apparently takes months or even years to prepare a draft report and only scant days to offer comments. This does not give even an indication of a level playing field. Please note this objection and attempt to remedy this avoidable situation. Thank You.

Due to the short response period offered, the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association, representing over 140 Organizational Members, request that their earlier response by letter to Mr. Edward P. Lambert, Chief, Environmental Branch, dated 9 June 2009 be, in its entirety, made a part of this response.

In addition to comments contained in the above referenced letter, an addition comment follows:

In the paragraph proceeding 5.1.2 General Information for the Red River Basin, your draft report states: "Approximately 1,678 miles of levees along the LMR have disconnected it from 90% of its historic 25.4 million-acre floodplain." Due to the tenor and tone of your overall report this gives the strong indication that this is a bad situation. What your report does not address is the 15 Million plus Citizens of these United States that live, work, own property, raise their families, pay their taxes, etc. in this historic 25.4 million-acre floodplain. The levees, sections of which have been in place since the early 1700s, do not "disconnect" but do in fact make it possible for those Citizens and their families to live in that historic floodplain that contains approximately 15% of all the productive land on this Planet. It is in fact, by some expert opinions, the most productive land on this Planet. The LMRRA report, when it treats this Valley at all, treats it as an undesirable "wasteland" that either needs to be evacuated of human habitation and all homes, churches, hospitals, schools and all other Commercial buildings and other structures elevated above the flood waters. It makes no mention as to desirable places for the Citizens to relocate. Perhaps this was just an oversight.

Due to the time restraint, I will offer no further comments at this time. On behalf of all the Citizens of this Great Nation, I would request that you pay special attention to our earlier comments concerning the inherent dangers involved with so-called "recreation" on the Lower Mississippi River.

We will, when the time is appropriate, request of our elected Representatives in Washington that they give consideration to the purposes and anticipated end-results of this report before appropriating any further funding. I can not over emphasis our opposition to the continuation of this report.

Very Respectfully,
George C. Grugett
Executive Vice President
Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association

-----Original Message-----

From: Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association [mailto:lmvfca@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 12:55 PM
To: lmvfca@bellsouth.net
Subject: FW: Comments on the LMRRA draft report

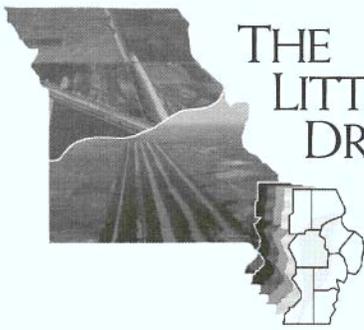
-----Original Message-----

From: Gipson, Leighann C MVM [mailto:Leighann.C.Gipson@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 9:07 AM
To: Angela Moore; BillH@arkansasheritage.org;
billsheppard1@bellsouth.net; bryan.hopkins@dnr.mo.gov;
cindy@arkansasheritage.org; ckuyeda@agfc.state.ar.us; David Salyers;
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Daniel Kroes; Dave Freiwald; David Shaver; Doug Slabaugh; Hanna Ford;
Helen Whiffen; Jane Benson; Jason Dugas; Jeremy Johnson; Jerry Daigle;
Jim Besley; John Dewitz; Kim Harris; Kimbery Eldridge; Krista
Karstensen; Larry Handley; Ray Fox; Robert Kissell; Ryan Theel; Shelley
Silch; Stephen Faulkner; Tom Kilpatrick
Subject: Comments on the LMRRA draft report

The comment period on the draft recon report has been extended to COB on
24
July 2009.

Thanks,
Leighann Gipson
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District
167 North Main Street
Rm B-202
Memphis, TN 39103

Office: 901-544-4015
Fax: 901-544-3955
Email: leighann.c.gipson@usace.army.mil



THE LITTLE RIVER DRAINAGE DISTRICT

FLOOD CONTROL & DRAINAGE
SINCE — 1907

June 18, 2009

Mr. Edward P. Lambert, Chief Environmental Branch
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 North Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Lambert:

I am in receipt of your letter dated June 04, 2009 whereby you are soliciting financial resources from this District as well as other entities to assist in defraying the cost of completing a project reconnaissance report on the Lower Mississippi River for a resources assessment.

This District is not supportive in anyway for providing any funding from its treasuries for such a study and we are opposed to the federal treasury using any funds for such an asinine endeavor.

The Mississippi River and its tributaries throughout this nation is one (1) of the greatest resources the nation has. Its primary function is for NAVIGATION, COMMERCE AND FLOOD CONTROL NOT RECREATION. Countless lives are lost each year by people who do not respect the dangers of the major rivers such as the Mississippi River. Just recently five (5) people were killed in a fishing boat after being struck by a barge and tow. Also, at least two (2) other lives were recently lost in the river due to the lack of respect for the towing industry in two (2) separate incidents. Does the Corps desire more loss of lives by putting more such users on this resource?

One (1) of the objectives of this District is to cooperate with local, state and federal agencies to complete the levee and flood control protection system on the MR&T authorized by Congress after the 1927 flood. We do not see anything being proposed from the study you have requested funds for that will assist us in accomplishing or hastening the completion of that authorized project. Therefore, feel rest assured this District will not provide any funding for the reconnaissance being proposed and we will likewise advise and request our congressional and senatorial members to not authorize any expenditures of the federal treasury for such an effort.

If the Corps will return back to their mission, which Congress authorized them to do, we will gladly support them in their efforts as long as they are in the best interest of this nation and the objective of providing flood control and a modern navigation system on the Mississippi River and all of its navigable tributaries.

Yours,

Larry D. Dowdy

LDD:ln

cc: Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson
United States House of Representatives (Missouri)

Congressman Marion Berry
United States House of Representatives (Arkansas)

Mr. George Grugett, Executive Vice President
Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association

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Mr. Rob Rash., COE
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Mr. Dustin Boatwright, Assistant Chief Engineer
The Little River Drainage District