

Crosscurrents

Serving the St. Paul District since 1977

Winter 2019/2020 | Vol. 45, No. 3

Revolutionizing Civil Works

-Improving dredged material
management planning

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



(Cover) Zach Kimmel, St. Paul District channel coordinator, addresses a group of people during a public meeting at the Cottage Grove City Hall in Cottage Grove, Minnesota, Dec. 9. The meeting was on the district's draft dredged material management plan for the Upper Mississippi River's Pool 2.

Photo by Patrick Moes



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Articles and photography submissions are welcome and must arrive by the 15th day of the publishing month for consideration. Submissions can be mailed or emailed. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format for all written copy and photos should be no smaller than a 5 x 7 at 300 dpi.

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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Catch up on all of the past
Crosscurrents issues online at:

<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Media/Crosscurrents/>



Don't Scan Your CAC!

CAC Scan, a free application for Android devices, was recently released on Google Play. With it, users could scan the barcode on the front of Common Access Cards (CAC), which contain some personally identifiable information (PII) such as the name, social security number, rank, and DoD ID number of the CAC cardholder.

DO NOT download or use any application designed to read the barcode, magnetic strip, or integrated circuit chip on your CAC. The application could be sending your PII to people you don't want to send your PII to!

Neither CAC Scan nor any other CAC reader application available for download via an app store are sponsored or endorsed by the Department of the Army.



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Comments From The Top: A message from Col. Jansen

Since arriving to the St. Paul District in July, my primary goal has been to understand – our history, people, organization, mission and external factors. Aside from many in-briefs at the district office, I've hit the road to meet our staff in nearly all of our 41 separate locations and a wide range of external partners and stakeholders. I'm simply amazed at the caliber of our people and the diversity of mission areas we are involved with in support of our fellow citizens.

Of particular note, I applaud the extraordinary efforts of our district in response to historic and prolonged high-water levels across the region. To establish and sustain safe and efficient navigation during the season, our multidisciplinary team demonstrated extraordinary ingenuity, collaboration and agility in conjunction with interagency and industry partners. Well done!

A critical part of my initial unit assessment was reviewing the thoughtful feedback in our EEO climate survey, our ARAP safety survey and our Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. We were proud to earn the distinction as one of the Corps of Engineers "Best

Places to Work" for the fifth year in a row based on overall job satisfaction, confidence in the organization and willingness to recommend St. Paul District as a good place of employment!

Based on all of the feedback, data analysis and subsequent dialog, I'm confident that we have a positive work environment rooted in supportive teamwork and built upon a proud legacy of accomplishments. We can always 'raise the bar' as we aspire to maintain a world-class workplace, so this year we'll focus on sharpening leader effectiveness and enhancing our organizational processes. These areas align with the regional command philosophy of "Building Strong and Taking Care of People through D.R.I.V.E.," which Maj. Gen. Mark Toy, Mississippi Valley Division commander, explained during his district visit in October.

Also in October, our district conducted numerous bottom-up after action reviews to reflect on our Fiscal Year 2019 program and project delivery successes and setbacks. These AARs informed subsequent discussions leading to some process adjustments we'll make in Fiscal Year 2020. In simple

terms, we will invest in 'getting the basics right' in the areas of resource-informed schedules, resource provider integration and synchronization; Project Delivery Business Process education and application; change management; and timely, thorough and value-added reviews. Emphasizing these areas this year will help posture us for streamlined and enhanced delivery in subsequent years.

Looking forward, a cross-section of district leaders will gather in early January for a Strategic Governance Meeting. The purpose of this year's SGM is to form a unifying theme for our diverse district, establish long-term goals based on forecasted changes in our operating environment and identify the first steps we need to take in the coming year to advance in this direction. We will not be starting from scratch; many great change initiatives are already underway and these will pass forward. The important thing is that we align our initiatives under a common vision and guiding principles with a logical flow towards a future desired state.

This Holiday Season, the St. Paul District has much to be proud of ...



from an impeccable safety record to an impressive list of achievements in all business lines and to countless examples of our teammates stepping-up for our noble purpose mission and for one another. Wishing everyone in our extended St. Paul District family a very safe and enjoyable holiday season, and looking forward to a terrific 2020!

Thanks for all you do!



Duane Perkins, engineering and construction left; Terry Williams, project management; and Maj. Gen. Mark Toy, Mississippi Valley Division commander, view a map of the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area Flood Risk Management Project in Fargo, North Dakota, Oct. 16. USACE photo by Shannon Bauer



The Honorable R. D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, addresses the press after a meeting with the Flood Diversion Authority at Fargo City Hall in Fargo, North Dakota, Nov. 1. Behind him are Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney, left, North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum. USACE photo by Shannon Bauer

Senior leaders visit district

Story by Shannon Bauer

The St. Paul District saw two distinguished visitors this past fall. Both leaders toured the diversion inlet structure being built by the district as a part of the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area Flood Risk Management Project in Fargo, North Dakota, and both met with community leaders and project partners while visiting.

Maj. Gen. Mark Toy, commanding general of the Mississippi Valley Division, was the first to visit, stopping in Fargo, North Dakota, and then at the district's headquarters, Oct. 16-17. He was followed by

The Honorable R.D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, visiting Fargo Nov. 1.

Toy assumed command of the Mississippi Valley Division in July 2019. This was his first visit to the St. Paul District since taking command. While visiting the district office, he briefed employees on his command philosophy and met with the district's senior leaders and leadership development participants. He took the opportunity to recognize superior performances by presenting division coins to Jeff Becker, security;

Lee Ann Glomski, planning; Roberta Just, operations; Duane Perkins, engineering and construction; and Michelle Prosser, project management.

This was the first visit to Fargo by Secretary James, as well. Kevin Wilson, deputy district engineer, said, "I think his visit was very beneficial. His message to the sponsor was on target. And overall, Mr. James walked away with a much better understanding of the project and what it means to the cities of Fargo and Moorhead."

Revolutionizing water resource management

Story by Melanie Peterson

A St. Paul District team is working to becoming a national center of expertise for integrated water resource management, or IWRM.

Spearheaded by Sierra Keenan, planning, and Nate Campbell, project management, the team is working to fill a gap of formalized knowledge and expertise.

Integrated water resource management is a way to approach planning. The approach looks at the big picture of a watershed. Instead of costly temporary fixes, this watershed-view provides solutions to the larger problems.

“Delivering sustainable water resource solutions

through IWRM is the number one goal of the Corps’ Civil Works Strategic Plan 2014-2018,” said Campbell. “We want the St. Paul District to lead the charge and become experts to provide support nationally.”

The 14-person team includes people from across the Upper Mississippi River – St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis districts. Campbell said, the St. Paul District already uses IWRM but forming this team is a way to give a name and structure to the approach.

The goal is to serve as a delivery team for the IWRM approach when another district is unable to within their civil works boundaries, he explained.

Additionally, the team aims to serve as the lead for agency technical review of IWRM-related reports.

“There currently is no go-to cadre of individuals who have experience in watershed planning who are agency technical review certified who could mentor and provide leadership on watershed studies across the Corps,” said Keenan.

In addition to specifically authorized watershed studies, the team has been able to incorporate their IWRM efforts into other existing program authorities. Under planning assistance to states, the team has



Nate Campbell, project management, talks about the Corps’ missions with a member of the public during an open house aboard the Motor Vessel Mississippi in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota, in 2016. USACE photo by Patrick Moes



Sierra Keenan, planning, is helping lead a team focused on becoming national experts in watershed planning. Courtesy photo

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coordinated with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to provide support for the state's 'One Watershed, One Plan' (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan>) program, which requires each watershed in Minnesota to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan that incorporates data collection and input from stakeholders, agencies and citizens. Support to the state has included hydraulic/hydrologic modeling, a GIS-based approach to wetland restoration and development of a strategic framework for stakeholder engagement.

The team is coordinating their first tribal watershed assessment, which will be the first of its kind in the Mississippi Valley Division. Keenan said, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians had an interest in restoring Lac Courte Oreilles Lake in Sawyer County, Wisconsin.

"As we coordinated with the Tribe, it became clear that doing a site-specific restoration project may not be possible because of where the boundary of tribal land fell," she said. "Through continued discussion with the tribe, it came to



St. Paul District project managers Nate Campbell, center, and Angela Deen, right, discuss field conditions with a county official during a site visit. Courtesy photo

surface that they had an interest in a watershed study, which is something we have the authority to pursue under the tribal partnership program.

"The focus is still on restoration, but through a watershed assessment, we can better understand the system-wide problems and the larger-scale

objectives," she continued. "The conversation was originally focused on restoring habitat in a single bay on one part of the lake. With a watershed assessment, the team can look at drivers on a watershed scale instead of coming in with such a narrow focus."

The team is actively searching

for IWRM initiatives to participate in. Campbell said, "The end goal is for a regional IWRM team to be established, staffed and overseen in the St. Paul District. The vision is for the team to be efficiently executing IWRM studies for the region and providing support for the nation."

Planning for the Future: District seeks long-term dredging solutions

Story by Patrick Moes

The past three years have proved challenging for the St. Paul District's channels and harbors team.

As Mother Nature continues serving up records for volume of water, river flows and sediment, the team responsible for managing the Mississippi River's navigation channel from Minneapolis to Guttenberg, Iowa, is also

actively seeking permanent locations along the river to place the dredged material they remove from the mighty Mississippi River.

Paul Machajewski, St. Paul District dredged material manager for the Mississippi River, said he and his team have worked extensively with many of the Corps' federal, state and local partners to find permanent solutions to the district's real estate needs while also considering costs and the impacts to the environment. These considerations are known as the federal standard. Moreover, they are the guiding principles that help distinguish whether a locale is suitable for placing material or not. Machajewski said it's a balancing act of minimizing environmental impacts while ensuring the organization is being a good steward of tax dollars.

On average, the district removes approximately 1 million cubic yards of dredged material from the navigation channel every year. This is enough material to fill either U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis or Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Once the material is



Kevin Wilson, left, St. Paul District deputy district engineer, and Col Karl Jansen, St. Paul District commander, speak with citizens of Wabasha, Minnesota, following a public meeting in Wabasha Aug. 28. The district is currently revising a dredged material management plan for Pool 4 of the Upper Mississippi River. USACE photo by Emily Chavolla

removed from the navigation channel, it is placed on a temporary holding site, or island within the Mississippi River, or moved to a transfer site where it sits until it is moved again to a permanent placement site. Handling the material more than once is costly and reduces our resources that could be used to maintain the channel, said Machajewski. In addition to the increased costs, the current sites used to temporarily store the material lack capacity.

To solve the storage problem along

the Mighty Mississippi, the district is currently working on plans for Mississippi River pools 2, 4, 5 and 6. While the plans are at different stages on the timeline, the teams managing them are focused on finding solutions that can be realized at the local level, said Bob Edstrom, St. Paul District project manager responsible for the plans in Pools 4, 5 and 6. "Having the public involved early and often in

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Bob Edstrom, St. Paul District project manager, addresses the public during a meeting in Kellogg, Minnesota, Sept. 26. The district is nearing the completion of the dredged material management plan for Pool 5 and hope to have it complete early in 2020. USACE photo by Patrick Moes

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the process is critical,” said Edstrom. “Building those partnerships helps the communities understand what we are doing, why we are doing it and what it means to the nation.”

Edstrom emphasized the importance of working with the communities and said he finds value in seeking the input of community leaders. Working with communities such as the city of Wabasha, Minnesota, and Winona, Minnesota, have helped Edstrom and his team identify options that could have been missed without the communities’ input, said Edstrom.

The best example of working with the communities is the partnership the Corps has with the city of Wabasha, said Edstrom. Collectively, the Corps and city are working together to see if it’s feasible to have the city manage the permanent placement of dredged material within their community rather than the Corps. Known locally as the Section 217 agreement, the plan would allow the Corps to pay the city of Wabasha a tipping fee for their work, but it would afford the city more leverage where the material is placed, said Edstrom. He added that the agreement is still in the early stages, but he is optimistic that they can find a win-win solution for everyone involved.

The solution, if realized, would be a first for the district and one of the first in the nation. Edstrom said he was not aware of similar plan created for the management of dredged material on an

inland waterway such as the Mississippi River. The handful of locations where the agreement has been realized are all ports, said Edstrom. “We are truly revolutionizing the way we do business,” he said. “This agreement would save tax dollars while ensuring commerce continues moving on the Upper Mississippi River.”

In addition to saving tax dollars, Machajewski said the team has been working with its partners to find more opportunities for the beneficial use of the dredged material. The St. Paul District currently has around 10 sites located near the river where people can take the material for free. Machajewski said the material can be used for a variety of activities to include winter road maintenance, construction fill material, environmental habitat projects on the river and more. “We do our best to promote the free use of dredged material, but we often find

ourselves dredging up more material than people, or communities, need,” he said.

In an effort to drum up more awareness for the beneficial use of dredged material and to identify more options, district staff recently established a working group with a variety of partners within the region. Machajewski said Zach Kimmel, St. Paul District channel coordinator for the Mississippi River, is leading the district’s

effort to identify more options for the use of dredged material. Machajewski said it’s too soon to speculate on the potential outcomes of the working group, but he did say he’s excited about the possibilities.

“At the end of the day, it’s all about finding solutions and building partnerships,” concluded Edstrom. “We are working daily to revolutionize the way we plan and implement projects in the Upper Midwest.”



A St. Paul District project development team discusses a plan during a meeting at the district's office in St. Paul, Minnesota, Dec. 5. USACE photo by Patrick Moes

Revolutionizing Civil Works

Editorial Submitted by Revolutionize USACE Civil Works Team

Over the past two years, the Revolutionize U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Team, led by Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Major Gen. Scott Spellmon and the headquarters director of civil works, has made real progress toward accelerating project

execution, transforming budget and financing and improving permitting and regulatory processes. The image below shows the three main objectives of the Revolutionize USACE Civil Works Initiative. Collectively, the revolutionize efforts have already saved more than 16 years of time in project schedules,

accelerating delivery of projects across the nation.

While it will take time to fully realize the accomplishments of the Revolutionize USACE Civil Works, there have been significant improvements. Specifically, the Corps has delegated more than 20 decisions to appropriate

lower levels of the organization and begun implementing risk-informed decision-making. Decisions delegated so far pertain to feasibility study milestones, 408 permissions, design and construction deficiencies <\$500K and the establishment of a single policy and legal team for all planning studies

or budget decisions requiring action by the Chief of Engineers, among others.

During the past two years, the Corps has engaged civil works staff to gain insight into specific actions the Corps could implement to improve delivery. Staff have called for changes to the Continued Authorities Program to get smaller projects completed faster while still ensuring quality. Improvements to the development and processing of project partnership agreements were also highlighted as a need to accelerate project delivery. Recommendations to



OBJECTIVE 1: Accelerate Project Delivery

Goal: Start and finish
projects Faster



OBJECTIVE 2: Transform Project Financing & Budgeting

Goal: More efficient
project delivery using
alternative financing
tools and new
budgeting processes



OBJECTIVE 3: Improve Permitting & Regulation Reform

Goal: Streamlined
permit processes and
elimination of duplicative
reviews to expedite
delivery of projects



An aerial view of Fargo, North Dakota. The St. Paul District is currently working on a public, private partnership for the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Flood Risk Management Project. Courtesy photo

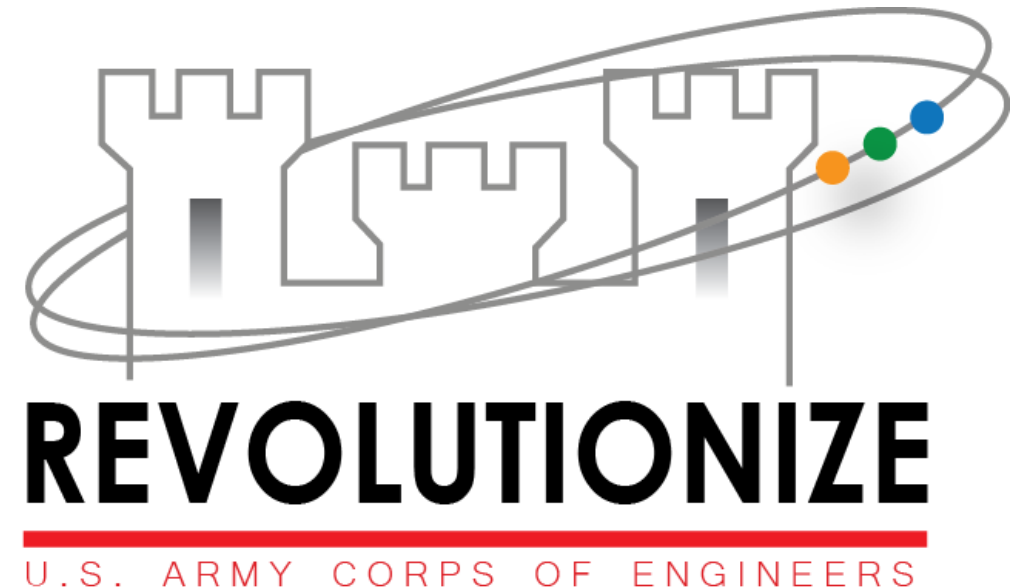
Story continued from Page 9

improve both these programs have been developed with field staff and are currently being worked with headquarters staff and leadership.

The Corps is breaking new ground by exploring innovative funding approaches to better address the significant infrastructure needs across the country. The Corps continues to develop its Private Public Partnership, or P3, program and, although in the early stages, has seen some success with the agency's first P3 in St. Paul District's Fargo, North Dakota/Moorhead, Minnesota, Metropolitan Area Flood Risk

Management Project. The Corps asked for public input in identifying additional P3 projects in January 2019 and will do so again in 2020. The agency is working to develop three additional projects, with the intention of finding innovative ways to deliver those projects. Districts are also encouraged to submit projects to be considered for the program. The Mississippi Valley Division P3 POC is Renee Turner. More information on the P3 Pilot Program can be found at: https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Infrastructure/Infra_P3_program/.

The Corps has been working to improve the regulatory process to expedite permit decisions while



protecting the environment. Changes have eliminated duplicative reviews, streamlined permitting for authorized civil works projects undertaken by non-federal interests and simplified Section 408 permissions for modifications to civil works projects. These efforts eliminated significant review time and have reduced pending 408 decisions by as much as 50 percent in many districts.

The Corps is committed to seeking input from our staff and partners. Partner webinars were held in December and more engagements are planned in 2020.

More information on Revolutionize USACE CW, including the slides from past webinars, can be found at: [https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-](https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Infrastructure/revolutionize/)

[Works/Infrastructure/revolutionize/](https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Infrastructure/revolutionize/).

Information specifically for Corps staff can be found on the internal SharePoint site at: <https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/HQ/PDT/II/default.aspx>. Interested staff can also reach out with questions by emailing CW.Infrastructure.Team@usace.army.mil.

Revolutionize USACE Civil Works would not be successful without the support and input we have received from Corps staff. Working together, we can revolutionize the Corps and accomplish critical projects more efficiently and effectively.

Connecting people via the cloud

Story by Melanie Peterson

The St. Paul District is part of an ongoing pilot program to increase network speeds at remote field sites. The Big Sandy Lake Dam and Recreation Area was one of six field sites across the nation that was recently upgraded to 4G wireless technology.

"Our internet speeds are increased

compared to the hardwired network

in our office. The

wireless connectivity

aspect of the 4G/5G

pilot testing even

helped keep us

online a few weeks

ago when the main

fiber optic cable

for our office was

damaged during

modernization

efforts," said Tammy

Frauenschuh, Big

Sandy Lake Dam and Recreation Area

site manager. "The phone system went

down, but we were still able to access

email and normal computer-based

functions," added Frauenschuh.

Leveraging cellular networks

to transition field sites to 4G and

eventually 5G will ensure the Corps is

ready and relevant for the challenges

of tomorrow, said Nick Glatz, St. Paul

District information technology chief.

"The Corps will remain a world class

organization that delivers the program

by improving network connections in

a world of increasing connectivity," he

said. "Additionally, this program can

lower costs so the Corps can continue

to be a good steward of taxpayer

money."

"The Corps will remain a world class organization that delivers the program by improving network connections in a world of increasing connectivity."

-Nick Glatz

information technology chief

Lack of

infrastructure and

services at many of

our field sites

means large scale

investments of

up to \$350,000

in a single year

for a single site,

said Glatz. He

added that around

200 additional

field sites have

been identified

for potential

4G upgrades. By partnering with

commercial providers and leveraging

cellular networks, the Corps is

positioned to benefit from the 5th

generation cellular evolution as it's

implemented across the country.

Utilizing 4G/5G capability will

revolutionize the way the Corps

communicates by increasing network

speeds and greatly reducing costs, said

Glatz.



A new communication network recently installed at Big Sandy Dam and Recreation Area, near McGregor, Minnesota, is helping the staff at the site by improving connectivity while also saving tax dollars. Courtesy photo

Cutting edge model set to improve project

Story by Patrick Moes

A team of engineers is actively working to develop solutions for the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area Flood Risk Management Project.

In doing so, the team recently partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineering Research and Development Center and their Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory. Together, the team of teams created a model of the Red River Diversion Inlet Structure

and are currently testing the model to identify areas where the engineers can improve the design, said Kevin Denn, St. Paul District hydraulic engineer and lead for the Red River of the North Inlet Structure's design. Denn said the project, once complete, will reduce the flood threats from the Red River of the North for approximately 230,000 people and more than 70 square miles of infrastructure in the Fargo, North Dakota

and Moorhead, Minnesota Metropolitan Area.

"It's critical to protect these people from flooding," said Denn. "They have a history of seeing high water and high flows. 1997, 2009 and 2011, were all large [flood] events, and we know there

are larger events out there that could happen."

To learn more about the Fargo-Moorhead Flood Risk Management Project model, visit our YouTube webpage at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZgSFzR7y44>



Kevin Denn, engineering and construction, discusses the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area Flood Risk Management Project during an interview at the district office in St. Paul, Minnesota, Dec. 11. USACE photo by Patrick Moes

[Click on the photo to watch the video on our YouTube channel](#)



Kevin Denn, engineering and construction, left, and Aaron Buesing, engineering and construction, run tests on the Fargo-Moorhead Flood Risk Management Project Red River Structure model at the Engineering Research and Development Center and their Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Courtesy photo

District celebrates 'MVPs' at winter awards ceremony

Story by Melanie Peterson

St. Paul District employees turned out to recognize their peer's accomplishments at the annual holiday awards ceremony in Jerome Hill Theater Dec. 13, 2019

In addition to individual recognition, groups across the district were recognized for their accomplishments. The team for the design of the

Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Wild Rice Structure was recognized with commander's awards and members of the Arcadia flood risk management project team received certificates of achievement.

After the awards ceremony, employees enjoyed a social hour at Galtier Theater, which featured a holiday

fashion face-off. Audience members voted on ugliest sweater, best dressed and most festive. The most festive award was a close call between mother-daughter duo Barb Griffin (Frosty the Snowman) and Colleen Whaley (Christmas Elf), with Colleen ultimately taking home the coveted title.



St. Paul District employees prepare for a friendly competition during the social hour. Courtesy photo



Colleen Whaley, regulatory, left, and her mother, Barb Griffin, executive office, pose for a festive photo during the district's annual winter holiday awards ceremony and party. Courtesy photo



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Recognizing our Employees of the Month: The MVPs of MVP



Kim Warshaw, *project management*

July



Paul Fleming, *engineering and construction*

August



Erin Krug, *engineering and construction*

September



Troy Frank, *operations*

October



Jill Johnson, *operations*

November



CROSSCURRENTS

NAVIGATION

Lockages

- ♦ Commercial: 15,593
- ♦ Recreational: 12,050
- ♦ Recreational Vessels: 26,336



Tons of commodities shipped through all district locks: 81,158,220



Cubic yards dredged: 1,087,703



CHANNELS AND HARBORS SURVEYS

Completed: 627

Acres: 43,000



SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook Followers: 14,206

Public website views: 3,316,517



Project Partnership Agreements executed: 5



Feasibility Studies Completed: 1 (Souris)



Revenue generated at our recreation sites: \$932,227



Volunteer hours worked at Northern Headwaters recreation sites: 7,961



Acres of mitigation for impacts to regulated waters: 3,412



CONTRACTING

- ♦ Actions: 591
- ♦ Small Business: 476
- ♦ Amount Spent: \$58,798,245



Freedom of Information Requests processed: 28



GALLONS OF FUEL USED



- ♦ E85 - 11,351
- ♦ Diesel: 6,702
- ♦ Unleaded - 48,262

Number of authorized impacts to regulated waters: 7,620



Acres of authorized impacts to regulated waters: 1,681



WETLAND MITIGATION BANKS



- ♦ Approved: 20
- ♦ Approved for sale: 948 credits

Lost-time injuries reported: 6



LEAN SIX SIGMA



Black Belts earned: 4

Green Belts earned: 4



Financial benefit for one year: \$298,482

Miles driven in GSA vehicles: 1,058,080



EMPLOYMENT

New hires to include temporary employees and students: 92



Retirements: 9



DEPLOYMENTS

Overseas: 4



Disaster Response: 116

Field site visits by ACE-IT employees: 36



Computer help desk tickets completed: 2,443

Budget (FY 2019): \$143.6 million





Kevin Baumgard, St. Paul District operations chief, left, receives the Bronze De Fleury Medal from Col. Karl Jansen, St. Paul District commander, during a ceremony at the district's office in St. Paul, Minnesota, Dec. 19. USACE photo by Emily Chavolla



The Motor Vessel Kelly Rae Erickson was the last tow to depart St. Paul, Minnesota. She was locked through Lock and Dam 2, near Hastings, Minnesota, Nov. 28. USACE photo by Chris Laine



Maj. Andrew Berreth, St. Paul District construction inspector receives his new shoulder straps from his family during a promotion ceremony Dec. 13. USACE photo by Emily Chavolla



Newly promoted Lt. Col. Patrick Sullivan, St. Paul District deputy commander, right, receives his new shoulder straps from his wife during a promotion ceremony at the district's office in St. Paul, Minnesota, Jan. 6. USACE photo by Emily Chavolla



The Dredge Goetz fleet returns home to Fountain City, Wisconsin. USACE photo by Mike Seibel

District prepares to retire MODA

The St. Paul District will retire its oracle digital assets database, also known as MODA, by the end of January.

The document management database manages local projects, documents and real estate data. It will migrate to the Real Estate and Project Engineering Repository, or REAPER, which manages data from the six-district Mississippi Valley Division that stretches from St. Paul, Minnesota, to New Orleans.

The new program will feature common access card, or CAC-enabled, security; an expanded search capacity

and a map file categorization system for more than 80,000 previously unscanned documents.

"REAPER will make engineering and project management more efficient by making map files easily available," said Keith LeClaire, geographic information systems chief. "People will no longer waste time searching for unscanned files."

The new system was created with the help of the New Orleans District, will be test run in the St. Paul District before implementation across the Corps of Engineers' 46 districts nationwide.



Staff from the St. Paul District, Outdoors Unlimited and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources volunteered to support another successful deer hunt at the Orwell Dam Wildlife Sanctuary in November. Courtesy photo



Courtney Kinnett, Big Sandy Lake Dam and Recreation Area park ranger, poses with a group of kids during a fur trader interpretive program in November. Courtesy photo



Winter maintenance has started at Locks 6, 8 and 9. The work is scheduled to be completed prior to the start of the 2020 navigation season. USACE photo by Brian Sipos

New hires and seasonal employees

Mark Angelo, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Janet Buchanan, biologist, planning, St. Louis
Farley Haase, hydrologic technician, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Jilliane Jaeger, attorney, office of counsel, St. Paul, Minnesota
Jesse Scott, hydrologic technician, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Michael Holzer, civil engineer, operations, lock and dams project office, Fountain City, Wisconsin
Anthony Kitchen, regulatory project manager, operations, Brookfield, Wisconsin
Andrew Serene, cabin attendant, operations Dredge Goetz, Fountain City, Wisconsin
Kulah Dukuly, human resources specialist, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, St. Paul, Minnesota
Nicholas Thorson, biologist, planning, Rock Island, Illinois
Denita Wesley, realty specialist, real estate, St. Paul, Minnesota
Steven Maki, student trainee, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Retirements

Kevin Baumgard, operations chief, Saint Paul, Minnesota, retired Dec. 31
Connie Gholson, human resource specialist, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Saint Paul, Minnesota retired Oct. 31
Tom Hingsberger, geologist, regulatory, Saint Paul, Minnesota, retired Dec. 31

Promotions

Jill Bathke, biologist, planning, St. Paul, Minnesota
Maj. Andrew Berreth, construction inspector, St. Paul, Minnesota
Christopher Behling, geotechnical and geology branch chief, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Nick Castellane, project manager, project management, St. Paul, Minnesota
Dalton Eide, marine machinery mechanic, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin
Cheryl Paulson, staff accountant, resource management, St. Paul, Minnesota
Melanie Peterson, public affairs, district office, St. Paul, Minnesota
Sam Smith, project manager, project management, St. Paul, Minnesota
Lt. Col. Patrick Sullivan, deputy district commander, St. Paul, Minnesota
Randall Urich, recreation and natural resources branch chief, operations, La Crescent, Minnesota

Taps



Kerrie Hauer, reg., regulatory, passed away Dec. 24. Services were held Jan. 3, at the Community Church of Hokah, Hokah, Minnesota.



Scott Bratten, engineering and construction, passed away Jan. 1. Services were held Jan. 8, at Shepherd of The Valley Church in Afton, Minnesota.