

Falls City Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District

November/December 2019

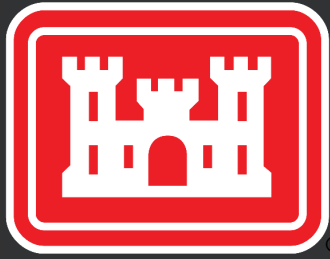
Volume 11, Issue 6

www.lrl.usace.army.mil



Division commander makes his
inaugural visit to the Louisville District





Falls City Engineer

Vol. 11, Issue 6

District Commander
Col. Antoinette Gant
Public Affairs Chief
Todd Hornback

Send articles to Louisville District
Public Affairs office at:
abby.n.korfhage@usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CELRL-PA
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Falls City Engineer is an unofficial publication under AR 360-1, published bimonthly for Louisville District employees and members of the public by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CELRL-PA, P.O. Box 59, Louisville, Ky. 40201-0059 under supervision of the Public Affairs Office. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the Corps of Engineers.



On the cover: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, tours the new Ireland Army Health Clinic Oct. 30, 2019. (USACE photo by Abby Korfhage)

Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Giving thanks and giving back are two of my favorite things to do especially during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. I love seeing the spirit of giving on the minds and hearts of many during this time. If I had a wish, it would be for it to be this way all year long. Speaking of giving thanks, I am truly thankful for the opportunity to lead such an amazing team. I am honored to serve alongside you in the Louisville District, which was just named as one of the best places to work within USACE. What a testament to the caliber of our workforce! We have much to be proud of which includes recognition of our Small Business Program. During the Society of Military Engineers Small Business Conference in Dallas, Texas, Louisville District, Small Business was recognized in several categories including second place by dollars for HUB-ZONE contracts, ranked number five in the USACE Small Business Program \$100 Million Dollar Club, and Supported Small Businesses with over 50% of the total dollars being awarded to small businesses for FY19. This is due to the efforts of our hard working small business deputy and the entire team that works to bring us quality small business contracts.

Over the last two months the district has participated in many engagements to strengthen our partnerships and programs so we can continue to deliver world-class engineering services across the nation. Additionally, in November the district's senior leaders held a strategic offsite to discuss upcoming challenges, opportunities for growth and what the Louisville District needs to do to remain one of the districts who are leading change in USACE. We stand poised to overcome new challenges in 2020 while successfully executing a \$1.5 billion workload by the end of the fiscal year.

I would encourage all of you to read through this issue of the Falls City Engineer to see all the great things the Louisville District is doing. Highlighted this month is our continued



Col. Antoinette Gant
*Commander and District Engineer
Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

partnership with the Metropolitan Sewer District to restore the ecosystem of the Beargrass Creek watershed, the environmental cleanup of Nike C-32, the ribbon cutting for the Fort Knox Middle School addition and a recap of the visit to our district by our Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle.

As we move into the holiday season I want to thank you for your dedication, loyalty and commitment. Remember to be safe while celebrating and enjoying time with family and friends. I am looking forward to accepting and meeting new challenges with you in the coming New Year.

Thanks again for all you do!

Building Strong! We are LOUISVILLE PROUD!

Antoinette R. Gant

Contents

Public meeting held for Beargrass Creek Ecosystem Restoration study	3
Fort Knox cuts ribbon on Middle School addition	4
Nike C-32 uses bio-soil mixing with zero valent iron to treat groundwater	5
Division commander make his inaugural visit to the Louisville District	6
Familiar face steps into new role as emergency operations chief	8

BUILDING STRONG®

Volume 11, Issue 6 2

Please conserve:
Think before you print.

Public meeting held for Beargrass Creek Ecosystem Restoration study



Louisville District employees Jake Allgeier, hydraulic engineer and Nate Moulder, community planner, discuss areas along the South Fork of Beargrass Creek with a community member during a public meeting held, Nov. 14, 2019, for the Three Forks of Beargrass Creek Ecosystem Restoration Study.

Katie Newton, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District and the local project sponsor, Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD), hosted a public meeting, Nov. 14, 2019, for the Three Forks of Beargrass Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.

Together, the Corps and MSD are working on a three-year comprehensive study to outline what is necessary to restore the ecological integrity of the Beargrass Creek watershed, which contains the South, Middle and Muddy forks. The study will identify innovative restoration techniques and engineering solutions that are

compatible with floodplain management to improve ecosystem structure, function and processes that have been lost over time.

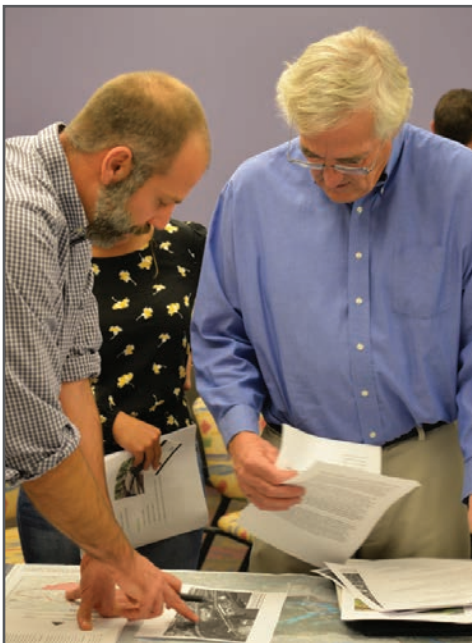
More than 50 people were in attendance to share recommendations for improvements to the watershed.

“That is why we’re here tonight, to hear your ideas and gain from the local knowledge and expertise that you can provide,” said Andrew Reed, Louisville District project manager. “The purpose is to give you the opportunity to tell us how you think we should solve this problem.”

Reed added that a multidisciplinary team of technical experts from the Corps and MSD including biologists, archaeologists, engineers, plan formulators, real estate specialists and economists will be using the public’s input as they work together to develop the ecosystem restoration plan.

Both organizations have committed up to \$1.5 million each for a total value of \$3 million to complete the study within the next three years.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our community so we’re happy to step up to the plate to make this happen,” said Erin Wagoner, project administrator with Louisville MSD.



Nate Moulder, Louisville District community planner, points out areas along the South Fork of Beargrass Creek during a public meeting held, Nov. 14, 2019, for the Three Forks of Beargrass Creek Ecosystem Restoration Study.



Amy Babey, chief, Civil Works Planning, Programs, and Project Management talks with a member of the public about ideas for improving the Beargrass Creek Watershed during a public meeting held in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 14, 2019.

Fort Knox cuts ribbon on Middle School addition

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

Faculty, students and community members were in attendance as the new Fort Knox Middle School celebrated its official dedication with a ribbon cutting ceremony held at the facility Oct. 29, 2019. The new addition includes a 44,600 sq. ft. middle school adjacent to the already existing Fort Knox High School.

Several Louisville District personnel had a hand in this project's success including Ben Evans, project manager and Cole Gehlhausen, project engineer. The district's furniture team was also involved as they procured and oversaw the installation of furniture in the new annex and portions of the existing high school.

"It took great teamwork from DoDEA (Department of Defense Education Activity), USACE, the Army and the Ft. Knox community to complete this project and I'm proud of the hard work that was given to see this challenging project through," Evans said. "I take great pride in being part of such a wonderful team that provides a lasting impact to support the education of the youth. This project is another example of the bond between DoDEA and USACE that will remain and continued to be strengthened."

The new \$23 million addition included



U.S. Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox Commanding General Maj. Gen. John Evans gives remarks at the Fort Knox Middle School ribbon cutting ceremony at Fort Knox, Oct. 29, 2019.

Ben Evans

a junior ROTC center, special education facilities, occupational and physical therapy rooms, band and choir areas and a fine arts center.

"We have another new school at Fort Knox currently in design, and I look

forward to working with the DoDEA and Garrison personnel again," Gehlhausen said. "We will be able to use the 'lessons learned' on the Fort Knox Middle School addition for future DoDEA construction."

show
Some
Love

**We can have
a BIG impact**

<https://www.iksocfc.org>

*Together we have a collective impact,
supporting the thousands of charities
that depend on our generosity.*

Nike C-32 uses bio-soil mixing with zero valent iron to treat groundwater



Katie Newton

USACE contractors, CH2MHILL, conduct sampling at the Nike C-32 site in September 2012.

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District recently used a bio-soil mixing technology to treat groundwater at the former Nike C-32 Missile Site in Porter County, Indiana.

The Department of Defense acquired the site in 1956 and used it as an Ajax missile battery through 1959, and as a Hercules missile battery from 1959 until the site was deactivated in 1974. The Nike site operated to protect the city of Chicago from any possible invading attacks. Although the Nike C-32 site never launched a missile, it employed nearly 30 personnel who worked on-site and were prepared in case of an attack. Unfortunately, many types of degreasers, such as trichloroethylene, also referred to as TCE, used for cleaning the parts for the missile silos infiltrated into the ground and contaminated the groundwater.

The U.S. Army is responsible for environmental restoration of all properties that were formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the United States and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense. The Corps has the responsibility to investigate and clean up these sites nationwide.

“The Corps has been working on the Nike C-32 FUDS site for several years conducting the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study,” said Clayton Hayes, Louisville District project manager. “Which led to the recently completed remedial action that effectively reduced groundwater

contaminate levels below the maximum allowable concentration limit.”

The innovative technology involved mixing soil with zero valent iron, also referred to as ZVI.

“A pilot test was performed during the feasibility study phase in September 2014 to evaluate the effectiveness of soil mixing with ZVI and demonstrated effectiveness in reducing of groundwater contaminate levels,” said Brooks Evens, Louisville District technical manager for the project. “A rotary blender mounted on a hydraulic excavator was used for the mixing operation.”



A contract worker uses an excavator to mix the soil in cell 6 at the Nike C-32 project site in Porter County, Indiana, Sept. 18, 2019.

USACE

It was determined during this phase that removal of source contamination (soil removal) and treatment of the groundwater would be the most effective remedial action to close the site quickly.

“The Army could have chosen to just monitor the site but reducing the TCE to below Maximum Contaminate Levels, or MCL (EPA clean-up goals), would have taken over 500 years and cost more than being proactive in remedial treatment,” Evens said. “So the Army determined this to be the best alternative to treat the contamination.”

The remedial action for the project removed the upper 8-feet of soil which was determined to be clean and then it was stockpiled. Soil from 8 to 24-feet was to be removed as contaminated soil.

“After the excavation, the contractor conducted bio-soil mixing by removing the upper 8-feet and then used an auger to mix the soil like a blender,” Evens said. “Once all data came back that the ZVI had been mixed to a 2-3 percent ratio by weight, the backfilling began.”

This effort took five weeks to complete, from site mobilization to preliminary site restoration.

The final restoration will occur in May 2020. The Army will begin long term monitoring in November of 2020 to ensure that the remedial action has been effective. After eight consecutive quarters of performance monitoring showing that cleanup goals have been met, the Army will close out the project at Nike C-32.

Division commander makes his inaugural visit to the Louisville District

Katie Newton & Abby Korfhage,
public affairs

Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, visited the Louisville District Oct. 29-31, 2019, as part of his effort to visit each of the seven districts which comprise the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. This marked Whittle's inaugural visit to the district since assuming command in July 2019.

His visit, which focused primarily on recognizing staff and touring key projects, began with a programmatic review briefing led by Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant and District Deputy Engineer Linda Murphy. Along with senior leaders, the pair provided Whittle with a snapshot look at the district's \$1.5 billion workload, the district's 1,100-strong workforce and the vast array of capabilities and expertise that the Louisville District offers.

"The Louisville District has a very good reputation," Whittle said. "That is a result of all of the hard work you all are doing."

Whittle added, "Your portfolio of projects and how your fingers are all over the region and the enterprise is amazing. I'm really proud of what you all are doing. I'm really excited to be here and meet everyone over the next couple of days."

Throughout his visit Whittle toured



Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, toured the new Ireland Army Health Clinic at Fort Knox during his visit Oct. 30, 2019.

Abby Korfhage

several offices in the Louisville District and recognized more than 25 employees with Commander's Coins for their outstanding contributions.

Whittle invited district employees to participate in a morning fun run/walk event across the Big Four Bridge over the Ohio River and along the city's waterfront. More than 25 participants showed up to complete the 2.7 mile run, or 1.5 mile walk, complete

with costumes and Halloween-inspired attire.

Following the run, the commanding general visited the Louisville District's Fort Knox office, where he met with district employees, was briefed on the district's Veterans Affairs projects and toured the new Ireland Army Health Clinic.

Louisville District Veterans Affairs Division Chief Matt Lowe presented Whittle with an update of the projects his team is currently working on, one being the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic at Fort Knox.

"Active duty members will receive care at the new health clinic we are about to tour," Lowe said. "And the CBOC, which is being built next to the clinic, will serve veterans."

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work in partnership on several projects across the U.S.

"Nothing speaks louder than when people are seeking out our help," Whittle said.

Maj. Gen. Whittle was impressed with the planning and construction progress of the new army health clinic which is scheduled to open in January 2020. While touring the new facility, Louisville District



Jack Sweeney

Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle, invited district employees to participate in a morning fun run/walk event across the Big Four Bridge over the Ohio River and along the city's waterfront Oct. 30, 2019.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Project Manager Capt. Diana Bojorquez explained there was only a one percent cost growth for the project.

"That is incredible," Whittle said in response.

To wrap-up his three-day visit to the district, Whittle visited McAlpine Locks and Dam and sat down with the district's Leadership Development Program participants to discuss principles of leadership.

"The truth is we all know something about leadership that we're going to teach each other," Whittle said to the group which went on to discuss key leadership characteristics such as listening skills, discipline and the importance of adaptation.

"Our best leaders are able to adapt," Whittle said challenging LDP participants to be flexible.



Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle receives a district overview from Louisville District senior leadership Oct. 29, 2019.

Katie Newton



Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, gives Louisville District chief, Plan Formulation Section, Matthew Schueler, a commander's coin during his visit Oct. 30, 2019. Several Louisville District employees received a Great Lakes and Ohio River Division commander's coin for all of their hard work.



Shawn Kenney, operations manager for locks and dam, gives a tour of McAlpine Locks and Dam to Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle.

Abby Korfage

Katie Newton



Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, meets with Louisville District Fort Knox Area Office employees Oct. 30, 2019.

Abby Korfage

Familiar face steps into new role as emergency operations chief



Jack Sweeney

Trish Oakes, public affairs

George Minges, a familiar face in the Louisville District, has been named the new chief of emergency operations bringing with him more than 16 years of experience in geotechnical, project management,

emergency management, environmental restoration, response, recovery and rehabilitation expertise following a disaster.

Minges has served in emergency management since 2012, but first began with the district in 2008. He started in the Geotechnical Engineering section where he worked on dams, levees, military and civil projects.

"I never thought I would be in emergency operations," said Minges. "I am a third generation engineer. My father was a civil engineer in disaster relief and flood control in Cincinnati, Ohio. My grandfather was an electrical engineer and land surveyor. One of my favorite memories of my father was watching him work in disaster relief."

His first round with emergency management happened in 2012 where he won the USACE Planner of the Year Award in 2013 for his efforts during the planning and execution of emergency response plans. In 2015, Minges joined Engineering Division's Environmental Branch, where he worked on Military Munitions Response

Program (MMRP) projects. For the last three years, Minges has been back in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as the emergency operations manager, deploying 24 different times in support of regional and national disasters such as 2017-2019 Louisville District Flooding and the 2013 Hurricane Sandy debris mission.

Minges has big goals for the emergency operations center. "One of my primary goals is making the branch accessible to all employees in the district," said Minges.

In his new role, Minges is responsible for managing and mitigating disaster relief. He provides consultation and assistance to the unique partnerships that we have with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) when a natural disaster occurs. In 2019 the district EOC assisted and deployed in support of seven different missions and deployed 61 personnel throughout the year for disasters such as Hurricane Dorian and Arkansas River Flooding. His office also provides assistance for the safe operations and maintenance of the district as a whole.

