

Draft Summary Minutes
Inland Waterways Users Board Meeting No. 50
October 13, 2005
Vancouver, WA

The meeting was called to order by Norman Edwards, Executive Secretary to the Board, at 9:00 AM. MG Don T. Riley, Executive Director of the Board welcomed everyone to the Pacific Northwest, noting that the Board has two new members, Gerald Jenkins of Ursa Farmers Cooperative and Deane Orr of Consolidation Coal Company. Unfortunately, neither was able to attend the meeting and they both sent their regrets. MG Riley thanked the navigation industry for their incredible support in the response to both Katrina and Rita. He then invited each of the Federal Observers to make a few remarks.

Alan Bunn of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration discussed the teamwork between his agency, the Corps, and the U.S. Navy following the recent hurricanes which enabled 7 ports to be cleared and reopened in a week. Richard Lolich, representing the Maritime Administration, expressed appreciation to the Corps and other federal agencies for their contributions to the Committee on the Marine Transportation System. Nick Marathon of the Department of Agriculture said that he appreciated the previous day's tour of the Columbia River waterway, and noted its importance to agricultural transport in the northwest.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley, Jr., on behalf of the President and the Secretary, expressed appreciation to the Board for its work and the contribution that it makes to the inland waterway system. He remarked that the recent hurricanes have been a tremendous challenge, and that both the agencies and the industry rose to the challenge and served the nation well, a tribute to the professionalism and dedication of the people on the Board and others in the navigation industry.

Board Chairman Gerald Brown thanked the Portland District and the Walla Walla District for arranging both the meeting and the Columbia River tour. Minutes of Meeting No. 49 were approved as written. A Prioritization Working Session was proposed for Chicago in early January. Members wishing to participate were asked to contact the Chairman.

David Grier presented a report on the Status of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund. Revenues have been down 5.8% so far this year, and transfers to the Corps have been up by 10.8%. Grain movements have been down 14% this year. Receipts this year have been the lowest level since 1993, due to fewer ton-miles and less long haul grain movements. The Trust Fund Analysis was basically unchanged from that presented at Meeting No. 49. Funding projects at capability levels would deplete the Trust Fund by 2008 or 2009.

Len Henry then presented a report on the FY 2005-2006 Funding for Inland Navigation Projects and Studies. The tables included FY 2005 information on reprogramming, as well as a cumulative history of funding for all Inland Waterways Trust Fund projects. Operation and Maintenance funding was also presented. These tables were discussed, and questions were raised about emergency repairs at Emsworth Dam, the lack of funding for Chickamauga Lock, and reprogramming of funds away from Inland Waterways Trust Fund projects. Mr. Henry emphasized that reprogramming only occurs when the funds cannot be expended in the current fiscal year for that project.

The following technical presentations were made:

- Safety Screening for Portfolio Risk Assessment by Andrew Harkness, Pittsburgh District, USACE
- Overview of Institute for Water Resources Economic Model Utilized for Lower Monumental Rehabilitation Project by David Moser, Institute for Water Resources, USACE
- Status of Lower Monumental Lock Rehabilitation Report and Snake River Maintenance Dredging by Gregory Graham, Walla Walla District, USACE
- John Day Lock Issues, Jetty Repairs at the Mouth of the Columbia, and Columbia River Channel Issues by Deborah Chenoweth, Portland District, USACE

No public comments were made at the meeting. In closing, Chairman Brown thanked the Portland and Walla Districts for their support. MG Riley expressed his great respect for the Board and thanked them for their work. Vice Chairman Norbert Whitlock thanked and complimented MG Riley and his team for their work on the Katrina recovery. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM by Chairman Gerald Brown.