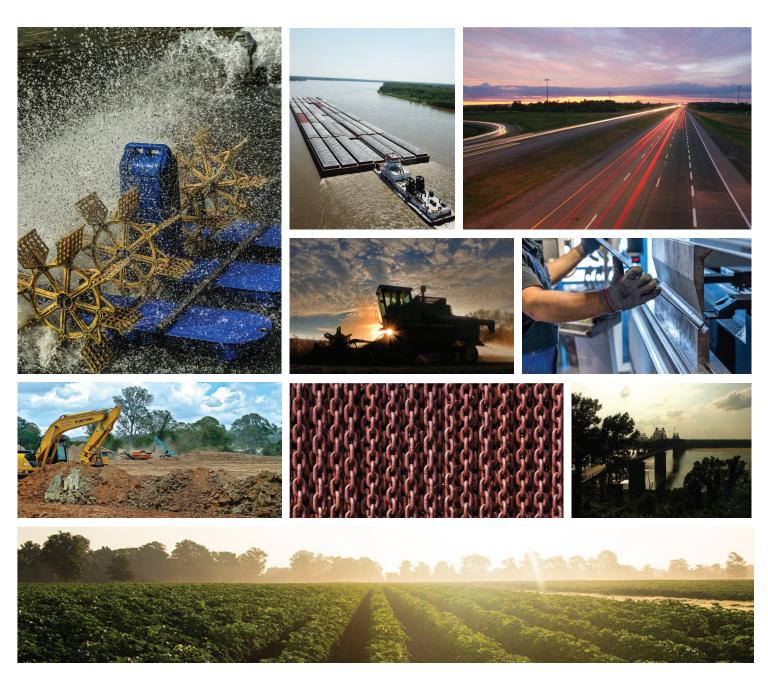
85 YEARS OF PUTTING

VISION INTO PRACTICE





2020 ANNUAL REPORT of DELTA COUNCIL

PAUL HOLLIS



LAURA AND PAUL HOLLIS

Throughout the past 85 years of Delta Council's history, Delta Council Day and the Annual Meeting has been a time to celebrate the accomplishments of the region and recognize those who work tirelessly to continue to put the vision of the Delta into practice. This year has brought many unforeseen challenges locally and globally, but I can assure you that this organization's work and commitment to the Delta is consistently ongoing and more relevant and critical than ever. This is only the third time in Delta Council history that the meeting has been suspended - the first during World War II, the second during the Flood of 2011, and now the COVID-19 global pandemic in 2020.

Although we cannot meet together in person for the traditional Annual Meeting or Mid-Year Board Meeting, this Special Virtual Meeting and Annual Report highlights some of the people and businesses who help make the Delta a better place to live, grow and conduct business. As I continue my year of service as President, I would like to commend the dedicated leadership of this organization on their unrelenting efforts in significant projects for the region including flood control, economic development, agricultural research, infrastructure, water supply and farm policy, just to name a few. It is my hope that although we have to

resort to meeting through a screen, we are grateful that you have joined us virtually on this day to receive an update on the work that has taken place this year, despite all the hindrances 2020 has offered. We will conclude the meeting with a special post-election perspective from our long-time friends, former Senators Trent Lott of Mississippi and John Breaux of Louisiana. In conclusion, I want to thank all of you, our sponsors and our leaders for continued trust and support in Delta Council and the work we do for you.

melite

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

November 12, 2020

PRESIDENT'S OPENING

PAUL HOLLIS, President Delta Council

INVOCATION AND PATRIOTIC MUSIC 11.

REV. TREY SKAGGS

Senior Pastor Indianola First United Methodist Church Indianola, MS

MICHELLE WHITE-DAVIS **National Anthem**

RESOLUTIONS III.

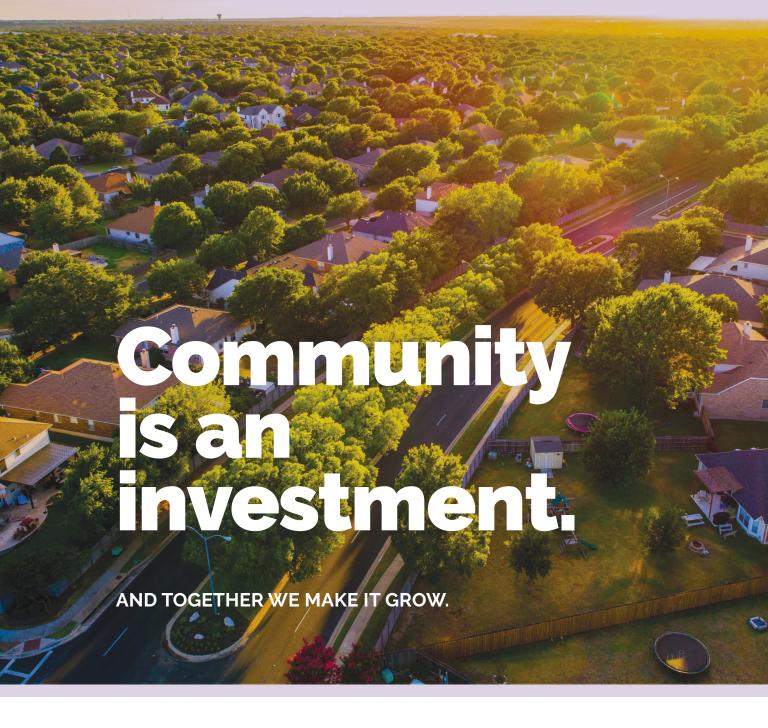
TOM GRESHAM, Chairman **Executive Committee Delta Council**

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND IV. HIGHLIGHT OF DELTA ISSUES

PAUL HOLLIS

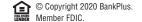
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Former Senators TRENT LOTT and JOHN BREAUX **Post Election Governance**



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2020 Mississippi Delta HONOR GRADUATES

BOLIVAR

Caiden Craddock, Cleveland Central High
Dakari Keyshun Crockett, Shaw High
Semaj Daniels, Northside High
Sydney Davis, Bayou Academy
Kearja Markhi, Dorsey Shaw High
Patrick Grayer, Ray Brooks
Alexia Richardson, West Bolivar High
Emma Short, Bayou Academy
Madison Smith, Northside High
Natassja Thomas, Ray Brooks
Jaylen Townsend, Cleveland Central High
Tanarious Williams, West Bolivar High

CARROLI

Mary Jordan Milton, Carroll Academy James Armstrong Neill, Carroll Academy Jasmine Newman, J.Z. George High Robert Charles "Carson" Skelton, J.Z. George High

COAHOMA

Hunt Barksdale, Lee Academy
Joseph Curcio, Lee Academy
Taylor Matthews, Clarksdale High
Antonia Morales, Coahoma County High
Cordeja Murphy, Coahoma County High
Amber Roland, Clarksdale High
Aquaysheonna White, Coahoma
Early College High
Thomas Williams, Jr., Coahoma
Early College High

DESOTO

Galin Jayne Burton, Northpoint
Christian School
Oralia Cavazos, Horn Lake High
Adrell Evans, Horn Lake High
Brooke Gowan, Lewisburg High
Ashley Halford, Center Hill High
Taylor Howell, Olive Branch High
Rachel Lane, Lake Cormorant High
Alexandra Mobley, Lake Cormorant High
Angeline Morgan, Southaven High

Eli Ashley, Olive Branch High

Klein Morrow, Lewisburg High Hope Joy Owens, Northpoint Christian School

Riley Payne, Southaven High
Raegan Stafford, Desoto Central High
Cassy Tigner, Hernando High
Charleston Vance, Hernando High
Kaitlyn Weirich, Desoto Central High
Kyle White, Center Hill High

GRENADA

Shaunna George Grenada High John Collin Keys Grenada High

HOLMES

Jasmine Carthan, Holmes County Central High School Wykece Johnson, Central Holmes Christian School Hannah Malone, Central Holmes Christian School Issac Randle, Holmes County Central High School

HUMPHREYS

Caleb Gorton, Humphreys Academy Maury McClellan, Humphreys Academy Jatricia Stuckey, Humphreys Co. High Tamilya Thomas, Humphreys Co. High

LEFLORE

Kapri Burden, Greenwood High Christian Glass, Amanda Elzy High Narkeshia Green, Leflore County High Anthony Johnson, Leflore County High Madison Rose Lary, North New Summit School

Mary Long, North New Summit School John (Jack) Henry Reichle, Pillow Academy Shane Houston Stephens, Pillow Academy Cassidy Washington, Greenwood High Juliaunia White, Amanda Elzy High

PANOLA

Damien Cooper, South Panola High Jay Logann Cossey, South Panola High Nigel McGhee, North Panola High Taniya Phillips, North Panola High Abbi Roark, North Delta School Taylor Rowland, North Delta School

QUITMAN

Casey Moore, Delta Academy Roinissia Presley, Madison S. Palmer High Talacia Robinson, Madison S. Palmer High Jhalen Wells, Delta Academy

SHARKEY / ISSAQUENA

Makiah Eason, South Delta High John Bryce Fulton, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy Jessie Mason, Jr., South Delta High Sarah Grace Perkins, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy

SUNFLOWER

Cori Barnett, North Sunflower Academy Jacorriah Bracey, Thomas E. Edwards, Sr. High School

Ashley Gordon, Gentry High **Journey Grayer,** Gentry High **Kalia Lockett,** Thomas E. Edwards, Sr. High School

James Roberts, Indianola Academy Jillian Roberts, Indianola Academy Hannah Utz, North Sunflower Academy

TALLAHATCHIE

Caleb Buckley, Charleston High Kavon Hooper, West Tallahatchie High Shakyra Truly, Charleston High Kyla Washington, West Tallahatchie High

TATE

Angela Beard, Coldwater High School **Grant Borgognoni,** Magnolia Heights School

Jonathan Christon, Coldwater High School Peyton McClure, Senatobia High Claire Meeks, Magnolia Heights School Chariti Nettles, Independence High Jabari "Blake" Richardson, Senatobia High Cameron Roberson, Independence High Marley Smith, Strayhorn High Adrian Turner, Jr., Strayhorn High

TUNICA

Ja'Kyla Dunn, Rosa Fort High Anna Grace Gibson, Tunica Academy Hailey Goff, Tunica Academy Mykendria Herring, Rosa Fort High

WARREN

Elaina Bailey, Warren Central High Kameren Batty, Vicksburg High Anna Ware Brown, St. Aloysius High School Khya Gaines, Vicksburg High Ian Gordon, Warren Central High Madison Henderson, Porter's Chapel Academy Elizabeth Keen, St. Aloysius High School Storey Kirklin, Porter's Chapel Academy

WASHINGTON

Hayes Azlin, Deer Creek School
Britney Bettis, O'Bannon High
Ethan Blasingame, Riverside High
Ashanti Brown, St. Joseph Catholic School
Camariyah Butler, Leland High
Miyah Hampton, Greenville Christian School
Alasiah Henderson, Riverside High
Mary Grace Hobart, Deer Creek School
Christopher Jackson, Leland High
Rosie Johnson, O'Bannon High
Jay'Den Jones, Greenville High
Williette Kingdom, Greenville
Christian School

Kyra Lewis, Simmons High **Mary Michael Mahalitz,** St. Joseph Catholic School

Kendall McKinnon, Washington School Chelsie Mickel, Greenville High John Bentley Suares, Washington School Timothy Wells, Simmons High

YAZOC

Reid Turner Bain, Manchester Academy Nathan Gueringer, Yazoo County High Joseph Upton Hitt, Manchester Academy Dylan Collins Moore, Benton Academy La'Nisha Richardson, Yazoo City High Ron'Nisha Richardson, Yazoo City High Shajaka Shelton, Yazoo County High Hannah Rene Waldrup, Benton Academy



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Jim Sayle, Lake Cormorant Duane Steadham, Nesbit

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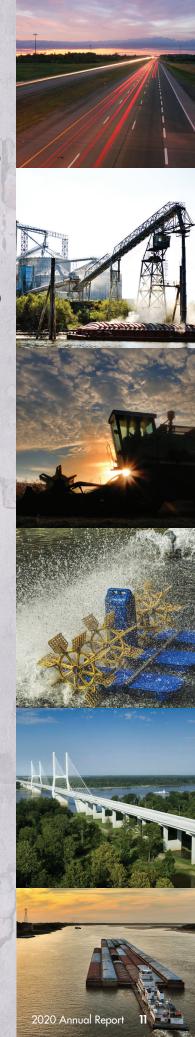


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The Mississippi Corn Promotion Board, established in 2006, is supported by a corn checkoff of \$.01 per bushel. The 12-member appointed board oversees research and promotion efforts that help farmers increase yields, reduce production costs, and grow a healthier crop.



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- Water Resources Research

AQUACULTURE

- Aquaculture Resolution
- Food Technology

FARM POLICY

- Crop Insurance
- Farm Policy
- Copper Theft

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

- Hardwoods Research
- Feral Hogs

GINNING AND COTTON QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

- Ginning Lab
- ULGCS

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- Delta Regional Authority
- Delta Strong
- Growth and Prosperity
- Port Expansion
- State Historic Tax Credits
- Workforce Development

EDUCATION AND HEALTH POLICY

- Adult Literacy
- Early Learning
- Higher Education Funding
- Health Care

HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Highway Development
- Corridor 18 (I-69)
- Delta Rail Service
- Bridge Replacement and Repairs
- Port Expansion
- US Hwy 82 Bypass

SOYBEAN WHEAT AND FEED GRAINS

- Soybean Resolution
- Corn Resolution
- Flood Control
- Carter-Rocky Bayou

FLOOD CONTROL

- Flood Control Reservoirs
- Hillside Watersheds
- Mississippi River Levee Enlargement
- Upper Yazoo Project
- Yazoo Basin Flood Control

SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES

- Accurate and Complete Data Critical Steps to Ensure Sound Decisions
- Adoption of Water Serving Practices and Interagency Cooperation
- Alternative Strategies and Potential Funding
- Conservation Programs
- Delta Water Resources Sustainability
- Groundwater Permits
- Soil Health
- USDA Conservation Programs and Local Tax Base
- Water Balance
- Water Resources Research Center

RICE AND SMALL GRAINS

- Rice
- Check-off Funds

Find Resolutions at: www.deltacouncil.org/policies--resolutions.html

Ronnie Aguzzi

Cleveland

James Allison

Sarah

Curtis Berry

Robinsonville

Nolen Canon

Tunica

Marvin Cochran

Avon

Larry Davis

Shaw

Gary Fioranelli

Cleveland

Donald Gant

The Rice Promotion Board is comprised of 12 members nominated by three organizations (Delta Council, Farm Bureau, Mississippi Rice Council) and appointed by the Governor to 4-year rotating terms. The Rice Promotion Board was established for the purpose of using funds assessed from rice producers for research, education, and advertising to promote the rice industry.





FOR THOSE THAT DO A LITTLE EXTRA...

Joe Aguzzi Ronnie Aguzzi Bill Allen David Allen Miller Arant **Turner Arant** Hugh Arant, Jr. Albert Austin **Bubba Bailey** Mac Baker Fred Ballard Anderson Barham Roger Barlow John Barnard **Dudley Barnes** Hall Barret III Hamp Bass IV Asa Bennett **Rusty Bennett Jon Bibb** Owen Bibb Richy Bibb III Mickey Black **Rodney Brantley** Dan Branton John Rodgers Brashier W.P. Brown, III Ike Brunetti **Nathan Buehring Chris Bush** Wayne Bush John Bush, II Alan Byrd Jean Cadney Robert A. Carson, Jr. Ron Cassada **Bobo Catoe** Suresh Chawla Pat Chism **Barney Chiz**

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"Delta Council has been an advocate for agriculture, education and industry for many years. The South Delta has had a plethora of problems in the last several years. Delta Council has been at the forefront on documenting the flood as it affected residents, farms, forestry, roads and wildlife. Delta Council has worked tirelessly in the effort supporting

the #finishthepumps campaign and I am truly grateful. I believe Delta Council and its staff will always be a leading role in the future success of the Delta and surrounding counties."

David Wansley Valley Park Elevator Vicksburg

"The partnership between Farm Bureau and Delta Council has never been stronger. We work hand-in-hand with Delta Council on key issues as it relates to farm policy, transportation and flood control. The leadership at Delta Council has always been a strategic friend and partner to Farm Bureau in the policy arena, and we value that relationship tremendously."

Mike McCormick President Mississippi Farm Bureau



"In my more than 50 years' involvement with Delta Council, I have always been impressed with the dedication and leadership of the staff and volunteers of the organization.

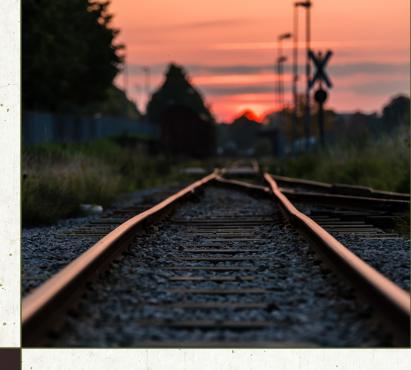
These people are fully committed to helping all the people in the area. While most of my contacts have been in agriculture and natural resources, I have seen this group's strong emphasis on education and economic development."

Jack Winstead USDA, NRCS (retired) Consultant, Water Mgmt. and Natural Resources"

"MEC values our regional partner organizations and salute the impact that they have on their local communities. The Delta Council has a long and storied history of creating positive change for the Mississippi Delta, and it is a pleasure to work with them to

create a more prosperous and vibrant Mississippi."

Scott Waller President & CEO Mississippi Economic Council the State Chamber of Commerce



"In 2018, the Delta Strong program introduced Image Industries, a Chicago area steel company, to the Economic Development Authority of Coahoma County. The staff of Delta Council and Delta Strong assisted in the successful recruitment of Image Industries to Clarksdale and, in July, 2019, we had the privilege of announcing their relocation to our community. But, even after Image Industries arrived in Clarksdale, Delta Strong remained committed to assisting the relocation process with advice and counsel. The Delta Strong program, and Delta Council in general, has been an essential partner in Clarksdale and Coahoma County's economic development efforts."

> Jon Levingston **Executive Director** Clarksdale-Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce and **Economic Development** Authority



throughout the Mississippi Delta. From adult learning to the partnership with the program (Linking Individual Neighborhoods and Kids to Services), Delta Council's

literacy advocacy and promotion of high-quality education has helped ensure success. Delta Honor Graduate is another way that Delta Council continues to support and honor students and parents for their hard work. I look forward to continued collaborative efforts and opportunities."

> Carolyn Willis Vice President for Education Programs Delta Health Alliance Greenwood





"I am honored to serve and be a small part of an organization that is so effective in improving life in the Delta! I feel Delta Council always has my back!"

Pete Hunter
Chairman
MS Soil and Water Commission
Clarksdale

"When I was asked to serve as a Vice-President of Delta Council, I was willing to

dedicate my time and resources to an organization that truly helps the people in the Mississippi Delta. It is important that we work as hard as we can to keep our people and businesses here as well as growing our region and state."

Henry Reed Mid-Delta Health Systems, Inc. Belzoni



"We greatly appreciate our partnership with the Delta Council and the leadership it provides in a very important agricultural region of our country. Delta Council has been a tremendous resource in providing outreach and information to agricultural producers on crucial USDA programs and feedback, data and input into the effectiveness of our programs. This enables us to maximize the ability of agricultural producers – in the Delta and nationwide – to prosper by feeding and clothing the world."

Richard Fordyce Administrator USDA Farm Service Agency

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