

The Delta Council REVIEW

Vol. 8, Issue No. 1

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

April 2012

Bryant to Keynote 77th Annual Meeting

Governor Phil Bryant will offer the Keynote Address for the 77th Annual Meeting of Delta Council on Friday, May 11, at the Bologna Performing Arts Center on the Delta State University campus. Bryant, the Moorhead native is no stranger to the Delta Council crowd, since he has served as the Featured Guest for the Delta Honor Graduate Event in past years. Also, Bryant has been active in industrial recruitment, workforce training, and at the forefront of flood control activities in the Delta during recent years.



Phil Bryant

“Delta Council is fortunate to have the friendship we have experienced with Phil Bryant in the past, and we are looking forward to a productive and strong working relationship with him in his new capacity as the State’s Chief Executive Officer,” stated Bowen Flow-

ers, the Coahoma County farm leader who serves as President of Delta Council this year.

As Lt. Governor, Bryant introduced the Delta Workforce Pilot Program, which has produced significant gains in the coordination of workforce training programs throughout the Delta Council region.

“Bryant recognized the special and unique issues facing workforce training in the State of Mississippi, and especially the Delta. His legislation to establish a workforce cabinet, combining public and private sector leadership aimed at improving access to workforce training dollars, is helping to grow our existing businesses, — which is the greatest potential for future job development in the Delta,” stated Tom

MEETING *continued on page 4*

2012 ANNUAL MEETING May 11, 2012 Schedule of Events

2012 Salute to Delta Honor Graduates 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Lt. Governor Tate Reeves & Dr. Cass Pennington, Chairman,
Delta Council Executive Committee
Location: East Side of Bologna Performing Arts Center

Business Session 10:30 a.m. -12:00 Noon

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Bowen Flowers, President, Delta Council

Presentation of Colors

Boy Scout Troop 91, Belzoni

Invocation

Rev. Andy Cotten

First United Methodist Church, Clarksdale

Patriotic Music

Presbyterian Day School, Kindergarten Class, Clarksdale

- Recognition of Special Guests
- Achievement Awards
- Recognition of Delta’s Top Honor Graduates
- Wear Cotton Recognition
- Good Middling Lady Presentation
- In Memoriam
- Tom Davis
- Introduction of New Officers

Keynote Address

Phil Bryant, Governor
State of Mississippi

Catfish Luncheon 12:00 Noon

Delta State University, Quadrangle Lawn



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Message from the President



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Bowen Flowers

We are pleased that Governor Phil Bryant accepted our invitation to give the Keynote to the 77th Annual Meeting of Delta Council. It has been a tradition of

Delta Council to invite the new Governor to be part of our Annual Meeting during his initial year as the State's Chief Executive Officer. Governor Bryant is no stranger to Delta Council, the Mississippi Delta, or the activities of our Annual Meeting. He has served as the Featured Guest and speaker to the Delta Honor Graduates Event each year that he has been our State's Lt. Governor. He has never missed and he has been a hit with the parents and the more than 100 high school seniors in attendance.

Former Congressman Tom Davis from the Commonwealth of Virginia is going to be on the 10:30 a.m. program, also, in order to give his projections for what is happening around the Country in terms of the November elections. Former Congressman Davis is known inside the Belt-

way as one of the most knowledgeable people in the United States, when it comes to predicting what the electorate is thinking.

We will honor those who have earned special recognition from many areas of work of Delta Council, and it is on the special occasion of our Annual Meeting that we recognize the Good Middling Lady of the Year, Lanny Kennedy of Inverness. Lanny's selection is very special to Susan and I, because we know of her many fine qualities and her good work to impact the lives of special people in the Delta. And, on a personal note, Susan and I are proud that the Senior Kindergarten Class of the Presbyterian Day School from Clarksdale will present the Anthem after the Bel-

PRESIDENT *continued on page 4*

Guest Commentary

By **Trudy D. Fisher**

Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

The future of the Delta depends on reliable sources of good quality groundwater and surface water. Whether needed for urban and industrial growth, crops, aquaculture, sustaining wildlife or our favorite fishing holes, we must have water for a healthy environment. The Delta is unique from a groundwater perspective in that the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial Aquifer (MRVA) lies beneath the rich fertile soils of the region, providing a groundwater supply



Fisher

source for irrigation and aquaculture. In addition to the groundwater withdrawn from the MRVA, surface water is also withdrawn from Delta streams for irrigation.

I certainly do not have to remind the readers our Delta is adjacent to four major flood control reservoirs, bordered to the west by the mighty Mississippi with its tremendous flows, and we historically see about 53-55 inches of rainfall each year. In spite of these facts, the Delta faces continuing declines in the levels of water in the MRVA because quite simply more water is being pumped out than is going back in the aquifer through "recharge." Because of the interaction between Delta streams and the

MRVA and because of the hot months of June, July and August we are seeing more incidents of lowering dry season stream flows and fish kills from surface water withdrawals. All the while, we continue to see an increase in permit applications for both groundwater and surface water withdrawals.

What are we doing about it? There are a number of organizations in the word "we," all of whom bring unique areas and years of expertise. To address the host of complex issues, in November, 2011, I invited the following organizations to serve on the DEQ-led Mississippi Sustainable Water Resources Task Force (Task

GUEST *continued on page 3*

Kennedy Recognized By Delta Council

Lanny Kennedy of Inverness, a well-known educator and civic leader, was recently elected to serve as the Good Middling Lady for 2011-12. Mrs. Kennedy, a native of Leland and having lived in Inverness for more than 35 years, has impacted the lives and families of many special children with special needs in the Mississippi Delta.



Kennedy

“There is no individual in the Delta who surpasses Lanny, when it comes to the word ‘giving’”, stated Bowen Flowers, the Coahoma County President of Delta Council.

Mrs. Kennedy will be recognized at the Annual Directors’ Reception and the Annual Meeting of Delta Council on May 11.

Chandler to Accept Washington Post with USFWS

Sabrina Clark Chandler, who currently serves as Refuge Manager for Panther Swamp NWR and Deputy Project Leader for the Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has recently accepted a position as Special Assistant to the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



An alumnus of Mississippi State University and current resident of Yazoo City, Sabrina has been heavily involved with conservation activities in the Delta through her work with the USFWS and other organizations such as the Bear Education and Research (BEAR) Group of Mississippi. Sabrina assumes her new



Chandler

position on April 22, 2012, and will be working out of the Main Interior Building in Downtown D.C.



Reese Pillow Named Delta F.A.R.M. Chairman

Walter “Reese” Pillow, IV of Greenwood was unanimously elected to serve as Delta F.A.R.M. Chairman for a 2-year term by the organization’s Board of Directors at their annual business meeting. Delta F.A.R.M. is non-profit conservation organization founded by farmers, for farmers to conserve, enhance and restore the natural resources of the Mississippi Delta to ensure a more economically and environmentally sustainable future for agriculture.

Mike Sturdivant, Jr., former Delta F.A.R.M. Chairman, had good things to say Pillow’s appointment. “Besides being an excellent farmer and conservationist, Reese lends much of his



Pillow

free time to efforts and organizations that support the community and region. His dedication, intelligence, temperament, and respect from his peers make him well suited to lead the Delta’s conservation efforts.”

GUEST from page 2

Force): Yazoo Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District, Delta Council, Delta F.A.R.M., Mississippi Farm Bureau, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The Task Force includes those entities that are critical to finding solutions to achieve sustainable water supplies for the Delta. Governor Phil Bryant has expressed strong support for the Task Force and its mission.

A “task force” is designed to focus on a clearly defined objective with a sense of urgency to achieve its desired results. We have a clearly defined objective — sustainable water supplies in our Delta —

and we all know there is urgency in finding solutions to the challenges we are facing. In fact, there has never been a better time or reason to have an organized, collaborative initiative that the Task Force was formed to address. The executive-level Task Force is well-positioned to address the complex issues evolving from where policy meets science and becomes action.

This is a DEQled Task Force because we are responsible for managing the state’s natural resources. The Task Force is a true team effort — an opportunity for consensus building at the earliest stages of the formation of ideas and concepts which will carry forward to ultimate solutions. The participation of the other organizations is voluntary, but all have agreed to the importance of the ini-

tiative and the value in our working together in a collaborative manner. One of my favorite quotes is of President Truman, “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” If we accept that premise here, we will amaze ourselves in what we can accomplish.

I will share with you the 6 commitments we made at our first meeting.

1. Seek first to understand, then to be understood.
2. Weigh all unintended consequences.
3. Do not complicate things unnecessarily.
4. Seek more MOJO and less NOJO.
5. Remember we are all in this together.
6. Be urgent in our thinking, in our

decision making, in our actions.

Although the challenges are daunting, opportunities exist for expanded water savings through conservation measures, the development of alternative surface water supplies, and managing our ground and surface water resources in a conjunctive manner. As one would expect; however, plenty of technical, cultural, and especially fiscal issues must be successfully navigated to achieve the goal of sustainable water resources for the Mississippi Delta. The Delta has historically been a leader in the agricultural industry in so many ways. That same sense of leadership is being demonstrated in this effort as we work together for sustainable water resources not only for today but for future generations.

around the fields

MILWAUKEE ELECTRIC TOOL BUILDING NEW DISTRIBUTION FACILITY

Milwaukee Electric Tool, manufacturer of portable electric power tools and accessories, is expanding its presence in north Mississippi by constructing a new, larger distribution center in Olive Branch. The project represents a company investment of \$8 million and will create 25 new jobs, according to the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA).

"This is great news for the region and the State of Mississippi, as well as a strong testament to our workforce and business climate," said Greenwood Mayor Carolyn McAdams. "This new distribution center in DeSoto County further cements their presence in the State with manufacturing plants in Greenwood and Jackson — the *Milwaukee* only remaining plants they have in the U.S. They are a great corporate citizen in our community and we look forward to a long relationship."

JOE NASH NAMED PRESIDENT OF NORTH AMERICAN EQUIPMENT DEALERS

Greenville implement dealer and Delta Council Director Joe Nash of Greenville was elected president of the North American Equipment Dealers Association recently at their annual convention in Phoenix.



CITY HONORS SLEDGE FAMILIES

Family and friends overflowed into the courtyard of the Community Development facility to rename the Department of Community Development Building to the Homer Sledge Sr. and Nevin Sledge Department of Community Development Building.

"We have gathered here this afternoon to honor two men that loyally served the city of Cleveland for most of their lives — Homer Sledge Sr. and Nevin Sledge," said Mayor Billy Nowell. "I cannot think of two men that are more deserving to receive this honor."

TOWNSEND NAMED PRESIDENT

Delta Council Director Hue Townsend of Belzoni was named the President of the Mississippi Young Bankers Association at their Annual Convention this week in Point Clear, Alabama.



HERITAGE AREA MEETS WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area recently held a series of committee meetings in the Alumni House on the Delta State Campus. Consultants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and members of the Heritage Area Board of Directors met with community members to begin a discussion of how the Heritage Area should be developed.

The planning process is mandated under federal law, and will include a series of public meetings that will be held throughout the Delta. Delta Council is a member of the Heritage Area, which is a link between the eighteen counties of the Delta and the National Park Service. The goal of the Heritage Area is to promote the Delta's rich natural and cultural heritage in ways that benefit its citizens.

DELTA COUNCIL MEETS WITH NEW HEAD OF MDES

Delta Council's Board of Directors and Delta Workforce Investment Area (DWIA) hosted a welcome meeting for Mark Henry, who was recently appointed by Governor Phil Bryant to

Mississippi Department of Employment Security as the Executive Director. Henry met with employers, workforce training providers, developers, and community leaders. While in the Delta, Henry attended the DWIA



(right to left) Christie Sledge, Delta Workforce Coordinator, Frank Howell of Delta Council, Mark Henry, Executive Director of MDES, and Tom Gresham, Chair of Delta Council's Development Department at a recent meeting in Stoneville, MS.

Board of Directors meeting where he was able to engage with members of the Board and staff from Delta WIN Job Centers. "We are very excited about the new appointment of Mark Henry as Executive Director of Mississippi Department of Employment Security and we look forward to working with Mr. Henry to enhance the Delta's workforce," stated Tom Gresham, Chairman of Delta Council's Development Department.

DELTA COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS TRANSPORTATION ISSUES WITH MELINDA MCGRATH

In a meeting this week with newly named Executive Director for the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Melinda McGrath, Delta Council transportation leaders met to emphasize numerous priority issues impacting the region. Topics of discussion included rail infrastructure, commercial air service, outlook for I-69 throughout the region. McGrath joined the Mis-

issippi Department of Transportation in 1985 in the Bridge Division of MDOT, and was named Executive Director in January of this year. "We are pleased to have someone with McGrath's experience leading the charge for the future of transportation in our State," said Bill Kennedy, Chair of Delta Council's Transportation Committee. "We are certain she will prove to be a valuable asset in the many challenges we have facing transportation issues in the Delta."

POLICY COMMITTEES PROPOSED 2012 RESOLUTIONS OF DELTA COUNCIL

In preparation for the 77th Annual Meeting of Delta Council, committee policies will be forwarded to Directors of the organization for their final review and ratification. Policies affecting the future of Interstate 69, flood protection in the South Delta, the elective form of Transportation Commission, and improved access to healthcare/early childhood education will be considered by Directors. Of overriding importance to the economy of the region, Delta Council will continue to press for adoption of its policies over the horizon of the 2012 Farm Bill debate.

"We take our policies seriously, and even though we try to remain flexible so that we can adapt to the changing environment affecting a wide range of regional issues confronted by Delta Council, we remain committed to change that helps the Delta grow, economically," stated Cass Pennington, the Chairman of Delta Council's Resolutions Committee.

DEQ ESTABLISHES DELTA WATER TASK FORCE

Behind the leadership of Mississippi Department of Environmental

Quality Executive Director, Trudy Fisher, a Delta Sustainable Water Resources Task Force was appointed to develop information aimed at presenting the Delta with options for addressing groundwater challenges that face the region.

"Fortunately, we have an abundant resource which provides a reliable agricultural irrigation water supply, without competing with domestic drinking water aquifers that are deeper formations underground," stated George King, Chairman of Delta Council Water Resources Committee and a member of the Task Force.

The Task Force has met monthly since the beginning of 2012 and has divided into work groups to study the preferred alternatives for new water supplies, methods for accurately measuring water use, public information, and advanced conservation efforts.

"We are encouraged by the leadership Trudy Fisher has exhibited in this effort and Delta Council views that with the combined efforts of our Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Farm Bureau, the Yazoo Mississippi Delta Water Management District, the Corps of Engineers and USDA supporting this DEQ-lead effort, we will be able to offer options for addressing the Delta's groundwater challenges without future regulation," added King.

Members of the Delta Sustainable Water Resources Task Force are as follows:

Al Garner, NRCS/USDA
George King, Delta Council
Randy Knight, Farm Bureau
Kent Parrish, Corps of Engineers
Dean Pennington, Yazoo MS Delta Joint Water Management District
Travis Satterfield, Delta F.A.R.M.
Don Underwood, MS Soil and Water Conservation District

DELTA COUNCIL HONORS RANKINS AT STONEVILLE CELEBRATION



Delta Council's Chip Morgan (right) presents a plaque of appreciation to Al Rankins (left) for his untiring and dedicated service to the region and the Stoneville Complex at the Annual Black History Celebration.

PRESIDENT from page 2

zoni Boy Scout Troop presents the colors and Reverend Andy Cotten presents the invocation.

The Honor Graduates, who are selected from their schools, based on leadership and civic activities in their communities, will be recognized by Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, who will present the Honor Graduate recognition and the \$2,500 scholarship to that Delta Honor Graduate who has been selected from a collection of outstanding students from more than 50 high schools in the region.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday, May 11, at 10:30 a.m.

MEETING from page 1

Gresham, President of Double Quick Stores and a client of the workforce training programs.

The Delta Council business session will begin at 10:30 in the Bologna Performing Arts Center with the Invocation by the Reverend Andy Cotton, of the First United Methodist Church, of Clarksdale, the Anthem by the Senior Kindergarten Class of the Presbyterian Day School in Clarksdale, and posting of the colors by the Belzoni Boy Scout Troop 41. A noon catfish luncheon will be served to members and guests for the 77th Annual Meeting.

around the fields

2011-2012 Delta Council Achievement Awards

The 2011 Flood made an indelible impact on the Delta. One casualty of the flood was that Delta Council was unable to properly recognize the Achievement Award winners at last year's altered Annual Meeting. In recognition of this, Delta Council President Bowen Flowers asked that these individuals be properly recognized at the 77th Annual Meeting. In addition to the recipients below, Delta Council is also honoring Good Middling Lady Lanny Kennedy of Inverness. (See article on page 3)



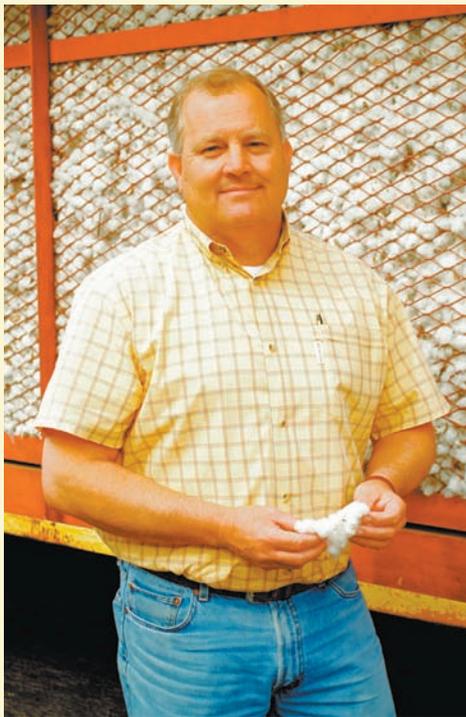
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:
Bubba Simmons
Arcola, MS



CONSERVATION FARMER:
Bill Brown, Craig Brown, & Pierce Brown
Ashland Plantation, Schlater, MS



**OUTSTANDING SOYBEAN
PRODUCER:**
Mike Wagner
Sumner, MS



OUTSTANDING COTTON GINNER:
Rodge Rodgers
Clarksdale, MS



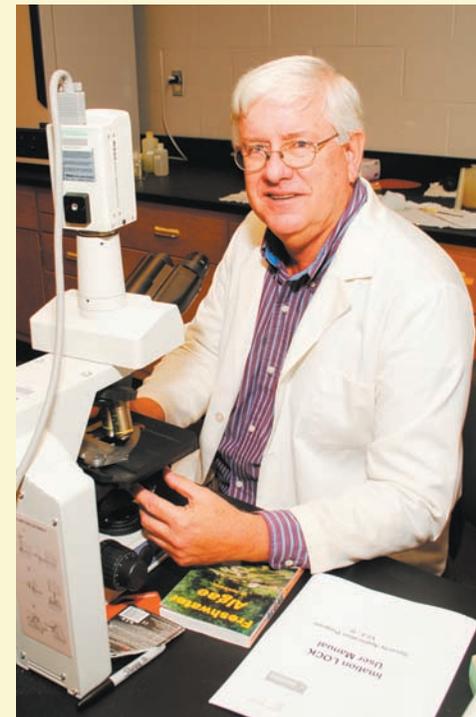
RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR:
Gabe Sciumbato
Delta Research & Extension Center
Stoneville, MS



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO
HARDWOOD FORESTRY:**
Mike Mikell
Port Gibson, MS



OUTSTANDING RICE PRODUCER:
Lex Davis, Pemble Davis
Pemble Farms, Merigold, MS



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO AQUACULTURE:**
Craig Tucker
Thad Cochran National Warmwater
Aquaculture Center
Stoneville, MS

B.F. Smith: A Gentleman of the Delta and His Legacy on Display at Capps Archive Center at DSU

Delta Council members are invited to attend the opening reception of the newest display at the Capps Archive Center at Delta State University — “B.F. Smith: A Gentleman of the Delta and His Legacy.”

The opening reception for the exhibit will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 6 p.m. at the Capps Archives and Museum Building on the DSU Campus in Cleveland. The exhibit will run until July 31.

Smith, who served as executive vice president of Delta Council from 1948 until his retirement in 1983, has been recognized for his tireless service to the Mississippi Delta region and the impact he has had on the region’s development.

The exhibit was designed and implemented by Smith’s grandson, John Wielenman of Stoneville, a graduate student (and B.F. Smith Scholar) at Delta State University. The exhibit will also be on display during Delta Council Day on May 11, 2012.



B.F. Smith (standing) at the 1957 Annual Meeting

Levee Decertification & 2011 Flood: Big Issues for Delta Council

After requesting for Governor Barbour to establish a Special Task Force of State, Federal, and business leaders following the record flood of 2011, the transition from the Barbour Administration to the Bryant Administration has continued to focus emphasis on two pressing flood protection issues facing the Mississippi Delta.

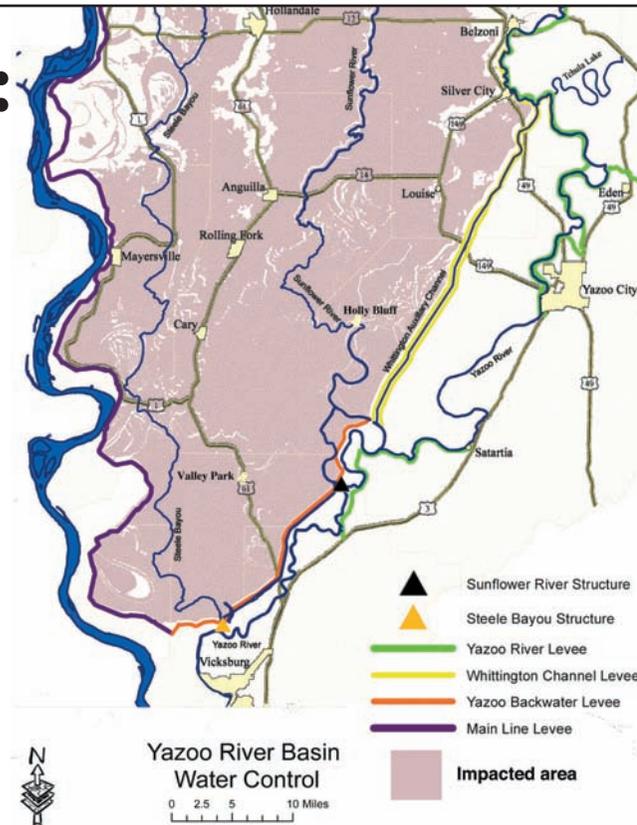
Even though the 28-mile Yazoo Backwater levee held back the flood of record on the Mississippi River, without under-seepage, crevassing or overtopping, the base flood elevation (BFE) was increased due to the 2011 flood. The increase in the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) has caused the levee which extends from the mainline Mississippi River levee to the Whittington Auxiliary Channel to be classified as “decertified”.

Delta Council and the Mississippi Levee Board asked Governor Phil Bryant to appeal to the Corps of Engineers for a reprieve from the Levee Decertification based on current standards, because it will have a significant impact on the five counties in the South Delta essentially from Highway 12 to the Steele Bayou Gates.

“The Governor pointed out to the Corps of Engineers that the impact of the levees being decertified

will stymie any future development in this 5 county area, as well as increase flood insurance premiums in a significant way, penalizing an area of Mississippi that has already suffered disproportionately due to frequent and long-duration flood events,” stated the Delta Council President, Bowen Flowers.

The Base Flood Elevation, as determined by the Corps of Engineers, is the elevation which is used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine the criteria used for flood proofing areas and placing other restrictive covenants on new construction. According to reports from officials with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, new FEMA maps which reflect the adjusted, post-2011 Base Flood Elevation, will be reported as early as 2014. Since the Yazoo Backwater levee cannot, according to Corps of Engineers policies, be raised until Mississippi River levee enlargement occurs, the five South Delta counties impacted by Yazoo Backwater levee decertification could be forced to endure up to 10-15 years of the impacts of higher-risk flood insurance ratings and restricted construction permitting if the Corps of Engineers, FEMA and MEMA do not re-examine current policy, Governor Bryant told them.



“The Corps of Engineers response to Governor Bryant offered an extremely pessimistic outlook for relief from this levee decertification, but the Governor is working with us to continue pressing for some type of relief from this arbitrary action, which has far-reaching ramifications for all or parts of five counties in the Delta Council region,” added Bob Eley, the Bolivar County Engineer who serves as Chairman of the Delta Council Flood Control Committee.

Delta Council Leaders Give Congressional Testimony



Satterfield

Delta Council Rice Committee Chairman, Travis Satterfield recently gave testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture to provide on behalf of the 2012 Farm Bill. Satterfield was accompanied by Commit-

tee Vice Chairman Gibb Steele and both met with Congressional offices from the Senate Committee to discuss alternative strategies for rice and cotton legislative policy.

In a related matter, Delta Council



Flowers

President Bowen Flowers of Clarksdale and George King of Chatham, made Congressional visits recently on behalf of the American Cotton Producers-National Cotton Council Farm Policy Task Force. Flowers also testi-

fied before a House Agriculture Committee field hearing in Jonesboro, Arkansas. For a synthesized message these farm policy leaders delivered on behalf of Delta agriculture, please see below.

Farm Bill Commentary: Flowers & Satterfield

The sweeping changes which are being proposed in U.S. farm policy, combined with as much as a 30% cut in farm program outlays due to agriculture's commitment to deficit reduction, has created a high degree of uncertainty among farm policy leaders of Delta Council. The types of cuts which we are hearing during our visits to Washington will be a game-changer if commodity prices weaken.

Although our traditional friends in the Congress continue to stress the vital importance of a reasonable safety net for U.S. farm programs, the options being considered at this time cannot support a stable agricultural economy during times of low market prices, which is the very definition of a farm bill.

We applaud the work of our National commodity organizations who have attempted to adapt to these challenging times, and especially the National Cotton Council, who has developed an innovative shallow-loss insurance proposal. Also, champions of agriculture such as House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas, Former Senate Ag Committee Chairman Saxby Chambliss and Senator Thad Cochran are working tirelessly to make certain that agriculture income protection features are maintained at reasonable levels during periods when international markets are upside down, due to export subsidies and import tariffs imposed by centrally-planned economies, such as those in Asia and South America.

Delta Council remains firm in its view that a 95% coverage level in the shallow-loss insurance program of the National Cotton Council is the best alternative for risk management for Delta cotton acreage. Unfortunately, we are both perplexed that we have been unable to arrive at a definitive policy on what is best for southern growers of soybeans, wheat and feed grains. We will continue to evaluate options before us and keep the Delta Council farm membership apprised of these developments as they occur. In rice, it appears that the preferred option is a 13.98/cwt target price program.

In closing, we continue to be pleased that farmers are able to get their income from the marketplace during recent years, but we are forever mindful of the

fact that market prices are a function of a global economy. When trade-distortion and production shifts around the world change, Mid-South agriculture must have a U.S. farm policy that confronts the rising cost of U.S. production head-on.

Bowen Flowers, President
Travis Satterfield, Chairman Rice and Small Grains Committee

Bowen Flowers, the current President of Delta Council is a cotton, corn and soybean grower from Coahoma County, Mississippi. Travis Satterfield, Chairman of the Rice and Small Grains Committee of Delta Council is a rice, soybean, and corn farmer from Bolivar County.

Delta Council

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Delta Honor Graduates Event Scheduled for May 11

Lt. Governor Reeves and Pennington to Preside

More than 100 high school seniors, who are chosen by their High School Administrators, will be honored by Lt. Governor Tate Reeves at the Delta Council Annual Meeting on the Delta State University campus on May 11.

"I consider it a high honor, myself, to be included among those who will be present at 9:00 a.m. in Cleveland on May 11, to honor these future Mississippi leaders who have distinguished themselves among their peers," stated Lt. Governor Reeves.

Each public, private, and parochial school throughout the 18 Delta and

part-Delta counties select two honor graduates based on their leadership skills, civic involvement, and promise for the future. The honor graduates will be presented with a certificate of recognition signed by the Lt. Governor and the President of Delta Council acknowledging their achievements not only in the classroom, but also as promising future leaders of the Delta. The Lt. Governor will extend the certificates to each individual young Delta leader and share in a photo opportunity.

At the business session of the Annual Meeting of Delta Council, one of the



Phil Bryant with 2011 Honor Graduate Audreanna Lewis from Louise, MS — Humphreys County High School

honor graduates will be presented with a \$2500 scholarship to the school of their choice. The selection committee for the top honor graduate of the Delta is composed of higher education leaders from the region.

Families and school administrators are invited to join honor graduates at the 9:00 a.m. event under a tent outside the Bologna Performing Arts Center. Dr. Cass Pennington, former Chairman of the Board of Institutions of Higher Learning and Superintendent of schools in the Indianola School District, will preside and introduce Lt. Governor Reeves.



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