

The Delta Council Review

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THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

October 2018

DELTA COUNCIL EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Delta Council transportation leaders expressed their appreciation to State officials for their recently enacted measures in a Special Session that will help in the coming years to meet Mississippi's growing transportation challenges.

"We applaud the leadership of **Governor Phil Bryant, Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, Speaker Philip Gunn**, and all of our legislators for enacting road legislation that helps us move closer to meeting the needs of our infrastructure funding challenges in

Mississippi," said **Walton Gresham** of Indianola, a businessman who serves as Chairman of the regional development organization's Transportation Committee. "Delta Council's policy continues to emphasize that we feel the fairest mechanism for raising the necessary funds to build and maintain a long-range road program is through additional revenue from the sale of fuel at the pump (user fee), but we feel that the recent actions are certainly a positive step forward."

After meeting last week with

officials from the Mississippi Department of Transportation, the Mississippi Office of State Aid Road Construction, the Federal Highway Administration, and other trade associations to discuss the new legislation and issues surrounding bridge postings, Delta Council staff prepared the attached document giving a summary of the legislation passed in the recent Special Session.

Also, please note that the Mississippi Department of Transportation website has an

interactive map of all state posted bridges where you can click on each bridge along your route, or in your traveling area, and it will show the restriction on weight limits for various types of trucks and axle configurations. Visit www.mdot.ms.gov, and click "Posted Bridges" under the "Enforcement" tab.

For a county by county listing of posted & closed bridges, go to www.msstateaidroad.us, and click "Bridge Information."

For a county by county summary, please visit www.deltacouncil.org/infrastructurebill

EPA ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCES \$2 MILLION IN WATER QUALITY GRANTS

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) **Administrator Scott Pruitt** joined over 50 farmers and landowners to announce two Gulf of Mexico Program grants totaling \$2 million. He also toured Big River Farms and met with members of the Mississippi agriculture community to discuss pollinator health and water quality.

Administrator Pruitt, joined by EPA Region 4 **Administrator Trey Glenn**, presented the B.F. Smith Foundation and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship with grants of \$1 million each. These grants will go toward projects that

demonstrate innovative monitoring systems that will measure and report field scale water and nutrient dynamics to the farmer in support of informed crop management decisions throughout the Delta region. Also, the projects take a multi-stakeholder approach to improve surface waters in Iowa and ultimately the Mississippi River Basin.

Following the grant announcement, **Administrator Pruitt** and members of the Mississippi agriculture community, toured Big River Farms in Bobo, Miss. During the tour of a soybean field, **Administrator Pruitt** and members of the Mississippi

agriculture community discussed a variety of pollinator issues and water quality projects in the area and the impact it has on agricultural systems.

"It is encouraging to farmers and all of the allied agricultural businesses in this country to know that **Administrator Pruitt** is focused on important issues that affect this industry," said Delta Farmers Advocating Resource Management **Chairman Dan Branton**. "Spending time 'in-the-field' with real farmers on working lands is the only way to truly understand some of the environmental issues this industry faces."



Region 7 EPA Administrator Jim Gulliford; Matt Lechtenberg with Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt; Region 4 EPA Administrator Trey Glenn, Delta F.A.R.M. Chairman Dan Branton

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Outlook

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY WOODS EASTLAND

Delta Council, President



Eastland

Now that we have concluded another successful Delta Council Annual Meeting and enjoyed a productive exchange with the EPA Administrator, **Scott Pruitt**, about many of the issues that our region faces in wastewater discharge, crop protection materials and their re-registrations, new seed technologies and onerous water quality regulations which are bogging down the timetable for critical flood protection measures in our region, we have begun embarking on the matters at hand or other activities during the month of June. Of special significance, the House and Senate Farm Bill debate has

been our primary focus.

Also, our new Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, **Andy Gipson**, spent some time with Delta Council soon after the Annual Meeting, meeting with farmers, visiting Stoneville, and taking farm tours with us. The role of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is extremely important to the people of this region and as the State agency with primacy over the regulation of all crop protection materials on this 3 million-acre farm called the Mississippi Delta, we will rely on **Commissioner Gipson** to maintain a steady balance between the concerns of agriculture, human health, the environment and the ever-changing issues which confront Delta agriculture.

The time-consuming task of developing responsible and reasonable action plans

in order to build support for a consensus-based solution that addresses farm policy, flood protection, highways and infrastructure policy, irrigation water supply, and a regional approach to workforce preparedness coupled with job creation in the Delta, will be among the highest priorities of our programs of work.

I want to invite any member, and certainly those who are unable to find time to attend our committee meetings, to call me or the Delta Council offices at any time in the future when you have a suggestion related to existing or proposed activities of Delta Council in our wide range of regional issues that we attempt to address. The strength of this organization is bound together from the ideas we get from the 76 communities and 18 counties of Northwest Mississippi, and those ideas have served us well for more than 8 decades.

ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION PLAN WOULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE DELTA'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BY PETER NIMROD

Chief Engineer, Mississippi Levee Board



Nimrod

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been under the Department of Defense since the beginning. The Corps story began more than 200 years ago when Congress established the Continental Army with a provision for a chief engineer on June 16, 1775. The Army established the Corps of Engineers as a separate, permanent branch on March 16, 1802, and gave the engineers responsibility for founding and operating the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are world-renowned experts in the fields of commercial navigation, flood control, ecological restoration and water resource infrastructure engineering. In the Mississippi River Valley the Corps in partnership with the local people have executed the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project (MR&T), our Nation's most successful federal infrastructure project, providing flood control and protection to more than 8 million people and the productive use of 22.5 million acres of highly productive land, along with a reliable commercial navigation channel on the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The Corps construction, operation, and maintenance of the MR&T project, in partnership with the local people, has provided our Nation a 67 to 1 return on the federal investment by preventing over 1 trillion dollars in flood damages over

the past 90 years. Sixty (60) percent of all U.S. grain exports are shipped via the Mississippi River from ports throughout the region, down to the Port of New Orleans and the Ports of South Louisiana. The commercial navigation channel maintained by the Corps carries vital products of coal, fertilizer, cement, gravel, salt, among others, which are the building blocks of our Nation's economy, resulting in transportation rate savings of 5.6 billion dollars annually.

For nearly a century, flood control and navigation throughout the Mississippi River and its tributaries have been recognized as a matter of public safety and national security. Navigation and flood control functions are symbiotic in the Mississippi River Valley and the concurrent execution of navigation and flood control missions ensures the productive use of land, the protection of people and property, and the reliable movement of goods on our Nation's inland waterway system to regional, national and world markets.

On the national level the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for carrying out the Federal rolls in planning, designing, constructing, operating and maintaining much of the nation's water resources infrastructure, including inland and deep-draft navigation, flood control, hydropower generation, water supply, aquatic ecosystem restoration, regulation of certain water-related activities and provides outdoor recreation. The vast majority of Corps projects are multi-purpose projects which accrue tangible and long-lasting benefits that maximize the nation's economic investments while protecting our precious natural resources.

In the Mississippi Delta the Corps focuses on flood control. They partner with Mississippi's two Levee Boards to help provide protection from Mississippi River floods. They maintain and operates hundreds of miles of levees and drainage structures along the Yazoo River and other locations in the Delta.

The Trump Administration is looking to move the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from the Department of Defense to the Department of Interior & Transportation. The Corps Navigation mission would move to Transportation. The Corps land management duties including levees and environmental Clean Water Act permitting would move to Interior. While on paper this sounds like a good idea, the reality of doing this could be devastating.

The Corps of Engineers under the leadership of **Assistant Secretary R.D. James** is taking aggressive steps to review its rules, regulations, policies and guidelines in response to the Congress' expressed concerns about the timeliness of project delivery to the nation's most critical infrastructure and natural resource challenges. In our view, transferring the functions of the most successful civil works infrastructure project in the nation to another department or new agency is not in the best interest of the people or the economy of the State of Mississippi.

In this regard, we would like to urge that before any reorganization is seriously considered or possibly takes place, that the Congress conduct a process which takes into consideration the input of local governments, states, local public sponsors such as our two Levee Boards, and all other water resources stakeholders.

News

DELTA COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 2018-2019 OFFICERS



Eastland



Brashier



Ayres



Hunter



Myers



Jones



Melton



Anderson

Delta Council held their 83rd Annual Meeting Friday, June 1, on the campus of Delta State University at the Bologna Performing Arts Center. The 2018-2019 President and Vice Presidents of the organization were announced during the Business Session of the meeting.

Each year, a new President and seven Vice Presidents are elected to serve as officers of Delta Council. This year's President of Delta Council is **Woods Eastland** of Indianola. A retired CEO of Staplecoth, **Woods** has served on numerous national agricultural boards and commissions. He also served as Chairman of the National Cotton Council of America and has been an elected Director of Delta Council for many years. He and his wife **Lynn** have 2 children

and 3 grandchildren.

Elected to serve as Vice-Presidents of Delta Council for the 2018-2019 year include **Stanley Ayers** of Leland, **John Rodgers Brashier** of Indianola, **Pete Hunter** of Clarksdale, **B. Jones** of Tchula, **Floyd Melton III** of Greenwood, and **Ransom Myers** of Dundee. **Andy Anderson** of Rolling Fork is serving a second term as Treasurer.

"This is an excellent group of Delta Council Officers and look forward to their service," said Delta Council Executive Committee **Chairman George King** of Chatham. "They add a tremendous amount of horsepower on so many opportunities and challenges that the region has, and we appreciate them giving their time and talent to making the Delta a better place to live and do business."



DELTA STRONG

The Delta Strong marketing and recruiting efforts continues to show results. Almost 50 company

calls have been conducted in California, the Mid-West, Southeast and Canada. To date we have received 4 visits from companies that have active site location projects. If successful in locating all 4 companies, they will create approximately 165 jobs initially and invest over \$20 million dollars.

Additional trips are being scheduled for this summer and again in the fall. Our focus remains on companies that would create 25 to 250 quality jobs. We continue to focus on industrial sectors that include Aviation, Plastics, Metal Fabrication, Agra-business, Distribution and Food processing.

DELTA WILDLIFE ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM FOR WRP LANDOWNERS



Management – Impound Water - \$7.34/water acre

Feral Swine

An assessment of the swine will be completed, and Delta Wildlife will provide the landowner with a comprehensive feral swine management plan at no cost to the landowner. If needed, Delta Wildlife will coordinate and implement a feral swine monitoring plan. In cooperation with the landowners, Delta Wildlife may also assist in trapping feral swine.

How to Apply

WRP and WRE landowners in Mississippi NRCS Area 4 (Bolivar, Coahoma, Holmes, Humphreys, Leflore, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Warren, Washington, and Yazoo Counties) are eligible to participate.

Eligible landowners should visit www.deltawildlife.org and click on the "WRP Duck & Hog Project" button. The application may be filled out and submitted on line, which is the preferred method. Demand is expected to be high, so Delta Wildlife will process applications on a first come, first serve basis.

Once applications are received, Delta Wildlife staff will coordinate with each landowner to perform an assessment for waterfowl habitat and/or feral swine damages, depending on the request. Each application will then be ranked to

determine the level of technical or financial assistance that may be available for each tract. A management plan for wetland enhancements and/or feral swine management will then be provided to the applicant. Wetland management plans will include dates for practices to be completed by, compliance requirements, and payment schedules. The feral swine management plan will include best management practices tailored to the individual property.

Partners

More than \$4 million dollars has been secured to implement this project with a majority coming from a grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services who administers the Wetland Reserve Program. Additional funding and support for this project comes from Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, and the Mississippi Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Additional support in excess of \$500,000 has also been pledged by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality through its National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund program. Delta Wildlife is grateful to the NRCS and all its partners and looks forward to working with WRP landowners in the region to attract more waterfowl and combat feral swine.

LOUIE THOMPSON RECEIVES 2018 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCE ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Louie Thompson is a recipient of the 2018 College of Agriculture and Life Science Alumni Achievement Award. Only two or three individuals are selected each year from the ranks of the College of Agriculture and Life Science (CALS) graduates based on their career achievements, and/or other milestones, and to honor their linkage to MSU and CALS. **Louie** has served tirelessly in support of the U.S. and Mississippi catfish industry. He served on the Catfish Farmers of America Board of Directors from 1990 until 2013 and was President of the organization in 2001 and 2002. CFA named him Farmer of the Year in 1999. He has served on the Catfish Farmers of Mississippi Board of Directors since 1988 and served two terms as CFM President (1987-1989 and 2011-2013). **Louie** currently serves on the Delta Wildlife Board of Directors.

Louie served 9 years on the MSU Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Advisory Committee. He has been an avid collaborator and supporter of MSU and USDA aquaculture research and Extension efforts. In addition to his local and nation-wide advocate accomplishments, he has traveled to Bulgaria twice, in conjunction with MSU's international programs under the direction of **Dr. Bill HERN- don**; advising local farmers on safe and sustainable farming practices. "**Louie Thompson** is a solid citizen and great force in the catfish industry. We congratulate him on all of his accomplishments and thank him for his contributions to research and the Delta," said **Austin Jones**,

Chairman of the Delta Council Aquaculture Committee.

QUITMAN COUNTY RIBBON CUTTING: NORTHWEST MS REGIONAL AMTRAK STOP

This project has been in the making for twenty years, and finally, within two weeks, the City of New Orleans Northbound Amtrak Train #58 will sound its whistle at a distance and slowly bring its engine to a stop on the tracks at the new Northwest Regional Amtrak Stop at 285 Cherry Street in Marks, Mississippi. The official maiden ride and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Northwest Regional Amtrak stop was held Friday, May 4, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.

The train will stop daily on routes running between Chicago and New Orleans and will help connect travelers to other routes across the country. "With the ability to travel between Chicago and New Orleans with connecting routes across the nation, this new Amtrak stop in Marks will prove extremely beneficial to the development, revitalization, and transportation for the Delta, as well as increase tourism for the region and the state. We are extremely grateful for the work **Senator Roger Wicker** and others have contributed to bring this project to fruition," said **Walton Gresham**, Delta Council Highways and Transportation Committee Chairman.

TUNICA AIRPORT LAUNCHES SERVICE TO FOUR CITIES

Tunica Airport is bringing back regularly scheduled air service to the Tunica destination. The new partnership with Ashley Air and Travel will provide service to four new markets, Atlanta, Charlotte, Orlando, and St. Pete/Tampa beginning July 1, 2018. To celebrate the new service, Ashley Air and Travel is offering an introductory \$599 annual travel membership, including unlimited travel on all routes served by Ashley Air for \$39 each way. Taxes and additional fees are not included.

Ashley Air and Travel's 50 passenger ERJ145 jet aircraft will operate once daily Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from Tunica to Atlanta or Tampa/St. Pete, and Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday to Charlotte or Orlando.

SOUTH DELTA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT RIBBON CUTTING & OPEN HOUSE



On Tuesday, April 17, South Delta Planning & Development District hosted a ribbon cutting and open house reception at their new location in the former Village Shopping Center on South Main Street in Greenville. As part of the event, the conference room (pictured above) was dedicated in memory of **Dr. J.Y. Trice**.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES \$5.9M IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS APPROVED FOR MS

Projects part of \$256 million in repairs to be done to address aging National Park Service infrastructure

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced \$5.9 million in funding approved to rebuild critical national park infrastructure in Mississippi. The funds will go to stabilize the railroad Redoubt Earthworks in Vicksburg National Military Park. This is part of \$256 million going to a list of projects across the National Park Service to address dire maintenance and repair needs that contribute to the \$11.6 billion backlog currently facing the Nation's parks.

"The inclusion of Vicksburg National Military Park in the National Park Service's spending plan demonstrates the Trump Administration's commitment to keeping this historically significant site accessible to the public," said **Senator Roger Wicker**. "I thank **Secretary Zinke** for prioritizing this park and for his efforts to promote America's history and public lands."

MSU THAD COCHRAN AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM VISITS DELTA



The Mississippi State University **Thad Cochran** Agricultural Leadership Program participants visited the Delta recently for their latest seminar. During their visit, they spent a day in Stoneville to learn more about the resources and research of the Delta Research & Extension Center, USDA, and Delta Council.

The class is comprised of nine students working in various sectors of agriculture, and selected through a competitive application process. Students attend nine seminars presented over the course of twenty-two months.

ALLEN ANNOUNCED AS ACSA PRESIDENT/CEO



The American Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA) President/CEO, **William E. May** announced his plans to retire December 31, 2018. On July 16th ACSA announced the hiring of **William H. "Buddy" Allen** to become the next President & CEO of ACSA. **Mr. Allen** will assume the title on January 1, 2019. He will begin his transition in August working with **Mr. May**. **Buddy** is a native of Belzoni, Mississippi and resides in Tunica, Mississippi. He is married to the former **Allison Johnson**, and they have three daughters. He earned his BA from the University of Mississippi in English and Political Science. **Buddy** worked on Capitol Hill in the office of **U.S. Senator Thad Cochran** as an intern and Staff Assistant. He has spent time in the banking industry with a focus on capitalization and agriculture lending. Presently, **Buddy** is a partner in A&J Planting Company, a vertically integrated agribusiness in Tunica. In 2013 he became a partner in The Macon Edwards Company a government relations firm focusing on agriculture policy and regulation.

LEGISLATURE AMENDS HARVEST PERMIT HAULING



The Legislature passed and the Governor signed Senate Bill 2418 during the 2018 Regular Session, amending the Mississippi Code of 1972, Section 63-5-33 (3) and (4). The amendments only pertain to vehicles operating with a Harvest Permit or vehicles hauling prepackaged products unloaded or to be loaded at a state port traveling on non-interstate highways. The amendments were effective beginning July 1, 2018.

The amendments: Increased the axle tolerance for vehicles transporting harvest permitted commodities or prepackaged products unloaded or to be loaded at a state port, from 5% to 10% above the maximum 40,000 axle weight. This increases the tandem axle weight, with the 10% tolerance from 42,000 to 44,000 pounds.

Allowed the tolerance and the 84,000 pound gross weight for Harvest Permitted vehicles loading at a point of origin with a scale.

DHA RECEIVES \$6M GRANT TO CONTINUE INDIANOLA PROMISE COMMUNITY

Delta Health Alliance has been awarded a new \$6 million grant to continue the Indianola Promise Community (IPC) initiative for the next two years. The funding comes from the U.S. Department of Education and will allow IPC to continue its programs to expand health care and educational opportunities for Indianola children and their families. Delta Health Alliance is one of three recipients throughout the country receiving this funding grant, and has been recognized nationally for IPC's transformative work in Indianola. **Tom Gresham**, IPC Steering Committee co-chairman, applauded the grant.



"To be acknowledged nationally and receive additional funding speaks volumes of the work Delta Health Alliance's program has had here in Indianola. The funding announcement comes just at the right time so IPC can plan for the 2018-19 school year."

DHA RECIEVES OPIOID GRANT FOR THE DELTA OPIOID TASKFORCE (DOT) II NETWORK

A rural opioid response planning initiative has been developed as a 12-month project to support the planning and development of new treatment and recovery networks, operating in partnership with local law enforcement and court systems, working jointly to address the opioid epidemic in rural communities of the Mississippi Delta. The new rural health network members include 1) the lead applicant, Delta Health Alliance, a 501(c)3 located in the rural community of Stoneville, in Washington County who also operates Leland Medical Clinic, a certified rural healthcare clinic; 2) Parkwood Behavioral Health System, which operates an inpatient, partial, intensive outpatient and residential treatment facility for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults in Olive Branch, Mississippi, 3) the Region I Mental Health – Fairland Treatment Center in Tallahatchie County which provides primary treatment programs for adults seeking recovery from chemical and behavior addictions, 4) the Social Services Collaborative – representing 25 service agencies in the region, 5) five district drug courts, 6) the MS Dept of Health and 7) city governments and law enforcement.

The targeted population includes 182,614 residents of nine rural counties including Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Panola, Quitman, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Warren and Yazoo. All counties are designated as wholly rural by HRSA. Two-thirds (64.4%) of residents are African-American, 34.5% live below the poverty level,

only 73.0% of adults have a high school or equivalent degree, and 24.7% of residents lack basic literacy skills. In 2016 our service area saw 70.2 prescriptions for opioids for every 100 residents, higher than the national rate of 66.5 per 100. Mississippi is currently the 4th highest U.S. State for opioid use.

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Planning project was conceived to bring together our circuit drug court systems, law enforcement, regional and local healthcare providers, and recovery support systems to jointly map out existing resources and referral systems of care, to identify ongoing unmet needs relating to opioid use and addiction, to develop strategies for improving the delivery of substance abuse services in our communities, to develop workforce training and education strategies relating to opioids, and to collaboratively develop policy recommendations for state and regional agencies relating to responding to our local opioid epidemic. Two evidence-based programs, the Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care model and Baltimore City's Drug Treatment Court model are being utilized as pillars

for the final strategic plan, which will offer choices by providing a flexible menu of evidence-based services and supports to meet the specific needs of individual, with intensive supervision and judicial monitoring as warranted.

This cooperative endeavor has three specific aims: 1) To establish a sustainable, region-wide system that can effectively help residents and clinicians make better informed decisions about how to treat and manage persons who interact with local or district court systems with opioid use or addiction; 2) To improve substance abuse outcomes by developing strategies to engage patients in selecting specific behavioral health services with regular primary care; and 3) To develop policy recommendations to reduce access to opioids.

NEW PROVISION FOR WATERFOWL OFFERED IN CRP

Duck hunters and waterfowl habitat managers received a gift as part of the 2018 Omnibus Appropriations package which **Senator Hyde-Smith** will be working to maintain in the 2019 Ag Appropriations package (S.2976) to be taken up next week by the Senate. The provision directs the USDA Farm Service Agency to allow the planting of food plots on 10% of lands enrolled in CP-23 for wintering waterfowl and other wildlife. CP-23 is a practice offered under the Conservation Reserve Program that allows for the construction and/or enhancement of wetlands on part of those lands enrolled in CRP. To date, only native moist soil plants could be managed within these impoundments. Native moist soil plants provide excellent habitat for waterfowl. However, adding crops such as corn or rice on a portion of these impoundments can provide additional food resources for waterfowl. The intention of this provision is to allow landowners with the CP-23 practice as a part of an active or new CRP contract to plant part of these wetland areas in food plots for waterfowl to increase food resources available to migratory waterfowl each winter. The provision is voluntary, therefore landowners who do not wish to site food plots on their CP-23 acres are not required to do so. "Delta Wildlife and its Waterfowl Committee are pleased to see this provision enacted and support Senator Hyde-Smith in her efforts to maintain this provision in the 2019 Ag Appropriations bill," commented **John Murry Greenlee**, Delta Wildlife President. "The provision will help address food availability concerns for wintering waterfowl in years when food resources are limited." For those landowners with active CP-23 contracts who do wish to site food plots on their CP-23 lands, please see your County USDA Service Center for more information. Delta Area NRCS and FSA staff have recently been provided with guidance and training to help implement this provision.

NUFARM TO INVEST \$20M IN WASHINGTON COMPANY



Nufarm Americas Inc. on August 21, announced the expansion of their North American manufacturing operations with the dedication of a new facility in Greenville, investing \$20M and creating 68 new jobs. The announcement took place in Greenville with executive director of the **Mississippi Development Authority Glenn McCullough**, **Congressman Bennie Thompson**, **Washington County Board of Supervisors President Carl McGee**, **Mayor of Greenville Errick Simmons**, **Nufarm group executive of supply chain operations Elbert Prado**, and **Nufarm regional general manager Brendan Deck** in attendance.

Nufarm Americas, Inc. is a subsidiary of Nufarm Limited, a manufacturer, supplier and marketer of crop protection products based in Australia. Nufarm is recognized as one of the leading agricultural and turf chemical manufacturers in the world. Nufarm Americas, Inc. formulates products that serve the agricultural, professional turf, vegetation management and forestry markets in the United States.

Additional internal capacity will allow Nufarm to respond to market realities and support their customers. This is largely driven by supplying key products to the southeastern U.S. region from Greenville and leveraging recent Nufarm investments in global supply chain planning and distribution tools to optimize the network.

"This is truly a plant for our customers," says **Brad Hyman, Vice President of crop protection for Nufarm in the U.S.** "Our customers needed a consistent, high-quality and efficient supply of our product to the southeastern U.S. region, and this new plant allows us to accomplish that with more success and flexibility than ever before."

The facility will support Nufarm's growing herbicide and cotton portfolios with state-of-the-art formulation and packaging operations. The 16-acre site was selected after an extensive review throughout the Mississippi River Delta region, and it features an existing 104,500-square-foot facility which will be fully renovated to suit Nufarm's manufacturing needs.

Nufarm plans to establish the new

plant with a two-part approach. Phase one will feature the hiring of a core team for the establishment of engineering, process equipment and technology infrastructure. Phase two will include the hiring of 30-50 additional skilled workers over five years, building and property upgrades, and further technology and infrastructure investments. Renovation is set to begin soon with commercialization planned for summer 2019.

"As a leader in the agriculture industry, Mississippi is proud to welcome Nufarm as the state's newest business partner. From Greenville, Nufarm will employ the Mississippi Delta's skilled workforce to manufacture its crop protection products and ensure their timely delivery to Nufarm's customers throughout the Southeast," **Gov. Phil Bryant** said.



NEW NAME FOR CPS: NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS

As of July 1, 2018, Nutrien Ag Solutions is the new name for the previously branded Crop Production Services retail business, and it will be used at all offices and facilities in North American. This change from CPS to Nutrien Ag is a name change only. The company assures the name change strengthens their offering and allows them to better serve their customers. Neither the corporate structure nor the entity form are changing, and all contracts will stay in place as they are. "Our goal is to create a consistent global agriculture brand that represents value and productivity for our customers," says **Chuck Magro, President and CEO of Nutrien**. "As the leading provider of crop inputs, services and solutions, Nutrien Ag Solutions will continue to work side by side with our grower customers to maximize crop production and their returns." "We're extremely proud of the retail organization we've built," says **Mike Frank, President of Nutrien Retail**. "To ensure we meet our grower customers' evolving needs, we will continue to partner with key suppliers and to invest in best-in class technology, platforms and tools. We will have more news on our enhanced digital platform and other investments in the coming months."



STAFFERS FROM SENATOR WICKER'S OFFICE VISIT DELTA



Counsel and Legislative Assistant Brett Richards and **Legislative Correspondent Jacob Smith** from the Office of U.S. Senator **Roger Wicker** recently visited Stoneville to discuss a variety of agricultural and natural resource issues in the Delta and throughout Mississippi. **Richards** and **Smith** both work on agricultural issues for **Senator**

DELTAN ON THE MOVE

JOHN ROUNSAVILLE
State Director, USDA Rural Department



John Rounsaville is serving as State Director for USDA Rural Development, having been appointed to the position in November, 2017 by **President Donald Trump**. Born in Greenville, Rounsaville graduated from Mississippi State University with Agribusiness and Master of Agribusiness Management degrees. He is also a graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law. **Rounsaville** began his career in Washington, D.C. serving as a Legislative Assistant and then as Legislative Director for former

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE ANDY GIPSON VISITS STONEVILLE



Commissioner Andy Gipson visited Stoneville to learn more about the impacts of research and aquaculture issues in the Delta. After meeting with Delta Council staff and leaders to learn about the challenges and opportunities in the region, **Dr. Jeff Gore**, Mississippi State University entomologist at DREC, led a field tour and discussion about the importance of having the necessary pesticides available to farmers and the importance of MSU Research and Extension personnel working together with the MDAC, Delta Council, Delta F.A.R.M. and Commodity groups to ensure



growers receive the best information and have all of the necessary tools at their disposal. Following the field tour, **Dr. Craig Tucker**, USDA-ARS researcher at the Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center, met with Gipson at the Research Unit to exhibit current aquaculture research projects. **George King**, Chairman of the Delta Council Executive Committee, also met with **Gipson** about the importance of the Delta's water supply. The visit was complete with a visit to **Brian Vanlandingham's** Leland farm.

Mississippi Air National Guard and currently serves as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the 186th Air Refueling Wing in Meridian, Miss. A graduate of Calhoun City High School, he is the son of **Billy and Sarah Rounsaville** of Big Creek. He now lives in Madison with his wife **Laura**, a Batesville native, and their two young sons.

Current Job Title and Responsibilities: As State Director for USDA Rural Development in Mississippi, **Rounsaville** is responsible for a myriad of programs supporting community development and economic prosperity for Mississippi's rural communities. This entails administering grant, loan, and technical assistance programs to support water infrastructure; rural housing; essential community facilities such as schools, hospitals, and emergency

responders; new and existing businesses; rural telecommunications and broadband; and rural electrification. Through these programs, USDA Rural Development provides Mississippi communities with approximately \$700 million in financial support annually.

What do you like most about your job? "The best part of my job is helping to support people and communities, with the goal of improving quality of life and prosperity in Mississippi". Each day, our staff are working with local, State, and federal leaders to make improvements to healthcare and educational facilities, utilities and infrastructure, economic and community development projects, businesses, and housing. Mississippi has no shortage of needs, and playing a role in addressing those needs is very fulfilling. I



Delta Council President Woods Eastland, Senator Roger Wicker, Scott Pruitt, Governor Phil Bryant, and Senator Hyde-Smith joined by other officials on stage recite the Pledge of Allegiance as Greenwood Boy Scout Matthew Gnemi of Troop 200 posts the colors



First Presbyterian Church of Greenwood Children's Choir led by Music Director Ray Smithee



Monroe Walker, Taylor Howe & Adeidre Hernton of the Mississippi State University Catfish Cooking Team prepare to serve over 1000 guests at the 83rd Annual Meeting Catfish Luncheon



Andy Whittington enjoys a farm-raised catfish lunch on the lawn of the Quadrangle, served by Delta State University staff and volunteers.

83RD ANNUAL MEETING OF DELTA COUNCIL



Keynote Speaker EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt



George King, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Delta Council; Woods Eastland, President of Delta Council; Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Senator Roger Wicker, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, and Governor Phil Bryant after presenting the Achievement Awards at the Catfish Luncheon

Delta Council

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WICKER & HYDE-SMITH: ADDITIONAL \$55.9 MILLION TO SUPPORT WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, FLOOD CONTROL & OTHER MS PROJECTS



U.S. Senator Roger Wicker

U.S. Senators Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith commended the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for its plan to invest

an additional \$55.9 million in Mississippi to support infrastructure improvements throughout the State.



U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith

The Corps of Engineers released its FY2018 Work Plan, which outlines additional funding for ongoing Civil Works

projects. Congress provided these appropriated funds for the Corps to use at its discretion. The Mississippi Senators earlier this year encouraged the Corps to support projects that were unfunded or underfunded in the FY2018 budget.

Of significance, the 2018 Work Plan will provide \$3.6 million in construction funds to support the DeSoto County Regional Utility Authority wastewater facility and \$1.5 million for a storm water management study for North DeSoto County. An additional \$2.4 million would support water supply work in Flowood and wastewater infrastructure in Starkville.

On the Mississippi Gulf

Coast, the Corps will direct an additional \$3.0 million to dredge the Port of Gulfport. Another \$1.19 million would support dredging at Rosedale Harbor and \$131,000 for similar work at the mouth of the Yazoo River.

The Corps will also use \$45.3 million to invest in Mississippi River and Tributaries projects in the State, including \$27.1 million in construction funding for the Delta Headwaters, Upper Yazoo, Big Sunflower River, and Yazoo Backwater Area flood control projects. Progress on these four projects would enhance flood control, water quality, sediment reduction, and help the environment in the region.

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