



NWC Meets Along the Red River

The Red River, traversing Shreveport and Bossier City, Louisiana, played host to the National Waterways Conference's 54th Annual Meeting. The Red River—the Waterway to the World. DeSoto found it while exploring the Mississippi for riches. Bienville followed its route to explore north Louisiana. St. Denis spent years searching its shores for gold and silver. Early settlers and farmers used it

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Annual Meeting Recap*
- *Welcome New Members*
- *Upcoming Industry Events*
- *WRRDA Implementation*
- *Election Results*
- *Clean Water Act Update*
- *Appropriations Update*
- *Federal Flood Risk Management Standards*
- *New Director at Port of Pittsburgh*
- *ESA Hearing*
- *Contributed Funds for Lock Operations*
- *Vice President Touts Infrastructure at Port of Virginia*
- *Savannah Harbor Deepening Agreement Signed*
- *Changes at the Corps*
- *Mississippi River Commission Meetings*
- *PNWA in the News*

ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!

See page 5

to ship cotton and other goods to New Orleans. Steamboats from St. Louis, Pittsburgh, and Cincinnati roamed its waters. Today, the River is a vital source of economic development, providing both recreational and commercial opportunities essential to the State of Louisiana.

Industry leaders gathered to hear top-flight speakers discuss recent policy developments impacting the water resources industry, with implementation of the newly enacted Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The Red River Delivers

Holding true to the theme of NWC's 2014 Annual Meeting, the USACE Vicksburg District, led by Col. John Cross, truly demonstrated that the "Red River Delivers."

While conducting inspections along the river about the *MV Fred Lee*, Col. Cross and Tommy Hengst, Chief of the River Operations Branch, provided meeting attendees the opportunity to tour the barge and learn more about the Red River and the multiple benefits this important waterway provides to the region and the nation.



Proposed Amendments to Endangered Species Act Seek to Provide Stakeholders a Voice

At a hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, Tom Ray, on behalf of the Texas Water Conservation Association and the Western Coalition of Arid States, testified in support of efforts to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements. H.R. 1314 would implement changes to ESA settlement procedures to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to be informed of pending ESA complaints and to opt to be at the table.

The protection of threatened and endangered species and

the responsible and timely development and conservation of our water resources are both important goals that are sometimes in conflict. That conflict produces delays to the achievement of both goals, which can be detrimental and even destructive.

As it stands now, certain settlements at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be reached out of the public arena, with little or no involvement from potential stakeholders who are impacted by those very settlements. As explained in Ray's testimony, "the result is that while local stakeholders were left out of the process they are still faced with the responsibility of defending

against proposed listings that have the potential to harm their communities."

H.R. 1314 and a companion bill in the Senate, S. 19, would require publication of filed complaints and provide affected parties with a reasonable opportunity to intervene in the proceeding.

Tom serves on NWC's Executive Committee on behalf of the Texas Water Conservation Association. His testimony can be viewed here: naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=391637