

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT'S NEWS MAGAZINE

HEARTLAND ENGINEER



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APRIL - MAY 2012



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Where I fit in the OPLAN 2012

My Part of the Plan:

Action 3: Relationships: Develop Strategic Relationship Plan

Trisha Dorsey is an outreach specialist for the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division. She has worked for the Kansas City District since April 2010. Her duties are mostly focused on the communication of Missouri River projects.

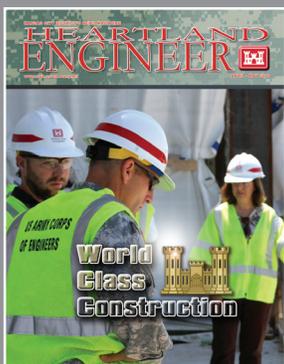
Dorsey was instrumental in the creation of the Strategic Relationship Engagement Database (SRED). This tool was established to monitor what we, as a district, do and how we communicate and engage our customers and stakeholders and the frequency of our events. "Prior to the creation of the written plan (SREP), we knew a tracking mechanism needed to be established in order to know where we have been and where we are going," said Dorsey.

In April 2012, the SRED (internal tool) was launched allowing full district viewing access for situational awareness of significant interactions regarding the district's projects and programs. "Having access to this key information allows you to pick up where someone left off," said Dorsey.

The SRED is intended to follow the outline of the written Strategic Relationship Engagement Plan (SREP). Lt. Cmdr. Mike Garner led the SREP team to compile key information and create the written document, providing the district with an outlined plan. The written plan provides the strategic list which identifies and defines our key engagements with customers, stakeholders, Tribes and elected and congressional delegations. The database acts as a live calendar of events and outcomes for these engagements.

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ON THE COVER:

William Watson, project engineer, gives Col. Tony Hofmann a tour of the new Fort Riley Hospital on May 15, 2012. The \$275 million hospital has been under construction since May of 2010 and is scheduled to be completed in 2014. Photo by David S. Kolarik

Filling the void in a leaderless river basin

The year is 1924 and the summer Olympics are being held in Paris. Eric Liddell, the top sprinter in the world from Scotland, was set to compete in the 100 meter dash. Liddell was dominant in this event and was heavily favored to win the Olympic gold medal. Having trained hard for three years, Liddell was soon faced with the decision of a lifetime—a decision pitting his deep personal beliefs to not compete on a Sunday versus choosing to compromise these standards in order to pursue what he had trained so hard to do. We'll get back to Liddell's story in a moment.

The Missouri River is a fractured basin, with state interests and priorities ranging anywhere from recreation in Montana to navigation in Missouri. As most of you know, there are eight congressionally authorized purposes on the Big Muddy; flood control, navigation, irrigation, hydropower, water quality control, water supply, recreation, fish and wildlife. Only one of these purposes includes storing water (flood control); the remaining seven all include releasing water from the six mainstem reservoirs.

The flood of 2011 was truly epic in a variety of ways, to include record flood duration as well as the numerous damages left behind after the event. During this flood there was also a brief moment of solidarity in the Missouri River Basin where all states agreed that flood control was the preeminent authorized purpose—something the Corps has never questioned. All governors in the basin met in Omaha, Neb., on Aug. 19, 2011, in a show of solidarity. Having had the unique opportunity to attend this meeting, it was obvious to me that a rare opportunity existed to bring the entire basin together and seek potential compromises (outside of flood control) with respect to the authorized purposes. After the second governor's meeting on Oct. 17, 2011, it became apparent to me that what appeared to be solidarity would quickly turn into "business as usual" with the various states protecting their own interests at the possible expense of other states.

So what's the lesson? Without a designated Missouri River commission (there was a Missouri River Commission in 1884 but it ended in 1902) or other body that is truly apolitical, political interests will continue to play a major role in shaping the basin instead of a science-based approach using unemotional arguments for the benefit of the entire basin vice specific state interests. This leaves a gaping leadership void in the Missouri River Basin. Time and again I've heard specific groups claim that they know how to manage the river and that they can do it better than the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. One example of this proclamation is navigation in the state of Missouri. Despite very limited barge traffic and low tonnage, the navigation industry touts the importance of navigation and the need for water in the lower Missouri River Basin, particularly in dry years. This stance can cause reservoir levels in the upper basin to drop precipitously, thereby impacting an already fragile recreational purpose there. In essence, "win-win" solutions based on compromise by both states are ignored. The end result is a fractured basin with no honest broker to do what may be in the best interest of the public we serve in the Missouri River Basin.

That's where USACE comes in. The Corps, comprised of our great employees, assumes the leadership void by balancing all eight congressionally authorized purposes. In essence, we are the honest broker that nobody else wants to be in the basin, making difficult, science-based decisions to ensure all eight purposes work in concert with each other. I have a much deeper appreciation for our great district and the work our professionals do on a day-to-day basis having watched this balancing act over the past couple of years. USACE is THE expert on the Missouri River. Don't let anyone else tell you differently. Our great employees continue to do the right thing despite a vocal minority that often questions our decisions yet provides no leadership in the basin.

Now, back to Eric Liddell. How is his story linked to the Corps and what we do? Like Liddell, we will not compromise our high standards and yield to the pressure of politics. We will continue to do the harder right instead of the easier wrong using a science-based approach while executing projects that are congressionally authorized and appropriated. It's a tough mission, and we do it well. Balancing the eight purposes requires skill and expertise. Eric Liddell chose not to run the initial heat of the 100 meter Olympic event on a Sunday—despite intense pressure applied by the Olympic committee; essentially, this uncompromising stance cost him a likely gold medal. However, as fate would have it, things worked out for him. Eric Liddell was allowed to compete in the 400 meter run, an event he had not fully trained for. Despite that, Liddell shocked the world and won a gold medal in the event. Doing the right thing is simply what we do as a values-based organization. At the end of the day the general public knows this, and our reputation as the world's largest public engineering agency remains intact. All while doing what Congress has given us the authority and appropriations to do.

I'm very proud of our Heartland Engineer workforce—doing what is right for the nation at all times.

Anthony J. Hofmann



Col. Anthony J. Hofmann

Largest project in district history at Fort Riley

By Diana McCoy

The Kansas City District is putting an end to the Base Realignment and Closure era at Fort Riley, Kan., with a bang, constructing the largest world-class, state of the art facility in district history.

The Fort Riley Replacement Hospital, negotiated at a cost of \$275 million, has been under construction since May of 2010 and is scheduled to be handed over to the post in January of 2014.

“We used the ECI method of construction,” said Christine Hendzlik, project manager. “The program amount was \$404 million, so using this method has allowed us to save a significant amount of money.”

ECI, or Early Contractor Involvement, allows the Corps to engage the services of a general contractor to provide preconstruction services and allows the contractor to review partially complete designs for constructability.

“This is the largest military contract we’ve ever had,” said Christine Hendzlik, project manager. “It’s fully antiterrorism and force protection compliant.”

Henzlik explained the project is designed to prevent progressive collapse—where the building would remain standing in the event of a disaster even if two or three columns in the wall were to be missing. The team is using side plate connections, something used in California for earthquake resistance.

Another aspect of the project is that the district team is pursuing a formal Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification at the silver level, which is complicated to do for a hospital.

“There are a lot of additional requirements because this is a medical facility,” said Mike Istas, resident engineer for the project. “There are more stringent

Mike Istas, resident engineer for the Fort Riley Replacement Hospital, overlooks the parking garage from the top floor of the hospital. Istas is responsible for ensuring the project is constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications laid out in the contract. Photo by Diana McCoy

requirements when it comes to duct work and that type of thing.”

Istas said some of the “gee whiz” things about the project include a big glass façade, which is different than any construction project you normally see on a military installation. Also, the exterior of the building will have many different types of skins; brick, stone, and metal panels.

The hospital will boast a few rooftop gardens, which will assist the team in attaining the LEED certification. Also, it will have a labyrinth-type healing garden.

“It will look like a maze without walls,” said Hendzlik who said one of her favorite things about the project was the garden. “It will be more of a contemplative walk with uplifting sayings and benches. By doing this, it will aid the healing process and reduce stress. You don’t normally have the ability to put in something that’s not utilitarian. The purpose of this project is so different from our standard military project.”

The facility will not only serve Soldiers, but also their families and retirees in the area.

“It’s going to have a major impact for the next 50 years on healthcare at Fort Riley,” said Hendzlik. “The look and feel will be more family oriented. It’s incorporating all the latest and greatest concepts with state of the art labor and delivery rooms, and the Warriors in Transition Complex is located adjacent to the hospital.”

This hospital, once completed, will replace the current, 50-year-old hospital. The new facility is designed with a wing specifically for a clinic.

The Kansas City District is scheduled to hand the hospital over to the installation in January of 2014, and it will be considered troop-ready after all the equipment and furniture has been installed—approximately six to nine months later.

Construction personnel work on the first floor of the Fort Riley Replacement Hospital, which is a 555,000 square-foot facility. The district contracted this project with Balfour Walton Joint Venture.

The hospital is adjacent to the Warriors in Transition Complex (pictured), and the current hospital can be seen on the horizon. The location of the new facility will aid in a speedier recovery for Soldiers returning from combat. Photos by Diana McCoy

Rushville-Sugar Lake Levee

Complete

By David S. Kolarik

The Kansas City District recently reached a milestone when it completed 2011 post-flood rehabilitation repairs in record time on the Rushville-Sugar Lake Levee just outside Rushville, Mo.

"This is a great day for the citizens who rely on this levee system," said Lanny Frakes, secretary-treasurer of the Rushville-Sugar Lake Levee Association. "We could not have achieved this goal if it hadn't been for the strong collaborative efforts with the Corps," Frakes added.

The levee system suffered six breaches during the 2011 epic flood event bringing a halt to more than 10,000 travelers along highways 59 and 45 along the system, shutting down six miles of Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight operations and flooding approximately 7,000 acres of fertile farmland.

The Rushville-Sugar Lake Levee Association joined the Federal Public Law 84-99 program in 1976. Their membership and good standing in the program allowed

for the federal government to assist in funding the repairs in an 80/20 cost share, with the levee sponsor paying 20 percent while providing the Right-of-way and materials necessary to reconstruct the levee.

The state of Missouri issued a Community Development Block Grant to the Rushville-Sugar Lake Levee Association that covered the vast majority of the 20 percent they were responsible for funding.

"I'd like to thank everyone from the governor's office to the Platte and Buchanan County Commissioner for helping us to secure this grant to include the Mo-Kan Regional Council who actually wrote the grant," said Brian Miller, president of the Rushville-Sugar Lake Levee Association.

A contract was awarded to ESI Contracting Corp. located in Kansas City for approximately \$1.3 million on Jan. 30 to make the repairs.

"We knew what was expected so we started early with our sponsors, securing the easements and whatever was needed to expedite the repairs," said Frakes.

"I think everyone here realizes that we wouldn't be where we are today if it hadn't been for the relationship and partnering we have with the Corps," added Miller.

"We had excellent communication and coordination with the sponsor. The contractor understood our need for an accelerated schedule, and the dedicated project delivery team delivered making this an excellent finish," said Robin Wankum, Kansas City District levee rehab project manager.

Frakes said that the repair program worked well for us, and all the Corps employees did their best to expedite the repairs once they received the money.

"I've been around long enough to know that things just don't happen, this program works," said Frakes.



Levee Rehab Project Manager Robin Wankum speaks with Rushville-Sugar Lake Levee Association President Brian Miller (left) and Lanny Frakes, secretary/treasurer, at the completion event Mar. 19. Photo by David S. Kolarik

Clean Slate Afghanistan

By Brandon Tobias, LEED BD+C

Tabula rasa rarely presents itself to the modern day master planner, civil engineer or architect. In an era when seemingly all corners of the world are mapped and catalogued—and summarily Instagramed, and Tweeted (#nonewplaces)—few opportunities exist for a designer to look over acres of undisturbed land and see anything more than well-tilled farmland or an “Opening Soon!” outlet mall. However, such an opportunity may still remain in Afghanistan, where war has raged since well before the first American Soldier set boots on ground to fight the Global War on Terror.

Typical of most relief efforts, many challenges greeted the men and women sent to help stabilize

and rebuild the Afghan nation. And while providing immediate assistance requires utilizing the fastest and most familiar tools at hand, ignoring their applicability in a different environment inevitably creates lost effort. Fortunately, lessons learned generated new design principles employed by NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) and its design agents—the largest of which is the Corps. Incorporating these new practices expedite construction efforts as security continues to return to the hands of the Afghan National Security Force (ANSF).

“So long as the great majority of men are not deprived of either property or honor, they are satisfied.”—
Niccolò Machiavelli,
Italian philosopher.

Few quotations apply so succinctly to the people of Afghanistan as the thoughts of Machiavelli. Arguments over land and property boundaries fill page after page of their history books, ranging from Persian, Russian and British invasions, occupations, and eventual desertions dating before the 1700s. The scarcity of suitable settling grounds exacerbates the struggle over land nestled in the shadows of the Hindu Kush and coursing over the sprawling Registan Desert. Phrases



Above: Pictured from left to right: Kevin Bishop, deployed with USFOR-A as chief of Real Estate; Brandon Tobias, deployed to CETAN as architecture team lead; and Jared Mewmaw, deployed to CETAN as civil engineer. Real estate, architecture, and civil engineering are all key players in master planning and design in Afghanistan. Photo provided

Right: This view from a helicopter on the way back from Bagram Air Field shows a typical settlement and how the indigenous people plot out their land with walls and how they will settle at the base of and sometimes up the side of mountains. Photo by Brandon Tobias



such as “the project site is only accessible by goat” often receive criticism as hyperbole; however, in the most remote areas of the country, these descriptions apply with complete accuracy.

Despite efforts dating back to the 1960s to accurately survey and register land ownership, the Afghan culture still operates as much on the honesty of a firm handshake as a government-issued deed. This approach works well enough when defining the outer limits of a flock’s grazing area, but falls short when three meter tall stone walls, guard towers, and entry control points (ECPs) come into play.

However, with new settlements in the form of ANSF expansion, today’s Afghan farmers adapt to the new opportunities to provide for their families. Engineers frequently return to the site of a future Afghan National Army installation only to find the beginnings of perimeter walls where only dirt and the fear of unexploded ordinance (UXO) were the day before; this is no accident. The locals know that if they are quick to act when a survey team arrives on a new site, a few well-placed rocks as soon as they leave can be the difference between struggling to feed his family and a large sum of money from the government compensating them for the use of their land.

And really, who can blame them?

Even after navigating inevitable real estate issues, project delivery teams (PDTs) now face the climactic, topographic, and accessibility difficulties of that site. Granted, these features could be managed with little more than a site visit and some photos, but these commodities remain difficult to obtain due to the logistic and security concerns of getting to many of these sites.

Not to be hampered by these complications, many solutions promote contextual responsiveness and sustainability while requiring little more than basic design principles employed for literally hundreds of years. Passive solar design, far from a new concept, endorses maintainable and environmentally sensitive solutions appropriate for a nation that will not likely see a Leadership in Engineering and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified building constructed any time soon. Simply siting a building to harvest as much of the sun’s natural light and warmth as possible immediately solves concerns of testing and balancing HVAC systems with complicated controls, while providing a more

cost effective and maintainable solution. Sadly, many master planners employed in Afghanistan continue to overlook these values in favor of the easiest solution, largely dictated by time and convenience.

In an effort to correct the well-intended, albeit misplaced, design and construction efforts from early in the campaign, NTM-A worked with the Corps to develop Austere Design Guidance specific to ANSF projects. This criteria took aim at the western construction standards and typologies upon which early designs so heavily relied and examined whether or not their inclusion were actually a disservice to the people these buildings and infrastructure were supposed to serve.

Instead of continuing to rely on these tried and true standards—perfectly acceptable on American military bases—new construction standards dictate the use of local materials constructed in a manner that responds to the needs of the indigenous. While steel construction remains costly and requires more precision with welded connections, Afghan laborers excel at reinforced concrete with concrete masonry unit (CMU) infill construction. Finishing these surfaces with stucco and plaster provide durable and maintainable surfaces appropriate for an Army installation. Operable windows and ceiling fans promote natural ventilation of spaces without complicating electrical and mechanical design. Examples such as these represent just a few of the lessons-learned currently employed as NTM-A works with its designers to complete the reconstruction of not only army and police installations and facilities, but the nation’s security forces as a whole.

Few will ever contend that the rebuilding of Afghanistan has been performed infallibly, but it would be unfair to say that coalition forces continued to make the same mistakes over and over. While plenty of room for improvement remains, particularly in the approach to overall master planning, altering construction methods to match indigenous capability indicates learning from previous lapses. Ultimately, promoting capacity development for the workforce of the third poorest country in the world expresses a commitment to helping the Afghans help themselves. These efforts augment the training of Afghanistan’s own security forces and teach this country how to illustrate its own *tabula rasa*.

Settlements already encroach on the Afghan National Army Installation north of Pol-e-CHarkhi. A project was in the works to extend the fence-line along this border of the site.
Photo by Brandon Tobias

Evers brothers promoted to lieutenant colonel together in Kabul

By Paul Giblin

Brothers Buck Evers, 41, of Huron, Ohio, and Jason Evers, 38, of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., were both promoted from major to lieutenant colonel during a joint ceremony at Camp Eggers in the Green Zone of downtown Kabul on April 5.

The brothers ripped the gold oak leaf insignias from each other's uniforms and replaced them with black oak leaf insignias, signifying their new ranks. Their respective commanding officers, National Guard Lt. Col. Craig W. Baker and Army Col. Christopher W. Martin, presided over the promotions, which were held as military airplanes flew overhead.

Martin noted the unique aspect of the double promotion.

"It is always an honor to promote or re-enlist a Soldier, regardless of his rank. To get to do an occasion like this when it's two brothers—I've never done that before and I've been in it 29 years now almost—it's pretty awesome," he said.

The brothers are serving with different units, stationed about 360 miles apart in Afghanistan, a country the size of Texas.

Buck, who is slightly taller, is

serving as the executive officer for a unit of the Ohio National Guard that's been deployed. He's based in the capitol city of Kabul in the northeastern region of the country. His tour began in October 2011 and is set to end in August 2012.

Jason is serving as the officer-in-charge of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' area office in Mazar-e Sharif in the far northern portion of the country. His tour began this month and is scheduled to end in April 2013. In fact, he had yet to travel to Mazar-e Sharif before he was promoted.

Midway through the double promotion, during the moment after Buck was promoted, but before Jason was promoted, Martin directed Jason to salute his older brother and fleetingly superior officer. Jason obliged with a sharp salute, drawing chuckles and applause from an audience of about 60 Soldiers and civilian workers who attended the event that was conducted in a courtyard surrounded by heavy military vehicles called Mine Resistant Armor Protected carriers.

Afterward, Martin quipped, "I

think we'll go ahead and promote you, so you'll be equal with your brother and not have to salute him anymore."

It was purely coincidental that both Evers brothers were called to serve in Afghanistan at the same time, they said, so it was good fortune that they were able to be promoted alongside each other.

Buck said, "It means a lot to me to share this moment with my brother, who I've looked up to for all my life. He's been an inspiration to me and I'm very, very grateful to be able to do this."

Jason said, "It's cool. It's kind of neat, especially given the fact that we are not close to each other geographically. He lives up in Ohio. I live in Kansas. We don't see each other that much, so good times."

They probably still will not see much of each other in Afghanistan, though Buck said his duties are likely to require him to travel to Mazar-e Sharif from time to time. They plan to get together during those occasions.

Buck is a 1993 graduate of the University of Washington, in Seattle, with a degree in design studies, architecture and planning. In addition to his duties with Ohio National Guard, he serves as an engineering manager for JBT FoodTech, which manufactures food industry equipment, in Sandusky, Ohio. He and his wife Shelley have three children.

Jason is a 1995 graduate of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., with a degree in civil engineering. He has served as deputy district commander for the Corps of Engineers' Kansas City District since 2010. He and his wife Salliejo also have three children.

Buck and Jason grew up mostly in Germany and Washington State. Immediately after being promoted, they both thanked their families and their past and current commanders and colleagues for their contributions throughout their military careers.



Brothers Buck Evers of Huron, Ohio, and Jason Evers of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., were both promoted from major to lieutenant colonel during a joint ceremony at Camp Eggers in the Green Zone of downtown Kabul on April 5. The brothers ripped the gold oak leaf insignias from each other's uniforms and replaced them with black oak leaf insignias, signifying their new ranks. Their respective commanding officers, National Guard Lt. Col. Craig W. Baker and Army Col. Christopher W. Martin, presided over the promotions, which were held as military airplanes flew overhead.

Photo by Mark A. Rankin



Annual stakeholders meeting at Clinton Lake

By Diana McCoy

Management at Clinton Lake in Lawrence, Kan., met with several of their stakeholders on March 20 to discuss plans, issues and special events for the lake in an effort to foster partnership and build upon relationships.

The meeting was attended by several organizations to include Kansas Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Outdoors, Douglas County Commissioner, Douglas County Historical Society, Wakarusa Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, and the City of Lawrence.

Sue Gehrt, operations manager at Clinton Lake, opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

“We try to do this every year,” said Gehrt. “It’s just a great opportunity to get everyone together who works at the lake or is involved with the lake to find out what’s going on and work out any issues or concerns.”

Water quality issues were a primary concern for several stakeholders. Sedimentation and blue-green algae have been hot topics in the past. The City of Lawrence obtains its water from Clinton Lake, and although the blue-green algae in the water was not at a dangerous level last year, it affected the smell and taste of the water.

“Nutrients and sediments are an issue we are monitoring closely,” said Tom Huntzinger, the coordinator of the Wakarusa WRAPS.

Huntzinger said that sediment is coming into the lake faster than anticipated, and he is working with landowners to reduce the sediment and has created a checklist and plan to show what tasks the watershed faces over the next 50 years.

Other issues of concern included zebra mussels and Asian carp. Andy Terhune, a conservation agent with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, said he planned on doing boat checks this year again at the Clinton State Park. He caught one boater in 2011 that had come directly from Perry Lake without cleaning his boat or pulling out the drain plug. Perry Lake is known to be contaminated with zebra mussels.

Aside from the concerns, there were several highlights from the meeting such as the off-leash dog park.

“Lawrence loves its dogs, and they all hate leashes,” said Darin Pearson with the City of Lawrence. “Thanks to the Corps for establishing an off-leash area for dogs.”

He said the off-leash area was widely popular, and the parking lot was full even when temperatures dipped below 30 degrees in the winter.

The Kansas State Park Manager, Jerry Schecher, talked about visitation numbers for the 2011 recreation season.

“Things went well last year in the state park,” he said. “Visitation was down, but revenue was up—I think due to the heat...and gas was up. People came less but stayed longer.”

Clinton Lake welcomed 1.7 million visitors in 2011—up from 1.6 million in 2010, and allowed for \$3.7 million in flood damage control savings. Since project construction was completed in 1980, the dam has prevented more than \$1.21 billion in flood damages.



Above: Tom Huntzinger, coordinator for the Wakarusa Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, discusses sedimentation issues at the Clinton Lake Stakeholders Meeting. Approximately 3.4 billion gallons of water from Clinton Lake were used by the City of Lawrence and Tri-District in 2011.

Left: Des Goyal, chief of Operations, addresses the group at the Clinton Lake Stakeholders Meeting held at the Clinton Lake Project Office. The meeting is held annually in an effort to foster partnership with the many stakeholders around the lake.

Photos by Diana McCoy

Shallow Water Habitat Restoration to resume in Missouri

By Amy Phillips

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District has recently announced their plans to resume Missouri River shallow water habitat restoration efforts in Missouri.

The Corps held an open forum public meeting on April 17 in Arrow Rock, Mo., to discuss the proposed project on the Jameson Island Unit Shallow Water Habitat Restoration Project and has extended the public comment period on the project an unprecedented 60 days to ensure there is complete transparency and to ensure the public has the opportunity to comment on the project.

David Hoover, a Corps biologist said, "There is a good deal of interest in this project, and we want to ensure that our Missouri River stakeholders have adequate time to review and comment on the Project Implementation Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment and Section 401(b)(1) evaluation."

The Jameson Island Unit Shallow Water Habitat Restoration Project is a component of the Corps' overall Missouri River Recovery Program. The Corps works cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge on their existing public land to mitigate a portion of the diverse aquatic habitat that was lost as a result of the construction of the Corps' Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project by restoring shallow water habitat through construction of a side channel chute and a backwater.

"The Jameson Island Unit Shallow Water Habitat Restoration Project will restore a portion of that important fish and wildlife

habitat and the dynamic river process that will sustain it in a manner that is consistent with our agency's environmental protection responsibilities and compatible with the eight congressionally authorized purposes of the Missouri River," said Col. Anthony Hofmann, district commander.

Hofmann addressed the Missouri Clean Water Commission on



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' original Jameson Island Chute Project crosses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The Army Corps has announced plans to restore additional shallow water habitat (SWH) on the site by diverting the existing outlet and extending the chute another mile to the west. Photo by Michael Gossenauser

May 2 due to concerns that the commission had in 2007. The Corps voluntarily halted restoration efforts in the Missouri during 2007 due to questions surrounding the placing of material in the river during construction. They asked the halt to endure "until such time as the Corps could prove this activity has no adverse affect on the water quality of Missouri."

During his briefing to the Clean Water Commission, Hofmann addressed the previous concerns of the commission and outlined the proposed plan to move forward with the project to meet the legal mandate under the 2003 Biological Opinion and mitigate fish and wildlife habitat losses which

resulted from the BSNP.

"Since the time that the commission members expressed water quality concerns, the Corps has taken several steps to address them, including extensive water quality monitoring at the project sites, commissioning an independent science review from the National Academies in 2008, consulting with federal and state agencies, and assessing the resulting new information in a thorough analysis in the recently completed PIR," Hofmann said.

With the National Academies study and the robust monitoring program that includes site specific and programmatic water quality monitoring, the Corps feels that they have satisfied the intent of the previous commission's orders.

The project would restore 30 acres of SWH (a 27-acre chute and a 3-acre backwater) and the dynamic river processes which maintain it for the benefit of native fish and wildlife species,

including the endangered pallid sturgeon. The project has been developed to maintain the existing congressionally authorized project purposes of the Missouri River.

The public comment period on the project will remain open until June 30, 2012. During this time, there will be a public hearing held to address stakeholder concerns.

Recently, the Missouri River was listed as #4 on America's Most Endangered Rivers List, which noted that Corps programs such as the MRRP, Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study and Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan would assist in restoring the river to a safe condition.

Awards

Northwestern Division CP-18 Senior Journeyman of the Year Award—Pete Hentschel

Northwestern Division Stewardship Employee of the Year Award—Samantha Walker

Northwestern Division Project Manager of the Year—Melissa Corkill

Northwestern Division Program Manager of the Year—Scott Vollink

Northwestern Division Fiscal Year 2011 Small Business Specialist of the Year Award—Arthur Saulsberry

Northwestern Division Engineer of the Year—Douglas Crum

Northwestern Division USACE Castle Award—Arlo Rupke

Northwestern Division Emergency Manager of the Year Award—Joshua Marx

Northwestern Division Hard Hat of the Year Award—James Childers

Northwestern Division Customer Service Award—Michael Dixon

Construction Management Excellence Award—John Schreiner

Technical Award by the Federal Executive Board—James Childers

Trade/Craft Award by the Federal Executive Board—Earl Shackelford

Joint Civilian Service Commendation Medal—Doug Plachy

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Award—Jason Sheeley

Silver de Fleury Medal—Rexford Goodnight

Alphonse J. Dell'Isola Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Construction
The Blue River Channel Modification Project

Northwestern Division Project Delivery Team Excellence Award

Ellenville Scrap Iron & Metal Superfund Site PDT (Kansas City District staff include Amy Darpinian, Matt Dolly, Jill Fraley, Andy Gosnell, Heather Morrow, Bob Pender, and Paul Spekin. Staff from the New York District and other stakeholders are also part of this team.)

Northwestern Division Project Delivery Team Award for Contracting Excellence
Jay Denker, Irvin Gray, Christine Hendzlik, Michael Istas, Alice Jeffres, John Schreiner,
Trudy Shannon and William Watson

Northwestern Division USACE Innovation of the Year Award

Bid Package Manager Process Improvement Team (Kevin Bond, Tammy Chambers, Justin Cofer, Michael Dixon, Tom Graff, Irvin Gray, Adam Hall, Chris Halterman, Steve Iverson, Robert Kreienheder, Teresa McCarthy, Jake Owen, Gale Ross, Doug Sarver, Bryan Smith, Blaine Stevens and James Turner)

Northwestern Division USACE Innovation of the Year Award

Early Contractor Involvement Evolution Team (Irvin Gray, Christine Hendzlik, Mike Istas, Alice Jeffres, John Schreiner, Trudy Shannon and William Watson)



Rathbun Lake holds a grand opening for the North Shore Trail on April 21.

Photo provided by Marcia Thomas



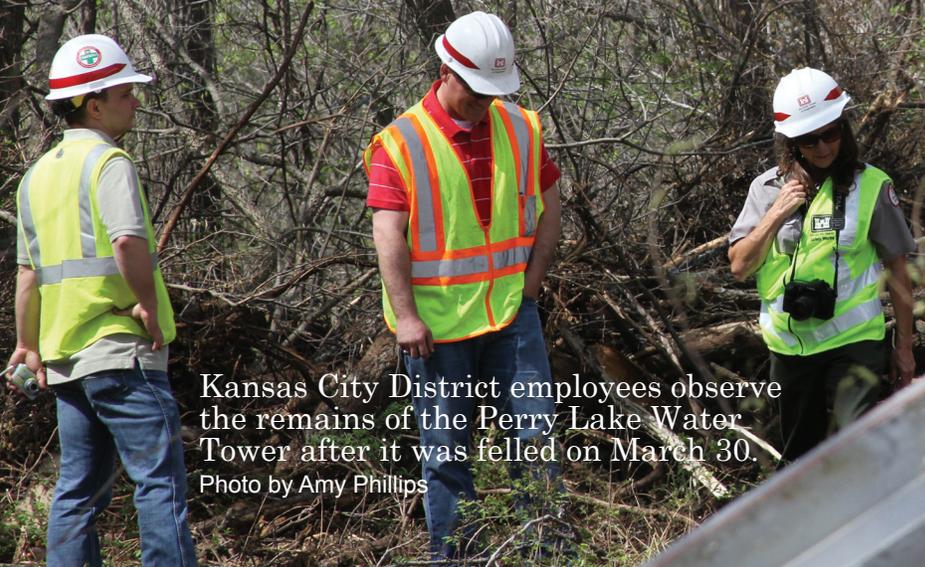
Tutt, a Great Horned Owl found at Tuttle Creek Lake in Manhattan, Kan. in March, is nearly ready for release into the wild. Follow his story on the district Flickr page at www.flickr.com/usace-KCD. Click on the set "Meet Tutt!" on the right side of the page.

Photo by Vanessa Avara



Samantha Walker, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers park ranger at Clinton Lake near Lawrence, Kan., holds a bald eagle chick after it is banded on May 14, 2012. Photo by Mike Watkins

Around the District



Kansas City District employees observe the remains of the Perry Lake Water Tower after it was felled on March 30.

Photo by Amy Phillips