

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WATERWAYS COUNCIL, INC. REFLECTS ON INLAND WATERWAYS INDUSTRY IN 2005, LOOKS FORWARD TO 2006**

WASHINGTON, DC – As the inland waterways industry looks back at the year nearly passed and to the year ahead, Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) offers the following highlights in 2005 and areas of focus for 2006:

- Waterways Council was gratified by the Appropriation Conference Committee leadership and Conferees for an exceptionally strong FY '06 Energy and Water Appropriations bill that set funding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program at \$5.4 billion. This is the highest appropriation ever for the Corps of Engineers. A notable change is the elimination of the practice of across-the-board withholding of monies for Savings and Slippage, as well as restrictions on the reprogramming of monies from one project to the other. The elimination and curtailment of these practices is important because projects will now be funded at appropriated levels. This funding level is a significant increase above the Administration's requested \$4.5 billion, the House of Representatives request of \$4.7 billion, and the Senate's requested \$5.3 billion. The bill also will fund Inland Waterways Trust Fund financed projects at \$379 million, to include construction and major rehabilitation projects.
- Specifically, the following projects were funded, at efficient levels or near full capability of the Corps: Olmsted Lock and Dam (IL/KY), \$90 million; McAlpine Lock and Dam (IN/KY), \$70 million; Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (LA), \$11.3 million; Marmet Lock and Dam (WV), \$73.5 million; Monongahela River Locks and Dams 2, 3 and 4 (PA), \$51 million; Kentucky Lock Addition (KY); \$23 million; and Chickamauga Lock and Dam (TN), \$10 million. Major rehabilitation projects include Emsworth Dam on the Ohio, Locks and Dams 3, 11, 19, and 24 on the Upper Mississippi River. WCI will urge higher levels of funding for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) to address the critical needs of the inland system in 2006.

- WCI applauded the overwhelming passage (406 to 14) by the House of Representatives of a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which, among other provisions, authorized \$1.8 billion for the modernization of Great Depression-era locks along the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers, and Bayou Sorrel on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West. The recommendation of the New Orleans District Engineer calls for a new 75-foot by 1200-foot lock at a cost of \$88.5 million at Bayou Sorrel. When complete, WCI will work toward Senate action on a WRDA bill in 2006.
- The Board of Directors of WCI elected officers and Executive Committee members for 2005-2006: **Mark Knoy**, President, AEP MEMCO LLC, *Chairman*; **R. Barry Palmer**, WCI, *President and CEO*; **Dan Mecklenborg**, Senior Vice President, HR & Chief Legal Officer, Ingram Barge Company, *General Counsel*; **Lisa Fleming**, Sr. Vice President Law and Administration, American Commercial Lines LLC, *Secretary/Treasurer*; **Peter Lilly**, Chief Operating Officer-Coal, CONSOL Energy Inc., and **Rick Calhoun**, President, Cargo Carriers, *Vice-Chairmen*. **Peter Stephaich**, Chairman, Campbell Transportation Co; **H. Merritt Lane III**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canal Barge Company; and **Berdon Lawrence**, Chairman, Kirby Corporation, and WCI Past Chairman, were named as additional *Executive Committee Members*. WCI looks forward to working with these officers and Executive Committee members, as well as newly elected directors, in the year ahead.
- The National Waterways Foundation elected new trustees in October 2005: **Rev. Dr. Jean Smith**, Seamen's Church Institute; **Teri Goodmann**, Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium **Charles Jones**, Amherst/Madison Coal & Supply Company; **Terry Becker**, Riverway Co.; **Robert (Bobby) Guthans**, retired; and **Robert Nichol**, Moffatt & Nichol Engineers. The Foundation was launched in 1978 to foster waterways related research promoting the public value of America's inland navigation system, and will become ever-more active in 2006.
- The Honorable John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-TN) and The Honorable Jerry Costello (D-IL) each received the Fourth Annual Waterways Council, Inc. Leadership Service Award in March 2005. Reps. Duncan and Costello were honored jointly for their steadfast commitment to the improvement of the Nation's ports and commercial inland waterways system. The Fifth Annual Leadership Service Award will be presented in March 2006.

Waterways carriers, shippers, users, and ports which utilize the nation's waterways to transport essential bulk commodities such as coal, grain, petroleum and chemicals valued at more than \$31 billion annually rely upon a well-maintained and modern national system of ports and waterways. Benefiting is every American who turns on a light, eats breakfast or drives a car.

*Waterways Council, Inc. is the national public policy organization advocating a modern and well-maintained national system of ports and inland waterways. The group is supported by more than 250 waterways carriers, shippers, port authorities, shipping associations and waterways advocacy groups from all regions of the country.*

Visit [www.waterwayscouncil.org](http://www.waterwayscouncil.org).