

WATERWAYS

BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Winter 2005

CARIA celebrates 115 years of service to state and nation: 1890—2005

Alabama River Navigation Channel Funding

Congress passed the FY 06 Energy and Water Appropriations Act (HR 2419) on November 14, which includes all funding of US Army Corps of Engineers civil works projects. Funding for Alabama River projects in FY 06 E&W bill are as depicted in the table below:

Project	President's Budget	Appropriated
Ala-Coosa (Claiborne, dredging, etc.)	\$1.591	\$2.782
Millers Ferry L&D	\$7.315	\$7.315
Robert F Henry L&D	\$7.125	\$6.413
Total	\$16.031	\$16.510

The \$1.91 million increase in the Alabama-Coosa project was for dredging, but according to Mobile District, even that plus up will not be enough to guarantee the channel will be dredged next Spring.

With increases in fuel and other operational costs for dredging companies, it will require another \$1.3 million to entice bids from dredging companies for even a 100-foot wide channel at nine feet of depth. On top of that is the uncertainty of whether a dredge boat would even be available. We will continue working this issue as the channel is still limited in its availability due to the shoaling below Claiborne Dam.

Alabama Sturgeon

This “fish” never goes away. Even though no “Alabama sturgeon” have been sighted in over five years and with no “Alabama sturgeon” in captivity, the Federal Court of the Northern District in Alabama ruled against the Alabama-Tombigbee Rivers Coalition petition to de-

list the fish.

Also, despite evidence that the “Alabama sturgeon” is genetically identical to the Mississippi shovelnose found in the Mississippi River and the admission on the part of the US Government that the US Fish and Wildlife Service violated the law by not concurrently identifying the critical habitat at the time of listing, Judge Virginia Hopkins allowed the FWS off the hook by telling them to establish the critical habitat within one year.

The Alabama-Tombigbee Rivers Coalition met in early December and decided to appeal the ruling to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta .

Alabama River Atlas

CARIA recently helped bring to publication “The Alabama River Atlas,” a coffee-table sized book that highlights the historical, cultural, and geographical attractions along the river between Wetumpka on the Coosa, Tallassee on the Tallapoosa, and Selma on the Alabama River.

The project was completed under the auspices of Envision 2020, a five-county non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Greater Montgomery area.

CARIA President, Jerry Sailors, was manager of the project. Jim Felder of Alabama Mile-by-Mile, a subsidiary of Ecospring, Inc., out of Madison County, was the designer and production manager.

Funding for the project came from the Alabama Power Foundation, the Daniel Foundation, the Munson Foundation, and Envision 2020. The Atlas is available through Montgomery area Chambers of Commerce and at the Montgomery Visitor Center.

**CARIA Annual Meeting to be held in Rome, Georgia
February 9 & 10, 2006**

CARIA's annual meeting is set for February 9-10, 2006, at the Forum in Rome, Georgia. A schedule of events and registration materials are below.

Major topics of discussion will be the Corps plans to change the way it manages civil works projects, water management issues within the ACT Basin, and issues surrounding flood plain mapping and levee construction.

The featured speaker at the Thursday, February 9 dinner will be Willis Potts, recently retired General Manager and Vice President of the Inland Paperboard and Packaging in Rome. Mr. Potts once worked as Resident Manager at the Union Camp mill (now International Paper) in Prattville, Alabama.

Tentative Schedule

**CARIA Annual Meeting in Rome, Georgia
February 9-10, 2006**

Thursday, February 9, 2006

1:30 PM	Tour of Rome Riverfront Development
4:30	Board Meeting (Hawthorn Suites)
6:30	Reception/Dinner (Magretta Hall)
	Speaker – Willis Potts, retired Inland Temple executive

Friday, February 10, 2006 All meetings at the Forum

7:30 – 8:30 AM	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 8.55	Business Meeting : Waterway officials & COE)
9:00 – 12:00	General Meeting
9:00 – 12:00	Spouse Tour: from Hawthorn Suites lobby to destination & return
9:00 – 9:45	Corps Funding/project updates
9:45 – 10:15	COE Watershed Management Initiative
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 11:15	Updates
	NW GA Water Resource Planning
	ACT Update
	City of Rome Riverfront Development
11:15 – 11:35	Floodplain Mapping – FEMA
11:35 – 12:00	Levee Construction and Maintenance
12:00 – 1:00	Box Lunch (The Forum) - Program TBD

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM NO LATER THAN JANUARY 25, 2006
 Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Assoc.
 TOLL-FREE FAX: 1-888-53RIVER (1-888-537-4837)

ANNUAL MEETING
 February 9-10, 2006
 Rome, Georgia

Name: _____ **Spouse: (if attending)** _____
Company: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____ **Phone:** _____
Fax: _____ **email:** _____

Feb. 9th Tour _____

Feb. 10 Spouse tour: _____

Reception & Dinner Thurs. Feb. 9 :	Member	\$60	_____	
	<i>Non-Member</i>	65	_____	
Spouse Reception & Dinner:		30	_____	
Meeting, Friday, Feb. 10: Member		\$50	_____	Incl.Contnl. Breakfast & Box Lunch
Meeting, Friday, Feb. 10: <i>Non-Member</i>		55	_____	Incl.Contnl. Breakfast & Box Lunch
Meeting ONLY , Friday, Feb.10:		25	_____	NO Breakfast or Box Lunch
TOTAL		\$	_____	

Payment choice: Pay on site: _____ Bill me: _____ Bill Company: _____

Hotel reservations at the Hawthorn Suites MUST be made by January 25 to book at the preferred conference rate. Phone: 1-800- 527-1133 or 1-706-378-4837. Ask for CARIA reserved block.

A block of rooms – reservations must be made no later than January 17th- has also been reserved at the Holiday Inn: 706-295-1100. Ask for CARIA rate: \$69 for a single; \$99 for a suite.

Need more information? Call TOLL FREE 1-866-92-COOSA (922-6672)

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Winter 2005

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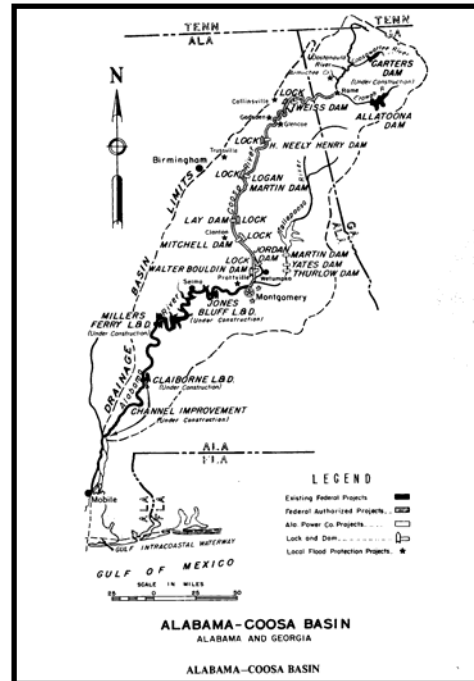
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*Wishing you a very merry
Holiday Season
and a prosperous New Year*