

COOOSA-ALABAMA RIVER
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, inc.



WATERWAYS

Quarterly newsletter — Winter 2006

Alabama River Navigation Funding

The 109th Congress adjourned without passing any FY 07 appropriations bills except for Homeland Security and Defense. The government is operating on a Continuing Resolution until the next Congress convenes in 2007, which portends a tough battle to get any funds into the FY 07 federal budget for maintenance dredging for “low-use” waterways across the nation. The Alabama has not been dredged since July 2005, and, with the drought of this past summer, the channel has been closed to commercial navigation for extended periods of time. Mobile District has only about a third of the funds on hand to let a dredging contract, and CARIA is working closely with the Alabama congressional delegation to explore every way possible to secure the balance needed.

New Businesses on the Alabama River

Two new businesses have announced their intent to establish operations using barges on the Alabama River. New Gas Concepts, Inc., is refurbishing the old State Docks facility at Selma to produce wood pellets as an alternative fuel source to be shipped via the Port of Mobile to Scandinavia. Estimated tonnage to be produced is 500,000 annually with production beginning in late 2007. Alabama River Partners, LLP, is seeking a permit to operate a sand and gravel mine at RM 268 on the Alabama to ship a million tons of material a year to the Gulf Coast, where construction materials are sorely needed. ARP has also indicated an interest in constructing a port facility in the vicinity to serve the growing number of industries in the Selma-Montgomery area that ship bulk commodities and containers through the Port of Mobile and the Gulf area. The sand and gravel operation can begin as soon as ARP receives the necessary permits.

ACT Update

Negotiations between Alabama and Georgia on how the waters of the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin will be managed continue. The two governors have met on several occasions with frequent lower-level technical discussions. A major breakthrough came in August when Georgia agreed to continue negotiations on the ACT without requiring simultaneous agreement on the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint basin as well. The ACF discussions are not as far advanced as those on the ACT.

LOOK INSIDE:

Details and registration information for the
2007 CARIA Annual Meeting
New Businesses...New Opportunities

February 15-16
Marriott Montgomery Prattville Hotel
& Conference Center at Capitol Hill

Alabama Freight Mobility Study (AFMS)

The first of two phases of the AFMS, a study commissioned by the Coalition of Alabama Waterway Associations (CAWA), is close to completion. Beginning in May 2005, Hanson & Associates of Nashville, Tennessee, has been gathering data on the transportation infrastructure of Alabama and the surrounding region to develop a business model that will enable shippers to determine the most cost-effective method of transporting commodities into and out of the state. CAWA's objective is to determine how to increase the amount of cargo movement on Alabama's inland waterways to assist in reducing projected congestion on the state's highways.

Alabama Sturgeon

The Alabama-Tombigbee Rivers Coalition offered oral arguments before the 11th Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta on November 6 seeking the removal of the Alabama sturgeon from the endangered species list. If the Appeals Court agrees with the ATRC argument, then the case will most likely be remanded to the Northern District Court of Alabama for further deliberation.

Personnel Changes

Billy Houston has taken over as Executive Director of the Tri Rivers Waterway Development Association, replacing Rebecca Martin. Billy moved the Tri Rivers office to Eufaula, his home town, where he was in economic development with the Eufaula Chamber of Commerce.

(continued on last page)

CARIA Annual Meeting 2007: New Businesses...New Opportunities *Thursday, February 15 & Friday, February 16* *Marriott Montgomery Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill*

This year's annual meeting theme—New Businesses...New Opportunities—is derived from announcements from two new businesses, each establishing operations on the Alabama which will open up even more development over the next few years.

We are packing the annual meeting program with information on significant issues and events affecting the Alabama River. Thursday evening's dinner features an address from Joe McInnes, Director of Alabama's Department of Transportation. Social and networking events include a golf clinic and Hyundai automobile plant tour for early arrivals.

Annual Meeting Sponsorship Opportunities

If your company or group is interested in a more active role at CARIA's annual meeting, consider a sponsorship. Sponsors are recognized at the event with signs and in the program, with broader coverage through our newsletter and in public information.

Several sponsorships are available, ranging from general sponsorships at gold, silver and bronze levels to specific annual meeting event sponsorships to door prizes of in-kind merchandise or services.

To secure a sponsorship, please call the CARIA office at 334-265-5744 before February 1, 2007.

CARIA Annual Meeting 2007 Schedule

(tentative)

Thursday, February 15, 2007

11:00 AM – 12 noon	Golf Clinic <i>Capitol Hill Golf Course</i>
1:00 PM	Registration Desk opens
1:30 – 4:00 PM	Hyundai Plant Tour <i>Leave from Marriott Hotel – transportation provided</i>
6:30 – 9:00 PM	Reception/Dinner <i>Marriott Hotel & Conference Center</i> <i>Dinner speaker: Joe McInnes, Director, AL DOT</i>

Friday, February 16, 2007

All events at Marriott Hotel & Conference Center except for spouse/guest tour

7:00 – 7:30 AM	CARIA Board Meeting
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast
8:00 – 8:30 AM	CARIA Membership Meeting
8:30 – 9:20 AM	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Issues and Updates
9:00 AM – noon	Spouse/Guest Tour of Prattville (<i>courtesy of Prattville Chamber of Commerce</i>) <i>Transportation provided—depart Marriott; tour includes lunch</i>
9:20 – 9:35 AM	U.S. Coast Guard Update
9:35 – 9:55 AM	Presentation by Prattville Chamber of Commerce
9:55 – 10:10 AM	Alabama Clean Water Partnership
10:10 – 10:25 AM	Break
10:25 – 10:40 AM	Update on ACT Water Negotiations
10:40 – 11:00 AM	I-85 Extension Project by Volkert & Associates
11:00 – 11:30 AM	New Businesses on the Alabama River
11:30 AM – 12:00 noon	Alabama Freight Mobility Study
12:15 – 1:30 PM	Lunch <i>Speaker: TBA</i>

CARIA Annual Meeting 2007 Registration
Thursday, February 15 & Friday, February 16
Marriott Montgomery Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill

Please submit names as you wish them to appear on annual meeting name badges:

Your name: _____

Spouse/Guest name (if attending): _____

Company/Group: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Annual Meeting Registration Fees:

	<i>Member</i>	<i>Non-member</i>		<i>Number Registering</i>	=	
Conference Registration <i>Includes all conference events except Golf Clinic</i>	\$140	\$150	X	_____	=	_____
Government agencies	\$100	\$100	X	_____	=	_____
Friday Only Registration <i>Includes all Friday events</i>	\$75	\$80	X	_____	=	_____
Golf Clinic <i>(Thursday, February 15)</i>	\$20	\$20	X	_____	=	_____
Reception/Dinner Only <i>(Thursday, February 15)</i>	\$65	\$70	X	_____	=	_____
Spouse/Guest at Reception/Dinner Only	\$25	\$25	X	_____	=	_____
Spouse/Guest Tour of Prattville		Free	X	_____	=	_____
				TOTAL	\$	_____

Payment (choose one):

_____ Call me for my credit card information _____ My check is enclosed _____ Bill me
 _____ Invoice my company _____ I will pay on site

PLEASE RETURN YOUR REGISTRATION NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1, 2007.

Please indicate the names of those in your party who will be attending the following events; leave blank if not attending:

Golf Clinic (Thursday, February 15, 11:00 AM): _____

Hyundai Plant Tour (Thursday, February 15, 1:30 PM): _____

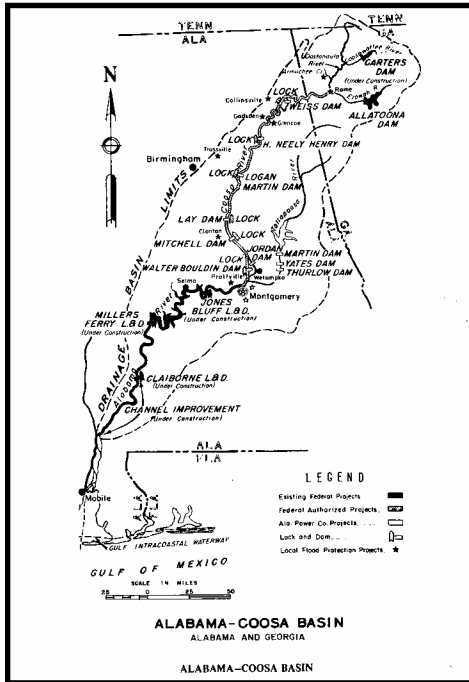
Spouse/Guest tour of Prattville (Friday, February 16, 9:00 AM): _____

Hotel Accommodations: A block of rooms has been reserved for the night of Thursday, February 15 at the special conference rate of \$109, single or double. The block and pricing expire January 25, so please book early. Call Marriott directly at 800-593-6429 and reference the CARIA meeting.

Registration Options:

- FAX this completed form to CARIA at 888-537-4837 (toll-free) or 334-265-6248
- Mail this completed form to CARIA at 300-A Water St., Ste. 307, Montgomery, AL 36104
- E-mail a scan of this completed form to CARIA at cariainc@bellsouth.net
- Register online at the CARIA Website, www.caria.org

Need More Information? Call CARIA at 866-922-6672 (toll-free) or 334-265-5744



Personnel Changes (continued from front page)

Judge Otha Lee Biggs, Judge of Probate in Montgomery County and Chairman of the Monroe County Commission, will retire effective with the end of his term in January 2007. One of the staunchest and most dedicated supporters of CARIA, Judge Biggs has been instrumental in every major economic development in Monroe County for decades. He has also accompanied CARIA on its annual trip to Washington for the last 25 years. He will be sorely missed as the Monroe County member of CARIA’s Board of Directors.

Judge John Jones, a CARIA Board member, is stepping down from his position as Chairman of the Dallas County Commission and Judge of Probate in January 2007. Judge Jones has been a strong supporter of CARIA and development of the Alabama River. His advice and counsel will be missed. We wish him well in his retirement.

Kristi Carr is the new Administrative Assistant at CARIA. Kristi comes to Montgomery from Albany, New York and has a wealth of experience in non-profit work and meeting planning. Her husband, Brad, works for the Alabama State Bar Association as the Director of Communications. We welcome Kristi and Brad to Alabama.

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



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