

Red River Valley Association
Major Projects & Initiatives
Red River Compact Meeting, April 30, 2019

1. **Appropriations:** At the end of this update are comparisons of the FY 2019 enacted and FY 2020 President's Budget. Additional FY 2019 funding received from 'supplemental' funds and 'additional funding pots' are shown in red. Congress passed and the President signed the FY 2019 Appropriations before 1 October, we hope that occurs this year. The President's FY 20 Budget: \$4.872 Billion (\$2.406 Billion reduction from FY 2019 enacted)
2. **Navigation FY 2020 O&M:** The FY 2019 Appropriations has \$11,881,000, for O&M for the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway. Even though this meets the basic annual level required, it does NOT. Dredging is reduced by \$1,400,000 and is used for the scheduled dewatering and inspection of L&D 2. This shortfall was added from 'additional' funds.
3. **CR Emergency Supplemental Funds:** The initial CR had Emergency Supplemental funds available for the Corps. We provided our delegation with Construction General (CG) and O&M needs due to impacts from the 2015 and 2016 floods. We did receive \$12,200,000 for dredging, dike marker repair, revetment repair, repair to lock & dams, Hydraulic Model & Sediment Survey, design for repair of the Garland Levee near Garland City and a levee in Red River Parish on Loggy Bayou. Contracts for the levee rehabilitations are expected to be executed by December 2018. Current indications are that supplemental funds will NOT be provided for construction of the Arkansas levees, but has been provided for the Louisiana, Loggy Bayou levee.
4. **J. Bennett Johnston Waterway 12' Navigation Channel:** The Corps provide an annual report to Congress of reports, proposed feasibility studies, and proposed modifications to authorized water resources development projects and feasibility studies. We submitted a request for a 12' channel study for the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway and it was included in the Corps Annual Report, March 2017. We were successful to get the study authorized in the 2018 WRDA Bill signed into law by the President. The next step is to get a feasibility study funded in the FY 2020 appropriation bill. We are investigating conducting this study by Section 203.
5. **WRDA 2018:** We had 3 items for the WRDA bill. 1) Authorize the analysis for a 12' Navigation Channel for the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway (included). 2) Place Caddo Levee, Cherokee Park segment, into the authorized project; Red River Below Denison Dam. 3) Place Bowie County Levee into the authorized project; Red River Below Denison Dam. The levee items, #2 & #3, were not included in the Senate or House markup. The House requested that the Cherokee Park Levee item be submitted to the Corps through WRRDA Sec. 7001 and be included in the 2019 Annual Report to Congress. This was submitted.
6. **Degraded Dikes and Revetments:** The major floods of 2015, 2016 and 2018, as well as time, have degraded dikes and revetments. Many have degraded to a point of losing their effectiveness in maintaining a 9' channel, thus requiring additional dredge funds each year. Some are identified as critical and if not repaired, could result in losing the navigation channel in another major flood. Most repairs can be accomplished with O&M funds. We request an additional annual \$5,000,000 in O&M funds for "Channel Improvement" projects.
7. **IMTS Reduced Lock Service Mandate:** After an analysis of our CY 2019 justification submission, by the Vicksburg staff, Col Cross decided to allow our locks to remain operating 24/7/365 for CY 2016. We know there will be a re-evaluation each year and we must show increased activity. There was consideration for the 2015 flood, in which Lock 5 was closed for 36 days. In addition to lock closures the waterway was under tow horsepower restrictions and only daylight operations most of the year. In January 2019 the RRWC & RRVA submitted a request to maintain 24/7 operations for CY 2019. It was noted that the commercial lockages for Locks 4 & 5 have

increased. The Vicksburg District announced 24/7/365 operations for 2019. We will coordinate with the RRWC to submit a justification, in January 2010.

8. **Flood Technical Committee**: A Flood Technical Committee was formed with representation from Caddo & Bossier Parishes, Bossier City, City of Shreveport, Caddo & Bossier Levee Districts, Caddo-Bossier Port, Red River Watershed Management Institute, Red River Waterway Commission and Red River Valley Association (Chair). Meetings have been held with the Vicksburg District, FEMA & NWS to discuss issues to assist the community leadership and emergency management responders to prepare for the next potential flood event. The Vicksburg District indicated that it is not possible to determine the reasons for these discrepancies without a Sedimentation Survey and Hydraulic Model. The 2 year, \$1.5 million study would be authorized under the existing J. Bennett Johnston Waterway Project, Construction General (CG) account. FEMA indicated that they cannot determine new BFEs without this information. In FY 2016 \$250,000 had been appropriated. The remaining funds were received from Emergency Supplemental funds; however, these funds can be withdrawn for another emergency. The Committee met with the Corps to provide modifications and changes made by the local agencies that will impact the available flood storage and flood plain models. The Flood Technical Committee has met with the Texas A&M students who conducted a Capstone Grant Project on the 2015-2016 flood event. This group also conducted a public meeting on their findings. The RRVA office has their report if any Board member would like a copy. The Corps has collected the required data and is now analyzing it.

9. **Navigation into Arkansas Feasibility Study**: The Arkansas Legislators took all the funds from the Arkansas Red River Commission trust funds in 2014. The State Legislative session reinstated \$1 million, to the Red River Trust Fund. These funds will be provided for the Corps of Engineers to get the feasibility study to a decision point if the project should continue or be terminated. The Vicksburg District has contracted with GEC to conduct a way bill analysis and conduct industry surveys. The analysis has been completed for tonnage and cargo moving in and out of the region. Visits were made to companies and economic development organizations the week of 6 – 10 February. Additional companies were visited the week of 3 - 5 May. More visits are being scheduled. The completed surveys have been provided to the University of Tennessee for analysis. The Corps has determined that the benefits exceed the cost and agree to resume and complete the feasibility study. The Arkansas Red River Commission is considering completing the feasibility study by Section 203.

10. **Levee Meetings**: We continue to work with the Arkansas levee districts and Bowie County Levee District to get rehabilitation funding through the authorized project; Red River Below Denison Dam. Joint Levee & drainage meetings were held in Arkansas & Louisiana in January 2019 with the Corps.

11. **Chloride Control Project**: The Administration will not fund this project. Construction on the Wichita River will not resume until the earmark ban is changed. GEM has had several meetings with the Corps and Red River Authority of Texas to move their solar pond project.

12. **Index to Denison Dam Navigation**: North Texas Council of Governments is willing to put up \$500,000 to conduct a study to determine if navigation is possible from an engineering perspective. They first want the Texas legislators to pass a bill that commits them to complete a feasibility study and EIS, if the engineering study is positive. The Texas legislators have a bill in their current session, so we await if it gets passed.

13. **Red River Studies**:

a. **Corps of Engineers, Wright Patman/Sulphur River**: There is an active study to consider re-evaluate the water use in Wright Patman Reservoir. The study will evaluate reducing flood control storage and reallocate it for municipal use. The top of flood pool is 259.5', which currently provides 30.86' of flood storage. The study proposes three new conservation pool elevations and reduced flood pool capacity for consideration; 232.5' (27' flood pool), 235.0' (24.5' flood pool) and 242.5' (17' flood pool). It appears that raising the lake elevation to 232.5' msl would not create more downstream flooding and have no impact on navigation. Any elevations higher

than 232.5 ft. msl increases the probability, during an intense rain event, of the occurrence of uncontrolled flows over the emergency spillway at elevation 259.5 ft. msl.

b. Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Red River Basin Study, OK: A grant for a 3 year study of water use in the upper reaches of the Red River in the Lugert-Altus region (FY 2014 – FY 2017). This study is cost shared with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Lugert-Altus Irrigation District, Mountain Park MCD; \$640,000 (Federal) + \$860,000 (non-Federal) = \$1,500,000

c. Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Washita Basin Study, OK: The study is cost shared with Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Foss Reservoir MCD & Fort Cobb Reservoir MCD; \$250,000 (Federal) + \$450,000 (non-Federal) = \$900,000.

d. USGS, Red River Basin Study: USGS also has a BOR WaterSMART grant to study the quantity of water available in the Red River, four state watershed. This will be a 5 year study effort, expected to be completed in 2019.

e. Choctaw & Chickasaw Indian Nations are conducting a water study for the Red River watershed in OK.

f. Bureau of Land Management Red River land issue. The BLM is in the process of updating its Resource Management Plan (RMP) for lands managed by the BLM, which includes a 116 mile stretch, an estimated 90,000 acres (since cut to 30,000) that may be considered public domain along the Red River on the border between Texas and Oklahoma in Wilbarger, Wichita, and Clay counties. - See more at:

<http://thornberry.house.gov/redriver/#sthash.3y4XXQ78.dpuf>.

14. **Waters of the US (WOTUS)**: EPA and the Corps of Engineers have proposed new guidelines that re-define ‘waters of the US’. The new definition would drastically increase the jurisdiction for permits and have a negative impact in development. The RRVA has submitted comments in objection to this proposal, which is on our Association web site. Comments have been made by the Corps that they do not agree with the science and decision provided by EPA. The Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati issued an order granting a request by 18 states to stay the Waters of the U.S. rule while the court considers its legality. Previously, a U.S. District Court in North Dakota had blocked the rule for 13 states included in a petition filed before that court. The 6th Circuit ruling blocks the rule nationwide pending judicial review.

15. **Federal Flood Risk Management Standards (FFRMS)**: The National Waterways Conference submitted detail comments and RRVA signed on to their submission. These comments can be found on our web site under ‘Position Papers & Briefings’. To ensure that Federal actions to manage flood risk support our national security interests and prudent stewardship of taxpayer dollars, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 temporarily prohibits the application of Executive Order 13690 to any component of the Department of Defense. While improving the resiliency of federal investments to floods and other hazards has merit, compelling government agencies to spend taxpayer dollars to further mitigate against undefined threats deserves greater scrutiny. Section 750 [of the Act] has a clear aim, which is to provide the American public and their elected officials the opportunity to better understand the risk, benefits and other impacts of the standard prior to its implementation.

16. **America’s Watershed Initiative (AWI)**: I attended the workshop at Tulsa, OK for the Arkansas/Red watersheds. I also attended a conference for the whole Mississippi Valley Watershed in Louisville, KY. AWI intends to create a ‘report card’ of the Mississippi River and tributaries by the spring of 2015. Information will be disseminated as it is developed. It is uncertain that this effort would have any impact on our efforts. The final report card can be found at: <http://americaswater.wpengine.com/>.

17. **Other Initiatives**:

a. Bowie County Levee, TX: Transfer from Tulsa District to Vicksburg District and start rehab process.

b. Caddo Lake / Big Cypress / Lake o’ Pines: Gate structure in Caddo Dam for eco-flows.

**RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION
FY 2020 APPROPRIATIONS (\$000)
CIVIL WORKS**

<u>I. Studies (General Investigations, GI)</u>	FY 19 Enacted	RRVA FY 20 Request	Pres FY 20 Budget	Local Sponsor Requirements
1. Navigation into SW Arkansas: Feasibility	-0-	-0-	-0-	ARRC - \$1 m Contributed Funds
2. Red River Waterway, LA – 12’ Channel, Recon Approved in WRDA 2018	-0-	1,500	-0-	(RRWC)
3. Bossier Parish, LA	-0-			(Bossier Levee)
4. SE Oklahoma Water Resource Study: Feasibility	-0-			(OWRB)
5. Washita River Basin, OK	-0-			(OWRB)
6. SW Arkansas Ecosystem Restoration: Recon Study	-0-			(ANRC / AR Game & Fish)
7. Cypress Valley Watershed, TX	-0-			(NETWD)
8. Sulphur River Basin, TX	-0-	-0-	-0-	(Sulphur Authority)
9. Wichita River Basin above Lake Kemp, TX: Recon	-0-			(L)
10. Red River Above Denison Dam, TX & OK: Recon	-0-			(L)
11. Red River Waterway, Index, AR to Denison Dam	-0-			(?)
12. Mountain Fork River Watershed, OK & AR, Recon	-0-			(?)
13. Walnut Bayou, Little River, AR	-0-			(ANRC)
14. Little River County/Ogden Levee, AR, Recon	-0-			(ANRC)
15. Red River Waterway, Index to Denison, Bendway	-0-			(?)
<u>II. Construction General (CG)</u>				
1. Red River Waterway: J. B. Johnston Waterway, LA	-0-	12,910	-0-	(RRWC)
2. Chloride Control Project, TX & OK Texas - 7,500 / Oklahoma - 800	-0-	7,750	-0-	N/A
3. Red River Below Denison Dam; AR & LA a. Bowie County Levee, TX	-0-	6,300	-0-	(Levee Districts)
4. Red River Emergency Bank Protection	-0-	19,600	-0-	(Levee Districts)
5. McKinney Bayou, AR, PED	-0-	50		(?)

NOTES: Local Sponsor Column – Sponsor indicated in (); (?) indicates No Sponsor identified and need one to continue
(L) indicates Sponsor not required now but need one for feasibility; N/A – No Sponsor required.

NOTE: Crossed through studies and projects are not currently active, due to lack of a local sponsor and funding.

NOTE: Additional funds received from the FY19 ‘additional funds’ indicated by **+xxxxx**.

Total CG Additional FY 2019 Funds: \$0

Civil Works Budget – Nation Wide

Congress enacted in FY 2019: \$7.278 Billion

President’s FY 2020 Budget: \$4.872 Billion (\$2.406 Billion reduction from FY 2019 enacted)

RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

CIVIL WORKS PROJECTS

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)

FY2020 (\$000)

Project	Enacted FY19	RRVA Request	President FY20
DeQueen Lake, AR	1,433 +136	2,800	1,579
Dierks Lake, AR	1,506	2,200	1,410
Gillham Lake, AR	1,305 +100	2,160	2,545
Millwood Lake, AR	4,335 +200	4,630	3,245
Bayou Bodcau Reservoir, LA	1,289 +425	2,976	1,209
Bayou Pierre, LA	33	53	33
Caddo Lake, LA	208	234	218
Wallace Lake, LA	245 +80	383	267
J. Bennett Johnston Waterway, LA	11,881 +3,254	22,556	8,436
Broken Bow Lake, OK	2,074	2,788	3,897
Hugo Lake, OK	2,524	3,352	1,939
Pine Creek Lake, OK	1,671	1,700	1,455
Sardis Lake, OK	1,285	889	2,528
Waurika Lake, OK	1,859	2,411	1,604
Chloride Control, Area VIII, TX	1,799	2,000	1,797
Denison Dam & Lake Texoma, TX	7,980	11,000	9,053
Estelline Springs, TX	39	40	39
Lake Kemp, TX	280	300	268
Pat Mayse Lake, TX	1,397	1,400	1,102
Jim Chapman Lake, TX	1,895 +93	2,000	2,072
Lake of the Pines, TX	4,159 +503	8,985	3,643
Wright Patman Dam & Lake, TX	5,418 +251	5,971	4,389

NOTE: Additional funds received from the FY19 Appropriation Bill ‘additional funds’ indicated by **+xxxx**.
Total O&M Additional FY 2019 Funds for Red River Valley: \$5,042,000