

## Upper Mississippi, Illinois & Missouri Rivers Association (UMIMRA) Membership Update

April 2021

Thank you for your continued support of UMIMRA, which continues to work on behalf of our members and to speak as one voice for those living, working, and investing in the Upper Mississippi River Valley. Here is a list of recent UMIMRA activities that your membership and contributions to the Comprehensive Plan Campaign Appeal have helped support:

- ✓ **Submitted comments to FEMA on proposed changes to the Disaster Declaration Process for the Public Assistance Program** – UMIMRA responded to FEMA’s proposed rule change that would unfairly harm rural areas by making it extremely difficult for rural levee districts to qualify for federal emergency assistance. UMIMRA urged FEMA to withdrawal the rule until the agency can gather more feedback from stakeholders and allow more time to phase in any adjustments to the minimum damage levels in the disaster process and access to Public Assistance funds.
- ✓ **Fighting to improve flood protection for levees still in need of repair** – UMIMRA Chair, Mike Klingner, had an opportunity to do a media interview to discuss concerns about some levees that still need to be repaired from the 2019 flood, especially heading into the Spring flooding season. UMIMRA developed a brief survey to identify specific issues and problems that are occurring in levee districts with FEMA and the Corps related to the 2019 flood recovery. UMIMRA has contacted Congressional offices to discuss specific issues with certain levees. If you still have not completed the survey, please visit [www.umimra.org](http://www.umimra.org).
- ✓ **Engaging in UMRBA 729 Watershed Plan** – UMIMRA continues to engage with the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) in the section 729 watershed planning process. UMRBA compiled a report – Keys to the River 2020 – summarizing input from individuals and organizations, including UMIMRA. UMIMRA is urging the 729 plan to focus more on flood control and structural improvements needed to ultimately reduce flood risk and improve flood protection for the Upper Mississippi River.
- ✓ **Submitted comments to USACE on revised draft Engineer Circular (EC) for the Levee Safety Program** –UMIMRA continues to have several concerns about the proposed draft EC and the potential negative impacts to local levee districts in addition to the weakening of flood protection of the Upper Mississippi River. On March 19 UMIMRA submitted comments to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the latest draft (February 22 version). This is the third time UMIMRA has weighed in on the various drafts prepared by USACE. UMIMRA also invited USACE personnel from D.C. to attend the UMIMRA Annual Meeting to further discuss these concerns.
- ✓ **Make Plans to attend the 2021 UMIMRA Annual Meeting – June 17-18 at The Atrium on Third in Quincy – This meeting will be held IN-PERSON!** The UMIMRA Annual Meeting is the perfect opportunity to network with others interested in levee and flood control issues and hear from speakers on various topics, including confirmed luncheon keynote speaker RD James, Former Assistant USACE Secretary Civil Works. See enclosed flyer for more details or go to [www.umimra.org](http://www.umimra.org) to register.

UMIMRA continues to work on many challenges and issues on behalf of our members. Your continued membership and contribution to the Comprehensive Plan Campaign Appeal are now more important than ever. Please contact Tim Maiers with any questions, concerns or assistance with your membership - (217) 257-1020 – cell; [tim@umimra.org](mailto:tim@umimra.org)