



Reflections from the CEO As He Retires

Our newsletter, in its own way, represents a great deal about the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District. One of the first actions we took when I became Director over forty years ago was to create this newsletter to help “tell our story.” Forty plus years later and we have never missed an issue and the information was always accurate and timely, it considered the local interests, its preparation was always done totally in-house, we used the most advance technology available to us at the time, and it always had a sense of purpose. These statements and many other similar ones are an accurate representation to describe how the District has conducted its business during the time that I have been fortunate to serve as its leader.

As I step down as CEO of this excellent District, I will always cherish the opportunity that was afforded to me to be part of such an outstanding organization. Regionalism and the type of work it performs is truly a team effort. While there is much technology and professional expertise required, to do this work, the most important aspect is numerous, dedicated people working together to address common issues

and problems. I have been truly blessed that I’ve been permitted to serve with such outstanding local leadership and the current staff of CMPDD is the finest we have ever assembled. It has really been both an honor and a pleasure to be part of such a respected, visionary, and outstanding entity.

I want to thank each of you who have been such a source of major help and support to me.



Clarke Holmes, Chief Executive Officer

District Updates Transportation Section of Website

To improve the way transportation information is disseminated to the public, the District recently updated the transportation section of its website, www.cmpdd.org. The new format provides more detailed information about all aspects of the transportation planning process and makes searching the site for transportation information easier. The “Transportation” tab on the site is now divided into five (5) categories these include: About the MPO; Plans and Programs; Technical Resources; Publications, Maps and Viewers; and Public Notices and Input.

The “About the MPO” section of the site gives background information about the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); explains what area the MPO is responsible for as it relates to the transportation planning process; and discusses the MPO’s committee structure. The “Plans and Programs” section of the site describes the plans and programs the MPO is responsible for maintaining and



makes each available for download in both .pdf and .rtf format. The “Technical Resources” section discusses the functional classification of roadways in the MPO’s planning area and provides information about the Pavement Management, Sign Retroreflectivity, and Traffic Counting programs. The “Publications Maps and Viewers” section serves as a redundant section of the website. Though each publication, map, and viewer can be found on

their respective webpage under the transportation heading of the site, the Publications Maps and Viewers section takes all publications, maps, and viewers and groups them together by type on an additional section of the website. Finally, the “Public Notices and Input” section is where the MPO makes all public notices related to the transportation planning process, available to the public and also gives users of the site an opportunity to provide input and feedback on any matter related to transportation planning.

Chronic Disease Self-Management Leader Classes Offered by CMPDD



Chronic diseases are now the leading cause of disability and death in the United States, with seven in ten deaths each year attributed to illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. According to AARP statistics, about 133 million Americans live with at least one chronic disease and more than one in ten have three or more.

Since May 2010, CMPDD has offered Chronic Disease Self-Management classes at local senior centers and apartments. The most recent CDSMP class was held on June 22-26, 2015 at the WIN Job Center in Jackson, Mississippi, with thirteen people being trained as CDSMP Leaders. The Leader training prepares people to facilitate Stanford University's Chronic Dis-

ease Self-Management Program (CDSMP). Two Master Trainers facilitate the leader training over a 4-day period. In addition to teaching all components of the 6-week CDSMP, training includes sessions on practice teaching, discussions on working with groups, and using the program materials. Following the training, new leaders will teach in teams of two with participants meeting for six weekly sessions (2 ½ hours each week), as they learn to actively take control of their chronic health issues and live a more "active and healthy life."

The CDSMP was developed by a team of Stanford University researchers in 1992 and set out to develop a results-oriented self-management program that would improve the quality of life for people with chronic conditions. The program offers everything from diet advice to tips on communicating with doctors, but it primarily focuses on providing information and teaching practical skills on managing chronic health problems. The sessions are highly participative, where mutual support and success builds the participants' confidence in their ability to manage their health and maintain active and fulfilling lives while providing them with an overall sense of empowerment.

If you are interested in classes being taught in your area, contact Brenda Knott at 601-981-1516.

Aging Committee Visits MAC Center

On Tuesday, May 12, 2015, the Aging Advisory Committee held its quarterly meeting at the Canton Mississippi Access to Care (MAC) Center located at 152 Watford Parkway Drive, Suite B, Canton, Mississippi. The committee members were welcomed by MAC Center staff and given an extensive overview of the services available to clients and their families. This field trip allowed committee members to visit the MAC Center and experience firsthand what a warm and accessible place the Center actually is and see where and how individuals can obtain information about available services or apply for benefits. During the tour Dr. Chelsea Crittle, Aging Programs Director, informed the committee that the MAC Center provides a central source of reliable and objective information about a broad range of programs and services, and helps people understand and evaluate the various options available to them.

In addition, Ms. Jessica Nichols, Workforce Manager, shared with



the committee information about additional resources and organizations available to the community located within the WIN Job Center. Committee members collectively agreed that these community resources are beneficial and provide excellent opportunities for seniors, caregivers, and persons with disabilities. The Madison County Citizens Services

Agency/Transit Division provided round-trip travel accommodations to the facility for District staff and the committee members. For additional information concerning this program, please contact Chelsea Crittle at 601-981-1516.

District Staff Provides Statewide Training on Sign Retroreflectivity



For the third consecutive year, a member of the District's staff has served as an instructor for statewide training on Sign Retroreflectivity sponsored by the MS Department of

Transportation's Local Technical Assistance Program or LTAP. District staff member, Scott Burge, worked with the LTAP coordinators to develop the training schedule and prepare the training workshop materials for each of two (2) training sessions which took place in Yazoo City on April 8th and Hattiesburg on May 21st. These training sessions provided information to course participants on the federal requirements concerning sign retroreflectivity and the methods that can be used to determine if a sign meets minimum federal sign retroreflectivity standards. Mr. Burge also demonstrated how to use a sign retroreflectometer, which is a device used to measure the retroreflectivity levels of signs, and how a sign inventory system could be established that would aid in tracking and maintaining the retroreflectivity levels of signs after the initial data collection process had been completed.

Originally there were three (3) compliance dates established by the Federal Highway Administration that a Local Public Agency (LPA) would need to meet in order to satisfy new sign retroreflectivity minimum requirements. The first date required that an assessment or management method to determine if signs met minimum retroreflectivity requirements be in place prior to January 2012. The second and third dates of January 2015 and 2018 required all signs that failed to meet minimum retroreflective standards be replaced. The January 2015 date was set to replace all regulatory, warning, and all ground mounted guide signs (except street name signs) that fail to meet the minimum standards. The January 2018 date was to replace street name and overhead guide signs not meeting the standards.

The January 2012 deadline to have an assessment or management method in place was revised to June 2014. The 2015 & 2018 compliance dates for replacing regulatory, warning, street name and guide signs that didn't meet the minimum retroreflectivity standards have been eliminated. Though the compliance dates have been eliminated, it is still recommended that local governments inventory and replace all signage not meeting minimum standards in a timely manner. It is also recommended that all LPA's adopt a Sign Maintenance and Management Plan in order to meet Federal requirements, if the LPA has not already done so. For more information about the sign retroreflectivity program and retroreflectometer loan program, established by the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization, please contact Scott Burge at 601-981-1511 or by email at sburge@cmpdd.org.

City of Madison Breaks Ground on CDBG Funded Projects

The City of Madison celebrated two ground breaking ceremonies in May for CDBG funded playground improvement projects. The City is constructing an inclusive design playground at Liberty Village Park and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) playground improvements to Strawberry Patch Park. The inclusive design playground goes beyond the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas. ADA requires the removal of physical barriers to access in the play environments. While all the play areas in Madison's parks currently meet ADA requirements, the inclusive design will allow social accessibility and the opportunity for full participation by as many people as possible regardless of their age and ability level. For example, a typical playground allows a person in a wheelchair access to certain aspects or levels of the play equipment, usually from a transfer point. A playground such as the one proposed will allow that same person access to ALL levels of the play equipment. Furthermore, parents with disabilities will also have full access to all areas of the playground and be able to fully participate in play with their children



Overall, these playgrounds have infinite play opportunities for any child regardless of their medical diagnosis. Children will be able to find a structure within the play area that is designed to support their physical, sensory and cognitive needs while it provides them with a world of fun to acquire new skills. It also provides them with a great space to work on their socialization and self-esteem skills as they walk, run, roll, slide, climb and spin together without the feel of stigma of the area being designed simply for those with physical challenges or disabilities.

The City will celebrate the opening of both new playgrounds in July.

CMPDD assisted by the City of Madison with the submission of their CDBG applications and provided administrative services. For additional information on the CDBG program, please contact Mitzi Stubbs or Gray Ouzts, 601-981-1511.

CMPDD Recognizes Central District's Distinguished Service Honoree

Mrs. Elise Morgan, a longtime resident of the City of Jackson, was recently recognized as Central District's Distinguished Service honoree at a recent ceremony sponsored by Central Mississippi Planning and Development District/ Area Agency on Aging in observance of Older Americans Month. The theme of this year's Older Americans Month was "Get into the Act!"

Ms. Morgan is 92 years old and for the past twenty (20) years has served as a dedicated volunteer at T.L. Love Senior Center. She enjoys teaching sewing, quilting, and Bible classes to the center participants. Also, Ms. Morgan assiduously serves as the caregiver for an adult child with disabilities and a daughter with ongoing health related issues. When Ms. Morgan isn't volunteering she loves to attend church and serves on the mission board. At the age of 92, she continues to drive and often times serves as the chauffeur for some of her closest friends. Ms.



Morgan's pleasant personality and smile warmed the hearts of everyone that attended the ceremony.

Central Mississippi Planning and Development District/Area Agency on Aging sought nominations from local service providers and organizations within the aging network. Ms. Morgan was selected from a slate of nominees by members of Central's Aging Advisory Committee. Ms. Gloria Johnson, T.L. Love Center Nutrition Site Manager, submitted the nomination of Ms. Morgan to CMPDD and attended the ceremony

to witness her recognition. Other attendees included: Mr. Larry Anderson, CMPDD Human Services Division Director, Mrs. Melinda Bertucci, Division of Aging and Adult Services Director, Dr. Connie Taylor, Manager City of Jackson, Ms. Hulah Shearry, Deputy Clerk, Ward 3, CMPDD staff, local service providers, and members of the Morgan family. Presentations were made by Ms. Hulah Shearry, representing the office of Councilman Kenneth Stokes, and Dr. Chelsea B. Crittle, of CMPDD, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging and Valley Management Services.

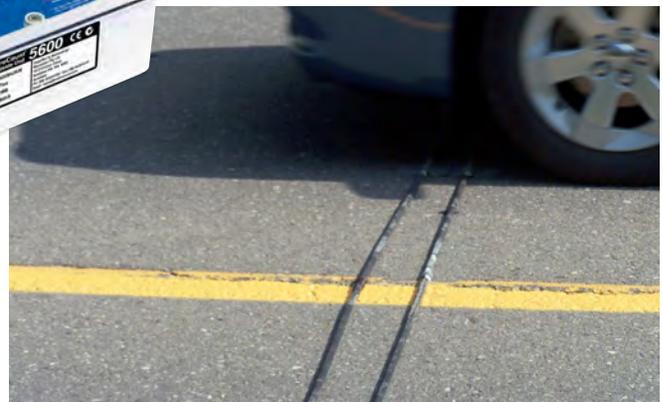
Traffic Count Data Being Collected in Rankin County

The Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) works cooperatively with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to collect traffic count data for all state and non-state maintained roadways that are part of the functional class system in the Jackson Urbanized Area (JUA). The collected traffic count data is used by the MPO in the development of a number of transportation planning activities including the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Congestion Management Process (CMP) and Pavement Management System.

Traffic count data for the JUA is collected on a three (3) year cyclical basis in Hinds, Madison and Rankin Counties. Every third year the data collection process occurs in one of the aforementioned counties. Due to each county being counted every third year estimates are developed for the interim years in which traffic count data is not collected for a particular traffic segment in the corresponding county. In 2015, the MPO has been collecting traffic count data for Rankin County.

Once all data has been collected for Rankin County it will be sent to the MDOT where traffic adjustment factors will be applied to the raw data to develop an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) count. The traffic adjustment factors used by

the MDOT takes into consideration high and low seasonal and daily traffic patterns to arrive at a more representative "annual" traffic count for the selected roadway segment. Once the MDOT has completed its analysis and provided the updated AADT data to the MPO, the information will be made available through the MPO's traffic count viewer at <http://gis.cmpdd.org/TC2015/>. For additional information concerning traffic count data or to request a traffic count study be conducted, please contact Scott Burge at (601) 981-1511 or by email at sburge@cmpdd.org.



Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grant Program Applications Submitted

The Mississippi Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grant Program (SMLPC) is designed for making grants to small municipalities and limited population counties or natural gas districts to finance projects to promote economic growth in the state. Grants are available to municipalities with a population of 10,000 or less, and counties with a population of 30,000 or less. Eligible projects financed with SMLPC must be publicly owned and address at least one of the priorities listed below:

- Priority 1:** Economic development related improvements to include water, sewer, street, and drainage improvements for the benefit of site development, industrial parks, business districts, tourism destinations, and projects that improve the competitiveness of a community.
- Priority 2:** Downtown improvements to include: sidewalks, lighting, façade improvements, beautification improvements (waste receptacles, stop signs, street signs, landscaping, awnings, etc.), and other downtown improvements as approved by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA).
- Priority 3:** Non-economic development related water, sewer, street, and drainage improvements.
- Priority 4:** Purchase, construction, or rehabilitation of public buildings to include: town halls, libraries, police stations, fire stations, community centers, courthouses, other publicly owned buildings as approved by MDA.

The maximum grant award is \$150,000. There is a 10% match requirement for a community with a population of 3,500 or less; and a 20% match requirement for communities with a population greater than 3,500, but the match does not have to be cash only.

CMPDD submitted eight (8) SMLPC applications for the following cities/counties:

<u>Community Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>SMLPC Funds</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u>
Town of Braxton	Water Improvements	\$ 55,025	\$ 6,823
City of Crystal Springs	City Entrance & Downtown Improvements	150,000	30,000
City of Hazlehurst	Sidewalk Improvements	150,000	30,000
City of Mendenhall	Drainage Improvements	150,000	15,000
Town of Pelahatchie	Muscadine Park Improvements	150,000	15,000
Town of Puckett	New Fire Station	150,000	15,000
City of Raymond	Police Station Improvements	150,000	15,000
Town of Wesson	Public Building Improvements	150,000	19,700

If you have any questions or would like additional information concerning the SMLPC grant program, please contact Mitzi Stubbs at 601-981-1511.

District Staff Member Re-Certified as DRA Project Specialist



The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) recently held its Professional Development Academy for staff of local development districts in DRA’s eight-state region. The Academy provided project management training through the Management Concepts course, as well as orientation on Authority programs, policies, procedures, and goals for the coming project funding cycles. CMPDD staff

member, Mitzi Stubbs completed the Academy and has been re-certified as a DRA Project Specialist, and the District has again been designated as a Certified Strategic Partner with DRA.

which serves a 240 county/parish area in an eight-state region. In Mississippi, 45 counties (including all 7 CMPDD counties) are eligible for funding under DRA. The purpose of DRA is to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development partnerships that will have a positive impact on the region’s economy.

Priority for funding is given to four types of projects: (1) Basic Public Infrastructure; (2) Transportation Infrastructure; (3) Business Development; and (4) Job Training and Employment-related Education. DRA funds may also be used to leverage other federal and state programs. Under federal law, 75 percent of funds are targeted to distressed counties and pockets of poverty, and 50 percent of dollars are earmarked for transportation and basic public infrastructure. For additional information, please contact Mitzi Stubbs at 601-981-1511.

DRA is a federal-state partnership created by Congress,

CAP Application Approved

CMPDD prepared and submitted a Local Government Capital Improvements Revolving (CAP) Loan application in the amount of \$4,000,000 for Copiah County to purchase an existing building located in Copiah County Industrial Park, add an access road, and make necessary improvements to the building to support the location and expansion of a business to the Copiah County Industrial Park.

The CAP loan program was enacted by the State Legislature and is designed for making loans to counties or municipalities to finance capital improvements in Mississippi. Counties and municipalities are encouraged to use these loans in connection with state and federal programs, and the funds for loans are derived from the issuance of state bonds. Eligible projects include the following:

- Construction or repair of water and sewer facilities
- Construction or repair of drainage systems for industrial development
- Improvements in fire protection
- Construction of new buildings for economic development
- Renovation or repair of existing buildings for economic development purposes
- Purchase of buildings for economic development purposes

- Construction of any county or municipally-owned health care facilities, excluding any county health departments
- Construction, purchase, renovation or repair of any building to be utilized as an auditorium or convention center
- Construction of multipurpose facilities for tourism development
- Construction or repair of access roads for industrial development
- Construction or repair of railroad spurs for industrial development
- Construction, repair and renovation of parks, swimming pools and recreational and athletic facilities
- Remediation of brownfield agreement sites in accordance with Sections 49-35-1 through 47-35-25.

The cumulative maximum loan amount for any eligible local unit of government during a calendar year is \$1,000,000 for tax-exempt and taxable loans. The minimum loan amount allowed per project is \$30,000. The maximum CAP loan indebtedness allowed per applicant is \$2,500,000 outstanding principal balance. For more information or to apply for a CAP loan, please contact Mitzi Stubbs at 601-981-1511.

District Submits 2015 CDBG Public Facilities Applications

The CDBG Public Facilities Program provides grant funds to local units of government for a variety of public improvements projects (e.g., water or sewer facilities, storm drainage, public buildings, street reconstruction, etc) that benefit low and moderate income families and areas. Special priority is given to water and sanitary sewer projects that eliminate existing health and safety hazards.

Over the past several months the District has been assisting local governments with the preparation of CDBG Public Facility applications. The District submitted the following seven (7) applications to the Mississippi Development Authority for review:

<u>Community Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>CDBG Funds</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u>
Town of Braxton	Water System Improvements	\$ 450,000	\$ 233,489.78
Town of D'Lo	Extending Sewer to Unserved Area	450,000	N/A
Town of Edwards	Expand Multi-Purpose Building	449,969	N/A
Hinds County	Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements Raymond Courthouse	242,444.50	243,000
City of Mendenhall	Extending Sewer to Unserved Area	450,000	N/A
Town of Pelahatchie	Extending Sewer to Unserved Area and Sewer Improvements	521,100	702,900
City of Yazoo City	Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements to City Hall	277,874	277,874

District Staff Participate in MAS and MML Conferences

Staff members from CMPDD attended the summer conferences of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) and the Mississippi Municipal League (MML), both of which were held in Biloxi. In addition to speaking with

many of the District's local members, CMPDD staff assisted MML with their conference registration desk, as well as the MAPDD exhibit booth. During the MML Conference, CMPDD Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Director

Chuck Carr and Golden Triangle PDD GIS Manager Toby Sanford presented "Implementing GIS Solution in Your Community" to conference attendees.

MAPDD Annual Conference

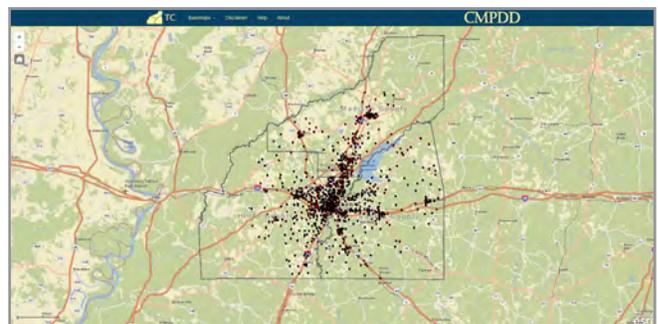
The Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts (MAPDD) held its annual conference in Biloxi, MS at the Beau Rivage Hotel April 21st-24th and it was attended by over 500 individuals from across the State. Speakers included Mississippi Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, Mississippi Film Office Deputy Director Nina Parikh, and C Spire Vice President of Corporate Communications Jim Richmond. Concurrent sessions were also offered during the conference with topics ranging from diversity in end of life care, new developments in digital mapping, and structuring successful economic development projects. Plans are already underway for next year's conference. Mark your calendars for May 2-5, 2016 at the Beau Rivage to participate in MAPDD's next conference.



District Adds Traffic Count Viewer to Website

Annually the District updates and maintains an Annual Average Daily Traffic count database for functionally classified roadways in the Jackson Urbanized Area (JUA), which includes portions of Hinds, Madison and Rankin Counties. Each year the District, in coordination with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), collects traffic count data on a three (3) year rotating schedule in one of the aforementioned counties. This process is repeated annually until data has been collected for each county then the data collection process starts over. This makes traffic count data available for each county that is no more than three (3) years old.

Over the course of the past year, the District has been working to update the way it displays this data on its website, www.cmpdd.org, while also making it more comprehensive and user-friendly. The new format is an interactive traffic count viewer that allows visitors of the site to zoom in and out of certain areas seeing traffic count data for all functionally classified roadways in that particular area. The updated traffic count data on the viewer now lists not only the most recent analyzed data, but also historical traffic count data. This provides traffic count data for a ten (10) year period, making it easier to understand the varying traffic count patterns over the course of the previous ten (10) years. In addition, the new traffic count viewer includes traffic projections for each roadway segment for the years 2025 and 2035. These projections were taken from the Jackson Metropolitan



Planning Organization's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which is used to estimate traffic conditions in the JUA over a 25 year planning horizon. The traffic projections were developed using a traffic simulation modeling software which uses various input data such as existing traffic volume, population, school enrollment, and land use patterns, just to name a few, to estimate traffic volume for the future.

This data will be updated by District staff annually, providing the most recent ten (10) year traffic count data available. The traffic count viewer can be accessed through the District's website at <http://gis.cmpdd.org/TC2015/>. If you have any questions concerning the traffic count viewer, please contact Scott Burge at (601) 981-1511 or by email at sburge@cmpdd.org.

Planning Update

City of Canton

The City of Canton requested the District develop a master plan for Saab Park, one of the City's oldest parks. The City wanted to upgrade the park with a number of improvements such as, a pavilion, walking trails with lighting and benches, playground equipment, waterpark features, basketball courts, a volleyball court, a community garden, renovated concession stand, volleyball court, landscaping, and signage. The plan also calls for constructing a footbridge across the larger of two drainage ditches and placing a culvert in the other ditch to provide better access to both sides of the park. The District has provided the City with copies of the plan. The last stage of the plan involves developing cost estimates and funding sources.

City of Richland

The District has completed a Development Ordinance for the City of Richland. The District updated the current regulations with the assistance of City staff and the City Engineer. The Development Ordinance comprises the City's subdivision regulations as well as regulations related to water lines, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer. After the City finishes its review, hold a public hearing, and adopt the Development Ordinance.

Town of Terry

In April 2015, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Terry adopted an update of its Comprehensive Plan prepared by the District. All four elements of the plan were updated including the Land Use Map, which included newly annexed territories. As a follow-up to the plan, the District is in the process of updating the Official Zoning Map for Terry by zoning the annexed territories.

City of Vicksburg

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen recently completed its review of the proposed Comprehensive Plan prepared by the District and adopted it in May. The Plan recommends, among other things, four entrance gateways to Vicksburg, three scenic corridors linking the gateways, improvements, and cultural heritage attractions. The Plan also divides the city into twelve distinct neighborhoods, and each neighborhood has physical needs to be addressed. Some of the neighborhood problems can be solved through the Plan's goals and objectives. Other problems will have to be addressed through zoning overlay districts and neighborhood councils.

CMPDD has also completed a Fire Station Coverage Study of the coverage areas for each of the City's fire stations to determine if the current locations meet the City's needs based upon Mississippi Rating Bureau criteria and drive times from each station. The determined any unnecessary levels of redundancy, as well as any underserved areas. The study also proposed a new arrangement of fire stations by closing one station and moving one or two other stations for more efficient fire protection for the City.

Hazard Mitigation

Over the last few months, CMPDD has been working with Copiah County and the City of Brandon to update each of their existing Hazard Mitigation Plans. Mitigation planning is intended to assist communities in determining their risks to natural disasters and develop an action plan to address the known risks by lessening the impact of natural disasters when they do to place. Like any other part of the country, communities in Central Mississippi are vulnerable to many different types of natural hazards. Each hazard can have uniquely different human, economic, and environmental consequences to the residents in each community.

In the coming months a draft document will be produced for Copiah County and the City of Brandon. Once complete, the plans will be submitted to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and approval prior to local adoption procedures. The comprehensive planning process utilized in this project involves six (6) basic steps:

1. Organizing the Planning Process/Building the Planning Team
 - Engaging local leadership
 - Establishing a Mitigation Council
 - Developing and implementing an outreach strategy
 - Developing a project timeline
2. Conducting a Community Assessment
 - Reviewing existing plans and policies
 - Developing community profiles
 - Identifying critical facilities
 - Identifying capabilities
 - Identifying participation in the National Flood Insurance Program
3. Conducting a Risk/Vulnerability Assessment
 - Identifying hazards
 - Developing hazard profiles
 - Identifying community assets
 - Analyzing risks to determine individual vulnerabilities
 - Summarizing overall vulnerabilities
4. Developing Goals and Objectives
 - Developing long-term outcomes through goal statements
 - Developing specific objectives for each long-term goal
5. Developing a Mitigation Strategy
 - Documenting progress implementing previous actions
 - Identifying an action plan specific to each community for the next 5-years
6. Plan Review, Approval, and Adoption
 - Draft plan review
 - Plan amendments if needed
 - Plan adoption

For more information concerning the mitigation planning process underway in Copiah County and the City of Brandon or to find out how you can be involved in the process contact Lesley Callender at 601-981-1511 or visit the District's mitigation website page www.cmpdd.org/mitigation-planning/.

CMDC BULLETIN

Ms. Wanda Cowart, President of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMDC), announced the approval of three (3) new loans under the U. S. Small Business Administration’s 504 Loan Program.

The first loan was for Boot Outlet, LLC for \$334,024 of an \$835,061 project. The proceeds will partially finance a Boot Outlet Store in Gulfport, MS and will create approximately four (4) new jobs.

The second loan was for Dairy Queen of Magee for \$189,781 of a \$534,556 project. The proceeds of this loan will partially finance the renovation of a Dairy Queen in Magee, Mississippi and will create approximately six (6) new jobs.

The third loan was for Southern Fried Rabbit for \$190,400 of a \$476,000 project under the U. S. Small Business Administration’s 504 Loan Program. The proceeds will partially finance a restaurant in Columbia, Mississippi, which will create approximately four (4) new jobs in the private sector.

The Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMDC) is a U. S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) approved Certified Development Company (CDC). It works with local banks and other financial institutions in providing business loans to small businesses. These loans allow a small business to finance land, building, and equipment with a low down payment and long term financing at competitive interest rates. Fixed rate low interest financing for small businesses saves thousands of dollars in debt service on fixed assets. Also, this type of financing provides an alternative to variable rate financing on long term assets. Many economic forecasters are certain that interest rates will rise. These predictable interest rate increases will not have a negative impact on the cash flow of those businesses that have fixed rate low interest loans through the U. S. Small Business Administration’s 504 Loan Program. The maximum loan amount is 40% of the total project cost up to a maximum loan amount of \$5,000,000 depending on the type of project. The maximum amount for eligible manufacturing projects is \$5,500,000.



Dairy Queen remodel concept.

The current interest rates on business loans under the U.S. Small Business Administration’s CMDC remain very low. Therefore, now is a good time to lock-up low fixed interest rate commercial financing for fixed assets (land, building, and equipment) with a useful life of 10 years or longer. The terms and interest rates for SBA 504 Loans for May, 2015 were as follow:

<u>TERM (YEARS)</u>	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>
10 (May 2015)	4.37%
20 (May 2015)	5.06%

The fixed interest rate on loans made under the Mississippi Minority Business Loan Program is 2.75% per annum. The maximum term is 15 years depending on the use of the loan proceeds.

Small business owners, bankers, commercial loan officers, real estate developers, contractors, and others interested in locking up extremely low fixed interest rates on business loans should call Larry Anderson or Dwayne Perkins at 601-981-1625.

CMPDD Submits Land and Water Conservation Fund Application

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program provides 50% matching grants for the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation facilities. This program is administered on the federal level by the National Park Service (NPS) with federal funds appropriated by Congress through the United States Department of the Interior, and on the state level by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP), Outdoor Recreation Grants Office.

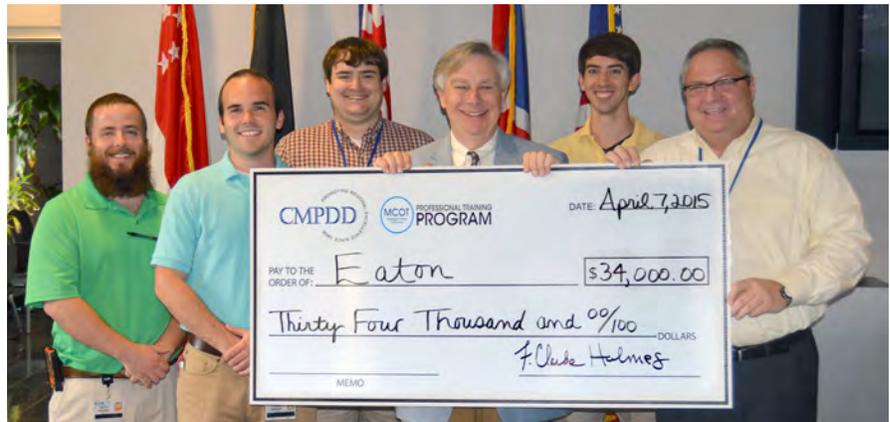
Over the past several months the District has assisted the Town of Pelahatchie with the preparation of an application for \$44,000 in Land and Water Conservation Funds to be used for the irrigation of two baseball fields and one soccer field and the construction of a press box for the baseball fields. The Town of Pelahatchie will match the grant funds dollar for dollar if awarded the grant.

If the name and address of the recipient needs to be updated, please contact our office at 601-981-1511.

MCOT Training Program – Helping Mississippi Employers

Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, which serves as the fiscal and administrative entity for the Southcentral Mississippi Works Workforce Area, received a Professional Skills Training grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. This grant provides a unique opportunity for employers and their potential employees. The purpose of the Mississippi Careers of Tomorrow (MCOT) project is to train eligible individuals to meet industry skill shortages in the high-growth, high-demand advanced manufacturing/engineering and information technology industries and occupations throughout the state of Mississippi.

The MCOT Professional Skills Training program provides financial assistance to employers who hire, train, and retain eligible individuals in any one of a number of advanced manufacturing/engineering and information technology jobs. Employers select their own potential new hires. Training periods are relative to the occupation and skills to be learned and employers are reimbursed at the end of the individual's training period in amounts equal to one-half of the trainee's wage paid during the training period, with a maximum reimbursement per trainee of \$8,500 for employers with more than 50 full-time employees and \$12,500 for employers with



CMPDD's CEO Clarke Holmes recently presented a check to Eaton Aerospace for participants who have been trained under the program.

less than 50 full-time employees. Any employer located anywhere within the state who utilizes any of the targeted occupations is eligible to participate in the project. The process is easy on the part of the employer and a large number of employers have taken advantage of this opportunity. MCOT training will result in increased technical skill levels of Mississippi workers so they can obtain permanent employment in the targeted high-growth industries and occupations that are the way of the future in our state.

Any employer or individual wishing to obtain detailed information should contact one of the MCOT Project Managers, Terry Hodges at 601-321-5443 or Mark Posey at 601-638-1452.

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