

**Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission
Package**

Proposal Name: Escatawpa River Basin Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Study

Submission Date: 08/27/2019

Proposal ID Number: 02960ebe-55d7-4939-b180-ca39d2000ad0

Purpose of Proposal: Flooding in the Escatawpa River Basin is a reoccurring issue that significantly impacts the economic viability of the region. Since 1996, there have been a total of 25 riverine flood events in Jackson County alone. In addition to riverine flooding within the Escatawpa Basin, Jackson County has experienced nine storm surge events since 1998. These events account for almost \$2.8 billion (2016 dollars) in property damage. In addition, the human toll would be substantial. In addition, the Big Creek Lake Dam in Alabama poses a potential risk to some areas in eastern Jackson County, and has been identified as the greatest threat in terms of dam failure in the County. The Emergency Action Plan for this dam identifies probable maximum flood areas in both Alabama and Mississippi, demonstrating potential areas at risk in several dam failure scenarios. The feasibility study would identify and assess options for federal and state authorities to work together to establish various programs and regulations and implement projects aimed at addressing the risks posed by riverine flooding, coastal storm surge, and dam failure, and implementing and improving water quality monitoring and reporting.

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Escatawpa River Basin Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Study

by Agency: Jackson County Board of Supervisors, MS

Locations: AL,MS

POC Name: County Administrator

POC Phone:

POC Email:

Date Submitted: 08/27/2019

Confirmation Number: 02960ebe-55d7-4939-b180-ca39d2000ad0

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
NF Support Letter WRDA Section 7001 - for New feasibility Study.pdf	08/26/2019
Escatawpa Watershed 8.5x11.pdf	08/26/2019
Wicker - Jackson Co WRDA 7001 Feasibility.pdf	08/26/2019
Cong Palazzo Support Letter.pdf	08/27/2019

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Jackson County Board of Supervisors(Primary)	Jackson County is pleased to submit this proposal in accordance with Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRDA 2014). We respectfully request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conduct a feasibility study to identify and evaluate opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding and to restore lost habitat within the Escatawpa River Basin in Mississippi and Alabama. Flooding in the Escatawpa River Basin is a recurring issue that significantly impacts the economic viability of the region. Since 1996, there have been not less than 25 riverine flood events in Jackson County alone. In addition to traditional riverine flooding, the Big Creek Lake Dam in Alabama poses a potential risk to areas in eastern Jackson County, and has been identified as the greatest threat in terms of dam failure in the County. The Emergency Action Plan for this dam identifies probable maximum flood areas in both Alabama and Mississippi, demonstrating potential areas at risk in several scenarios. In addition to riverine flooding within the Escatawpa Basin, Jackson County has experienced nine storm surge events since 1998. These events have accounted for almost \$2.8 billion (2016 dollars) in property damage, and the damage to the regional economy caused by these events has been substantial. There is an urgent need to initiate a comprehensive assessment of the water resources issues within the Escatawpa River Basin. The County agrees to be the non-Federal sponsor for this project. We understand the responsibilities of a non-Federal sponsor and are prepared to provide the necessary non-Federal match.

3. State if this proposal is for new feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing USACE project authority, or a modification to an existing USACE Environmental Infrastructure Program authority. If it is a proposal for a modification to an existing study, project or program authority, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

[x] New Feasibility Study Authority

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

Flooding in the Escatawpa River Basin is a reoccurring issue that significantly impacts the economic viability of the region. Since 1996, there have been a total of 25 riverine flood events in Jackson County alone. In addition to riverine flooding within the Escatawpa Basin, Jackson County has experienced nine storm surge events since 1998. These events account for almost \$2.8 billion (2016 dollars) in property damage. In addition, the human toll would be substantial. In addition, the Big Creek Lake Dam in Alabama poses a potential risk to some areas in eastern Jackson County, and has been identified as the greatest threat in terms of dam failure in the County. The Emergency Action Plan for this dam identifies probable maximum flood areas in both Alabama and Mississippi, demonstrating potential areas at risk in several dam failure scenarios. The feasibility study would identify and assess options for federal and state authorities to work together to establish various programs and regulations and implement projects aimed at addressing the risks posed by riverine flooding, coastal storm surge, and dam failure, and implementing and improving water quality monitoring and reporting.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation (if necessary)

The intent of this 7001 proposal is to obtain authority to conduct a comprehensive assessment of water resources issues within the Escatawpa River Basin within the confines of the SMART Planning initiative, which is to complete a feasibility study within 3 years and at a cost of up to \$3 million.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The monetary and non-monetary benefits of this proposal have not been quantified recently. However, at a minimum, since 1998 there have been nine storm surge events that have accounted for almost \$2.8 billion (2016 dollars) in property damage, in addition to substantial (but not estimated) damage to the regional economy. Further, recent historical records document an eight-foot crest due to riverine flooding within Jackson County, MS. The feasibility study will address options for mitigating the impacts of such storm surges and flooding.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

Yes. By letter, dated August 26, 2019, Jackson County, MS has stated its intent to act as the non-federal sponsor for the feasibility study. In addition to support from the County, Congressional letter(s) of support have been received and are appended hereto.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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**NF Support Letter WRDA Section 7001 - for New feasibility
Study.pdf**

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

POST OFFICE BOX 998 | PASCAGOULA, MS 39568 | WWW.CO.JACKSON.MS.US



BARRY CUMBEST

District One
2915 Canty Street
Pascagoula, MS 39567
228-769-3403
877-542-0976 Toll Free
228-769-3475 Fax
Barry_Cumbest@co.jackson.ms.us

MELTON HARRIS

District Two
2500 Criswell Avenue
Pascagoula, MS 39567
228-769-3170
228-762-6578 Fax
Melton_Harris@co.jackson.ms.us

KENNETH TAYLOR

District Three
2915 Canty Street
Pascagoula, MS 39567
228-762-7641
228-769-3363 Fax
Kenneth_Taylor@co.jackson.ms.us

TROY ROSS

District Four
2915 Canty Street
Pascagoula, MS 39567
228-769-3457
877-542-0975 Toll Free
228-769-3482 Fax
Troy_Ross@co.jackson.ms.us

RANDY BOSARGE

District Five
2915 Canty Street
Pascagoula, MS 39567
228-769-3378
228-696-6500 Fax
Randy_Bosarge@co.jackson.ms.us

Gateway to the
Mississippi Gulf Coast



August 26, 2019

LTG Todd T. Semonite, Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW – Room 3K05
Washington, DC 20314

Re: Jackson County, MS Proposal under WRDA Section 7001 for a New
Feasibility Study (Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Study)

Dear Commander Semonite:

Jackson County is pleased to submit this proposal in accordance with Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRDA 2014). We respectfully request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conduct a feasibility study to identify and evaluate opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding and to restore lost habitat within the Escatawpa River Basin in Mississippi and Alabama.

Flooding in the Escatawpa River Basin is a reoccurring issue that significantly impacts the economic viability of the region. Since 1996, there have been not less than 25 riverine flood events in Jackson County alone. In addition to traditional riverine flooding, the Big Creek Lake Dam in Alabama poses a potential risk to areas in eastern Jackson County, and has been identified as the greatest threat in terms of dam failure in the County. The Emergency Action Plan for this dam identifies probable maximum flood areas in both Alabama and Mississippi, demonstrating potential areas at risk in several scenarios. In addition to riverine flooding within the Escatawpa Basin, Jackson County has experienced nine storm surge events since 1998. These events have accounted for almost \$2.8 billion (2016 dollars) in property damage, and the damage to the regional economy caused by these events have been substantial.

There is an urgent need to initiate a comprehensive assessment of the water resources issues within the Escatawpa River Basin. The County agrees to be the non-Federal sponsor for this project. We understand the responsibilities of a non-Federal sponsor and are prepared to provide the necessary non-Federal match. Please contact our County Administrator, Brian Fulton, at 228-769-3088 if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Taylor
President

Map Document

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Escatawpa Watershed 8.5x11.pdf

Escatawpa Watershed



No	HUC 12 Name	Acres	State
1	Beardslee Lake-Escatawpa River	15,411.36	MS
2	Bennett Creek	19,309.56	AL
3	Black Creek Cooling Pond-Black Creek	31,098.23	MS
4	Collins Creek-Big Creek	11,273.14	AL,MS
5	Creeping Swamp Creek-Escatawpa River	31,657.83	AL,MS
6	Cunningham Branch-Escatawpa River	14,092.41	MS
7	Flat Branch-Escatawpa River	29,377.78	AL
8	Flat Creek	12,045.52	AL,MS
9	Franklin Creek	20,243.43	AL,MS
10	Fruitdale-Brushy Creek	15,722.29	AL,MS
11	Hamilton Creek-Big Creek	37,226.37	AL
12	Jackson Creek	25,383.77	AL,MS
13	Juniper Bay-Escatawpa River	20,686.05	AL,MS
14	Juniper Creek-Big Creek	29,479.04	AL
15	Long Branch-Brushy Creek	20,044.82	MS
16	Lyons Creek-Escatawpa River	8,651.52	MS
17	Miller Creek	30,042.90	AL
18	Nobodies Creek-Escatawpa River	23,015.90	AL,MS
19	Okwakee Creek-Escatawpa River	26,696.21	AL,MS
20	Pierce Creek-Big Creek	32,043.84	AL,MS
21	Pine Barren Creek	26,545.46	AL
22	Pond Creek-Little Creek	24,042.79	AL,MS
23	Powell Creek-Escatawpa River	27,831.23	AL,MS
24	Puppy Creek	27,325.19	AL
25	Red Bank Creek-Escatawpa River	22,530.85	AL,MS
26	Red Creek-Escatawpa River	11,262.98	AL,MS
27	Rocky Branch-Rocky Creek	18,754.70	MS
28	Scarborough Creek-Brushy Creek	18,118.71	AL,MS
29	Spring Creek-Escatawpa River	23,546.23	AL,MS
30	Vinegar Bend-Escatawpa River	14,898.43	AL,MS
Total		668,358.54	



Legend

- HUC8 (668,358.54 acres)
- HUC12
- City Limits
- Waterbody (8,811.95 acres)
- Flowline (2,568.56 miles)



Additional Proposal Information

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Wicker - Jackson Co WRDA 7001 Feasibility.pdf

ROGER F. WICKER

MISSISSIPPI

ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

COMMISSION ON SECURITY

AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SUITE 555

DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

(202) 224-6253

www.wicker.senate.gov

August 26, 2019

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite
Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear General Semonite,

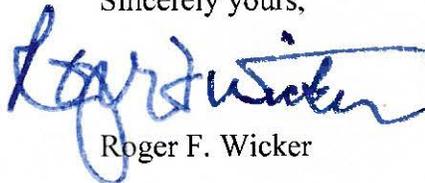
I would like to express my support for Jackson County, Mississippi's Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Section 7001 proposal for a feasibility study to identify and assess opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding for citizens and industry along the Escatawpa River Basin in Mississippi and Alabama.

The Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Study is intended to evaluate long-standing and significant environmental and public safety challenges posed by flooding in the Escatawpa River Basin, a recurring issue that significantly impacts the economic viability of the region. Since 1996, there have been a total of 25 riverine flood events in Jackson County alone. There is a need for federal and state authorities to work together to identify and evaluate projects and establish programs and regulations to address these adverse impacts, and this study would be directly related to the Corps' missions to reduce the risks from natural disasters, improve the environment, and energize the economy.

I hope that you will give Jackson County, Mississippi's request every consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Roger F. Wicker

RFW/MAB

Additional Proposal Information

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Cong Palazzo Support Letter.pdf

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2404

August 22, 2019

LTG Todd T. Semonite
Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW – Room 3K05
Washington, DC 20314

Re: Support for Jackson County, MS Proposal under WRDA Section 7001 for
a USACE Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Study

Dear Commander Semonite:

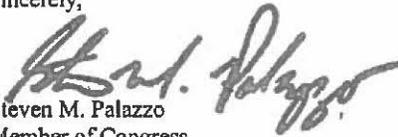
Please accept this letter of support for Jackson County, Mississippi's proposal pursuant to WRDA Section 7001 for a feasibility study (Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Study) to identify and assess opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding for citizens and industry along the Escatawpa River Basin in Mississippi and Alabama.

The feasibility study is intended to evaluate long-standing and significant environmental and public safety challenges posed by flooding in the Escatawpa River Basin, a reoccurring issue that significantly impacts the economic viability of the region. Since 1996, there have been a total of 25 riverine flood events in Jackson County alone. There is a need for federal and state authorities to work together to identify and evaluate projects and establish programs and regulations to address these adverse impacts.

It is my understanding that the feasibility study would perform a basin-wide assessment of the Escatawpa River Basin to determine possible engineered projects to help eliminate or mitigate the threats from flood events, to restore lost habitat, and to improve the conditions of the Mississippi Sound. The study would be directly related to the USACE's missions to reduce the risks from natural disasters, improve the environment, and energize the economy.

Please give every consideration to Jackson County's request to have its proposal included in the 2019 Section 7001 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development. I appreciate the opportunity to express my support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress

WASHINGTON, DC:
2349 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-3772
FAX: (202) 225-7074

GULFPORT:
84 48TH STREET
GULFPORT, MS 39507
PHONE: (228) 864-7670
FAX: (228) 864-3099

HATTIESBURG:
641 MAIN STREET, SUITE 142
HATTIESBURG, MS 39401
PHONE: (601) 582-3246
FAX: (601) 582-3452

www.palazzo.house.gov