



*Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District
Mid-America Port Commission*

NEWS RELEASE

Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District
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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

Mid-America Port District Announces New Board Members

The Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District is pleased to announce its seven new and returning board members. These members are prepared to work with leaders in the tri-state area to create an intermodal port serving the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers. The port would offer Foreign Trade Zone benefits to 26 counties in West-central Illinois, Northeast Missouri and Southeast Iowa.

Mike McLaughlin, Adams County Board chair and employee of Neece Office Equipment, was recently elected chair of the Port District board. McLaughlin has been actively involved in infrastructure development for the proposed port site approximately 1 mile south of Lock and Dam 21 near Quincy, Illinois. He has also actively participated in promoting the port's development.

New board member Don Griffiths from Hancock County is the former co-owner of Colusa Elevator Co. which included six terminals in Illinois and Iowa before becoming part of Consolidated Grain and Barge Enterprises in 2011. Griffiths, like the rest of the board, believes the nation's inland waterways are underutilized in terms of the role they can play in increasing commerce and global competitiveness of tri-state businesses.

"Cheap, effective freight in and out of the heart of America, with all the benefits a Port Authority can offer, would be a tremendous win-win for Iowa, Illinois and Missouri," Griffiths said.

Also interested in seeing freight – especially grain – transported on the Illinois and Mississippi rivers are new board members Gerald Jenkins and Blake Roderick. Jenkins is the general manager of Ursa Farmers Cooperative which manages two river terminals in Illinois with one under construction in Canton, Missouri. Roderick is the executive director of the Pike and Scott County Farm Bureaus, representing agri-businesses using both the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

From the rivers standpoint, Charles David Hood, Jr. joined the board after a 20+ year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He most recently held the position of lockmaster and earned numerous awards for his service.

Two returning board members were approved for additional terms. H.O. Brownback, vice president of Southwestern Illinois College and former Cass County Board Chairman, previously served two five-year terms on the Port District board. Max Edlen, former chair of the Scott County board, is also beginning his third five-year term.

Brownback, Jenkins and Hood are appointees of Governor Quinn. Other members are appointees of the eleven county board chairs in the port district: Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, Pike, Schuyler, Henderson, Warren, Morgan, Mercer, and Scott.

The board will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 4:30pm. Meetings will be held at the offices of Great River Economic Development Foundation, 300 Civic Center Plaza, Quincy, IL and are open to the public.
