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## CRN In The News

Grist gives kudos to the "environmental groups behind the Corps Reform Network."

[Read more...](#)

WWLTV Evening News coverage from CRN Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

[Watch video...](#)

## For a Healthy Delta - Dump the Pumps!

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took a critical next step in stopping the Corps from constructing the destructive Yazoo Pumps project by publishing a [Federal Register Notice](#) on March 19. The notice outlines EPA's case to veto the project, opens a 45-day public comment period (until May 5), and sets a [public hearing in Vicksburg MS for April 17](#).

The Yazoo Pumps would drain and damage up to 200,000 acres of wetlands in the heart of the Mississippi Delta. The Clean Water Act gives EPA the authority (and the obligation) to veto this project due to its unacceptable adverse impact on fisheries, wildlife, water supplies, and recreational areas. EPA has completed only 11 vetoes in its history, and notably, the pumps would drain and damage up to 25 times more wetlands than all of the other 11 vetoed projects combined.

Several CRN Members have been fighting this project for decades and are planning to attend the public hearing to speak out against the Pumps. If you are interested in attending the hearing and telling EPA: "For a Healthy Delta, Dump the Pumps!" please contact George Sorvalis at [sorvalisg@nwf.org](mailto:sorvalisg@nwf.org). You may also email EPA official comments at: [ow-docket@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:ow-docket@epamail.epa.gov). Be sure to include the docket number, EPA- R04-OW-2008-0179 in the subject line of the message

[NWF Action Alert](#)

[American Rivers Yazoo Advocacy Site](#)

[EPA's Federal Register Notice](#)

## Strategic Planning Update

Thank to everyone who participated in our CRN Strategic Planning Survey. Your thoughtful responses are helping the Steering Committee lay the groundwork for a productive strategic planning process. The survey revealed how members have been using the CRN, how satisfied members have been, and identified those issues most important to our membership. We will be asking for more input as our strategic planning moves forward. Please contact CRN Coordinator George Sorvalis if you'd like to see the survey results.

## Welcome Dan Tonsmeire to CRN Steering Committee

Dan Tonsmeire, Executive Director of [Apalachicola Riverkeeper](#), joined the CRN Steering Committee on March 24, 2008. The Apalachicola Riverkeeper is working to protect and preserve the Apalachicola River and its tributaries - the most endangered river and estuary system in Florida.

Before Dan joined Apalachicola Riverkeeper in February 2004, he spent 15 years as a water resource planner with the Northwest Florida Water Management District, and served as a resident manager for the Jeff Lewis Wilderness Preserve.

Dan's technical experience on preserving, protecting, and restoring the Apalachicola River and Bay will be a great addition to the CRN Steering Committee. Please join me in welcoming Dan to his new leadership role in the CRN.

## CRN Hosting WRDA Workshop at River Rally

At this year's River Rally (May 2 - 5) in Huron Ohio, the CRN will be hosting a 'side meeting' to talk about the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA) and how water activists can use the newly-won reforms to influence corps proposals and projects.

On November 8, 2007, WRDA became law. The new law requires the corps to modernize its project planning, strengthen its wetlands mitigation, and independently review certain projects. The law also authorizes \$28 billion-worth of projects.

[WRDA Information and Background](#)

[River Rally Information](#)

## Call for Spring 2008 Action Assistance Grant Applications

The Corps Reform Network's Action Assistance Fund is now accepting proposals for its Spring 2008 cycle until May 27, 2008. The fund disperses small grants to CRN Member Groups working to ensure that Army Corps of Engineers projects are economically and environmentally sound. In many cases, CRN Member Groups use the fund to hire technical experts that aid in stopping controversial, environmentally destructive and/or fiscally unjustified Corps proposals and projects.

Your organization must be a CRN Member to submit an application. If you would like to submit an application but are not a CRN Member, you may [join the CRN](#) online at [www.corpsreform.org](http://www.corpsreform.org). Please contact CRN Coordinator George Sorvalis

for more information, and an application.

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