

# Four St. Francis projects in Arkansas, Missouri pass final inspections

The Memphis District gave the final seal of approval to four St. Francis basin projects in eastern Arkansas and southeastern Missouri on Sept. 1. The four projects are an important part of ongoing flood risk reduction efforts in the region.

Representatives from our Caruthersville (Missouri) Area Office spent the day inspecting work on the completed projects, all done by C & M Contractors of Doniphan, Mo.

“We observed above average to exceptional work on all four contracts,” Jack Ratliff, Acting Caruthersville Area Engineer said. “All contract work is complete, acceptable and ready for government occupation.”

Here is a brief rundown on the four projects:

**St. Francis River Levee** – right bank, slope restoration and planting berm, Clay and Greene Counties, Ark. This work included levee slope flattening and construction of a berm on the riverside of the levee, placement of gravel on the levee crown and ramps, and excavation from a borrow pit.

**Elk Chute Ditch**, Channel Cleanout and Clearing, Pemiscot and Dunklin Counties, Mo. Channel cleanout of the lower 1.2 miles of Elk Chute Ditch and clearing and snagging along with smoothing of areas on the remaining 14.6 miles of the ditch was done here for a total of 15.8 miles. The work included channel excavation, clearing, snagging and disposal of debris and material along with seeding and mulching, and environmental protection.

**Mingo Ditch** Clearing and Snagging, Drainage District No. 12 of Stoddard County, Mo. Work on this project consists of clearing, snagging and disposal of debris and other unwanted material in the ditch, seeding and mulching, and environmental protection.

**Dudley Ditch** Clearing and Snagging, Drainage District No. 12 of Stoddard County, Mo. Work on this project also consisted of clearing, snagging and disposal of debris and other unwanted material in the ditch, seeding and mulching, and environmental protection.

“All contracts were a positive outcome of a great working relationship with the contractor in producing a quality, safe, timely product for our customers in the area,” Donny Davidson, Chief of the Memphis District Engineering and Construction Division said.

The St. Francis basin project is located in southeastern Missouri and northeastern Arkansas. It provides protection against headwater floods by means of a detention reservoir at Wapapello, Mo., and improvement of the flood-carrying capacities of the St. Francis and Little Rivers and their principal tributaries.

This is accomplished by means of levees, channel improvements, new channels, auxiliary channels, and floodways, including the main ditches in the Little River Basin.

Protection against backwater flooding of the Mississippi River is provided by realignment of the St. Francis River channel supplemented with auxiliary channels, levee construction, and a pumping plant and floodgates.



*Pictured left to right at one of the project inspections: Glen Bullington, Andrew Briedwell, Joshua Giannini, Jim Wolff, Shaun Bass, Melinda Vaughn, Derrick Brasher and Charlie Bass.*