Working Together for Stronger Water Resource Infrastructure Policy

Connecting the Corn Belt and Beyond

2025 Illinois Waterway Ports Annual Meeting

November 7, 2025

National Waterways Conference

YOUR CONNECTION TO WASHINGTON, DC

NWC advocates for sound federal policy, strategic investment, and effective coordination for the nation's water resources infrastructure.

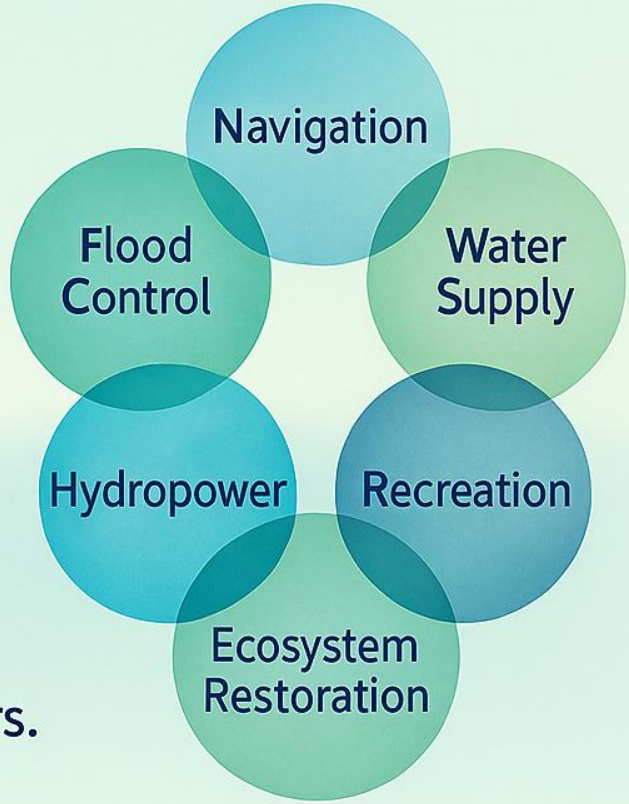
We bring together navigation, flood control, water supply, hydropower, ecosystem restoration, and recreation interests to share knowledge and shape policy.

Our members across the United States are united in addressing the nation's water resources infrastructure challenges and opportunities.

NWC

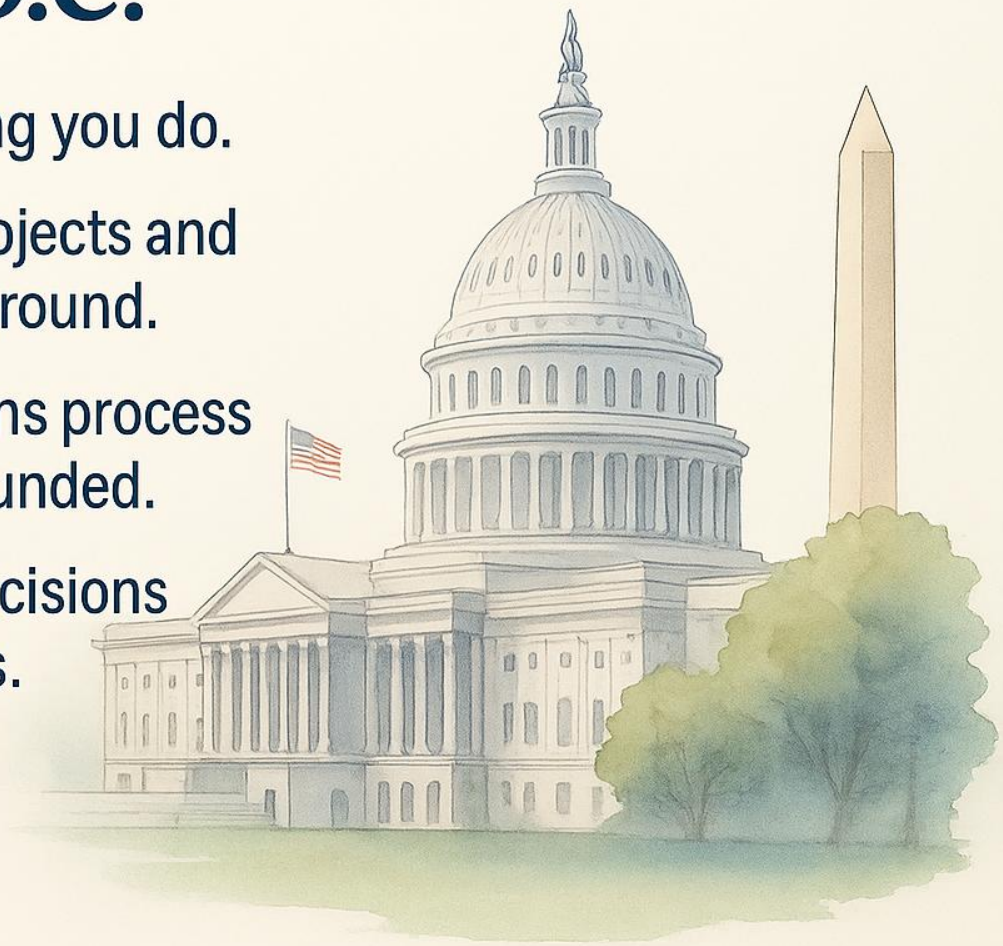
Beyond Navigation – Building Connections Across All Water Resource Sectors

- Goes beyond navigation to bring every sector of water resources to the same ttable.
- Facilitates cross-sector collaboration instead of operating in silos.
- Helps members solve policy and permitting roadblocks.
- Amplifies rural and central U.S. voices that are often under-represented.
- Turns policy into projects through advocacy and connection with decision-makers.



What Happens in D.C. Doesn't Stay in D.C.

- Federal policy touches everyhing you do.
- WRDA debates shape which projects and policies get authorized on the ground.
- The congressional appropriations process determines what studies gets funded.
- Federal rules and permitting decisions impact states and local projects.
- That's why organizations like ours are around.



Shutdown and Stalemate – Longest in U.S. History

- Began when none of the FY 2026 appropriations bills were signed into law by October 1
- Most agencies operating under emergency or limited authority
- Civil Works projects funded by prior appropriations continue
- Administrative reviews, hiring, and outreach largely paused
- Creates uncertainty for planning, coordination, and timelines

Operating Under a Continuing Resolution

- Extends Fiscal Year 2024 funding levels
- No new studies, construction starts, or earmarks
- Work continues only where prior funds obligated
- Uncertainty for sponsors and contractors
- Congress considering a Fiscal Year 2026 CR based on FY 2024 levels
- NWC pressing for timely appropriations and clear funding direction

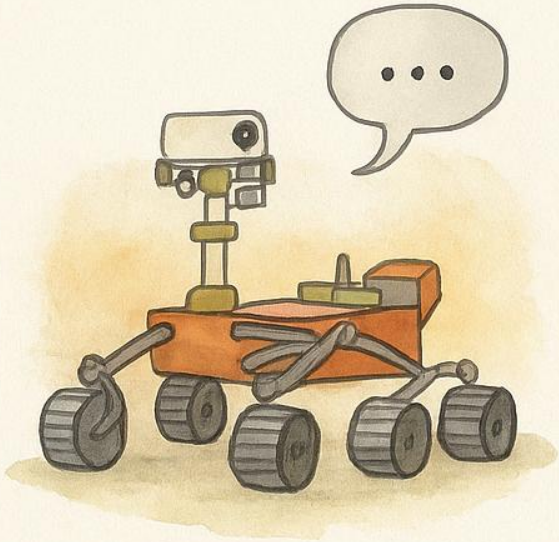
Funding frozen at FY 2024 levels; no new starts or earmarks

“Useless but Interesting” Shutdown Facts

Longest shutdown?
Lasted 35 days
(Dec. 2018–Jan. 2019)

2013 shutdown:
Even the Panda Cam at the National Zoo went dark.

However, the Mars Rover kept posting



OMB Announces Pause in $11 Billion in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Projects

- OMB reviewing $11 billion in authorized USACE projects across 12 states.
- Raises concern about precedent for future administrations, WRDA, and the appropriations process.
- Potential impacts for non-federal cost-share sponsors and ongoing agreements.

WRDA – The Bipartisan Constant

- WRDA is a biennial, bipartisan bill that authorizes studies, projects, and policies for the Corps
- It's step one of a two-step process – authorization through WRDA, then funding through annual appropriations
- Talk with your Corps District and members of Congress
- Think about process or policy improvements
- Potential impacts for non-federal cost-share sponsors and ongoing agreements

Progress Through Partnership

Since 2019, funding has grown across all of USACE's mission areas, driven by collaboration and unified advocacy.

The challenges facing our waterways are too great for any single organization or region to tackle alone.

By working together, we amplify the voice for ports, industry. environmental interests, local governments, and communities to ensure that every mission area of water resource infrastructure remains a national priority.

True benefits are best quantified when everyone involved, directly and indirectly, works together and shares data and information.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER WATER RESOURCES FUTURE

- NWC builds partnerships that unite organizations with shared water resource goals
- Collaboration creates space for dialogue across sectors and regions
- Shared advocacy amplifies every voice and strengthens the case for federal investment
- NWC is proud to partner with the Corn Belt Ports on issues that strengthen connections between regions and mission areas

NWC is your connectation to Washington, D.C. — translating what's happening in Congress and agencies into what it means for you.

NWC Legislative Summit
March 9–11, 2026
Washington, DC

NWC Annual Meeting
Week of Aug. 24, 2026
(dates coming soon)

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