



2009 Annual Report

Membership: The first annual conference was held in Savannah GA on November 18, 1999. There were 40 members at that time. Today the Association has 250 members and membership remains strong despite the recession.

Federal Funding: The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway was the beneficiary of \$22.2 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This was in addition to the \$9.9 million already appropriated to the Corps in the FY 2009 final budget. President Obama's 2010 budget proposed \$9.5 million for the AIWW. Members of the AIWA Board of Directors and the executive director visited the Congressional delegations from VA, NC, SC, GA and FL in March seeking a plus up in the budgets in these states. Our written requests were submitted to the Energy & Water Development subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. The Energy & Water Development Appropriations was passed and signed by the President in October. The Corps will receive a total of \$13 million for AIWW maintenance in 2010.

Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Commission: The membership passed a resolution at last year's annual conference asking Congress to establish a commission to provide oversight for the AIWW. The Commission would include members appointed by the Governors of the 5 coastal states, the Corps of Engineers, the business and recreational communities. The draft language approved by the board is attached to this report. The House is currently accepting requests for projects for a possible 2010 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). We have Congressional support for the Commission from each of the waterway states and this language will be submitted to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in early December. Congressman Henry Brown (SC) and Congressman Mike McIntyre (NC) are taking the lead with this legislation.

Congress passes House Resolution 465 recognizing AIWA on its 10th anniversary. The Resolution was introduced by Congressman Henry Brown and had 9 co-sponsors. Resolution attached.

Dredge Disposal: The Executive Director and members of the Board are working with GA DNR and the USACE, Savannah District to find a solution to the dredge disposal site shortage in parts of the AIWW.

Volunteers: In 2009 the Association was fortunate to have the assistance of several volunteers who met with local waterway users to increase awareness of AIWA. We'd like to thank our interns, Brendan McClatchey, a student at Coastal Carolina University and Tandy Versyp, a recent graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design for promoting our activities and recruiting new members. Joe Lawson, a volunteer from Brunswick GA, spent many hours meeting with local businesses and government officials keeping them informed of AIWA's initiatives. Pat Taylor is a volunteer who is assisting with this year's conference.