

## **Arkansas Water Plan-Levee and drainage recommendations 1939 to present**

### **Arkansas State Planning Board, Arkansas Water Resources (1939)**

“Without a comprehensive plan these districts are at best local attempts to solve a basin-wide problem, and the results speak for themselves.” Page 55.

“It is recommended, also, that drainage and levee districts be refinanced and rehabilitated under proper State guidance in order to achieve an integrated land drainage plan, adjusted to the statewide interest.” Pages 14-17.

“Comprehensive data on land drainage in Arkansas are meager. Each drainage and levee district is a separate organization for the construction of projects of local interest. The lack of coordination of these projects is evidenced by many overlapping assessments and resulting heavy delinquencies. The most complete information available on the present financial conditions of drainage and levee districts is contained in the records of the Federal Land Bank of St. Louis. Very little specific information is available on the condition and physical works in many of these districts. This problem is too local for Federal planning, but it is too broad for strictly local planning. It can be properly solved only by assistance of State agencies.” Page 20.

“The districts were organized as separate projects to solve specific local problems. Little or no thought was given to coordinating neighboring drainage projects or to working out the assessments so that lands benefiting from two or more districts would not be overburdened.” Page 37.

### **Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Arkansas Water Plan Executive Summary (1990)**

**Issue:** Some levee and drainage districts fail to perform proper maintenance after the debt service is paid off.

**Recommendation:** Oversight control to ensure proper operation and maintenance should be authorized at the state level.

### **Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Arkansas Water Plan 2014 Update (2014)**

(The 2014 Update incorporates and builds on previous Water Plan recommendations.)

**Issue:** Public water and wastewater infrastructure is failing, and in need of repair and replacement throughout Arkansas. Public water and wastewater infrastructure, including navigation, flood control, levee, and drainage, both municipal and county, is failing, and is in need of repair, upgrades, and replacement throughout Arkansas, just as it is throughout the U.S.

**Recommendation:** Develop and implement an awareness campaign to promote the development of sustainable infrastructure plans for water and wastewater utilities and all other operators of water-related infrastructure, including watershed, levee, drainage, irrigation, and other improvement districts statewide. This campaign should include the process and criteria to be used in providing assistance to local entities that operate water and water-related infrastructure in preparing sustainable infrastructure plans. Work with water-related organizations to implement this campaign.