

2021 Resolutions

Originating Committee: Rivers, Streams, and Fisheries

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Intended Recipient(s): Missouri Governor, Commander of the Northwest Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, President of the Atchison County Levee District, and Co-chairs of the Flood Recovery Advisory Working Group; Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture and Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Encourage Levee Setbacks on the Missouri River to Provide Floodplain Connectivity and a Sustainable Strategy to Mitigate Flooding and Benefit Fish, Wildlife and Landowners

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri experienced devastating and prolonged flooding along the Missouri River in 2019, preceded by more than a decade of consistent high-water events that all caused significant social and economic disruption; and

WHEREAS, levee setbacks and realignments serve as innovative solutions that provide increased protection from future flooding by lowering flood crests while simultaneously increasing floodplain habitat for fish and wildlife, allowing for sediment deposits that create fertile soils, providing expanded recreational opportunities, and improving the quality of life in flood prone areas; and

WHEREAS, Missouri Governor Michael Parson established through Executive Order 19-14 the Flood Recovery Advisory Working Group (FRAWG) to provide input on the state's short-, medium-, and long-term flood recovery priorities and to provide feedback and suggested changes to the state's current levee system to benefit Missouri and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, a member of the FRAWG, Atchison County Levee District 1, representing local landowners, recommended the setting back of levee segments L-550 and L-536 in the county; and

WHEREAS, the resulting realignment of these federal levees would reduce a constriction point and provide additional protection for landowners both upstream and downstream by allowing the river greater access to its floodplain, creating less burden on levees and slowing down dangerous flood waters that imperil people and property; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri, assembled this 6th day of March, 2021, supports the Atchison County Levee District #1 in their effort to set back and realign two levee segments L-550 and L-536, allowing the river more access to its floodplain, resulting in lower flood crests and increased floodplain habitat, benefiting both people and nature; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri supports innovative solutions that allow the river to utilize more of its floodplain through levee realignments and setbacks to

provide better flood protection for the citizens of Missouri and encourages state and local officials working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to explore and implement these solutions whenever applicable.

Searchable Keywords: levee, flood protection, floodplain restoration

Expires: March 6, 2026