

River

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not give any indication they were rethinking the handling of the river's management before the flooding. A corps spokeswoman did not immediately return messages seeking comment Monday.

The Monday announcement was met with relief from people in the states most affected by the flooding.

Rhonda Wiley, a county emergency management coordinator based in Rock Port, Mo., said the corps' announcement "made my Monday morning."

"It seems to me they have actually listened to what was brought out at their meetings," Wiley said. "It's the first step of many steps yet to come."

She said recovery from flooding in her county is moving slowly and she's worried after reading predictions of higher-than-average precipitation in the northern part of the Missouri River basin in the coming winter and spring.

"I just hope now the corps can find the money to get in here and get these levees built back up," she said. "What we're looking at now, we could be doing this all over again next year."

The corps has estimated it will cost more than \$2 billion to repair the damage to the nation's levees, dams and riverbanks caused by this year's flooding.

Kelli Shaner of rural Fort Calhoun, just north of Omaha, said she's glad the corps is rethinking management of the river. She and her husband lost 80 percent of their corn and soybeans to flooding this summer and have only been able to return to their home, which was significantly damaged, in the past two weeks.

But she doesn't blame the corps for the damage, saying she was well aware of the potential for flooding on the land that has been in her husband's family for five generations.

"Bottom line is, I'm very glad they're changing and looking at the way they're doing things, because it can only get better," Shaner said. "Hopefully, this devastation won't happen to other people who live along the river bottom."

Governors in flooded states wel-

comed the corps' news. Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman said the governors told the corps flood control must be its highest priority and the agency "may be starting to listen to the citizens affected by this year's historic and devastating flooding."

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard lauded a segment of the corps' plan calling for better communications with bi-monthly conference calls looping in federal, state, county and local officials. Daugaard said the corps waited too long last year to tell people that conditions in February, March and April indicated there would be a heavy spring runoff.

"While it didn't cause the flood, it certainly aggravated it," he said.

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad addressed the issue at his weekly news conference Monday, saying a change in the way the corps manages the river was needed.

But the corps' plan is likely to rankle Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, who has said lowering reservoir levels now could lead to problems when drought hits. He told downstream Missouri River states last month that he would support a new management plan only if his state's reservoirs weren't included.

Forum

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major and Truman Scholar at USD, said he has been thinking about the idea of the capitalistic system since the Occupy Wall Street movement started earlier this year.

"The way I see it, out capitalist system revolves around a central idea, which is that those who work harder will have better economic success, and so conversely, those who have greater economic success must have worked harder to get it. And because they worked harder to get it, they deserve to do what they like with the fruits of their labor," he said.

This is the basic principle behind the American Dream, he said, although he added it could be more accurately described as the "American delusion."

"I call it the American delusion because I think it's a wildly inaccurate picture of how human interaction actually works," he said.

Emanuel said people are affected in positive and negative

ways by elements over which they have no control, including where and to whom they are born, as well as the people they encounter.

"If I take advantage of the opportunities that come my way, then good for me," he said. "I deserve something out of that. But pretending that everything that I've achieved is a result of my hard work alone is delusional. ...

"No man is an island, no woman is an island, and any economic system that pretends that they are an island is fundamentally disconnected from the way the world works," he said.

When the system itself is "disconnected" and only takes account of those who earn the most, it is going to affect society at large, Emanuel said, citing as examples drilling in the Gulf of Mexico by British Petroleum, and investment companies making decisions "that directly affect millions of people."

Mike Myers, an associate professor at the USD School of Law who also has done extensive work in the field of health care, said decisions on a smaller scale also can be affected.

Myers said he used to host a radio program on Saturday mornings where he would make observations about the health care system — until the show was promptly canceled one week.

A year later, he said he learned that a donor from Catholic Health Care Systems had complained about the program to the station manager.

"In a true marketplace, (the station manager) did exactly what I would have done, or you would have done. He said, 'Myers, you're done.'"

Emanuel said these decisions, large and small, "have consequences not just for corporations, but for society at large. I come to the question, why don't the rest of us get a chance to participate in making these decisions, even when they intimately affect us? ...

"It is in effect taxation without representation. And that, I think, is what this movement is about. Or what it could be about, at least," he said.

The forum was moderated by Dr. Benno Wymar.

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