Mississippi River Cities & Towns Offer Help to Hurricane Impacted Communities, Make Recommendations for Better Disaster Preparedness

Quad Cities Mayors Announce Hosting of the 2018 MRCTI Annual Meeting

October 12, 2016 – Moline, IL – Mayors of the Quad Cities area took the opportunity of announcing their hosting of the 2018 Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative (MRCTI) Annual Meeting location to also announce critical disaster preparedness and response recommendations.

Mississippi River Cities Offer Aid to Hurricane Matthew Impacted Areas, Make Recommendations for Better Disaster Preparedness

“As Mayors of cities along the Mississippi River, the Hurricane Matthew devastation hits home for us. Our ‘coasts’ have many of the same vulnerabilities. In fact, within just the past ten months, cities and towns on the Mississippi experienced record flooding and record heat at a prolonged level,” reflected Mayor Belinda Constant of Gretna, LA and MRCTI Co-Chair.

“Mayors up and down the Mississippi River stand ready to offer assistance to hurricane impacted areas just as we did in the wake of Hurricane Katrina," stated Mayor Bob Gallagher of Bettendorf, IA.

“Since January of this year, the Mississippi River Valley has sustained numerous environmental and weather-related events that have incurred costs up to $10 billion,” said Mayor Chris Coleman, Mayor of Saint Paul, MN and MRCTI Co-Chair. “These occurrences are becoming more and more frequent, and the costs continue to escalate. As we adjust to this ‘new normal,’ we believe that we can find ways to better mitigate these disasters.”

MRCTI has urged FEMA to rethink their pre-disaster mitigation program criteria, which is currently constructed to be state specific. In light of recent natural disasters, it has become evident that this policy is limiting the region’s ability to effectively respond to the impacts.

“We need to make it easier for states and cities to treat climate impacts with disaster mitigation resources as they occur – at the regional level,” recommended Mayor John Thodos, of East Moline, IL.
“We are approaching disaster resilience from a ‘natural process’ point of view by giving the River room to ebb and flow as well as absorbing risk on-site instead of pushing more water down river to the next city,” explained Mayor Frank Klipsch of Davenport, IA.

Those cities that are offering mutual aid to hurricane-ravaged communities include:
St. Paul, MN
La Crosse, WI
Davenport, IA
Bettendorf, IA
Quincy, IL
St. Louis, MO
Memphis, TN
Gretna, LA

**Quad Cities Mayors Announce Hosting of 2018 MRCTI Annual Meeting**

Mayors of the Quad Cities jointly competed for and were awarded the 2018 MRCTI Annual Meeting. The Quad Cities was selected by a panel of 13 mayors representing the ten states along the Mississippi River as well as MRCTI’s Co-Chairs.

“The Quad Cities are at the forefront of disaster mitigation, resilience, and sustainable economic development along the River,” said Mayor Frank Klipsch of Davenport, IA.

Home to almost half a million people and headquarters to one of the most important corporate stewards of the River economy, John Deere, the Quad Cities presented a credible and extremely competitive choice for the Annual Meeting.

“The fact the State of IL will be celebrating its bicentennial in 2018 was another exciting feature to our candidacy to host, said Mayor Scott Raes of Moline, IL.

The meeting will take place on a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in mid-September; exact dates will be announced by the MRCTI Executive Committee next year.

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_The Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative is comprised of 75 Mayors and_
the Association represents cities on the main stem Mississippi from Minnesota to Louisiana. More information can be found on our website at www.MRCTI.org