

**For Immediate Release**

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**Flooding Impacts Mississippi River Cities from Iowa to Mississippi  
Mayors Coordinate Response Efforts, Urge Continued Support for Mitigation that  
Includes both Built and Natural Infrastructure**

**St. Louis, MO (May 2, 2017)**—Mississippi River Mayors announced today coordinated efforts among cities to address ongoing flood impacts on the waterway. Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas mayors gathered on a conference call as part of their joint response efforts for the [Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative \(MRCTI\)](#), a mayoral-led association comprised of 75 River Mayors committed to creating a unified voice for the Mississippi River.

The storms that passed through the middle-Mississippi River Valley over the weekend have resulted in significant impacts. Mississippi River cities from my city of Davenport all the way down to Natchez, MS are currently under a flood warning. As late as May 1, 2/3 of the state of Missouri and half the state of Illinois were also under a flood warning.

Over 26 MRCTI cities are in the path of these floods as water makes its way south over the next couple weeks and more rain is predicted for the region this week.

These storms come on the heels of historic flooding throughout 2016 that affected most of the 10-state Mississippi River Corridor. Over \$10 billion in disaster impacts were sustained in 2016.

“We’re now living in a world of climate extremes and the Mississippi River is a good example of that. We don’t just get normal spring rains, we get huge, loaded storms. We don’t just get patterns of mild weather, we get above normal heat coupled with long dry periods that dip us into drought,” explained Mayor Brent Walker, Mayor of Alton, IL.

The Mayors also discussed their efforts to improve both the natural and built infrastructure of the Corridor to prepare for future storm events making the Mississippi River Valley more resilient to disasters.

“Our mayors presented a plan to the White House and Congress in March to restore both the built and natural infrastructure of the Mississippi River Corridor. A critical component of that plan is disaster resilience. Our plan will create 100,000 jobs and generate \$24 billion in economic return if resilience is included. Our plan calls for continued support of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program and proposes the establishment of a Resilience Revolving Loan Fund to help cities leverage resilience projects,” said Harry Rediger, Mayor of Cape Girardeau, MO

“Projects such as restoring wetlands and marshes like Mayor Thompson is in Grafton, installing riverfront parks like we have here in Davenport, creating retention lakes like Mayor Hollowell is in Helena are all valuable resilience efforts. Bottom line, resilience work protects jobs, secures our economy, and enhances both the built and natural infrastructure,” iterated Frank Klipsch, Mayor of Davenport, IA

Participating Mayors on the call included: Frank Klipsch, Mayor of Davenport, IA; Mayor Brent Walker, Alton, IL; Mayor Harry Rediger, Cape Girardeau, MO; and Mayor Jay Hollowell, Helena-West Helena, AR.

MRCTI is an effort to bring national attention back to the Mississippi River—America’s most critical natural asset—and spearhead a new level of regional cooperation to make it more sustainable. As the ecological linchpin to the 31-state Mississippi River Basin, the River is responsible for creating nearly \$500 billion worth of U.S. GDP; providing drinking water for more than 20 million; transporting 40 percent of our nation’s agricultural output; and directly supporting 1.5 million jobs and millions more indirectly.

More information at [www.mrcti.org](http://www.mrcti.org).

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