Agenda

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions and events are open to all mayors and other officially invited attendees. Meeting services are located within the Hotel Blackhawk, 200 E 3rd Street, Davenport, IA 52801. Check www.mrcti.org frequently for Annual Meeting Agenda updates.

September 18
Registration
10:00am – 6:00pm, Hotel Blackhawk, Main Lobby, 1st floor

Welcome Reception & Opening Ceremony

Welcome Reception, Sponsored by Modern Woodmen
5:30pm – 6:00pm, Schwiebert Park, Main Stage Pavilion, 101 17th Street, Rock Island, IL
Considered one of the top urban parks in the country, Schwiebert Park is a gem along the Mississippi River.

Mayor and guests may gather in the main lobby of the Blackhawk at 5:00pm to load buses for the venue.

Presiding:
Frank Klipsch, Mayor of Davenport, IA, MRCTI Co-Chair
Lionel Johnson, Mayor of St. Gabriel, LA, MRCTI Co-Chair

Welcome:
HON. MIKE THOMS
Mayor, City of Rock Island, IL

Greetings:
W. KENNY MASSEY
President & CEO
Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial

Opening Ceremony, Sponsored by Modern Woodmen
6:00pm – 7:30pm, Schwiebert Park, Main Stage Pavilion, 101 17th Street, Rock Island, IL
Join Mayors Frank Klipsch, Lionel Johnson, Bob Gallagher, Reggie Freeman, Stephanie Acre, and Mike Thoms as they open the 7th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative through recognition of Illinois’ 200th Anniversary of statehood, MRCTI’s largest member state.
Opening: THE HON. LIONEL JOHNSON
Mayor, St. Gabriel, LA
MRCTI Co-Chair

THE HON. FRANK KLIPSCH
Mayor, Davenport, IA
MRCTI Co-Chair

Ceremony: Procession of Colors

Welcome: THE HONORABLE JANE KRENTZ
Former State Senator (MN)
Nat. Caucus of State Legislators

THE HONORABLE CINDY WINKLER
State Representative (IA)
Nat. Caucus of State Legislators

Recognition Of Women Mayors: TIARA LUMAS
Operations Manager
MRCTI

Remarks: THE HON. JO ANNE SMILEY
Mayor of Clarksville, MO

THE HON. SHARON WESTON BROOME
Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA

Remarks: CORY JOBE
Director, Illinois Office of Tourism
State of Illinois 200th Anniversary

September 19
Registration
7:30am – 5:00pm, Hotel Blackhawk, Main Lobby, 1st floor

Opening Breakfast Plenary: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act
8:00am – 9:30am, Hotel Blackhawk, 220 E 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, Gold Room

Presiding: George Flaggs, Mayor of Vicksburg, MS
Mike Thoms, Mayor of Rock Island, IL

Welcome: THE HON. FRANK KLIPSCH
Mayor, Davenport, IA

AMRIT GILL
Owner
Hotel Black Hawk

Introduction: COL. STEVEN M. SATTINGER
Commander, Rock Island District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Remarks: GENERAL RICHARD KAISER
Commander, Mississippi Valley Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Update: THE HONORABLE CHERI BUSTOS
U.S. House of Representatives
17th District of Illinois

Update: THE HONORABLE RICHARD BALZANO
Deputy Administrator
U.S. Maritime Administration
U.S. Dept. of Transportation

SESSION: MISSISSIPPI RIVER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
9:45am – 11:15am, River Center, 136 E 3rd Street, Second Floor Concourse

Moderating: Jim Strickland, Mayor of Memphis, TN
Rick Eberlin, Mayor of Grafton, IL

Innovation: KRIS JOHNSON, PhD
Associate Director, North American Agriculture Program
The Nature Conservancy

Presentation: KEVIN O’HARA
Vice President, Urban & Government Affairs
National Recreation & Park Association

Presentation: ERIC LETSINGER
CEO
Quantified Ventures, LL.C.

Remarks: NICHOLAS CANDIS, CTP
Vice President, Public Finance
PNC Financial Services

Update: THE HON. ERRICK SIMMONS
Mayor, City of Greenville, MS

Presentation: LISA DANIEL
Managing Director, Public Finance Management Group

Mayors’ Press Conference (location subject to change due to weather)
11:30am – 12:00pm, Schwiebert Park, Main Stage Pavilion, 101 17th Street, Rock Island, IL

Mayor Klipsch and Mayor Johnson will convene a press conference to make a major announcement regarding a partnership to address one of the most significant threats facing the Mississippi River.

Presiding: Frank Klipsch, Mayor of Davenport, IA, MRCTI Co-Chair
Lionel Johnson, Mayor of St. Gabriel, LA, MRCTI Co-Chair

Introduction: THE HON. RITA ALBRECHT
Mayor of Bemidji, MN
**Announcement:**

THE HONORABLE RICK HANSEN  
State Representative (MN)  
Nat. Caucus of State Legislators

THE HONORABLE ABE HUDSON  
State Representative (MS)  
Nat. Caucus of State Legislators

MIKE WHALEN  
President & CEO  
Heart of America Group

KRISTEL ERSAN  
Director of Marketing  
Dynamic Restaurant Holdings

THE HON. REGGIE FREEMAN  
Mayor, East Moline, IL

CHAD PREGRACKE  
Founder  
Living Lands & Waters

---

**Lunch Plenary: Clean Water, Commodities, and Water Quality Monitoring**

12:30pm – 1:45pm, Figge Art Museum, 225 W 2nd St, Davenport, IA

**Presiding:** Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA

**Welcome:**

THE HON. FRANK KLIPSCH  
Mayor, City of Davenport, IA

TIM SCHIFFER  
Executive Director, Figge Art Museum

**Remarks:**

THE HONORABLE DAVE LOESBACk  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2nd District of Iowa

**Announcement:**

APRILL BLANCO  
Senior Vice President of Public Policy  
Wells Fargo & Company

EMILY KREPS  
Vice President, North American Investment  
CDP

**Presentation:**

LEON M. CARL  
Regional Director, Midwest Region  
U.S. Geological Survey

SCOTT MORLOCK  
Deputy Regional Director for Science  
U.S. Geological Survey

**Signing of Agreement:**

MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD KAISER  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

LEON M. CARL  
U.S. Geological Survey

**2019 Mtg Preview:**

THE HON. JIM STRICKLAND  
Mayor, City of Memphis, TN

THE HON. JAY HOLLOWELL  
Mayor, City of Helena-West Helena, AR
SESSION: BUILDING A FRAMEWORK WITH THE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN TO SECURE SOURCE WATER
2:00pm – 3:30pm, Hotel Blackhawk, 220 E 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, Gold Room

Moderating: Bob Fox, Mayor of Cape Girardeau, MO
            Buz Craft, Mayor of Vidalia, LA

Greetings: Randy Moore
            President, Iowa American Water

Collaboration: Rod Snyder
            Executive Director
            Field to Market

Ag Trade: Daniel Whitley
            Associate Administrator, Foreign Ag Service
            U.S. Department of Agriculture

Remarks: The Hon. Chris Lain
            Mayor of Savanna, IL

Presentation: Scott Mouw
             Sarah Deorman
            Senior Dir. Strategy and Research
            Sustainable Packaging Program Dir.
            The Recycling Partnership
            Coca-Cola Company

Break, 3:30pm – 5:00pm
Host City Showcase & Dinner
Host City Reception • IL 200th Anniversary Cannon Salute • Host City Dinner

**Co-Hosted by the U.S. Army**, join the Mayors of the Mississippi River for a truly spectacular evening right next to the Great Mississippi. Walk the same paths as royal visitors from the past upon storied grounds serenaded by the Quad City Symphony Orchestra.

**Host City Reception**
6:00pm – 7:00pm, Reception, Quarters One, Rock Island Arsenal
Join the Quad City Mayors for this celebration of the Mississippi River’s incredible contribution to our Nation’s defense. Tour and dine just feet from the River at Quarters One, the largest federal residence second only to the White House. Quarters One has hosted kings and queens as well as Charles Lindbergh.
*Buses will begin loading at main entrance of the Hotel Blackhawk at 5:15pm to transport mayors and guests to the dinner venue. Buses will return guests to the Hotel Blackhawk beginning at 8:30pm.*

**Presiding:**
Frank Klipsch, Mayor of Davenport, IA, MRCTI Co-Chair
Lionel Johnson, Mayor of St. Gabriel, LA, MRCTI Co-Chair
Bob Gallagher, Mayor of Bettendorf, IA, MRCTI Secretary
Stephanie Acri, Mayor of Moline, IL
Reggie Freeman, Mayor of East Moline, IL
Mike Thoms, Mayor of Rock Island, IL

**Welcome:**
MICHAEL HUTCHISON (SES: MAJOR GENERAL)  
Deputy to the Commander  
U.S. Army Sustainment Command

**COL. STEPHEN C. MARR**  
Commander  
U.S. Army Garrison – Rock Island Arsenal

**Greetings:**
THE HONORABLE TONY MCCOMBIE  
State Representative (IL)  
Nat. Caucus of State Legislators

**THE HON. REGGIE FREEMAN**  
Mayor of East Moline, IL

**Illinois 200th Anniversary 13-Shot Cannon Salute**
7:00pm, The Quad City Mayors, U.S. Army Sustainment Command, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State of Illinois, and MRCT invite Mayors of the Mississippi River to join them in recognizing the 200th anniversary of IL Statehood and the achievements of MRCTI in a cannon salute exclusively organized for this event.

**Host City Dinner**
7:30pm – 9:00pm, Reception, Quarters One, Rock Island Arsenal
The Quad City Mayors will lead a showcase of a Mississippi River-centric project and highlight the achievements made to form the City to the River and its systems over forming the River to the City.

**Remarks:**
THE HON. STEPHANIE ACRI  
Mayor of Moline, IL

**Presentation:**
DAVID OWENS  
Moline Water Plant Manager

BOB BOHANNON  
Moline Water Lab Chemist
September 20
Registration
7:30am – 10:30am, Hotel Blackhawk, Main Lobby, 1st floor

Corporate Advisory Board Breakfast: City Resilience – Assessing impacts, Maximizing Investment
8:30am – 10:00am, Watch Tower Lodge on the Rock River, 1510 46th Avenue, Rock Island, IL
Buses will begin loading at the Hotel Blackhawk at 7:45am to transport mayors and guests to breakfast venue.

Presiding:  Tim Kabat, Mayor of La Crosse, WI
           Bob Gallagher, Mayor of Bettendorf, IA

Greetings:  SCOTT ROMAN                        JULIE NELSON
           Site Superintendent                      Site Service Specialist
           Black Hawk State Historic Site          Black Hawk State Historic Site

Welcome:   MARA SOVEY DOWNING
           President, John Deere Foundation
           Director, Corporate and Global Brand Management, Deere & Company

Announcement: CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND NEW MEMBERS OF MRCTI CORPORATE ADVISORY BOARD

Transition: JEREMY EMMI                        JEREMY TRAVIS
           Coalition Director                       Manager of Operations
           Nat. Sustainable Ag. Coalition            Tetra Tech, Inc.
           MRCTI CAB Chair                          Incoming MRCTI CAB Chair

Remarks:   DUPlé TRAVILLION                  EMILY ALWOOD
           Senior Gov. Affairs Rep.                Vice President of Public Finance
           Federal Express                         PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

Presentation: CHAD PREGRACKE
             Founder, Living Lands & Waters

Presentation: Developing an Insurance Facility for the Corridor to aid disaster recovery
             SAMANTHA MEDLOCK
             Capital, Science & Policy Practice
             Willis Towers Watson, North America

Break, 10:00am – 10:15am

MRCTI Business Meeting
10:15am – 11:45am, Watch Tower Lodge on the Rock River, 1510 46th Avenue, Rock Island, IL
Mayors will meet in an open-door session to discuss new business brought before the Association. Mayors interested in hosting an annual meeting may also officially list their city as a candidate for the 2021 meeting.

Presiding:  Frank Klipsch, Mayor of Davenport, IA, MRCTI Co-Chair
           Lionel Johnson, Mayor of St. Gabriel, LA, MRCTI Co-Chair
Proposal: Economic Impacts to the Mississippi River Corridor from Drought
ROGER PULWARTY
Director, National Integrated Drought Information System, NOAA
U.S. Department of Commerce

Presentation: VICTORIA BRADFORD
Executive & Artistic Director
A House Unbuilt

Collaboration: THE HONORABLE JOHN HOFFMAN
State Senator (MN)

Nominations: MRCTI 2021 ANNUAL MEETING HOST CITY CANDIDATES

12:00pm – Adjourn

Excursion: Private Yacht tour of the Quad Cities on the Mississippi River
1:00pm – 4:00pm, Lindsay Park Marina, Davenport, IA

Mayor Thoms of Rock Island, IL and Mayor Gallagher of Bettendorf, IA have graciously offered to take up to 22 mayors (including spouses) on an excursion along the Mississippi River to experience the Quad Cities from the best vantage point possible – from the Mississippi River. This is a first-come, first-serve opportunity. Buses will depart the Hotel Blackhawk at 12:45pm.