Agenda

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions and events are open to all mayors and other officially invited participants. The MRCTI 2021 Capitol Meeting is virtual. Speakers and Participants are issued digital credentials for sign-on.

MRCTI Capitol Meeting Partners

March 2 [All times are central]

Matinee Discussion with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
4:00pm – 6:00pm, Revolutionize UACE is a new Corps effort to update the way USACE conducts business by accelerating project delivery, enhancing operation and maintenance of the nation's infrastructure, and collaborating with partners to solve the nation’s toughest challenges.

4:00pm – 5:00pm, Welcoming of Mayors and Guests, Opening of the MRCTI Capitol Meeting

Presiding: Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA, MRCTI Co-Chair
Bob Gallagher, Mayor of Bettendorf, IA, MRCTI Co-Chair

Moderating: HON. GEORGE FLAGGS
Mayor of Vicksburg, MS
MRCTI Mississippi Chair
Remarks: CAITLIN DURKOVICH  
Senior Director, Resilience & Response  
National Security Council, The White House

Welcome: COL. JEREMY CHAPMAN  
Deputy Commander  
Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

5:00pm – 6:00pm, Dialogue on Revolutionize USACE
Presentation: ALVIN B. LEE  
Director of Civil Works  
Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

March 3 [All times are central]
Session I: UNVEILING OF THE MRCTI 2021 FEDERAL POLICY PLATFORM
10:00am – 10:30pm, Making the Mississippi River Corridor Part of the Climate and Recovery Agendas
Presiding: Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA, MRCTI Co-Chair  
Bob Gallagher, Mayor of Bettendorf, IA, MRCTI Co-Chair

Introduction: HON. BELINDA CONSTANT  
Mayor of Gretna, LA  
MRCTI Louisiana Chair

Keynote: HON. CEDRIC RICHMOND  
Director, Office of Public Engagement  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House

10:30am – 11:00am, Implementing the Resilience Revolving Loan Fund Discussion with FEMA
Moderating: HON. LIONEL JOHNSON  
Mayor of St. Gabriel, LA  
Immediate Past Co-Chair of MRCTI

Discussion: ERIC LETVIN  
Deputy Assistant Administrator, Mitigation  
FEMA

11:00am – 11:30am, Federal Transportation and Infrastructure Discussion
Introduction: HON. CORNELL DUKES  
Mayor of New Roads, LA

Remarks: HON. GARRET GRAVES  
House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives (LA)
11:30am – 12:00pm, Recovering the Tourism Industry Post-Pandemic
Moderating: HON. TIM KABAT
Mayor of La Crosse, WI
MRCTI Wisonsin Chair

Presentation: SHELLY HARTFIELD
Dir., Port Services & Operations
American Queen Steamboat Company
MRCTI Corporate Advisory Board Chair

HON. FRANK KLIPSCH
Dir., City Partnerships & Special Proj.
American Cruise Lines
MRCTI Immediate Past Co-Chair

12:00pm – 1:00pm, BREAK – The Zoom Conference will close until 1:00pm then reopen for sign-on.

Session II: ADVANCING CLEAN WATER AND CLIMATE MITIGATION INNOVATION IN OUR CORRIDOR
1:15pm – 2:00pm, Launch of MRCTI Plastic Pollution Initiative with UN, Nat. Geo., University of Georgia
Presiding: Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA, MRCTI Co-Chair
Bob Gallagher, Mayor of Bettendorf, IA, MRCTI Co-Chair

Moderating: JENNIFER WENDT
Director, Plastic Waste Reduction Campaign
MRCTI

TERESA LEONARDO
Dir, Citizen Science & Special Proj.
National Geographic Society

Presentation: BARBARA HENDRIE
Director, North America
United Nations Environment Prog.

PROF. JENNA JAMBECK, PhD
National Geographic Fellow
University of GA, Materials Institute

Remarks: HON. MELVIN CARTER
Mayor of St. Paul, MN
MRCTI Minnesota Chair

HON. LYDA KREWSON
Mayor of St. Louis, MO

HON. SHARON WESTON BROOME
Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA
MRCTI Co-Chair

2:00pm – 3:00pm, MRCTI Federal Policy Platform and Climate Performance Discussion with Senate Leadership
Introduction: HON. ROBERT EASTERN III
Mayor of East St. Louis, IL

Remarks: HON. RICHARD DURBIN
Majority Whip
United States Senate (IL)

Introduction: HON. RICK EBERLIN
Mayor of Grafton, IL
MRCTI Illinois Chair

Remarks: HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH
Chair, Environment & Public Works Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, & Wildlife
United States Senate (IL)
3:00pm – 4:00pm, Discussion with Mississippi River Caucus Senate Co-Chairs

*Introduction:* HON. MELVIN CARTER  
Mayor of St. Paul, MN  
MRCTI Minnesota Chair

HON. JACOB FREY
Mayor of Minneapolis, MN

*Remarks:* HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR  
Mississippi River Caucus Co-Chair  
United States Senate (MN)

4:00pm – 4:30pm, Mayors’ Role in U.S. Climate Policy Development and Implementation

*Introduction:* HON. PHIL STANG  
Mayor of Kimmswick, MO  
MRCTI Missouri Chair

HON. ROY BLUNT
Co-Chair, Mississippi River Caucus  
United States Senate (MO)

*Overview:* MARK CHAMBERS  
Senior Director  
White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy

March 4 [All times are central]

**MAYORS’ PRESS CONFERENCE**

10:00am – 10:30am, Mayors will conduct a virtual session with members of the media on the release of the MRCTI 2021 Federal Policy Platform and major announcements from the Capitol Meeting

*Presiding:* Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA, MRCTI Co-Chair  
Bob Gallagher, Mayor of Bettendorf, IA, MRCTI Co-Chair

Pandemic Relief: HON. KEVIN SMITH  
Mayor of Helena-West Helena, AR  
MRCTI Arkansas Chair

2021 Agenda: HON. MELVIN CARTER  
Mayor of St. Paul, MN  
MRCTI Minnesota Chair

*Announcement:* HON. JIM STRICKLAND  
Mayor of Memphis, TN  
MRCTI Tennessee Chair
Session III: MAYORS’ NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS
10:30am – 11:15am, Kick-off of the Nation’s Current Largest Natural Infrastructure Disaster Capacity Study
Moderating:  HON. THOMAS SIMPSON
Mayor of Cairo, IL

Overview:  ADITYA RANADE  MATTHIJS BOUW
Managing Partner  Founder
Two Degrees Adapt  One Architecture

Partnership:  GARY KAY  LAURA ADAMS
Director, Government Relations  Green Infrastructure Practice Lead
Cargill  Black & Veatch

11:15am – 12:00pm, Signing of Memorandum of Common Purpose Between MRCTI and Ducks Unlimited
Presiding:  Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA, MRCTI Co-Chair
Bob Gallagher, Mayor of Bettendorf, IA, MRCTI Co-Chair

Welcome:  HON. JIM STRICKLAND
Mayor, City of Memphis
MRCTI Tennessee State Chair

Presentation:  ADAM PUTNAM
Chief Executive Officer
Ducks Unlimited

Signing:  After more than a year in development, MRCTI and Ducks Unlimited will formally enter into a Memorandum of Common Purpose to deploy critical natural infrastructure assets for the co-benefits of habitat, disaster resilience, and climate mitigation.