The 3rd Annual Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Organizational Meeting  
September 16-18, 2014, New Orleans, LA

Agenda

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions and events are open to all mayors and other officially invited attendees. Official functions and meeting services are located in the Westin Canal Place Hotel unless otherwise stated.

September 16

Registration
10:00am – 6:00pm, Foyer II, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

Welcome Reception, Sponsored by: City of New Orleans
6:00pm – 7:30pm, Cabildo National Historic Site, 2nd floor, Gallery
Buses will begin loading at main entrance of the Westin at 5:30pm to transport mayors and meeting guests to reception location in Jackson Square.

Presiding: Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, LA  
Hyram Copeland, Mayor of Vidalia, LA  
Melvin “Kip” Holden, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA  
AC Wharton, Mayor of Memphis, TN  
Roy Buol, Mayor of Dubuque, IA

David Muth, Louisiana State Director, National Wildlife Federation
Henry G. Cisneros, Chairman of CityView Capitol, former U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development

Join Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu for a welcoming of this third gathering of mayors along the Mississippi River. 30 Mayors comprised MRCTI for our first meeting, now we are 65 strong. Mayors are invited to peruse the Cabildo National Historic Site, St. Louis Cathedral, and Jackson Square.

September 17

Registration
7:30am – 5:00pm, Foyer II, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

Introductions and Welcome
8:00am – 8:30am, Terrace Room, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

Presiding: Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, LA  
AC Wharton, Mayor of Memphis, TN  
Roy Buol, Mayor of Dubuque, IA

The Honorable Mary Landrieu, United States Senate, Louisiana (special video welcome)
CLIMATE DISRUPTION – THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
8:30am – 9:45am, Terrace Room, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel
Moderating: Hyram Copeland, Mayor of Vidalia, LA
Virginia Burkett, Chief Scientist for Climate & Land Use, U.S. Geological Survey
Tim Osborn, NOAA, Central Gulf Coast Regional Manager

Break (15 min) – Refreshments provided

NAVIGATIONAL COMMERCE: Panama Canal Expansion & Impacts on the Mississippi River
10:00am – 11:15am, Terrace Room, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel
Moderating: Butch Brown, Mayor of Natchez, MS
Francis Slay, Mayor of St. Louis, MO
Michael Marshall, Alternate Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority
Scott Davies, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation
Gary LaGrange, Chief Executive Officer, Port of New Orleans
James Amdal, Senior Research Associate, University of New Orleans Transportation Institute

Mayors’ Press Conference
11:30am – 12:00pm, Plimsoll Club, 11th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel
Presiding: Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, LA
AC Wharton, Mayor of Memphis, TN
Roy Buol, Mayor of Dubuque, IA
Mayor Landrieu will convene a press conference to make three major announcements regarding River commerce, community sustainability, and the assembling of a Sustainable Development Fund for Mississippi River communities.
Nick Rowe, Senior Vice President, American Water, Central Division
Dominik Knoll, Chair, World Trade Center Mississippi River Alliance
Don Hickman, Chairman, Mississippi River Partnership of Community Foundations

Opening Lunch Plenary, Funding Work to Improve Near-Water Communities
12:15pm – 1:30pm, Ballroom II, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel
Presiding: John Cox, Mayor of Greenville, MS
Christopher Masingill, Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority
Alison Dorsey, Social Impact Manager, LinkedIn Corporation
Paul N. Jaenichen, Sr., Administrator, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

ACHIEVING CLIMATE RESILIANCY IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER VALLEY
1:45pm – 3:00pm, Terrace Room, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel
Moderating: David Lattus, Mayor of Hickman, KY
Cedric S. Grant, Executive Director of the Sewage and Water Board, City of New Orleans
Michael Hecht, CEO, Greater New Orleans, Inc.
Steve Cochran, Director of Mississippi River Delta Restoration Project, Environmental Defense Fund

Break (3:00pm – 5:30pm) - Westin Canal Place Hotel
Host City Showcase & Dinner, Sponsored by: Big River Strategic Initiative
6:00pm – 8:30pm, Riverview Room, French Quarter, New Orleans, LA
Buses will begin loading at main entrance of the Westin at 5:30pm to transport mayors and meeting guests to dinner location in the French Quarter.
Presiding: Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, LA
Charles McVean, Chairman and CEO, McVean Trading & Investments
Michael Strain, Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

September 18
Registration
7:30am – 11:30pm, Foyer II, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

Plenary Breakfast: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, our closest Partner, Sponsored by: Dynamic Solutions
8:30am – 9:45am, Ballroom II, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel
Presiding: George Flaggs, Mayor of Vicksburg, MS
Dr. William McAnally, Dynamic Solutions, LLC
Mr. Edward E. Belk Jr. Senior Executive Service, Mississippi River Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Norma Jean Mattei, Chair, Dep. of Civil & Env. Eng., Unv. of New Orleans, Mississippi River Commission

REALIZING ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
10:00am – 11:15am, Terrace Room, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel
Moderating: Jo Anne Smiley, Mayor of Clarksville, MO
Dave Kleis, Mayor of St. Cloud, MN
James Cummins, Executive Director, Mississippi River Trust
Jerome Zeringue, Chairman, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Break (15 min) – Refreshments provided

MRCTI Business Meeting
11:30am – 12:15pm, Terrace Room, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel
Presiding: AC Wharton, Mayor of Memphis, TN
Roy Buol, Mayor of Dubuque, IA
Mayors will meet in an open-door session to finalize and approve policy initiatives as well as preliminary plans for the Capitol Meeting in Washington, DC, March 2015.

Closing Luncheon, The Future of the Trust Funds that Maintain our Infrastructure
12:15pm – 1:30pm, Ballroom II, 12th floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel
Presiding: Mayor Kip Holden, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA
Martin Hettel, Chairman, Inland Waterway Users Board
Sean Duffy, Executive Director, Big River Coalition

1:30pm – Adjourn
AERIAL EXCURSION:
2:30pm – 4:30pm
Mayors will have the opportunity to take an aerial tour of the Port of New Orleans operations as well as the Delta aboard excursion planes. This tour will last about 45 minutes to 1 hour and it will afford the Mayors to see where the largest navigable river system in the world ends in this city and region. Mayors can board buses outside the Westin Canal Place Hotel, proceed to the airport (20 minute trip-time), board the planes (3 to 4 mayors per plane), then embark on the excursion. Upon return to the local airport, buses will transport mayors back to the Westin.