



Conference Sept 14-16, 2021

Redefining What River Cities Can Do

The 10th Annual Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Digital Organizational Meeting

draft Agenda

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions and events are open to digitally credentialed attendees. Meeting services are virtual and available through MRCTI operations, check www.mrcti.org. This meeting is virtual and includes no in-person components for attendees.

September 14

[Pre-Conference Event, open to all meeting guests]

SPECIAL SESSION: MISSISSIPPI RIVER GLOBAL INVESTMENT FORUM

10:00am – 12:00pm, MRCTI leadership will join global supply chain leaders and Wall Street Investment firms to demonstrate a possible design for a Mississippi River Infrastructure Fund.

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

Welcome: DAVID STEVENS
Chief Strategic Advisor
World Wide Technology

Vision: THE HONORABLE ANDREW YOUNG
President, Andrew Young Foundation HON. JACOB FREY
Mayor of Minneapolis, MN

Presentation: Unveiling of the Fund Structure
ALEXANDER LOUCOPOULOS
Partner, Sciens Capital

Innovation Along the Mississippi: DAMIAN GEORGINO ERIC LETSINGER RICHARD FREUND
Senior Counsel Founder & CEO Sr. Manager, Municipal Finance
Norton Rose Fulbright Quantified Ventures CDP North America

River Projects: Guiding Infrastructure Investment Along the Mississippi River
ADITYA RANADE
Managing Partner
Two Degrees Adapt

Creating Nature-Based Reliability and Protection Along the Mississippi River
KAREN WALDROP, PH.D.
Chief Conservation Officer
Ducks Unlimited



Sept. 14 Agenda *continued*

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

SESSION I: MRCTI ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT BOND CHALLENGE RESULTS—NEW ORLEANS

1:00PM—2:00PM, MRCTI and Quantified Ventures partnered to deploy two Environmental Impact Bonds in Memphis and New Orleans. Join us for the results of the New Orleans Project centered on affordable housing.

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

Greetings: HON. LA TOYA CANTRELL
Mayor of New Orleans, LA

Presentation: DAMON BURNS
President & CEO
Finance New Orleans

Preview: [Next MRCTI / Quantified Ventures Outcomes-Based Financing Challenge](#)
ERIC LETSINGER
FOUNDER & CEO
QUANTIFIED VENTURES

2:00pm—5:00pm, **BREAK** – The Zoom Conference will close until 5:00pm then reopen for sign-on.

Matinee Discussion with River Cruise Lines on 2021-2022 Outlook

5:00pm – 6:00pm, MRCTI will host a discussion with the cruise lines that manage a full Mississippi River product on their plans for the remainder of 2021 through 2022. cruising seasons.

Presiding: Phil Stang, Mayor of Kimmswick, MO

Welcome: DAVID APPEGATE, PH.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards Exercising the Authority of the Director
U.S. Geological Survey

<i>Presentations:</i>	SHELLY HARTFIELD Dir. Port Services American Queen Steamboat Company	HON. FRANK KLIPSCH Dir. Special Projects American Cruise Lines	MILTON HUGH Sr. Vice President of Sales Viking River Cruises
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Overview: CAPT MICK SCOTT
Commander, CG Sector UMR
United States Coast Guard



September 15

SESSION II: IMPLEMENTING THE RESILIENCE REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RRF), OR STORM ACT

9:00am – 10:30am, The President of the United States signed the Resilience Revolving Loan Fund (RRF), or STORM Act into law on January 1 providing a new tool to help states and local governments achieve advanced resilience. How can states and cities work together to enable the RRF toward maximum returns?

Moderating: Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI

Remarks: TIM BARFIELD
President
CSRS, Inc.

MARK GOODSON
Principal & Resilience Practice Lead
CSRS, Inc.

Introduction: HON. MIKE WILSON
Mayor of Red Wing, MN

Discussion: CHUCK CHAITOVITZ
Vice President
Environment & Sustainability
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Deirdre Finn
Executive Director
Council of Infrastructure
Financing Authorities

MATT COWLES
Deputy Director
National Emergency Management Assoc.

CHAS EBY
Deputy Executive Director
Maryland Emergency Management Agency

Announcement: Formation of the MRCTI City-State Task Force
HON. BUZ CRAFT
Mayor of Vidalia, LA

Mayors' Press Conference

11:00am – 11:30am, Mayor Broome and Mayor Gallagher will convene a press conference to make announcements regarding the work of the Mayors along the Corridor regarding plastic pollution and deployment of natural infrastructure projects to achieve multiple co-benefits.

Presiding: Bob Gallagher, Mayor of Bettendorf, IA, MRCTI Co-Chair

Announcement: Mississippi River Plastic Pollution Initiative Pilot Project Results:
Hon. SHARON WESTON BROOME
Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA
MRCTI Co-Chair

JENNA JAMBECK, PH.D.
Professor of Environmental Engineering
University of Georgia

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

ANGELA PEARSON
Special Projects Manager
City of St. Louis, MO

Announcement: Results of the Natural Infrastructure Disaster Capacity Study
ADITYA RANADE
Managing Partner
Two Degrees Adapt



Sept. 15 Agenda *continued*

Deployment of Natural Infrastructure Projects Along the Mississippi River

KAREN WALDROP, PH.D.
Chief Conservation Officer
Ducks Unlimited

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

SESSION III: REDEFINING CITY PARKS AND GREENSPACE

1:00pm –2:30pm, One of the greatest tools cities have to mitigate for disasters is their parks system and the greenways that connect could better connect them. Mayors will discuss a redefined and reimagined city park and how it can play a critical role in protecting all other infrastructure.

Moderating: Mike Matson, Mayor of Davenport, IA

Introduction: HON. MELVIN CARTER
Mayor of St. Paul, MN

Keynote: MICHAEL P. KELLY
Chairman of the Board
National Recreation & Parks Association

Remarks: KATE ORFF
Founder & Principal
SCAPE Landscape Architecture DPC

SESSION IV: DEPLOYING NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT SCALE TO PROTECT OUR CITIES

2:30pm –4:00pm, In March 2021, Mayors signed an historic agreement with Ducks Unlimited to begin deploying natural infrastructure Corridor-wide. Mayors and DU will announce pilot projects.

Moderating: Jim Strickland, Mayor of Memphis, TN
Robert Eastern, Mayor of East St. Louis, IL

Presentation: Preliminary Results of the Natural Infrastructure Capacity Study
ADITYA RANADE
Managing Partner
Two Degrees Adapt

Introduction: KAREN WALDROP PH.D.
Chief Conservation Officer
Ducks Unlimited

Presentation: Selecting the Regional Pilot Projects with Ducks Unlimited
ELLEN HERBERT, PH.D. MICHAEL SERTLE
Ecosystems Services Scientist Chief Biologist
Ducks Unlimited Ducks Unlimited



September 16

SESSION V: BUILDING-BACK-BETTER THE ECONOMY & ECOLOGY OF THE CORRIDOR

9:00am – 10:00am, The 2019 floods and the pandemic continue to impact the region, yet restoration is underway and those championing our recovery have a plan to move forward.

Moderating: Thomas Simpson, Mayor of Cairo, IL

Introduction: HON. ERRICK SIMMONS
Mayor of Greenville, MS

HON. TIM BAUDIER
Mayor of Harahan, LA

Remarks: HON. BENNIE THOMPSON
Chairman, Homeland Security Comm.
U.S. House of Representatives (MS)

HON. TROY CARTER
Transportation & Infrastructure Comm.
U.S. House of Representatives (LA)

Introduction: HON. GEORGE FLAGGS
Mayor of Vicksburg, MS
MRCTI Mississippi State Chair

Greetings: MR. JAIME A. PINKHAM
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
United States Army

Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting

10:00am—10:30am, The private sector partnerships Mayors MRCTI have built and formed since 2015 are now more important than ever. Join us as Mayors usher-in the largest CAB contingent yet.

Presiding: Belinda Constant, Mayor of Gretna, LA, CAB Presiding Mayor

Transition: SHELLY HARTFIELD
Director, Port Services
AQSC
MRCTI CAB Chair

ALEXANDER LOUCOPOULOS
Partner
Sciens Capital
Incoming CAB Chair

MARK BINSFELD
VP Business Development
J.F. Brennan Company
Incoming CAB Vice Chair

Remarks: DAMIAN GEORGINO
Senior Counsel
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

HAROLD HAMBY
Owner
LaChance Vineyards

TIM BARFIELD
President
CSRS Inc.

MRCTI Business Meeting: Mississippi River Plastic Pollution Initiative [www.unep.org/Mississippi]

10:30am – 11:30am, Mayors will meet in an open-door session to discuss the initiative launch results from St. Paul, MN; St. Louis, MO; Baton Rouge, LA in an effort to address plastic waste along the Corridor through collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme, University of Georgia, and National Geographic Society

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

2022 Annual Meeting Preview: HON. TISHAURA JONES
Mayor of St. Louis, MO



Sept. 16 Agenda *continued*

Announcement: MRCTI / EPA Memorandum of Common Purpose
JANET MCCABE
Deputy Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Moderating: Release of Plastic Pollution Initiative Science Report
JENNIFER WENDT
MRCTI Plastic Waster Reduction Campaign Manager

Introduction: BARBARA HENDRIE, PH.D. VALERIE CRAIG
Director, North America VP of Science & Innovation
United Nations Environment Programme National Geographic Society

Report: JENNA JAMBECK, PH.D.
Professor of Environmental Engineering
University of Georgia

MRCTI Co-Chair and Executive Board Elections

11:30am—12:00pm, Every two years, the MRCTI Mayors elect new leadership. Incumbent Co-Chairs will preside over the election and induction of new principals to lead the association.

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

Elections: MRCTI Co-Chairs
Executive Committee Members

Remarks: Newly Elected MRCTI Co-Chairs

Meeting Adjournment

12:00pm