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](http://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
Senior Counsel
Eric Letsinger
Founder & CEO
Richard Freund
Sr. Manager, Municipal Finance

*Norton Rose Fullbright:*

*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
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 Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards Exercising the Authority of the Director
U.S. Geological Survey

Presentations:
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

Overview: Capt Mick Scott
Commander, CG Sector UMR
United States Coast Guard
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
SESSION III: REDEFINING CITY PARKS AND GREENSPACE
1:00pm – 2:30pm, One of the greatest tools cites 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.
Ecosystems Services Scientist
Ducks Unlimited
Michael Sertle
Chief Biologist
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
AQSIC
MRCTI CAB Chair

Alexander Loucopolous
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

Hon. Tishaura Jones
Mayor of St. Louis, MO

Preview:
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.
Director, North America
United Nations Environment Programme

VALERIE CRAIG
VP of Science & Innovation
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