The 11th Annual Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Organizational Meeting

MISSISSIPPI RIVER CITIES & TOWNS INITIATIVE ANNUAL MEETING
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, SEPT 13-15

Draft Agenda

Title Sponsor:

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions and events are open to all mayors and other officially invited attendees. Meeting services are located within the St. Louis Ball Park Hilton, 1 S Broadway Street. Check www.mrcti.org frequently for Annual Meeting Agenda updates.

September 13
Registration
10:00am – 6:00pm, St. Louis Ball Park Hilton, Main Lobby, S Broadway Street

Press Conference [Pre-Conference Event, open to all meeting guests]
MRCTI & Partners Secure Mississippi River Restoration Project in Senate WRDA
2:00pm – 2:30pm, Ball Park Hilton, 1 S Broadway Street
MRCTI leadership will join members of Congress in announcing a tremendous breakthrough in securing the ecological and economic security of the Mississippi River in the Senate Water Resource Development Act.

Presiding: Jim Strickland, Mayor of Memphis, TN, MRCTI Co-Chair
          Errick Simmons, Mayor of Greenville, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair

Welcome: HON. TISHAURA JONES
          Mayor of St. Louis, MO
          MRCTI Host City

Introduction: HON. ANDREW YOUNG
              Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

Announcement: HON. KEVIN SMITH
                Mayor of Helena-West Helena, AR
                MRCTI Arkansas State Chair

Representative
United States Senate
Representative
U.S. House
Opening Ceremony & Welcome Reception

**Opening Ceremonies, Sponsored by: Viking River Cruises** [Attire: Business Casual]

6:30pm – 7:00pm, St. Louis Arch, Luther Ely Smith Park Entrance, Market Street & Memorial Drive

The remodeled Gateway Arch Approach, Ocular Entrance, and Museum are all part of one of the largest city-state-federal partnerships in the nation costing hundreds of millions of dollars over several years. Join MRCTI, City of St. Louis, and the U.S. Department of Interior at this amazing venue profiling DOI’s priorities on conservation, job creation, and government-to-government partnerships.

*Mayors and guests may gather in the Ball Park Hilton lobby at 6:15pm to walk one block to venue*

**Opening:**  
HON. JIM STRICKLAND  
Mayor of Memphis, TN  
MRCTI Co-Chair

HON. ERRICK SIMMONS  
Mayor of Greenville, MS  
MRCTI Co-Chair

**Procession of States & Nations:**

ST. LOUIS POLICE AND FIRE HONOR GUARD  
Presentation of Colors

GREAT RIVER FIFE & DRUM CORPS  
Entering Ceremony

**Welcome:**

HON. TISHAURA JONES  
Mayor of St. Louis, MO  
MRCTI Host City

Welcome Reception

7:00pm – 9:00pm, St. Louis Arch Museum, Mezzanine Level (Mississippi River Map floor)

Join Mayor Jones as she and the MRCTI Co-Chairs open the 11th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative by recognizing MRCTI Tenth Anniversary Year followed by a special address and presentation from the U.S. Department of Interior.

**Welcome:**  
MILTON HUGH  
Senior Vice President of Sales  
Viking River Cruises

**Greetings:**  
HON. ROBERT EASTERN  
Mayor of East St. Louis, IL  
MRCTI Illinois State Chair

HON. PHIL STANG  
Mayor of Kimmswick, MO  
MRCTI Missouri State Chair

**State Welcome:**  
COL. KEVIN GOLINGHORST  
Commander, St. Louis District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Representative:**  
INDIGENOUS NATIONS

**Remarks:**  
JEREMY SWEAT  
Superintendent  
Gateway Arch National Park

MATTHEW STRICKLER  
Deputy Asst. Sec. of Parks  
U.S. Dept. of Interior

LORI LLEWELLYN  
Managing Dir.  
CDP North America

**Celebration:**  
HON. BELINDA CONSTANT  
Mayor of Gretna, LA  
MRCTI Louisiana State Chair

HON. ANDREW YOUNG  
Founder & Chairman  
Andrew Young Foundation

**Signing:**  
MRCTI and CDP North America Sign Next 5-Year Agreement
September 14

Registration
7:30am – 5:00pm, St. Louis Ball Park Hilton, Main Lobby, S Broadway Street

Opening Breakfast Plenary: The NEXT Ten Years of Near-Water Development
8:00am – 9:30am, Grand Hall of St. Louis Union Station, 1820 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63101

*Mayors and guests may gather in the Ball Park Hilton lobby at 7:30am to load buses for the venue.*

**Presiding:** Michael Morrow, Mayor of Grafton, IL
David Goins, Mayor of Alton, IL

**Welcome:** ROBERT O’LOUGHLIN (invited)
Chairman and CEO
Lodging Hospitality Management

**Presentation:** The Future of Near-Water Development – New Strategies for Multi-Use Infrastructure

**Representative:**
American Queen Voyages
Port of Vancouver USA

**Keynote:** When a City’s Most Valuable Asset(s) is Natural
HON. ADAM PUTNAM
Chief Executive Officer
Ducks Unlimited

**Discussion:**
DR. KAREN WALDROP
Chief Conservationist
Ducks Unlimited

DR. ELLEN HERBERT
Ecosystem Services
Ducks Unlimited

MICHAEL SERTLE
Chief Regional Biologist
Ducks Unlimited

Mayors’ Media Event at Disaster Resilience Project Site
10:30am – 11:15am, Horseshoe Lake State Park, Rt. 111 & Lake Drive Pavilion, Pontoon Beach, IL 62040

Mayor Eastern, Mayor Strickland, and Mayor Simmons will convene a media event at a middle-river region project location just across the Mississippi from Downtown St. Louis, MO to demonstrate a new era of advanced conservation to make cities multi-hazard resilient.

*Mayors and guests may board buses to project site from Union Station. Buses will then proceed to lunch venue.*

**Presiding:**
Jim Strickland, Mayor of Memphis, TN, MRCTI Co-Chair
Errick Simmons, Mayor of Greenville, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair

**Introduction:**
HON. JOHN HAMM, III
Mayor of Madison, IL

**Announcement:**
HON. ROBERT EASTERN
Mayor of East St. Louis, IL

HON. ADAM PUTNAM
Chief Executive Officer

MRCTI Illinois State Chair
Ducks Unlimited
Lunch Plenary: Manufacturing, Water, and the Jobs Act, Sponsored by the Missouri Athletic Club
12:00pm – 1:45pm, Missouri Ballroom, Missouri Athletic Club, 405 Washington Avenue
Presiding: Sangeetha Rayapati, Mayor of Moline, IL

Welcome:

Introduction:

Remarks: REPRESENTATIVE National Association of Manufacturers

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

Remarks: REPRESENTATIVE Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

2023 Mtg Preview: HON. JORGE PRINCE
Mayor, City of Bemidji, MN

SESSION I: Making Local Economies Resilient, Innovative, and Aligned for Growth
2:00pm – 4:00pm, Missouri Ballroom, Missouri Athletic Club, 405 Washington Avenue
Moderating: Paul Hassler, Mayor of Ste Genevieve, MO
Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA

Introduction: HIS EXCELLENCY PHILIPPE ETIENNE
French Ambassador to the United States

Proposal: Alexander Loucoplulos
Partner, Sciens Capital
MRCTI Corporate Advisory Board Chair

Introduction:

Remarks: HON. VICTORIA SALINAS
Deputy Administrator for Resilience
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Presentation: Ecological Status & Trends of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers

Overview: John (JC) Nelson
Deputy Regional Dir.
U.S. Geological Survey

KATHI JO JANKOWSKI
Research Ecologist
U.S. Geological Survey

Findings: REPRESENTATIVE
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
HOST CITY SHOWCASE & DINNER
An Evening at the New St Louis Soccer Stadium followed by MRCTI Awards Ceremony

St. Louis Hosts MRCTI 10-Year Celebration – Be part of the new legacy cities are building for Middle-America. Join Mississippi River Mayors for an evening recognizing their work over the last decade and seeing beyond to the next ten years: the St. Louis Development Corporation will make a special presentation on what that future work may look like – EQUITY, ACCESS, INCLUSION

Host City Dinner: An Evening at the New St. Louis Soccer Stadium [Attire: Business]
6:00pm – 7:00pm, Centene Stadium, 2100 Market Street, Ultra Bar
The St. Louis Development Corporation invites Mayors of the Mississippi River to gather for the first private event being held in the new state-of-the-art St. Louis soccer stadium. Buses will begin loading at the Ball Park Hilton at 5:15pm to transport mayors and guests to the dinner venue.

Presiding: Jim Strickland, Mayor of Memphis, TN, MRCTI Co-Chair
           Errick Simmons, Mayor of Greenville, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair

Welcome: JASON P. THEIN
           Chief Operating Officer
           Centene Stadium Ownership Group

Showcase: NEAL RICHARDSON
           Executive Director, St. Louis Development Corporation

MRCTI at Ten Years
7:00pm – 8:00pm, Centene Stadium, 2100 Market Street, Ultra Bar
VISION, LEADERSHIP, RESULTS define MRCTI’s tenure so far. MRCTI will recognize the leaders that founded the association and those that are seeing beyond and charting the future.

Honoring: MRCTI Founding Leaders

Mayors: MRCTI FOUNDING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Stakeholders: CORPORATE ADVISORY BOARD  CITY STAFF  FEDERAL PARTNERS

Recognition of 2019-21
Exec Comm: HON. SHARON WESTON BROOME
           Immediate Past Co-Chair
           HON. BOB GALLAGHER
           Immediate Past Co-Chair
           COLIN WELLENKAMP
           Executive Director
September 15

Registration
7:30am – 10:30am, St. Louis Ball Park Hilton, Main Lobby, S Broadway Street

Corporate Advisory Board Breakfast: Disasters at Home, War Abroad – Food, Hunger, & the Mississippi Basin
8:00am – 10:00am, Saint Louis University Law School, Top Floor Auditorium, 100 North Tucker Blvd.

Buses will begin loading at the Ball Park Hilton at 7:30am to transport mayors and guests to breakfast venue.

Presiding: Belinda Constant, Mayor of Gretna, LA
Scott Maddasion, Mayor of Clinton, IA

Greetings:

Keynote: The State of Hunger in America
CLAIRE BABINEAUX-FONTENOT (invited)
Chief Executive Officer
Feeding America

Presentation: Meeting the Global Supply Chain Challenge
SARA MENKER
Founder & CEO
Gro Intelligence
ROBERT SINKLER
Founder & CEO
Riverside Global

Announcement: Chair, Vice Chair, and New Members of MRCTI Corporate Advisory Board

Transition: ALEXANDER LOUCOPOULOS
Partner
Sciens Capital
MARK BINSFELD
Vice President
J.F. Brennan Company Inc.

Remarks:

Break, 10:00am – 10:15am

MRCTI Business Meeting
10:15am – 12:00pm, Location TBA

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 2024 meeting.

Presiding: Jim Strickland, Mayor of Memphis, TN, MRCTI Co-Chair
Errick Simmons, Mayor of Greenville, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair

Announcement: 2023 Water Resource Development Act and Progress Toward the SMRT Act

Nominations: MRCTI 2025 ANNUAL MEETING HOST CITY CANDIDATES

Note: Nominations will be accepted for upper stem cities to host the 2025 Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee will vote the winning candidate city in Feb 2023.
Excursion: St. Louis Cardinals Evening Game in Private Suite [Attire: Casual; RSVP at tlumas@mrcti.org]
6:00pm – 9:00pm, Bush Stadium, 700 Clark Avenue

MRCTI has teamed-up with the St. Louis Cardinals and SPIRE to escort a limited number of mayors (including spouses) on an excursion to Busch Stadium for an evening game on September 15 in the Spire Corporate Suite. This is a first-come, first-serve opportunity. Please RSVP to Tiara Lumas, MRCTI Operations Manager at tlumas@mrcti.org. Dinner is provided in the suite.

*Buses will depart the Ball Park Hilton at 6:00pm.*