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

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

Agenda  An Official City Event

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions and events are open to all mayors and officially invited attendees.
All attire is business unless noted. Meeting services are located within the St. Louis Ball Park Hilton, 1 S Broadway Street.
There is a Union Station shuttle. 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, Lindbergh Room, Ball Park Hilton, 1 S Broadway Street
MRCTI leadership will join lawmakers in announcing a tremendous breakthrough in securing the ecological and economic security of the Mississippi River in the Senate Water Resources Development Act.

Moderating: Jim Strickland, Mayor of Memphis, TN, MRCTI Co-Chair
Ererrick Simmons, Mayor of Greenville, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair

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

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

James Sanders
Mayor of Blytheville, AR

Statement: HON. JOHN BOOZMAN
United States Senate (AR)

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

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

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 Reception, Sponsored by: Viking River Cruises
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 and preview of a new product release for the River.

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

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

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

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

DR. PAMELA L. BEGAY  
Dir. Buder Center for American Indian Studies  
Washington University in St. Louis

Remarks:  JEREMY SWEAT  
Superintendent  
Gateway Arch National Park

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

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

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

LORI LLEWELLYN  
Managing Director  
CDP North America
Celebration:  HON. SHARON WESTON BROOME  HON. ANDREW YOUNG
           Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA  Founder & Chairman
            MRCTI Immediate Past Co-Chair  Andrew Young Foundation

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
Sponsored by: Aquasight
8:00am – 10:10am, Grand Hall of St. Louis Union Station, 1820 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63101
Maor 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

Introduction:  MAHESH LUNANI  DAVID SIMMONS
              Chief Executive Officer  Senior Consultant, Local & Community Relations
              Aquasight  Viking River Cruises

Announcement:  Mississippi River French Heritage Corridor
HON. PAUL HASLER  HIST EXCELLENCY PHILIPPE ETIENNE
Mayor of Ste. Genevieve, MO  French Ambassador to the United States

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

Discussion:  DR. KAREN WALDROP  DR. ELLEN HERBERT  MICHAEL SERTLE
             Chief Conservationist  Ecosystem Services  Chief Regional Biologist
             Ducks Unlimited  Ducks Unlimited  Ducks Unlimited

Mayors’ Media Event at Disaster Resilience Project Site
11:00am – 11:30am, 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  
MRCTI Illinois State Chari  

DR. KAREN WALDROP  
Chief Conservationist  
DUCKS UNLIMITED

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**Lunch Plenary: Manufacturing, Water, & the Jobs Act/IRA, Sponsored by: Fintech Future, Missouri Athletic Club**

12:00pm – 1:45pm, Missouri Ballroom, Missouri Athletic Club, 405 Washington Avenue

*Presiding:*  
Sharon West Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA

**Introduction:**  
JOSEPH N. GARBA  
Head of External Affairs  
Cross River, Fintech Future

**Update & Overview:**  
Progress on the Jobs Act and Passage of the Inflation Reduction Act  

**Presenters:**  
HON. MIKE MORROW  
Mayor of Grafton, IL  
James Kim  
Senior Partner  
Matthew Martinec  
Senior Advisor  
Arnold & Porter  
CSRS

**Presentation:**  
EPA Presents Clean Mississippi River Grants  
Jennifer Wendt  
Plastics Campaign Manager  
MRCTI

**Presenting of EPA Grants:**  
HON. MEG MCCOLLISTER  
Region 7 Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Proposal:**  
SHELLY HARTFIELD  
Director of Port Services  
American Queen Voyages

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

**Break, 1:45pm – 2:00pm**

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**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

**Introduction:**  
HON. BOB GALLAGHER  
Mayor of Bettendorf, IA
**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

**Presentation:** Mississippi River French Heritage Corridor  
**LISA KAHN**  
Co-Chair, French Heritage Society  
Chicago chapter  
**GREGORY CASH**  
Pres. French-American Heritage Foundation (MN)  
**DENNIS PRUITT**  
Vice President  
MO Partnerships  
**YANNICK TAGAND**  
Consul General  
Consulate of France  
**COURTNEY WILSON**  
Project Manager  
Kaskaskia Navigation  
**GREG TAYLOR**  
President  
Jolliet & Marquette 3

Break, 4:00pm – 5:30pm
St. Louis Hosts MRCTI 10-Year Celebration – Be part of the new legacy cities 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 Centene Stadium, Partnered with: MO American Water [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 event being held in the new state-of-the-art St. Louis soccer stadium with live music by the Red & Black Brass Band.

Buses will begin loading at the Ball Park Hilton at 5:30pm 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
Neal Richardson, Executive Director, St. Louis Development Corporation

Unveiling of WINES: HAROLD HAMBY, CEO, LaChance Vineyards

Welcome: JASON P. THEIN, Chief Operating Officer, MLS Next Couch
Megan McCormick, MLS Next Couch

Chief Operating Officer, St. Louis Soccer Club

Showcase: Economic Justice in Action: Building a Vibrant, Just, and Growing Economy for All of St. Louis
Neal Richardson, Executive Director, St. Louis Development Corporation

MRCI 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.

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

Honoring: MRCTI Founding Leaders
Mayors: MRCTI FOUNDING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Stakeholders: CORPORATE ADVISORY BOARD CITY STAFF FEDERAL PARTNERS
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, Sponsored by: St. Louis Economic Development Partnership & Greater St. Louis Inc.
8:00am – 10:00am, Saint Louis University Law School, Top Floor Auditorium, 100 North Tucker Blvd.
Union Station shuttle pick-up is 7:15am; Buses will begin loading at the Ball Park Hilton at 7:30am.

Presiding: Belinda Constant, Mayor of Gretna, LA
Brad Cavanagh, Mayor of Dubuque, IA

Welcome: RODNEY CRIM
CEO & President
St. Louis Economic Dev. Partnership

JASON HALL
CEO
Greater St. Louis Inc.

Greetings: KENNETH A. OLLIFF
Vice Pres. Research & Partnerships
Saint Louis University

JASON KNOUFT, PH.D.
Prof. of Biology, College of Arts & Sciences
SLU Water Institute

Keynote: The State of Global Food Production
SARA MENKER
Founder & CEO
Gro Intelligence

Presentation: Meeting the Global Supply Chain Challenge
ROBERT SINKLER
Founder & CEO
Riverside Global

Announcement: Chair, Vice Chair, and New Members of MRCTI Corporate Advisory Board
Transition: ALEXANDER LOUCOPOULOS
Partner
Sciens Capital
MRCTI CAB Chair

MARK BINSFELD
Vice President
J.F. Brennan Company Inc.
Incoming MRCTI CAB Chair

Break, 10:00am – 10:15am

MRCTI Business Meeting
10:15am – 12:00pm, Saint Louis University Law School, Top Floor Auditorium, 100 North Tucker Blvd.
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: Rotary International Adopt a River Program
SALVADOR RICO
Global River Network Coordinator
Rotary Club International

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.

Meeting Adjournment
12:00pm

Excursion: St. Louis Cardinals Evening Game in Private Suite [Attire: Casual; RSVP at tllumas@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 tllumas@mrcti.org. Dinner is provided in the suite.

Mayors and guests will meet in the Ball Park Hilton Lobby at 5:45pm to walk as a group over to the game. There is no Union Station Shuttle pick-up.