

MRCTI CAPITOL MEETING



MARCH 6-8, 2024

Hilton Washington, DC | Capitol Hill

Agenda

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions and events are open to all mayors and other officially invited guests. Accommodations and meeting services are located in the Hilton Washington, DC Capitol Hill unless otherwise stated.

March 6

Congressional Reception & Dinner

6:15pm – 6:45pm, Opening Reception, United States Botanic Garden, 100 Maryland Avenue, SW

Mayors may gather in the Hilton Capitol Hill lobby at 5:30pm to board buses for the Dinner venue.

Join La Crosse Mayor Mitch Reynolds and members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for a reception and dinner with the Mississippi River Caucus.

Presiding: Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI, MRCTI Co-Chair

Introduction: HON. MELISA LOGAN
Mayor of Blytheville, AR
MRCTI Arkansas State Chair

Keynote: HON. JOHN BOOZMAN
Mississippi River Caucus Co-Chair
United States Senate (AR)

Remarks: HON. JASON SMITH (invited)
Mississippi River Caucus Co-Chair
U.S. House of Representatives (MO)

6:30pm – 8:30pm, Dinner, United States Botanic Garden, 100 Maryland Avenue, SW

Mayors will welcome a new Mississippi River Caucus members and unveil their 2024 Federal Policy Platform.

Presiding: Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI, MRCTI Co-Chair

Remarks: HON. DERRICK VAN ORDEN
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives (WI)

Unveiling: MRCTI 2024 Federal Policy Platform

March 7

Opening Plenary Breakfast with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on River Economy

Sponsored by: SmithGroup

8:00am – 9:30am, Wharf Dockmaster Building, 101 District Square SW, Washington, DC

Mayors will be joined by leadership from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mayors may gather in the Hilton Capitol Hill lobby at 7:30am to proceed to the breakfast venue.

Presiding: George Flaggs, Mayor of Vicksburg, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair
Phil Stang, Mayor of Kimmswick, MO, MRCTI Missouri State Chair

Welcome: MARK WAGSTAFF
Principal
Smith Group

Remarks: EDWARD E. BELK, JR, SES
Director of Civil Works, Headquarters
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Introduction: HON. DAN GIBSON
Mayor of Natchez, MS

<i>Discussion:</i>	HON. FRANK KLIPSCH	CODY SELLERS
<i>State of the River</i>	Dir. Of City Partnerships	Director Charter/Marine Operations
<i>Cruising Industry</i>	American Cruise Lines	Viking River Cruises

SESSION I: ACCESSING THE SECOND HALF OF THE JOBS ACT AND IRA

10:00am – 11:40am, Wharf Dockmaster Building, 101 District Square SW, Washington, DC

The Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act are half-way deployed. How do cities position to access funding vehicles before they expire?

Moderating: David Goins, Mayor of Alton, IL, MRCTI Illinois State Chair

Introduction: HON. DAVE KLIES
Mayor of St. Cloud, MN

Keynote: ANN SHIKANY
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy
U.S. Department of Transportation

Plenary Lunch: Mississippi River Funding, Jobs, & Innovation Summit Part 1 – Financial Capacity, *Sponsored by: Stantec*

12:15pm – 2:15pm, Atrium Ballroom, Hilton Washington Capitol Hill 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW
MRCTI Mayors gather a vital two-part workshop on making the most of the Jobs Act and the IRA to truly build-up people and places along the Mississippi River for the future.

Presiding: Belinda Constant, Mayor of Gretna, LA, MRCTI Louisiana State Chair

Welcome: DAVID GOLDWATER
Vice President
Stantec

<i>Finance Panel:</i>	NOAH GOLDMANN	JUSTIN EDWARDS
	Federal Policy	Local Infrastructure HUB
	Rewiring America	Bloomberg Philanthropies

SESSION II: MISSISSIPPI RIVER FUNDING, JOBS, & INNOVATION SUMMIT PART 2 – SOLUTIONS TO CHRONIC IMPACTS OF DROUGHT

2:30pm – 3:45pm, Atrium Ballroom, Hilton Washington Capitol Hill 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Mayors will reconvene for a continuation of the workshop that focuses on innovation in building longer-term solutions to major infrastructure challenges.

Moderating: Tim Baudier, Mayor of Harahan, LA

Remarks: HON. TROY CARTER
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives (LA)

Presentation: SARAH KAPNICK, PH.D.
Chief Scientist
NOAA

<i>Infrastructure</i>	MARK WAGSTAFF	MIKE MCGANN
<i>Panel:</i>	Principal	President of the Americas
	SmithGroup	Xylem

[extra-meeting event] U.S. Senate Recycling Caucus Reception Co-Hosted by MRCTI and the World Wildlife Fund

4:30pm – 5:30pm, Russell Senate Office Building, Kennedy Caucus Room, 2 Constitution Ave NE
Mayors and all meeting guests are invited to join MRCTI leadership for a showcase of bipartisanship in reducing our nation's landfill waste as well as the legislation leading that effort.

Remarks: Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI, MRCTI Co-Chair
Stacy Kinder, Mayor of Cape Girardeau, MO

Plenary Joint Partnership Dinner with the Mayors of Great Lakes Cities

6:00pm – 9:00pm, Wharf Dockmaster Building, 101 District Square SW, Washington, DC
Guests not attending the Senate event may gather in the Hilton Capitol Hill lobby at 5:00pm to board the bus that will next visit the Senate then the dinner venue. Mayors representing the majority of the freshwater resources of North America will gather together for this joint event to hear from key national leaders and plan a larger continental strategy together including the Development of a Mississippi River Compact.

6:00pm – 6:30pm, Welcome Reception

Presiding: *Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI, MRCTI Co-Chair*
Hollies J. Winston, Mayor of Brooklyn Park, MN

<i>Introduction:</i>	HON. GEORGE FLAGGS Mayor of Vicksburg, MS MRCTI Co-Chair	HON. GINO MORETTI Mayor of Saint-Anicet, Quebec GLSCI Chair
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6:30pm – 9:00pm, Joint Dinner

Presiding: *Buz Craft, Mayor of Vidalia, LA, MRCTI Chair of City/State Task Force*
Dave Kleis, Mayor of St. Cloud, MN

Performance: Special 2024 Annual Meeting Teaser

Introduction: HON. LIONEL JOHNSON
Mayor of St. Gabriel, LA

Presentation DANTE BIDWELL
2024 Annual City of Baton Rouge, Chief Administrative Officer
Mtg Preview: Host of MRCTI 2024 Annual Mtg

Compact: HON. JOHN HOFFMAN
MRCTI City/State Task Force Co-Chair
Minnesota State Senate

PETER JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Great Lakes, St. Lawrence
Governors & Premiers

ALEXANDRA CAMPBELL-FERRARI
Executive Director
Center for Water Security, Cooperation

March 8

Closing Breakfast: Community Change – Local Projects, National Benefit(s)

Sponsored by: Xylem

8:00am – 10:00am, Xylem Reservoir Center, 301 Water St SE, Washington, DC 20003

Mayors can work to change their cities within for both local and national opportunities. Mayors bring together resources and enterprises at home and abroad with the EPA and USDA. Mayors may gather in the Hilton Capitol Hill lobby at 7:30am to proceed to the breakfast venue.

Presiding: *Cliff Berry, Mayor of Tiptonville, TN, MRCTI Tennessee State Chair*
Christopher Franklin, Mayor of Helena-West Helena, AR

Welcome: NICOLE HORVATH
Program Manager
Xylem Reservoir Center

Presentation: HON. HOMER WILKES, PH.D.
Undersecretary for Natural Resources & Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Presentation: LAURA EBBERT
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<i>Remarks:</i>	HON. DAN GIBSON	HON. CATHY GILLESPIE
	Mayor of Natchez, MS	Commissioner
	Host of MRCTI America 250 Annual Mtg.	America 250

Mayors' Visit to the White House (Mayors and city staff only)

11:00am – 11:30am, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Mayors will conduct a high-level meeting with senior staff of Intergovernmental Affairs and the newly formed Council on Supply Chain Resilience to work toward port build-out, protection, and economic expansion for our cities.

Presiding: *Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI, MRCTI Co-Chair*
George Flaggs, Mayor of Vicksburg, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair

Introduction: HON. BRAD CAVANAGH
Mayor of Dubuque, IA

Overview: HON. RYAN WHALEN
Special Assistant to the President
Senior Advisor for Implementation

Remarks: HON. MONICA GORMAN
Special Assistant to the President for Manufacturing and Industrial Policy
Senior Staff to Council on Supply Chain Resilience

12:00pm – Adjourn

Hotel Information

Rooms are available at a reduced rate within the currently being updated Hilton Washington, DC Capitol Hill (pictured below), 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Reservations can be made by calling 202-628-2100, ask for the block under *Mississippi River Cities & Towns*.

