

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative  
Organizational Meeting  
September 16-18, 2014, New Orleans, LA



## Agenda

Title Sponsor:

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions and events are open to all mayors and other officially invited attendees.  
Official functions and meeting services are located in the Westin Canal Place Hotel unless otherwise stated.

### September 16

#### Registration

10:00am – 6:00pm, Foyer II, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

#### Welcome Reception, Sponsored by: City of New Orleans

6:00pm – 7:30pm, Cabildo National Historic Site, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Gallery

*Buses will begin loading at main entrance of the Westin at 5:30pm to transport mayors and meeting guests to reception location in Jackson Square.*

*Presiding: Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, LA  
Hiram Copeland, Mayor of Vidalia, LA  
Melvin "Kip" Holden, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA  
AC Wharton, Mayor of Memphis, TN  
Roy Buol, Mayor of Dubuque, IA*

David Muth, Louisiana State Director, National Wildlife Federation

Henry G. Cisneros, Chairman of CityView Capitol, former U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development

Join Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu for a welcoming of this third gathering of mayors along the Mississippi River. 30 Mayors comprised MRCTI for our first meeting, now we are 65 strong. Mayors are invited to peruse the Cabildo National Historic Site, St. Louis Cathedral, and Jackson Square.

### September 17

#### Registration

7:30am – 5:00pm, Foyer II, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

#### Introductions and Welcome

8:00am – 8:30am, Terrace Room, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

*Presiding: Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, LA  
AC Wharton, Mayor of Memphis, TN  
Roy Buol, Mayor of Dubuque, IA*

The Honorable Mary Landrieu, United States Senate, Louisiana (special video welcome)

## **CLIMATE DISRUPTION – THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

8:30am – 9:45am, Terrace Room, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

*Moderating: Hiram Copeland, Mayor of Vidalia, LA*

Virginia Burkett, Chief Scientist for Climate & Land Use, U.S. Geological Survey

Tim Osborn, NOAA, Central Gulf Coast Regional Manager

**Break** (15 min) – Refreshments provided

## **NAVIGATIONAL COMMERCE: Panama Canal Expansion & Impacts on the Mississippi River**

10:00am – 11:15am, Terrace Room, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

*Moderating: Butch Brown, Mayor of Natchez, MS*

*Francis Slay, Mayor of St. Louis, MO*

Michael Marshall, Alternate Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority

Scott Davies, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

Gary LaGrange, Chief Executive Officer, Port of New Orleans

James Amdal, Senior Research Associate, University of New Orleans Transportation Institute

## **Mayors' Press Conference**

11:30am – 12:00pm, Plimsoll Club, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

*Presiding: Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, LA*

*AC Wharton, Mayor of Memphis, TN*

*Roy Buol, Mayor of Dubuque, IA*

Mayor Landrieu will convene a press conference to make three major announcements regarding River commerce, community sustainability, and the assembling of a Sustainable Development Fund for Mississippi River communities.

Nick Rowe, Senior Vice President, American Water, Central Division

Dominik Knoll, Chair, World Trade Center Mississippi River Alliance

Don Hickman, Chairman, Mississippi River Partnership of Community Foundations

## **Opening Lunch Plenary, Funding Work to Improve Near-Water Communities**

12:15pm – 1:30pm, Ballroom II, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

*Presiding: John Cox, Mayor of Greenville, MS*

Christopher Masingill, Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority

Alison Dorsey, Social Impact Manager, LinkedIn Corporation

Paul N. Jaenichen, Sr., Administrator, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

## **ACHIEVING CLIMATE RESILIENCY IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER VALLEY**

1:45pm – 3:00pm, Terrace Room, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

*Moderating: David Lattus, Mayor of Hickman, KY*

Cedric S. Grant, Executive Director of the Sewage and Water Board, City of New Orleans

Michael Hecht, CEO, Greater New Orleans, Inc.

Steve Cochran, Director of Mississippi River Delta Restoration Project, Environmental Defense Fund

**Break** (3:00pm – 5:30pm) - Westin Canal Place Hotel

**Host City Showcase & Dinner, *Sponsored by: Big River Strategic Initiative***

6:00pm – 8:30pm, Riverview Room, French Quarter, New Orleans, LA

*Buses will begin loading at main entrance of the Westin at 5:30pm to transport mayors and meeting guests to dinner location in the French Quarter.*

*Presiding: Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, LA*

Charles McVean, Chairman and CEO, McVean Trading & Investments

Michael Strain, Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

**September 18**

**Registration**

7:30am – 11:30pm, Foyer II, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

**Plenary Breakfast: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, our closest Partner, *Sponsored by: Dynamic Solutions***

8:30am – 9:45am, Ballroom II, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

*Presiding: George Flaggs, Mayor of Vicksburg, MS*

Dr. William McAnally, Dynamic Solutions, LLC

Mr. Edward E. Belk Jr. Senior Executive Service, Mississippi River Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Norma Jean Mattei, Chair, Dep. of Civil & Env. Eng., Univ. of New Orleans, Mississippi River Commission

**REALIZING ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

10:00am – 11:15am, Terrace Room, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

*Moderating: Jo Anne Smiley, Mayor of Clarksville, MO*

*Dave Kleis, Mayor of St. Cloud, MN*

James Cummins, Executive Director, Mississippi River Trust

Jerome Zeringue, Chairman, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

**Break (15 min) – Refreshments provided**

**MRCTI Business Meeting**

11:30am – 12:15pm, Terrace Room, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

*Presiding: AC Wharton, Mayor of Memphis, TN*

*Roy Buol, Mayor of Dubuque, IA*

Mayors will meet in an open-door session to finalize and approve policy initiatives as well as preliminary plans for the Capitol Meeting in Washington, DC, March 2015.

**Closing Luncheon, The Future of the Trust Funds that Maintain our Infrastructure**

12:15pm – 1:30pm, Ballroom II, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Westin Canal Place Hotel

*Presiding: Mayor Kip Holden, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA*

Martin Hettel, Chairman, Inland Waterway Users Board

Sean Duffy, Executive Director, Big River Coalition

1:30pm – Adjourn



**AERIAL EXCURSION:**

2:30pm – 4:30pm

Mayors will have the opportunity to take an aerial tour of the Port of New Orleans operations as well as the Delta aboard excursion planes. This tour will last about 45 minutes to 1 hour and it will afford the Mayors to see where the largest navigable river system in the world ends in this city and region. Mayors can board buses outside the Westin Canal Place Hotel, proceed to the airport (20 minute trip-time), board the planes (3 to 4 mayors per plane), then embark on the excursion. Upon return to the local airport, buses will transport mayors back to the Westin.