

## 2024 Corn Belt Ports and the Upper Mississippi River Ports (IA&IL) Annual Meeting Agenda



# 2024 Corn Belt Ports & Upper Mississippi River Regional Multi-Modal Port & Logistics Center Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 10 at RIVERFRONT HALL 102 (ATRIUM) in Western Illinois University Quad Cities  
located at 3300 River Drive Moline, Illinois 61265

*Registration fee is \$0 (free) per person  
(includes Thursday lunch)*

*Register on-line at ([LINK](#))*

The purpose of the annual meeting is to focus on advancing multi-modal transportation and natural infrastructure investment in the Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois region (see enclosed maps) and raise the region's profile both nationally and globally as a critical part of the supply chain. All transportation and supply chain professionals, and conservationists should attend who have an interest in making needed area infrastructure investments and improvements that will enable us to be more nationally and globally competitive, and more sustainable.

### Thursday, 10 October 2024

#### 9:00 AM – Registration Opens

9:00-9:15 Welcome and MRCTI Update– Mike Thoms, Mayor, City of Rock Island, and Chair, Rock Island Regional Port District, Illinois (Host)

9:15-9:20 Welcome – Anthony Heddlesten, Mayor, City of Riverdale, Iowa (Co-Host)

9:20- 9:25 Welcome - Jim Irwin, Chair, Ports of Eastern Iowa Authority

9:25- 9:45 Robert Sinkler, Executive Director, Corn Belt Ports Update

9:45-10:00 Christopher Merrett, Ph.D., Director of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Rural Ports as Economic Engines

#### State Updates

10:00-10:20 Brian McCoy, Marine Transportation Program Planning Specialist, Illinois Department of Transportation, Office of Planning & Programming, Funding Opportunities

10:20-10:40 Stuart Anderson, Director, Transportation Development Division, Iowa Department of Transportation, Funding Opportunities

#### 10:40-10:55 Break

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### **Federal Updates**

10:55-11:10 LT Griffin Terpstra, U.S. Coast Guard Supervisor, Marine Safety Detachment

11:10-11:25 Sara Schmuecker, US Fish and Wildlife Services, Infrastructure Update

11:25-12:00 Travis Black, Director, Inland Waterways Gateway Office, Maritime Administration (MARAD) update, US Department of Transportation

12:00-12:20 Andrew Goodall, Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) Program Manager - Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### **Networking Lunch 12:20-12:50**

**12:40-1:45 p.m. – Working Lunch and Panel Discussion:** The Role of Economic Development Organizations and Funding Opportunities for Rural Ports

**Moderator:** Dr. Christopher Merrett

**Panelists:** Ryan Sempf, Quad City Chamber of Commerce

Clare Gill, Dubuque City Chamber of Commerce

[TBD], Muscatine Chamber of Commerce

Genna McCullough, Bi-State Commission

### **1:45-2:00 Break**

2:00-2:30 Kurt Strand, Director, National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, Update

2:30-2:35 Col. Aaron Williams, Introduction Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

2:35-2:55 Tom Heinold, Chief, Operations Division, Rock Island District, US Army Corps of Engineers O&M Backlog Updates, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

2:55-3:15 Julie Millhollin, Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Regional Program Manager, St. Paul District, Rock Island District and St. Louis District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

3:15- 3:30 Matt Zehr, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### **3:30-3:45 Break**

3:45-4:10 Charles Brettell, Public Private Partnerships, Prosody Group

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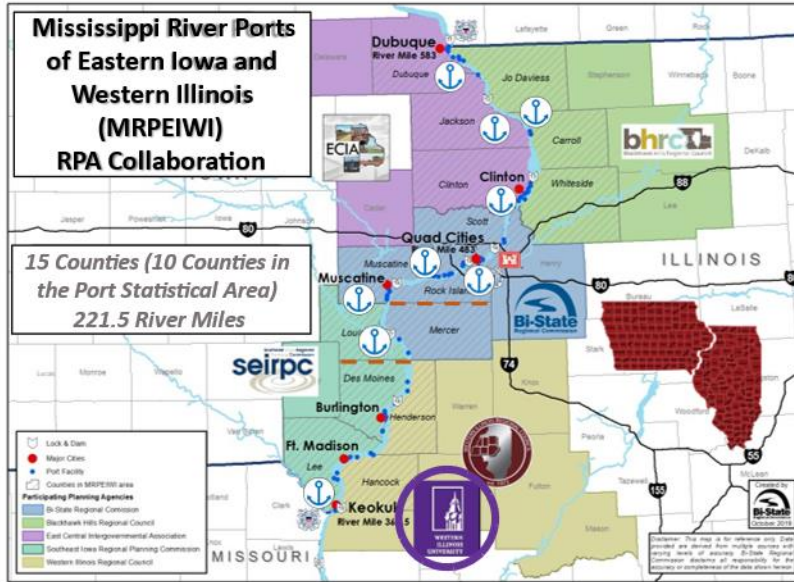
***(includes Thursday lunch)***

***Register on-line at ([LINK](#))***

***Remote Viewing Option: Microsoft Teams ([LINK](#))***

***Meeting ID: 231 998 407 580: Passcode: nLtDXc***

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**Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois (MRPEIWI) Regional Planning Agency (RPA) Waterborne Commerce Collaboration**

- Ports (State Recognized)** ⚓
  - Ports of Eastern Iowa Authority
  - Southeast Iowa (SIREPA)
  - Upper Miss. Intermodal (IL)
  - Rock Island Regional Port (IL)
- USACE (Corps) Project Office**
  - Pleasant Valley, IA
- USCG (Coast Guard) Offices**
  - Dubuque, Rock Island, Keokuk
- Visitors Center**

**Major Cities**

- Dubuque/East Dubuque Area
- Clinton/Fulton Area
- Quad Cities Area
- Muscatine
- Burlington/Gulfport Area
- Ft. Madison
- Keokuk

**Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Bi-State

**Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs)**

- East Central Intergovernmental (IA)
- Bi-State (IL & IA)
- Southeast Iowa
- Blackhawk Hills (IL)
- Western Illinois

Lock & Dam 15 (Rock Island)

**Lead Resource Support Agencies**

WIU Rural Affairs Institute (+)

**NOTES:** Des Moines, Lee, Henderson, and Hancock Counties are part of the MRPEIWI RPA Collaboration and Retain Their Relationship with the MidAmerica Port Commission



As of 25 February 2024

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