



## 2024 Corn Belt Ports and Illinois Rural Ports Annual Meeting Agenda



# 2024 Corn Belt Ports & Illinois Rural Ports Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 23 (REMOTE ONLY)

Teams: [LINK](#): Meeting ID: 224 499 196 736; Passcode: Jc7GDy

### 9:00 AM

9:00-9:05 Welcome – Dr. Mark Mossman, Interim Provost, Western Illinois University (Host)

9:05-9:10 Welcome and Opening Remarks – Christopher Merrett, Ph.D, Director of Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs

9:10-9:15 Corn Belt Ports Update, Robert Sinkler, Executive Coordinating Director

9:15-9:25 BJ Murray, Section Chief, Aviation & Marine Transportation Program Planning, Illinois Department of Transportation, Office of Planning & Programming

9:25-9:30 Tom Heinold, Chief, Operations Division, Rock Island District, US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

9:30-9:35 LCDR Sarah Reid, Update, U.S. Coast Guard Supervisor, Marine Safety Detachment Peoria

9:35-9:55 Mr. Travis Black, Director, Inland Waterways Gateway Office, Maritime Administration (MARAD) update, US Department of Transportation

9:55-10:10 Charles Brettell, Public Private Partnerships, Prosody Group

10:10-11:00 Port District Highlight of Issues and Priorities for next fiscal year (5 minutes each)

- Capital Investment Needs
- Operating Fund Requirements
- Grant Applications Planned and in Progress
- Challenges
- Opportunities for Collective Action
- Legislative Initiatives

11:00-11:05 Dennis Wilmsmeyer, Executive Director, Illinois Ports Association

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