

2025 Corn Belt Ports and Mid America Port Commission Annual Meeting Agenda



**2025 Corn Belt Ports &
Mid-America Ports Commission Annual Meeting
Tuesday, March 18 at Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center
3001 Winegard Dr., Burlington, IA**

UNLOCKING PORT INVESTMENT

9:30-10:00 – Registration Opens (Lobby)

10:00-10:05 Welcome – Jon D. Billups, Mayor, Burlington, Iowa (Host)

10:05-10:10 Welcome and Opening Remarks – Doug Aeilts, Vice Chair, Mid-America Port Commission (Host)

10:10-10:20 Amy O'Brien, President & CEO, Greater Burlington Partnership

10:20-10:30 Robert Sinkler, Executive Coordinating Director, Corn Belt Ports Update

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

10:30-11:55 Panel

Bob Brettell, Prosody Group, Public Private Partnerships

Leslie Sieck, Executive Director, Tri-State Update and Way Forward, Tri-State Development Summit

Mike Norris, Executive Director, Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission

Christopher D. Merrett, Ph.D., Dean for Innovation and Economic Development, Director of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL

NETWORKING LUNCH

11:55-12:35 Networking Lunch

FEDERAL UPDATES

12:35-1:45 USACE Updates Includes Q&A (Remote)

Introduction, Colonel Aaron M. Williams, Commander and District Engineer, Rock Island District, US Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. Brad Houzenga, Deputy District Engineer and Chief, Programs and Project Management, O&M Backlog Update, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Marshall Plumley, Regional Program Manager, Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program, Rock Island District, US Army Corps of Engineers

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

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HOT TOPIC: Lock 10 Mooring Cell Guttenberg, Iowa (St. Paul District)

1:45-2:00 Break

STATE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION AND PORTS UPDATES

2:00-2:55 Tri-State DOT Update includes Q&A

Rob Frese, District Planning Manager, Northeast District, Missouri Department of Transportation

Stuart Anderson, Director, Transportation Development Division

Brian McCoy, Marine Transportation Program Planning Specialist, Illinois Department of Transportation, Office of Planning & Programming (Remote)

Upper Mississippi River Basin M-35/M-55 Work and Resilience Planning

2:55-3:05 Kirsten Wallace, Executive Director, Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (Remote)

3:05-3:20 Break

3:20-4:25 Ports Panel Update

Joe Humes, Western District Commissioner, Clark County Missouri and President of the Governing Board, Northeast Missouri Regional Port Authority

Maria Kuhns, Executive Director, Hannibal Regional Port Authority

Ralph Martin, Director, Lewis County Port Authority

Mike Norris, Executive Director, Southeast Iowa Regional Economic & Port Authority

Mike McLaughlin, Chairman of the Board, Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District

ROBUST NAVIGATION SYSTEM NEEDS

4:25-4:40 Paul Rhode, Vice President, Midwest Area, Waterway Council Incorporated (Remote)

4:40 Closing

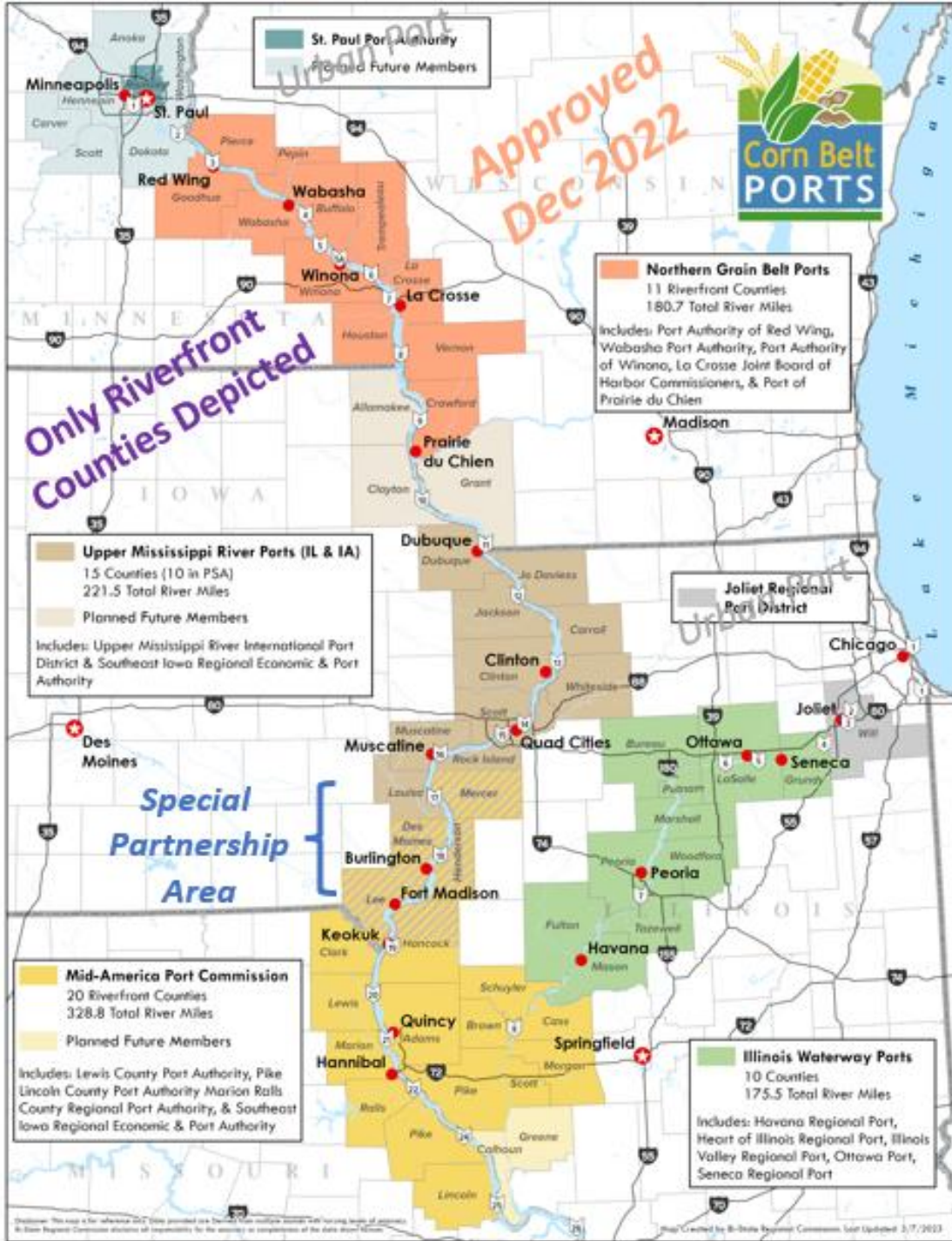
Reception

Begins 5:30 - Joint Corn Belt Ports, MAPC and UMIMRA Reception

The Annual UMIMRA Meeting will be held at the same location on Wednesday March 19, 2025

***Registration fee is \$0 (free) per person
Tuesday Night Reception fee is \$50.00
Register on-line to attend at ([LINK](#))***

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MID AMERICA PORT COMMISSION AREA



TRI-STATE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

