

2026 Illinois Waterway Ports Annual Meeting Agenda



2026 IWPC and CBP Annual Meeting

Thursday, 15 Oct 26 at the Grand Bear Resort

2643 N. IL Route 178, Utica, IL 61373

Register: [IWPC and CBP Annual Event Registration](#)

Purpose: The primary purpose of the meeting is to celebrate the great accomplishments over the last year, and identify actions and achievable results for the next year. Secondly, we will share information amongst stakeholders, network and help build a common unified regional vision for the Illinois Waterway Ports Commission inclusive of the six port operating organizations.

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:05 Administrative Remarks – Illinois Valley Regional Port District Staff (Host) [Confirmed]

9:05-9:10 Welcome, Travis McGlasson, Illinois Waterway Ports Commission Chair (Host) [Confirmed]

9:10-9:20 Welcome, Robert Hasty, Mayor, Ottawa, Illinois (Host) [Confirmed]

9:20-9:45 Keynote Speaker **Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello** [Invited]

9:45-10:00 Robert Sinkler, Executive Coordinating Director, Corn Belt Ports, UPDATE: ILWW Ports Commission and Corn Belt Ports [Confirmed]

10:00-10:15 Networking Break

10:15-11:15 Panel 1 (Supply Chain Resiliency) – Moderator **Travis McGlasson** [Chair IWPC, County Chair Marshall]

Illinois Farm Bureau [**Rodney Knittle, Associate Director of Transportation**], GROWMARK, Inc [**Kirby Wagner, Manager Government Relations**], Alto Ingredients, Inc. [**Todd Benton, Chief Operating Officer**], J.F. Brennan Company, Inc. [**Matt Hogan, Director of the Construction Group**], Illinois River Carriers Association [**Mike Blaske, General Manager, Illinois Marine Towing, LLC.**] [Confirmed]

11:15-11:30 Todd Main, Director of Market Development, Illinois Soybean Association, Update Illinois Soybean Association Trans 2050

11:30-11:45 Jim Tarmann, Managing Director, Illinois Corn Marketing Board / Illinois Corn Growers Association

11:45-12:00 Dr. Honey Zimmerman, Western Illinois University, Update: Corn Belt Ports Rural Maritime & Logistics Training & Education Consortium

12:00-12:45 Networking Lunch

12:45-1:45 Panel 2 (Leveraging our Ports as Economic Enablers) – Moderator **Dr. Chris Merrett (IIRA)**

Greater Peoria Economic Development [**Kathie Brown, Director of Rural Outreach and Development**]; North Central Illinois Council of Governments [**Kevin Lindeman Executive Director**]; Western Illinois Regional Council [**Stacy Nimo CEO**]; Grundy County Economic Development [**Nancy Norton, CEO**], GROWMARK, Inc [**Kirby Wagner, Manager Government Relations**], and Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs [**Dr. Chris Merrett, Dean of Innovation and Economic Development and Director of Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs**] [Confirmed]

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1:45-2:00 Bob Brettell, Managing Partner Prosody Consulting, Public Private Partnership [Confirmed]

2:00-2:15 Networking Break

2:15 – 2:30 Leah Thill, Director Midwest Regional Office, CALSTART, Update: Illinois EPA Clean Ports Grant [Confirmed]

State Update

2:30-2:45 BJ Murray, Section Chief, Aviation & Marine Transportation Program Planning, Illinois Department of Transportation, Office of Planning & Programming [Confirmed]

2:45-3:10 Corps of Engineers Briefing (Includes Q&A) [Invited]

Mr. Tom Heinold, Chief of Operations Division, MVR Operations Update, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Registration fee is \$25 per person

Registration Fee Industry: \$250

RSVP NLT 2 Oct 26 if you plan to attend

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Illinois Waterway Ports Commission (IWPC)

Major Cities

Peoria Metropolitan Area
Ottawa

Ports (State Recognized)

Havana Regional Port (2311)
Heart of Illinois Regional Port (2312)
Illinois Valley Regional Port (2313)
Ottawa City Port (7712)
Seneca Regional Port (7710)
IWPC Managed Port Area

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Tri-County

Regional Planning Agencies (See Map)

North Central Illinois
Tri-County
Western Illinois

USACE (Corps) ILWW Project Office

Peoria

Supporting USCG (Coast Guard) Office

Peoria

Illinois Waterway Visitors Center

Starved Rock Lock and Dam (Ottawa)

Lead Resource Supt Agency (Western IL Univ)

Institute for Rural Affairs (Plus)

