River Action will host the Upper Mississippi River Conference Oct. 5-7 in person at the XPO Center, The Bend, East Moline, IL and online.

The conference will revisit the America’s Watershed Initiative 2016 Report Card and the efforts to "Raise the Grade" over the past five years.

Speakers and panelists will bring action plans, tool kits and provide personal testimony on what has worked to improve the "grade" and resiliency of the Mississippi River.

There are good new stories from Fulton, Ottawa, Marseilles, De Pue and Peru communities in Illinois. And, field trips will include eco-tours on the Mississippi River near Camanche, Iowa, and to the Iowa DNR Fish Hatchery at Fairport with a stop at Wildcat Den State Park/Lucille A. Carver Mississippi Riverside Environmental Research Station near Muscatine.

A presentation on nutrient loss reduction by Beth Baranski, of Jo Davies County, will explore the changing local culture through a new, persistent, and multi-pronged approach.

The keynote will be given by Kim Lutz, executive director of America’s Watershed Initiative. She will address "The Nuts and Bolts of How the Report Card was Done," and challenge attendees with goals to further raise the grade for the Upper Mississippi River.

Full conference details and online registration available at: riveraction.org/umrc

Conference Registration

Complete and mail with your check payable to River Action, P.O. Box 964, Davenport, IA 52805 or visit www.riveraction.org/umrc to register online and pay by credit card. Or, call River Action at 563-322-2969 to register.

NAME

TITLE

COMPANY

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

PHONE

EMAIL

FULL CONFERENCE

☐ Early Bird Registration thru 10/1 ($100)

☐ Standard Registration after 10/1 ($200)

SINGLE DAY (early bird $100/standard $150): Select Wed. ☐ Thurs. ☐

STUDENT FULL CONFERENCE

☐ Early Bird Registration thru 10/1 ($25)

☐ Standard Registration after 10/1 ($40)


Wed. Field Tours ($10, choose one): ☐ Boat Tour to Beaver Island/Camanche ☐ Fairport Fish Hatchery/Wildcat Den State Park

Guest lunches (all meals included with full- or single-day registration): ☐ Boxed lunch Wed. $15 ☐ Catfish Dinner Wed. $30

Will you be attending Wednesday evening Catfish Dinner? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Questions? Call River Action - 563.322.2969 or email: riveraction@riveraction.org

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

Conference Sponsors

River Action

Riverside Environmental Services

Exelon Generation

The Nature Conservancy

Western Illinois University Quad Cities

Ingram

Quad City Times

American Water

Sierra Club

Big River Magazine

Terracon

Mancomm

AE

Ashton Engineering

EnviroNET
**Tuesday, Oct. 5**

11 a.m - 12:45 p.m.
Registration and check-in

1 – 2:30 p.m.
Keynote – Kim Lutz: America’s Watershed Initiative “Keys to the Report Card.” Lutz is executive director of America’s Watershed Initiative (AWI), a collaboration working with businesses, government, academic and civic organizations to find solutions to the challenges facing the Mississippi River and 250 rivers that flow into it.

2:45 – 4:15 p.m.
Breakout Sessions:
- **Nuts and Bolts of Flood Management**: Kevin Lindeman, Economic Development Director, North Central Illinois Council of Governments, securing grant funding for cities and towns; TBA
- **Water Quality**: Beth Baranski, Jo Davies County, IL Conservation Foundation on Galena River; Teresa Newton, fishery biologist with Upper Mississippi River Environmental Sciences Center, USGS; Rachel Curry, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, nutrient reduction in the Mississippi and Rock Rivers.
- **Transportation and Economic Development**: Bob Sinkler, CEO of Riverside Integrated Water Solutions & Environmental Services.

4:15 – 6 p.m.
- Student Poster Session and cocktail hour
- Dinner on your own

**Wednesday, Oct. 6**

7 – 7:45 a.m.
Registration and check-in

8 – 9:30 a.m.
Plenary – Heide Kennedy, senior resource specialist with civil engineering firm SEH of St. Paul, MN will speak on “Publix Trust.”

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Box lunch

1 – 4 p.m.
Field Tours
- Eco-tour boat ride to Beaver Island (near Camanche) with Kara Mitvalsky, senior environmental engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Visit to Iowa DNR Fish Hatchery (Fairport), Lucille A. Carver Mississippi Riverside Environmental Research Station and Wildcat Den State Park (Muscatine).
- In-house option – Mississippi River Cities and Towns 30/30 Initiative: Colin Wellenkamp, Executive Director of MRCTI, and Mayor Robert Gallagher, City of Bettendorf.

5 – 6 p.m.
Cocktails, Student Posters

5 – 6 p.m.
Catfish dinner followed by presentation by Dean Klinkenberg, freelance writer and former academic researcher from St. Louis. Klinkenberg talk, “Mississippi, Missouri or Big Muddy! What’s in a name?” will draw on his travels by car, canoe and river cruises along the entire Mississippi River.

**Thursday Oct. 7**

7 – 7:45 a.m.
Registration and check-in

8 – 9:30 a.m.
Breakout sessions:
- **Nuts and Bolts of Flood Management**: Larry Webber (AWI) FEMA; Marilyn Succo, State of Illinois Floodplain Manager, “Floods Know No Bounds.”
- **Water Quality**: Joe Jordan, general biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River mussel relocation successes; Kathy Morris, director of Scott County (IA) Waste Commission, Ridding Streams and Rivers of Plastic; Clare Lindahl, CEO of Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Society, agricultural innovations.
- **Transportation and Economic Development**: TBA, funding cities’ infrastructure to meet sewage by-pass requirements; Andrew Goodall, program manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP).

9:45 – 11:30 a.m.
Plenary Panel
Jeff Houser, Research Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center; Kirsten Wallace, Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, and Kim Lutz, America’s Watershed Initiative, will provide an overview of three reports:
- How Clean is the River? – Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
- 2021 Mississippi River Watershed Report Card – AWI

11:30 a.m. – Adjourn

All in-person sessions listed will be available for live-streaming at the same time. Those registering for the virtual sessions will be sent a room address/link to view the presentations online.