

9th Annual Upper Mississippi River Conference

Raising the Grade

*October 13-14, 2016
iWireless Center, Moline, Illinois*



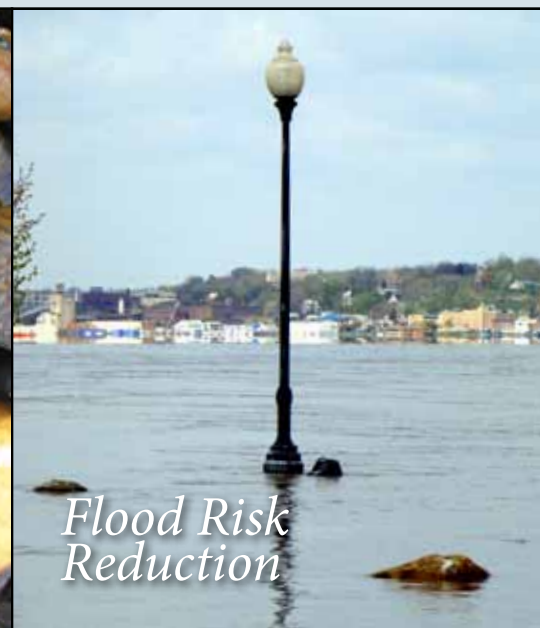
Energy



Recreation



Ecosystems



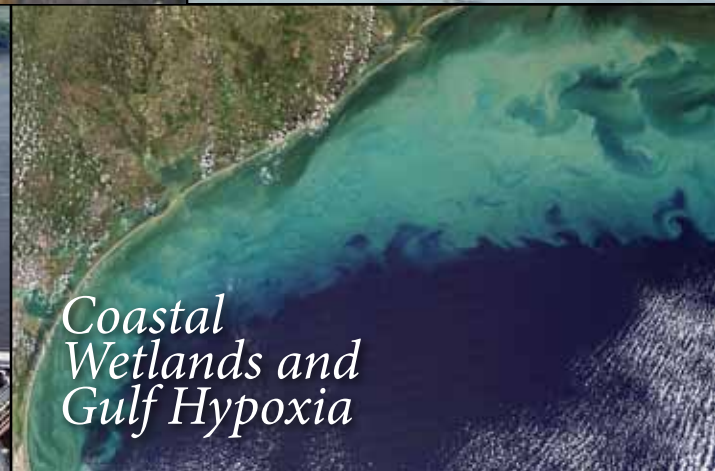
*Flood Risk
Reduction*



*Water
Supply*



Transportation



*Coastal
Wetlands and
Gulf Hypoxia*



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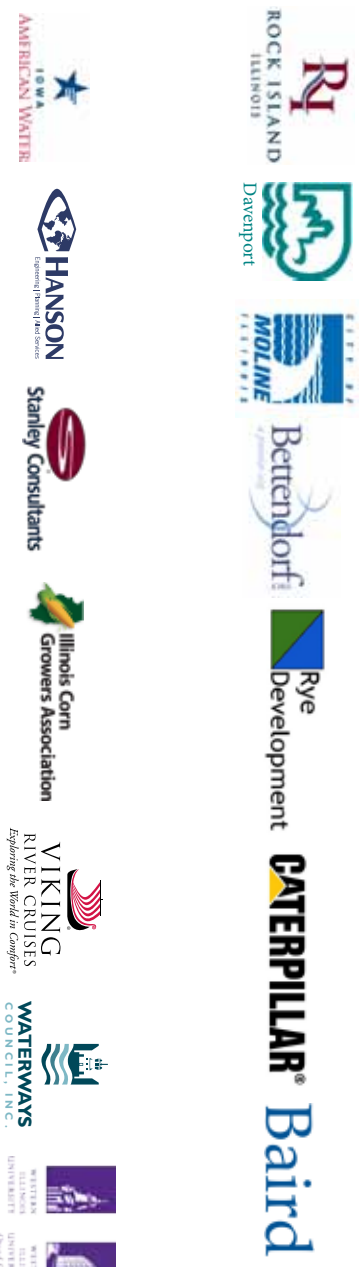
Platinum Sponsors:



Gold Sponsors:



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Student Summit



Dave Murcia

Naturalist / Director, Wapsi River Environmental Education Center

“We are in an age of *awareness*. An *awareness* of our human needs of food, water, shelter, and space. It is an age in which we are reminded that we are not the only species which shares these needs. We are being graded by our *Mother Earth*, and there is much room for improvement. Our most critical of needs is abundant, yet it is not. It surrounds our planet, it runs through us, we consume it as others do; yet there are those who pollute, waste, and take it for granted. Please join me in exploring our shared interest and engaging in a lifestyle in which we all can raise our grade in honor of our *sacred water*.” — Dave Murcia

Mr. Murcia holds a B.S. in Conservation Biology along with supporting certifications, including Certified Interpretive Guide. He has worked in natural resources at each government level, including the US Fish & Wildlife Service as a Supervisory Park Ranger and Refuge Manager, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and now at Scott County Conservation Board as Naturalist / Director of the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center. His life mission places an emphasis on sustainability through stewardship of our natural resources by bringing awareness, education, lifestyle behaviors, and a stewardship to our Mother Earth.

Schedule At-a-Glance

Thursday, October 13

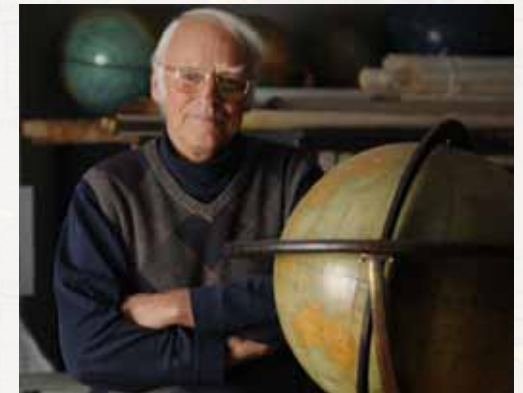
- 3:30 Registration Opens
- 3:50 Welcome Speech
- 4:00 Field Trips
 - A. Kone — Tour of a Platinum Green Building
Rodney Blackwell, Developer
Financial District Properties, Davenport
 - B. Sustainability Right Before Your Eyes:
Ten Examples Near Sylvan Island
Dr. Norm Moline, Professor Emeritus,
Augustana College, Rock Island
- 5:30 Keynote Address – “*Three Percent*” *Dave Murcia*
- 6:30 Catfish Fry and Poster Presentations

The Student Summit acts as a way for students to engage with river stakeholders and to learn about the important issues related to the Mississippi River. On the field trip to

LEED Platinum Kone Building, located in Moline



start the evening, students will have the choice of seeing the Kone Building in Moline or a trip to the Sylvan Island Slough, where they will learn about sustainability in urban environments. After the field trip the students will be treated to a keynote speech by local wetlands and wildlife expert and conservationist Dave Murcia, who will be discussing the importance of water to our planet.



Dr. Norm Moline will lead a trip to the Sylvan Island area

New this year, 18 high school delegates will be chosen by application to attend the UMRC as an extension of the Student Summit. These applications will involve a short 250 word essay and qualifiers will be selected by the Student Summit Committee. Student Delegates will attend the presentations on Thursday and participate in the working sessions on Friday. These students will get to work with the conference-goers to strategize improvements to the rivers ecosystems, flood control and risk reduction, transportation, water supply, economy, recreation, and gulf hypoxia.

Registration Info

You may also register online at riveraction.org/umrc

Name	Title		Company	

Address	Line 1			

Address	Line 2	City	State	Zip

Phone	Fax	Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Email me conference info	

Registration Type

Standard (Full conference)

- \$150 (Before Oct. 1)
 \$225 (After Oct. 1)

Elected Official (Full conf.)

- \$99 (Before Oct. 1)
 \$140 (After Oct. 1)

Student (Full conf.)

- \$25 (Before Oct. 1)
 \$40 (After Oct. 1)

Standard One Day Registration

- \$110 (Before Oct. 1)
 \$150 (After Oct. 1)

Elected Official One Day Registration

- \$65 (Before Oct. 1)
 \$100 (After Oct. 1)

Student One Day Registration

- \$15 (Before Oct. 1)
 \$25 (After Oct. 1)

RSVP Info

Luncheon and Catfish Fry are included in the cost of registration

- Luncheon (Thursday) Guest for Luncheon (\$20)
 Catfish Fry (Thursday) Guest for Catfish Fry (\$20)
 Press Conference (Friday) Special Meal Requests _____

Payment Method

- Card Check (to River Action) # _____

Name on card

Card #

Exp. Date Zip Code Security Code

Signature



Accommodations

Radisson on John Deere Commons, a riverside hotel, is a one-minute walk to the conference center, a three-minute walk from the John Deere Pavilion exhibits and six miles from the Quad City International Airport (MLI).

Call (309) 764-1000 and reference the "Upper Mississippi River Conference" room block, or visit radisson.com/molineil and use the booking code "UPPMSS".

Conference sessions are held at the iWireless Center (pictured below) adjacent to the Radisson and the riverfront.

Find more visitor information at:
www.visitquadcities.com



Continuing Education Credits

Earn up to 21 professional development hours from more than 130 education sessions. Leading industry experts offer in-depth knowledge of topics and trends transforming the industry.

Certificates of Attendance will be available at the conference registration desk upon request. Check with your professional organization or institution for more information about education credits.

Conference Information



The seven sectors studied by the AWI Report Card

The ninth annual UMRC is the “Raising the Grade” conference in response to the recently released America’s Watershed Initiative Report Card for the Mississippi River watershed. With a *D+* in the overall watershed and a *C* in the Upper Mississippi basin, the region faces many interconnected challenges.

Conference attendees will advance solutions for the Upper Mississippi and beyond with some of the country’s leading experts in sessions dedicated to key watershed-wide indicators identified in the Report Card. Working seminars will create awareness of opportunities and challenges and will provide a forum to develop a shared vision.

In 2020 the AWI will issue its second report on the Mississippi River watershed.

Thursday, October 13 Schedule At-a-Glance

7:00	Registration Opens	1:45	Early Afternoon Concurrent Sessions
7:30	Breakfast	IV.	Ecosystems
8:25	Introductions		<i>Gretchen Benjamin</i> , Assoc. Dir. Water Resources Infrastructure at The Nature Conservancy, La Crosse
8:30	Opening Keynote, “Grading the River”		<i>Ken Barr</i> , Chief of Environmental Analysis Branch US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island, IL
	<i>Dr. Heath Kelsey</i> , Program Director University of Maryland, Cambridge	V.	Water Supply
9:30	River/Watershed Panel		<i>Dr. Maria Lemke</i> , Aquatic Ecologist The Nature Conservancy
	<i>Bill Northey</i> , Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Des Moines EPA State Agency Co-chair Gulf Hypoxia Task Force		<i>Brent Earley</i> , Iowa American Water, Davenport, IA
	<i>Maj. Gen. Michael Wehr</i> , Commander US Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg	2:45	Late Afternoon Concurrent Sessions
	<i>Robert Stout</i> , Chairman, Upper Miss. River Basin Assn. Chief of Planning, Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources	VI.	Transportation
11:15	Morning Concurrent Sessions		<i>Mike Cox</i> , Operations Division Chief US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island
I.	Energy		<i>Marty Hettel</i> , Chairman Inland Waterways User Board, Chesterfield
	<i>Robert Crear</i> , Chairman Rye Development, Boston, MA		<i>Scott Sigman</i> , Transportation Infrastructure Lead Illinois Soybean Assn., Bloomington
	<i>Nick Fanning</i> , Resource Engineer Missouri River Energy Services, Sioux Falls, SD	VII.	Gulf Hypoxia
	<i>Jeremiah Haas</i> , Principal Aquatic Biologist Exelon, Cordova, IL		<i>Laura Christianson, Ph. D.</i> , Asst Prof of Water Quality Univ. of Illinois, Urbana
II.	Flood Control and Risk Reduction		<i>Kelly Warner</i> , Hydrologist USGS IL Water Science Center, Urbana, IL
	<i>Dr. Larry Weber</i> , Professor of Engineering Univ. of Iowa Flood Center, Iowa City		<i>Steve Richter</i> , Dir. of Conservation Programs The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin
	<i>Mike Klingner</i> , Chairman Upper Miss., Illinois & Missouri Rivers Assn.	3:45	Mississippi River Economic Update
	<i>Sally McConkey</i> , P.E., CFM, D.WRE., Section Head IL State Water Survey, Prairie Research Inst., Univ. of IL		<i>Colin Wellenkamp</i> , Executive Director Miss. River Cities & Towns Initiative, St. Louis
III.	Recreation	4:00	Raise-the-Grade Challenge
	<i>Steven Carlyon</i> , Director La Crosse Parks, Recreation and Forestry Dept., La Crosse		<i>Michael Reuter</i> , North America Water Dir The Nature Conservancy, St. Louis Founding Member of AWI
	<i>Kim Rea</i> , Recreation Manager US Army Corps of Engineers, Alton	5:00	Student Poster Session
12:30	Luncheon Speaker	6:30	Catfish Fry
	<i>Dana Starkell</i> , Mississippi River Sojourner Bettendorf		

Dr. Heath Kelsey, University of Maryland



Dr. Heath Kelsey is Program Director for the Integration and Application Network, a group of scientists focusing on scientific synthesis and communication, based at the University of Maryland. Heath has developed ecosystem health report cards for numerous coastal and inland aquatic systems globally including Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Coastal India, and Chesapeake Bay. Dr. Kelsey earned his MSPH and PhD in Environmental Health Sciences at the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina.

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Colin Wellenkamp, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative



Focusing on advocating for and advancing the public interest, as Executive Director of MRCTI, **Colin Wellenkamp** works on improving relations between local governments and businesses. He believes sustainability is the future of government oversight and economic development. Ultimately, Wellenkamp wants to help organizations transition to sustainability.

Gretchen Benjamin, The Nature Conservancy – North America Water



Growing up on the Mississippi River in Winona, MN, Gretchen Benjamin witnessed the 1965 flood and enjoyed the river as a kid. After college in Montana she returned to river. Now, 32 years as a river professional has taught her this is an amazing and resilient river. She has witnessed degraded river conditions rebound in a relatively short timeframe and that

keeps her striving for long term balance. At TNC, Benjamin is the Associate Director of Water Infrastructure for North America Water.

Friday, October 14

Schedule At-a-Glance

- 7:00 Breakfast / Registration Opens
- 8:15 Working Sessions I
- I. Energy
Ray Wingert, Managing Principal for Hydropower HDR Engineering, Inc., Gorham ME
 - II. Flood Control and Risk Reduction
Kris Johnson Ph.D, Senior Scientist
The Nature Conservancy, Minneapolis
 - III. Recreation
Joe Taylor, President & CEO
Quad Cities CVB, Moline, IL
 - IV. Ecosystems
Roger Viadero Ph.D., Professor
Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL
 - V. Water Supply
Scott Tomkins
Illinois EPA Bureau of Water
 - VI. Transportation
Dan Mecklenborg, Senior Vice President
Ingram Barge Company, Nashville, TN
 - VII. Gulf Hypoxia
Rebecca Smith, Program Director
The Nature Conservancy, Madison, WI
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Working Sessions II
- 12:00 Lunch
- 2:00 Media Briefing

At the close of the conference, UMRC representatives will discuss some of the work session outcomes, including action plans for policy and implementation and other ways to raise the grade before the next AWI report, which will be given for the Mississippi River basin in 2020.

Maj. Gen. Michael Wehr, USACE

Major General Michael C. Wehr serves as the senior military officer of the Mississippi Valley Division of the US Army Corps of Engineers, headquartered in Vicksburg. The division is responsible for water resources engineering solutions in a 370,000 square-mile area, from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. The mission of the division is to manage the watersheds and develop collaborative engineering solutions that will reduce risks through the reduction of flood damage potential, maintain and enhance navigation, and protect, restore and enhance environmental ecosystems.



Michael Reuter, The Nature Conservancy

A founding member of the steering committee for America's Watershed Initiative and the Director of The Nature Conservancy's Water Program, **Michael Reuter** has worked throughout the U.S. and globally for more than two decades to establish and improve water management in support of conservation and the sustainable and equitable use of our vital rivers, lakes and aquifers. He lives in the St. Louis area with his wife and three children.



Sec. Bill Northey, IA Dept. of Agriculture

Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, is a fourth-generation Iowa farmer. On his farm Northey uses reduced tillage, GPS, and grid soil sampling. Northey ran on a platform of expanding opportunities in renewable energy and promoting science and technology to better conserve our air, soil and water. Northey has traveled around the world to view agricultural operations. He graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Agricultural Business. Northey received a Masters in Business Administration from Southwest Minnesota State University in 2004.

