

9th Annual Upper Mississippi River Conference

Raising the Grade

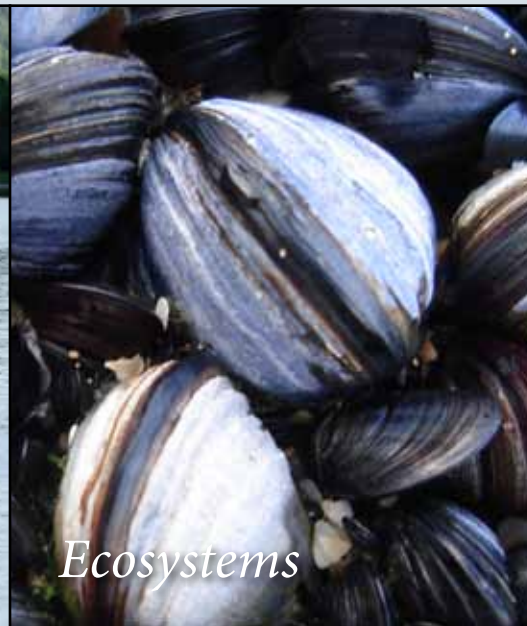
October 13-14, 2016
iWireless Center, Moline, Illinois



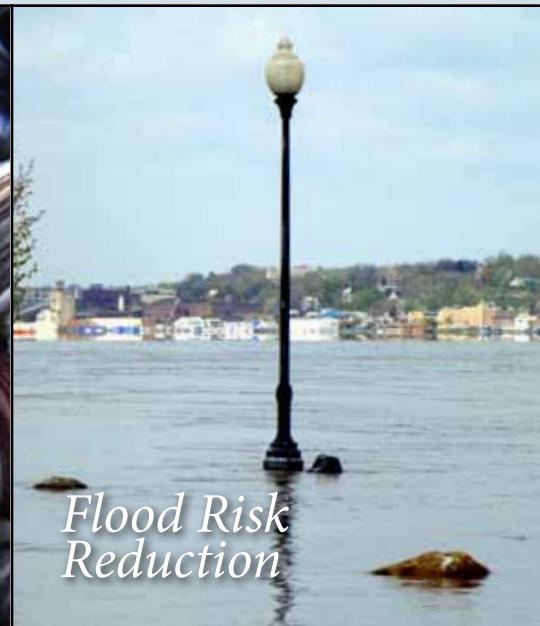
Energy



Recreation



Ecosystems



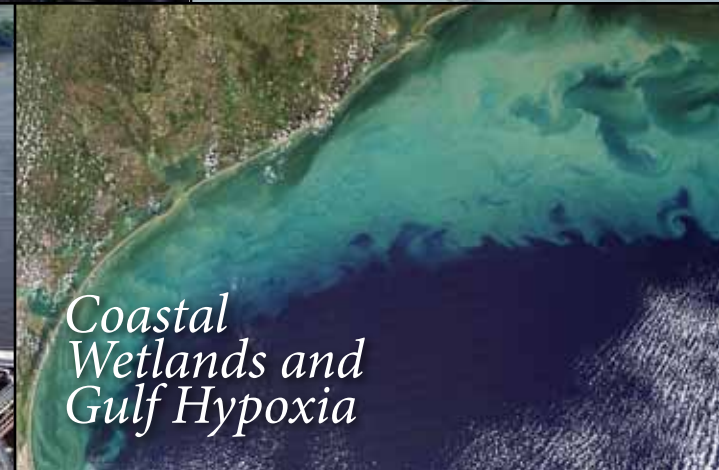
*Flood Risk
Reduction*



*Water
Supply*



Transportation



*Coastal
Wetlands and
Gulf Hypoxia*



RIVERACTION

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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

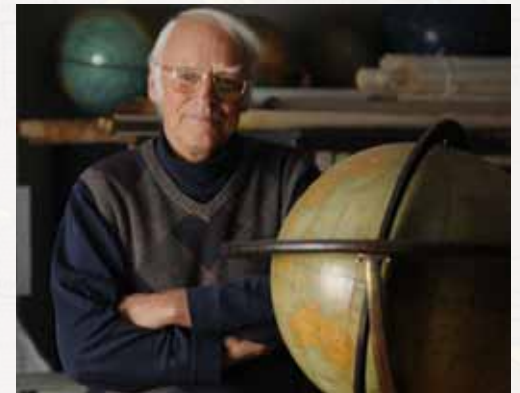
- 3:30 Registration Opens
- 3:50 Welcome Speech
- 4:00 Field Trips
 - A. Kone — Tour of a Platinum Green Building
Rodney Blackwell, Developer
Financial District Properties, Davenport
 - B. Sustainability Right Before Your Eyes:
Ten Examples Near Sylvan Island
Dr. Norm Moline, Professor Emeritus,
Augustana 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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon (Thursday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest for Luncheon (\$20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catfish Fry (Thursday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest for Catfish Fry (\$20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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
- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:25 Introductions
- 8:30 Opening Keynote, “Grading the River”
Dr. Heath Kelsey, Program Director
University of Maryland, Cambridge
- 9:30 River/Watershed Panel
Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Des Moines
EPA State Agency Co-chair Gulf Hypoxia Task Force
Maj. Gen Michael Wehr, Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg
Dru Buntin, Executive Director
Upper Miss. River Basin Assn., St. Paul
- 11:15 Morning Concurrent Sessions
 - I. Energy
A representative from Rye Development, Boston
A representative from Missouri River Energy Services, Sioux Falls, SD
A representative from Exelon, Cordova, IL
 - II. Flood Control and Risk Reduction
Dr. Larry Weber, Professor of Engineering
Univ. of Iowa Flood Center, Iowa City
Mike Klingner, Chairman
Upper Miss., Illinois & Missouri Rivers Assn.
Sally McConkey, P.E., CFM, D.WRE., Section Head
IL State Water Survey, Prairie Research Inst., Univ. of IL
 - III. Recreation
Steven Carlyon, Director
La Crosse Parks, Recreation and Forestry Dept., La Crosse
Kim Rea, Recreation Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Alton
- 12:30 Luncheon Speaker
Dana Starkell, Mississippi River Sojourner
Bettendorf
- 1:45 Early Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

IV. Ecosystems

Gretchen Benjamin, Assoc. Dir. Water Resources
Infrastructure at The Nature Conservancy, La Crosse
Ken Barr, Chief of Environmental Analysis Branch
US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island

V. Water Supply

Dr. Maria Lemke, Aquatic Ecologist
The Nature Conservancy
Randy Moore, President
Iowa American Water, Davenport

2:45 Late Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

VI. Transportation

Mike Cox, Operations Division Chief
US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island
Paul Rohde, Vice President
Waterways Council Inc, St. Louis
Marty Hettel, Chairman
Inland Waterways User Board, Chesterfield
Scott Sigman, Transportation Infrastructure Lead
Illinois Soybean Assn., Bloomington

VII. Gulf Hypoxia

Laura Christianson, Ph. D., Asst Prof of Water Quality
Univ. of Illinois, Urbana
Kelly Warner, Hydrologist
USGS IL Water Science Center, Urbana
Steve Richter, Dir. of Conservation Programs
The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin

3:45 Mississippi River Economic Update

Colin Wellenkamp, Executive Director
Miss. River Cities & Towns Initiative, St. Louis

4:00 Raise-the-Grade Challenge

Michael Reuter, North America Water Dir
The Nature Conservancy, St. Louis
Founding Member of AWI

5:00 Student Poster Session

6:30 Catfish Fry

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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Dru Buntin, Upper Miss. River Basin Assn.



Dru Buntin has a passion for big river systems. He has a great sense of respect for the complexities of balancing all societal uses of these resources. He has developed relationships with many key decision makers in government, the conservation community, agriculture, the navigation industry and other sectors throughout the Midwest.

He has a proven record of motivating and leading staff, developing consensus among a large and diverse set of partners and stakeholders, and creating and managing multi-million dollar projects.

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.

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Friday, October 14

Schedule At-a-Glance

7:00 Breakfast / Registration Opens

8:15 Working Sessions I

I. Energy
TBD

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*

IV. Ecosystems

*Roger Viadero Ph.D., Professor
Western Illinois University, Macomb*

V. Water Supply

*Scott Tomkins
Illinois EPA Bureau of Water*

VI. Transportation

*Dan Mecklenborg, Senior Vice President
Ingram Barge Company, Nashville*

VII. Gulf Hypoxia

*Rebecca Smith, Program Director
The Nature Conservancy, Madison*

10:15 Break

10:30 Working Sessions II

12:00 Lunch

2:00 Press Conference

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.



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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 in North America, **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.

