

# Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative

Mississippi River Forum

March 15, 2013

Mayor Dave Kleis

# MRCTI Need

Over 3 million residents collectively populate the 124 Mississippi River main stem cities and towns. These population centers are soundly River-centric. MRCTI will give a common voice to those who depend most upon the River, and by virtue of doing so, will span political and economic interests. That is, it will tap a natural source of the longed-for integration of transportation, farming, industrial, municipal, and environmental interests to launch lasting solutions to River management issues.



# MRCTI Origin

**The Northeast-Midwest Institute** is a Washington-based, private, nonprofit, and nonpartisan research organization dedicated to economic vitality, environmental quality, and regional equity for Northeast and Midwest states.



**The Northeast-Midwest Institute (NEMWI) received a grant from the Walton Family Foundation to create a new and influential voice for the Mississippi River, dramatically increasing demand for effective river protection, restoration, and management in Washington, DC.**

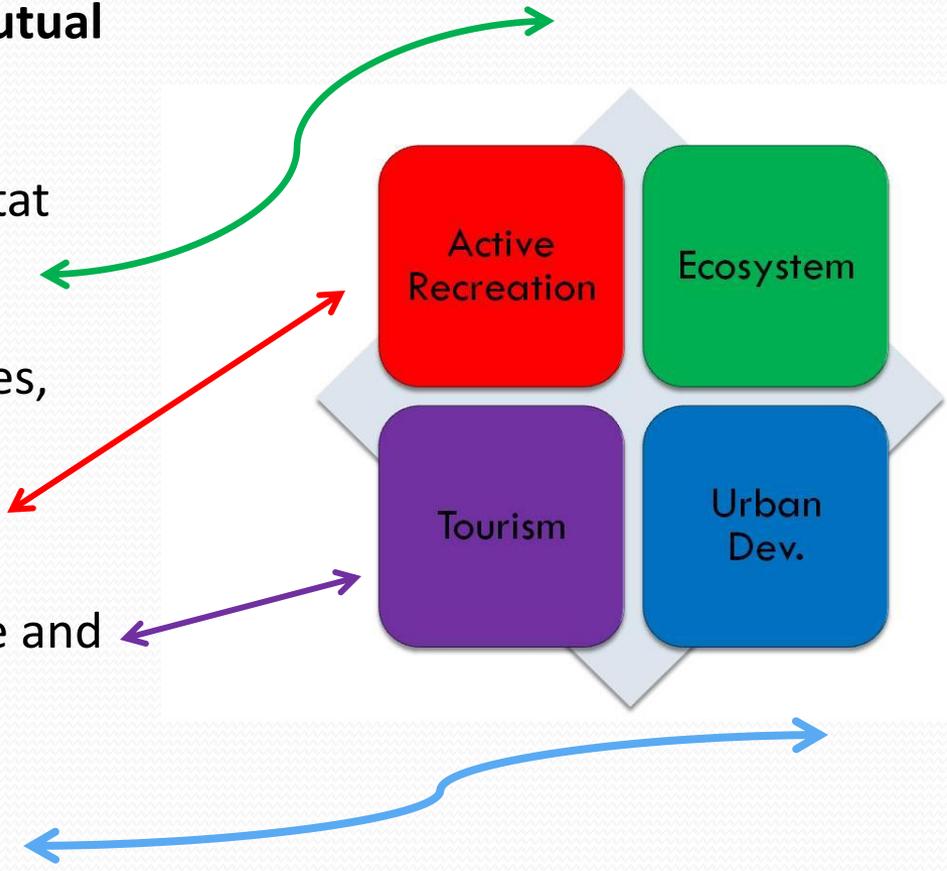


# MRCTI Mission

# St. Cloud Plan – Focus Areas

MRCTI will address matters of mutual concern, including:

- River water quality and habitat restoration,
- Flooding and floodplain issues,
  - River-focused recreation,
- Celebration of the River culture and history.
- Sustainable economies



# MRCTI Outcomes

- Water quality
- flood and floodplain management
- Recreational/environmental protection
- economic health of river communities
  - attract green jobs
  - move to sustainable economies
- local environmental protection goals
  - new urgency to river issues
  - new strength to resolve them.

Protection

Economy

Progress

# St. Cloud Plan – Principles

- irreplaceable community asset
- healthy and diverse river ecosystem.
- year-round recreation for all ages/abilities
- cultural heritage of the river.
- visual and physical connections
  - mix of urban land uses
- new investment/sustain economy
- public-private partnership/leadership
  - collaborative implementation

# MRCTI Officers

*Francis Slay, Mayor of St. Louis, MO*

*David Kleis, Mayor of St. Cloud, MN*



# MRCTI Membership

Out of the ten states touched by the Mississippi River, all are represented within MRCTI:

*St. Cloud, MN*  
*Clearwater, MN*  
*Minneapolis, MN*  
*St. Paul, MN*  
*Prescott, WI*  
*Red Wing, MN*  
*La Crosse, WI*  
*Winona, MN*  
*Lansing, IA*  
*Prairie du Chien, WI*  
*Guttenberg, IA*  
*Dubuque, IA*  
*Clinton, IA*  
*Savanna, IL*  
*Bettendorf, IA*

*Moline, IL*  
*Rock Island, IL*  
*Davenport, IA*  
*Muscatine, IA*  
*Burlington, IA*  
*Fort Madison, IA*  
*Canton, MO*  
*LaGrange, MO*  
*Clarksville, MO*  
*Grafton, IL*  
*Alton, IL*  
*St. Louis, MO*  
*Sauget, IL*  
*Prairie du Rocher, IL*  
*Ste. Genevieve, MO*

*Cairo, IL*  
*Wickliffe, KY*  
*Columbus, KY*  
*Tiptonville, TN*  
*Osceola, AR*  
*Memphis, TN*  
*Helena-West Helena, AR*  
*Vicksburg, MS*  
*Natchez, MS*  
*Vidalia, LA*  
*Baton Rouge, LA*  
*New Orleans, LA*  
*East Moline, IL*  
*Chester, IL*

# MRCTI – Mayors Pledge

As Mayors, we come together envisioning a  
Mississippi River:



**healthy**

**revitalized**

**protected**

**ecologically restored**

**the center of community rediscovery**

**the driver of an economic renaissance**

# MRCTI – Mayors Pledge

As Mayors, we pledge to enact this vision by:

**achieving agreed-upon interests and goals in an inclusive and collegial atmosphere**

**defining objectives and actions that are rooted in our collective wisdom and the needs of the River as a whole**

**establishing project partnerships that further our effort to value, conserve, and revive the ecology and economy of the River**

**building programs founded on a shared**

**conservation ethic to realize a sustainable condition for the River**

# MRCTI – Capitol Meeting

Mississippi River  
Cities & Towns Initiative

Capitol Meeting  
**March 19-21 2013**



*Mayors from the entire length of  
America's Great Waterway will gather in  
Washington, DC to give a new and powerful  
voice to the growing national chorus for the  
Mississippi River.*

# MRCTI 2012 Annual Meeting

St. Louis, Missouri



# MRCTI 2013 Annual Meeting

St. Cloud Rivers Edge Convention Center

