

Welcome

Dear 2015 conference participants,

On behalf of the Planning Committee, we want to welcome you to the 2015 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System. This 15th biennial conference continues a tradition begun in 1987 when then-Governor James R. Thompson joined forces with a group of concerned citizens to focus attention on the growing problems of erosion and sedimentation along the Illinois River and its tributaries. They believed bringing citizens and local, state, and federal organizations together in a common forum would help begin the process of discovering solutions to these problems. Held in Peoria, this conference continues to grow with support from Governor Bruce Rauner. This year's theme, "A Watershed Partnership," emphasizes the various partnerships needed to bring about solutions to watershed issues.

Some of the highlights you can expect include:

- The River Coordinating Councils quarterly meeting held on Tuesday, October 27th at 6:00-8:00 p.m., including a public forum for discussion, comments, and questions. This is a joint meeting of the Illinois, Mississippi, and Ohio and Wabash River Coordinating Councils chaired by Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti.
- A Watershed Tour on Tuesday, October 27th.
- Four workshops on October 27th: Fellowship of the Stream—Education & Outreach; Achieve Your Watershed Objective: Plan, Plan, (Then Work Your) Plan!; Implementing the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy; and Watershed Partners Café.
- Plenary keynote speakers from America's Watershed Initiative, Fox Tales International, the Center for Neighborhood Technology, University of Illinois, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as two authors who join us from the shores of Lake Michigan and the other side of the pond.
- Twelve concurrent sessions allowing you to select from a wide array of topics.
- The Watershed Exchange and Poster Session on Wednesday, October 28th where you can learn about data and information resources available from local, state, and federal organizations and see interesting posters on some of the latest scientific research being conducted in the Illinois River basin.
- An extensive list of exhibitors waiting to show you their latest activities and education opportunities.
- The Peoria Riverfront Museum Meander on Wednesday, October 28th. We will be welcomed by Douglas R. Oberhelman, Chairman of Board of Directors and CEO of Caterpillar, Inc. The evening event will allow you to tour three popular museum exhibits while talking with fellow conference participants right next to the Illinois River.
- Great opportunities to network with Illinois River water and watershed resource experts.

We truly hope you will find this conference to be informative, stimulating, and enjoyable!

Sincerely,



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