



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact:
Bob Anderson, 601-634-5760
robert.t.anderson@usace.army.mil

America's Inner Coast Summit to be held in St. Louis

VICKSBURG, MISS., June 17, 2010 – The Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Sand County Foundation, will co-facilitate America's Inner Coast Summit June 22-24 in St. Louis, Mo.

The summit brings together non-governmental organizations, federal agencies, states, tribal nations, large private landowners, private industry, academia and community representatives who are concerned with the future ecological sustainability of the Mississippi River valley, and ultimately, the entire Mississippi River watershed.

Brent M. Haglund, Ph.D, President of Sand County Foundation said, "We are excited to have the opportunity to co-facilitate this landmark event with the Mississippi Valley Division and to encourage collaboration of the many partners at the Summit to articulate a sustainable vision of the watershed based on sound ethics, science, partnerships and voluntary landowner actions."

The goal of the summit is to develop high-level recommendations to be considered in developing sustainable Mississippi River valley projects and initiatives. The summit will help further the exchange of information regarding progress and barriers/constraints on current projects, programs and activities.

"We are proud to be a co-facilitator, along with Sand County Foundation, for this first Mississippi River Watershed Summit," said Major General Michael J. Walsh, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division. "It is our sincere hope that this event will serve as a tool for future multi-partner collaborative actions to support a sustainable watershed vision and effort including social, economic and environmental considerations."

This conference also builds on several other recent foundation efforts such as: the Visions of a Sustainable River Conference hosted by the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center in August 2009; the recently released Mississippi River Commission Working Vision signed in August 2009; and the Sand County Foundation's sustainable partnership efforts with private landowners and industry. It is expected that this Summit will lead to the next steps for greater alignment of interests and actions in the world's third largest watershed.

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Speakers at the summit will include Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh; John Anfinson, historian and cultural resources program manager for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area; David Pope, Executive Director of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes; and Ivan Zavadsky, senior water resources management specialist with the Global Environmental Facility Secretariat. A complete list of the speakers can be found on the conference website.

While an invitation-only event, it is a visible sign of the growing recognition that whole-river system approaches are needed to address the watershed that covers 41% of the United States.

Summit results will be posted on the AICS web site and all can participate on the Facebook media link. For more information on the summit: <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aics/index.html>

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