

NWC 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

August 25–27, 2026

Vibrant Arena | 1201 River Drive | Moline, Ill

Schedule subject to change

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026 (PRE-CONFERENCE)

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM **NWC Officer and Executive Committee Dinner**
(By invitation only)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Mobile Tour - TBD**

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM **NWC Executive Committee Meeting**

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM **NWC Board of Directors Meeting**

12:00 PM – 6:00 PM **Registration Open**
(*Vibrant Center Foyer*)

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM **Welcome Networking Event**
(*Vibrant Center Foyer*) Opportunity for attendees to connect before the general session.

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Ms. Julie Minerva, NWC Chair (Partner, Carpi & Clay)

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM **Regional Realities, National Lessons: USACE Leadership Perspectives from the Mississippi Valley Division**

- **TBD**, Commander, Mississippi Valley Division, USACE (invited)
- **Colonel Joe Sahl (incoming)**, Commander, Omaha District, USACE (invited)
- **Colonel Andrew T. Niewohner**, Commander, Kansas City District, USACE (invited)

- **Colonel Kenneth P. Rockwell**, Commander, Chicago District, USACE (invited)
- **Major Simms**, St. Louis District, USACE (confirmed)
- **Colonel Aaron M. Williams**, Commander, Rock Island District, USACE (invited)
- **Colonel Matthew B. Chase**, Commander, St. Paul District, USACE (invited)

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Where Things Get Stuck: District and Division Civilian Perspectives on Studies, Projects, and Permits

Panel discussion with USACE civilian division and district staff from areas listed above.

- **Mr. John Peukert**, Deputy for Programs & Project Management, St. Louis District, USACE (confirmed)

3:30 PM – 3:45PM

Coffee Break

3:45 PM – 5:30 PM

World Table Talks

World Table Talks are interactive, facilitated small-group discussions where federal government speakers rotate from table to table to engage in focused conversations on key water and waterways resource infrastructure issues, challenges, and opportunities. This format promotes cross-pollination of ideas, networking, and actionable insights among attendees, fostering collaboration between industry, government, and stakeholders.

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

(Vibrant Center Foyer)

Welcome Reception

[WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026](#)

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Registration Open

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

What's Happening at the Corps?"

A candid conversation with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters leadership on Civil Works priorities, what's shifting inside the agency, and what it means for the people and projects in this room.

- **Major General Jason Kelly**, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (invite pending)
- **Mr. Ryan Fisher, Deputy to the Deputy Commanding General, Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** (invited)
- **TBD**
- **TBD**

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Local Host Spotlight: Corn Belt Ports and the Water Resources Future of the Heartland

A featured session recognizing Corn Belt Ports as NWC's local host and lead annual meeting sponsor. This session will provide attendees with insight into Corn Belt Ports' work, regional partnerships, priorities, and role in supporting economic development and water resources infrastructure in the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Waterway region.

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Fields, Freight, Floodplains, and the Future: The Upper Mississippi Regional Story

The Upper Mississippi region is more than a line on a map. It is a working system of farms, communities, roads, rail, terminals, waterways, floodplains, ecosystems, and water resources infrastructure that helps move goods from field to market and supports the economic life of the region. This session brings together regional voices who experience that system from different angles, including agriculture, freight movement, local government, flood protection, infrastructure operations, ecosystem stewardship, and economic development. Panelists will discuss what it really takes to keep goods moving, communities protected, and the region competitive when high water, low water, aging infrastructure, environmental conditions, and market demands all intersect. Rather than looking at one mission area in isolation, this conversation will explore how the Upper Mississippi works as a connected regional system, where decisions in one

place can ripple across farms, communities, supply chains, and the broader water resources landscape.

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

The Water Resources Escape Room: One Watershed, Many Players

This interactive session places panelists inside a fictional watershed facing a fast-moving water resources challenge. Each participant brings a different responsibility or perspective, from flood protection and water supply to navigation, agriculture, ecosystem restoration, recreation, and local economic impacts. As conditions change, the group must work through competing priorities, limited resources, unclear authorities, and real-world tradeoffs. The goal is not to “win” the scenario, but to explore what collaboration actually requires when multiple missions depend on the same system.

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Lunch Speaker

- **The Honorable Adam Telle**, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), U.S. Army (invite pending)

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

It’s Never Just Water: Real Stories from Water Resource Infrastructure Leaders

Water infrastructure rarely fits neatly into one box. A single project, system, or challenge may involve navigation, flood control, water supply, hydropower, ecosystem restoration, recreation, water quality, emergency response, funding, public expectations, and state and federal requirements all at once. This session will bring together leaders from different regions and sectors to share real stories about the pressures they are navigating, the solutions they are testing, and the lessons they have learned along the way. The goal is not to showcase perfect projects, but to surface practical ideas, hard-earned insights, and the kind of cross-mission thinking that helps water infrastructure leaders solve complicated problems in the real world.

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Coffee Break

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

The Permit That Ate the Project: *Best Practices in Federal Permitting for Water Resources Projects*

You planned for two years. The permit took seven. Sound familiar? This session skips the commiseration and gets to work -- covering what's actually changed in the federal permitting landscape, what smart project teams are doing differently, and how new tools including AI are helping people stop losing projects to process.

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

General Session Speaker

- TBD

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM

NWC Annual Meeting of the Membership (Notice to be sent out via email in advance w/proxy)

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

(off-site)

Conference-wide Reception

[THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026](#)

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Organizational Meeting of the Board

9:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Mobile Tour Day AND/OR Sessions