Important details:

• A block of rooms has been reserved at the Sleep Inn Courthouse Square at a group rate of $99/night. Please reserve your hotel room by March 4th. Group rate may not be available after 3/4.
  • Reservations can be made by individual attendees directly with Sleep Inn at (901) 522-9700 referencing group name Mississippi River Trail.

• For those of you that can be at the conference hotel on Tuesday, 3/11 by 4:00pm, there is the opportunity to tour the Harahan Bridge. This bridge was built in 1916-17 as the first span across the Mississippi River, in Memphis, Tennessee connecting both rail and vehicular traffic. The project will reopen the former roadways on the bridge for bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

• Our meetings on 3/12 and 3/13 will be at the Central Station - an easy walk or trolley ride from the conference hotel.

• Two very special invitations have been extended to all of the meeting participants.
  • Tuesday, March 11, 6:00pm - Mississippi River Trail, Inc. would like to welcome all with a light meal of southern dining at the home of local MRT Board Member.
  • Wednesday, March 12, 5:15pm - Offices of Lewis Thomason welcome all to a special reception to celebrate the Mississippi River Geotourism Project

For more information or to RSVP please contact:
Rory Robinson, National Park Service - Rivers and Trails Program, rory_robinson@nps.gov, (330) 657-2951
Or
Liz Smith-Incer, National Park Service – Rivers and Trails Program, liz_smith-incer@nps.gov, (228) 230-4120
To promote the magnificence and diversity of the Mississippi River as a national treasured landscape. This joint effort will work to increase recognition of America’s Great River, enhance the existing resources, acquire funding for conservation, and ensure that all Americans can enjoy these assets in the future.

Mississippi River Connections Collaborative Meeting
March 11 - 13, 2014 – Downtown, Memphis, TN - Agenda (as of 2/26/14 subject to change)

Tuesday, March 11
4:00pm    Tour of Harahan Bridge – Meet in Hotel Lobby for shuttle

6:00pm    Mississippi River Trail, Inc. would like to welcome all with a light meal of southern dining at the home of local MRT Board Member Joe Royer. MEET in Hotel Lobby!

Wednesday, March 12
The Historic Central Station in Downtown Memphis Boardroom, 545 S. Main

8:30pm    Welcome, Introductions & Plan of the Day

9:00am    Welcome – Memphis and the Mississippi River, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative
         •  Maura Black Sullivan, Deputy CAO, City of Memphis

9:30am    Brief review of MRCC, MOU, Strategic Plan and Operations Plan
         Moderator – Liz Smith-Incer, Outdoor Recreation Planner, RTCA, National Park Service
         •  MRCC Structure – Core Team
         •  MOU – adding partners
         •  Short term goals and direction
         •  Year of Fishing 2015

10:30am   Break

10:45am   Mississippi River Sustainable Communities (Geotourism) Initiative – Overview

11:00am   Strong Cities, Strong Communities – Susan Sieloff, Memphis Team Lead for the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities (invited)

11:45am   Lunch

1:00pm    Levee Top Trails 101 - Welcome and “Why build & the benefits” Rory Robinson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, RTCA, National Park Service

1:15pm    USACE Opportunities and Concerns of Levee Top Trails
         •  Nicholas J. Bidlack, P.E., Levee Safety Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District

1:45pm    Levee-top national Trail – St. Louis to New Orleans
         •  Greg Maxted, Executive Director, Harahan Bridge Project

2:15pm    Levee Top Trails – Opportunities in Arkansas
         •  Robert Moore - Arkansas State Highway Commission
         •  Jeff King, Chief Park Planner, Arkansas State Parks, Department of Parks & Tourism

2:45pm    BREAK
Thursday, March 13  The Historic Central Station in Downtown Memphis Boardroom, 545 S. Main

8:30am  Good Morning & Welcome

9:00am  Mississippi River Sustainable Destinations Initiative (Geotourism) Introduction and Update
•  Introductions – Core Team, Mississippi River Connections Collaborative
  o  Overview – Jim Dion, Sustainable Tourism Program Manager, Maps Division of National Geographic Society
  o  Update - Terry Eastin, MRCC Core Team and Mississippi River Trail
•  Action Plan, MRSDI!

10:15am  Break

10:30am  The Mississippi River Sustainable Destinations Initiative – The Geotourism Stewardship Council

11:45am  Lunch

12:45pm  MRCC Partnership Forum –
  Mississippi River Corridor – TN - Diana Threadgill

1:30pm  MRCC Partnership Forum - Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee – a coalition of 12 state natural resource conservation and environmental quality agencies in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. It provides the only regional forum dedicated to conserving the natural resources of the Mississippi’s floodplain and focuses on habitat restoration, long-term conservation planning and nature-based economic development.
  Angela Moore Erves, IT Specialist, Data Management, USFWS, Vicksburg, MS

2:00pm  MRCC Partnership Forum – US Fish and Wildlife Service
•  Great Mississippi River Cleanup
  o  Tammy Becker, Programs Manager, Living Lands & Waters
•  Discover "Ding" by the company Discover Nature Apps:
  o  Evan Hirsche, FOUNDER/FINDER/FUNNER, Discover Nature Apps

3:00pm  Wrap up & Next Steps

3:30pm  Adjourn