

## 2022 RIVER ACTION EDDY AWARDS

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[Robert Sinkler] will receive one of seven Eddy Awards being given this year by River Action Inc., a Davenport nonprofit that strives to foster the environmental, economic, and cultural vitality of the Mississippi River and its riverfront in the Quad-City region. The awards celebrate those who have gone against the current, as in an eddy, to accomplish outstanding work in the categories of art, design, education, stewardship, river activity, revitalization and, often, a special recognition award to people who have gone “above and beyond.” ...

### Robert Sinkler, lifetime achievement



During his 30 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – three as commander of the Rock Island District in the Quad-Cities – Sinkler became a champion for working with nature to control floods and for environmental restoration. He wanted the Corps to be known for ecosystems as well as flood-fighting levees and navigational locks and dams.

In 2009 he left the Quad-Cities to head up construction and engineering for a new storm and flood protection system for the city of New Orleans, following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Among other Army assignments, Sinkler served in the Pentagon as chief of army environmental programs where he developed and managed \$1.5 billion in annual programs that enabled the Army to maintain compliance with environmental laws worldwide and execute environmental cleanup and remediation.

After retirement he joined the nonprofit Nature Conservancy, managing its sustainable rivers program to make water levels behind dams mimic the fluctuations of water.

For America’s Watershed Initiative, he worked on the first and second “report cards” on the Mississippi River’s health.

He also launched the “Revolutionizing Midwestern Ports Initiative,” with a goal of designating the Mississippi River between Dubuque and Keokuk as a Port Statistical Area, opening up the region to more federal funding and private investment.

He founded and serves as CEO of Riverside Global, a non-traditional water solutions company that provides sustainable improvements to infrastructure. He also is managing government programs for Allonnia, Engineering with Nature.

“Work should not be managed by states, but by watershed,” Sinkler told River Action in an interview. “Reduce nutrients, improve water quality, and scale it up! If we managed water better, there would be no need for flood fighting.”

[https://qctimes.com/news/local/2022-river-action-eddy-awards-if-you-don-t-show-up-who-s-going-to/article\\_245f4907-f1ab-5bde-b933-681e9487c67b.html](https://qctimes.com/news/local/2022-river-action-eddy-awards-if-you-don-t-show-up-who-s-going-to/article_245f4907-f1ab-5bde-b933-681e9487c67b.html)

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