



Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
3rd Quarter Meeting
August 31, 2017 • 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
State Office Building Room 500 North

DRAFT AGENDA

- 2:30 p.m. Introductions** S. Johnson
- 2:35 p.m. Approve Today's Agenda & Minutes from 6/8/17** S. Johnson/All
- 2:40 p.m. Commission Business**
- Budget Report Miller
 - Letter of Comment/Support Process – Consider Revisions All
 - Regional Meetings/Elections Miller
 - Executive Committee Report Handout/Committee Members
- 3:05 p.m. National MRPC**
- 2017 Annual Meeting – Marquette, IA, Sept. 19-21 S. Johnson/Samp
 - Committee Updates Committee Members
 - Drive the Great River Road Month Lewis/Miller
 - Interpretive Center Nominations & Visits Mulry/Miller
- 3:25 p.m. Commission Projects & Updates**
- Mississippi River Trail Walton
 - GIS/LIS Conference & MN GRR Sense of Place Presentation Lewis/Miller/All
 - Great River Road Day at the Capitol All
 -
- 3:50 p.m. Letters/Actions**
- US Army Corps of Engineers Pool 4 Dredging Plan (Public Testimony/Consider Draft MN-MRPC Letter) All
 - Mississippi Multimedia Gallery Partnership Letter All
- 4:10 p.m. Agency and Regional Updates**
- Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids
 - Brainerd to Elk River Samp
 - Elk River to Hastings Pierson
 - Hastings to Iowa Border Mulry
 - Agriculture Hugunin
 - Explore MN Tourism A. Johnson
 - Historical Society Kelliher
 - Natural Resources Parker/Bonsignore
 - Transportation Bradley
 - National Park Service/MISS Karasch
- 4:55 p.m. Other Business**
- 5:00 p.m. Wrap Up and Adjourn**



**Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
2nd Quarter Meeting – June 8, 2017
State Office Building, St. Paul MN
MINUTES – Draft**

Commissioners Present

Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River
Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings
Nancy Salminen – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids
Anne Lewis – At Large Member
Andrea Kajer – Historical Society Appointee
Rep. Sheldon Johnson

Commissioners Participating by Phone

Keith Parker, Natural Resources Appointee

Technical Advisors & Staff Present

Carol Zoff – Transportation
John Anfinson – NPS
Gina Bonsignore – Natural Resources
David Kelliher – Historical Society
Greg Hubinger - LCC
Diane Henry-Wangensteen - LCC
Chris Miller – Staff

Commissioners & Technical Advisors

Absent

Sen. Patricia Torres-Ray
Sen. David Senjem
Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border
Paul Hugunin – Agriculture Appointee
Scott Bradley – Transportation Appointee
Adam Johnson – Tourism Appointee
Millie Phillip - Tourism

Guests/Speakers Present

Boxuan Xia, MnDOT
Liz Walton, MnDOT
John Shepard, Hamline University
Tracy Fredin, Hamline University

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 by Chair Johnson followed by introductions. A quorum was reached at 2:55.

Mississippi Multimedia Gallery Informational Presentation

Chair Johnson welcomed John Shepard and Tracy Fredin of Hamline University, who shared an overview of the Mississippi Multimedia Gallery. The Gallery is a place based story telling tool featuring the full length of the Mississippi River via 55 inch kiosk. The river is brought to life using maps, videos, photos, and games. Searchable categories include River Games, The River Through the Arts, and The River Through Time and Place, providing six hours of total content. Customization is available to add content related to specific locations or regions, such as has been done for the kiosk to be placed within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Different sizes of kiosks are also possible. Overview materials describing the Gallery are attached. The content was developed by the Center for Global Environmental Education at Hamline University and they are now looking for partners to assist with funding and placement of kiosks at locations along the river. Purchase and lease options are available. Kiosks have been or are soon to be placed at two locations in New Orleans, Itasca State Park and MNRRA's St. Anthony Falls Visitor Center. The National Eagle Center is seeking funds for a kiosk as well. Great River Road Interpretive Centers could be good options as placement sites. There are 12 such centers designated in Minnesota and over 70 in the ten river states. A demo was recently provided at the National MRPC Office in Madison, Wisconsin and the topic is being considered for inclusion on the 2017 Annual Meeting agenda. Opportunities include partnerships to seek funds and place kiosks, and/or jointly sponsoring a Great River Road version of the program.

Commission member questions and discussion followed the presentation. Questions included whether a kiosk could be used as a traveling exhibit (yes) and whether there are connections to education (yes – a curriculum framework will be available for grades 4 – 8). Site license costs were reviewed along with hardware variations and purchase versus lease options. Possible next steps include continued discussions, a defined partnership to promote and place the kiosks, and/or joint efforts to seek funding.

Review of Agenda and Minutes from 3/2/17

Motion by Karl Samp and seconded by Cordelia Pierson to approve the 6/8/17 agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Andrea Kajer and seconded by Cordelia Pierson to approve the 3/2/17 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Commission Business

Budget Report: Chris Miller referenced the budget report in the meeting packet, reminded members that fiscal year end is coming up on June 30 and that expense reimbursement requests are appreciated as soon as possible.

Legislative Updates: Greg Hubinger reported budget amounts steady at current levels were appropriated for the House, Senate and LCC for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. However, line item vetoes of the House and Senate budgets may result in litigation and all legislative offices are carefully managing and watching budgets in preparation for the new fiscal year start on July 1. LCC funds could potentially be used to support needs of the House and Senate. Chair Johnson reviewed the legislative session activity related to the MN-MRPC which included repeal language in the House State Government Finance Bill. The repeal did not carry into the final version of the bill due to the Senate version prevailing. Special thanks were noted to Sen. Senjem and Sen. Kiffmeyer and also to Commission public members who made contacts. There was discussion regarding the current House vacancy on the MN-MRPC, a recommendation that the position be filled, and offers by several Commission members to make calls or visits to determine interest of Representatives from their areas.

Officer Elections: Chair Johnson announced election of MN-MRPC officers as directed by the Executive Committee at their January meeting. Karl Samp facilitated election of the Chair. Rep. Johnson indicated willingness to serve one more term. Motion by Andrea Kajer and seconded by Cordelia Pierson to nominate Rep. Sheldon Johnson for the Chair position. Motion carried and the election was then resumed by the Chair. Motion by Karl Samp and seconded by Andrea Kajer to nominate Cordelia Pierson as Vice Chair. Pierson indicated willingness to serve followed by discussion. Motion carried. Motion by Nancy Salminen and seconded by Cordelia Pierson to nominate Anne Lewis as Treasurer. Motion carried. Thanks were noted to all current and past officers for their time and service.

Executive Committee Meeting – Confirm Date: The next Executive Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, July 10, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Room 500 North of the State Office Building.

National MRPC Updates

2017 Semi-Annual Meeting, Paducah, KY (Karl Samp, Anne Lewis, Carol Zoff): The meeting included mobile workshops featuring small communities in the four Kentucky GRR counties as well as historic sites. Revitalization efforts are underway in the river towns visited, including unique businesses such as export of Asian Carp and related products. Kentucky uses their "Trail Towns" program to promote communities including those along the river. A presentation on the National Advisory Committee for Travel and Tourism Infrastructure by MRPC representative Diana Threadgill centered on the importance of maintaining lists of shovel ready projects. The committee will be looking for fast projects and results. Diana Threadgill and Carol Zoff developed a white paper on the NACTTI to share with DOTs and other partners. Barriers to transportation are important to identify along with shovel ready projects. A question was raised regarding MN shovel ready projects. MnDOT provided a list of projects when originally requested by the NACTTI. The projects are not on the GRR but would improve transportation flow overall. MnDOT also encouraged reinstatement of Scenic Byways funding and noted needs for the Rest Area Program and restoration of historic wayside properties.

The Transportation Committee is working toward development of a 10-state Corridor Management Plan. All four MRPC committees would be involved in implementation. GIS alignments for the GRR route in all ten states have been received. The Marketing Committee will be including a GRR Snapchat filter as part of the "Drive the Great River Road Month" promotion in September. Each state has been asked to identify one site for placement of a Snapchat filter over Labor Day weekend. Itasca State Park is the recommended site for Minnesota.

Viability of the 10-State MRPC was discussed. Marketing efforts have been successful - website and social media visits are up. State Commissions continue to face challenges in some cases, though others are rebounding. There has been lack of engagement of DOTs in some states though CMP development efforts will likely help address this.

2017 Annual Meeting, Marquette, IA (Karl Samp): The 2017 MRPC Annual Meeting will be September 19 – 21 and the Iowa MRPC has been working hard on the agenda which will be available soon.

Interpretive Center Visits (Chris Miller): The MRPC Interpretive Center visit checklist was included in the meeting packets as a reminder that all centers are to be visited by a state Commission member annually. A list of MN GRR Interpretive Centers was also provided.

CMP Implementation/Commission Projects

Plan Your Project/Plan Your Trip Interactive Maps (Carol Zoff/Boxuan Xia): Work is underway on story maps of destination areas for the Plan Your Trip tool, building on the resource listings developed during the CMP process. The story map for each destination area will begin with the MN GRR video for that region, followed by history, byway resources, attractions and community information. Eventually the story maps will be available on the MN GRR website. Text, photos and links from partner state agency websites are used and their help is greatly appreciated. One destination area story map at a time will be developed with a goal of a full prototype in time for the GIS/LIS Conference presentation. When the first draft or two are available, information will be gathered on what it will take to include the maps on the MN GRR website. The maps will then be expanded and finalized after the GIS/LIS Conference, and could be ready for launch by the 2018 summer travel season.

GRR Wayfinding Signage (Carol Zoff): Thanks were noted to the DNR for providing local match for the signage project allowing MnDOT to align funds for the entire project. Much planning and communication with local communities has been taking place. A contract will be let on July 28 to re-sign the Great River Road and five other Minnesota byways. In addition to the Great River Road, other byways to be signed are Lady's Slipper; Avenue of Pines; Paul Bunyan; Apple Blossom; and Historic Bluff Country. Wayfinding signage was a primary need identified in the Corridor Management Plan due to the number of signs missing or past their useful life/noncompliant with standards.

MN GRR Map Reprint (Chris Miller): 28,000 copies of the MN GRR Map/Travel Planner were printed in April. Most of the quantity was shipped directly to over 50 distribution partner locations. The remainder will be held at the MN-MRPC office for individual fulfillment request, use by Commission members, and use at upcoming events. Minor revisions were made such as adding the two newly designated GRR Interpretive Centers. New 10-State GRR Maps were also recently completed and shipped to GRR Interpretive Centers.

MN GRR Sense of Place Presentation and Plan (Anne Lewis/Carol Zoff): A proposal in the meeting packets was referenced. The intent is to maximize use of the presentation and materials being developed for the MN GRR keynote presentation at the Minnesota GIS/LIS Conference in October. The concept can also be utilized for an update event, for the Drive the Great River Road Month promotion, and a tool for Ambassador Development. The presentation concept focuses on sense of place and the importance of the Mississippi River and Great River Road to Minnesotans, as well as how the MN-MRPC is meeting the goals of the CMP. In addition to preparations for the conference presentation, data and materials were put together during the recent legislative session that can be utilized. The current proposal is to hold a partner update event in conjunction with the November 9 MN-MRPC meeting. The event would be held prior to the meeting and invitations would be sent to key audiences including legislators, mayors, partner agencies/groups and the media. Assistance from members would be needed at the event. Members agreed on proceeding with a partner update event but suggested a different timeframe, potentially early in the 2018 legislative session. Meeting rooms on the 3rd floor of the Capitol were suggested. The Capitol tours that are regularly available weekdays each hour could be promoted to attendees.

New Business

Wildwood Community Solar Garden, Red Wing (Handouts): A newspaper article and map were included in the meeting packets describing the proposed solar garden and ultimate denial of a conditional use permit by the local township board. Sheronne Mulry attended a township meeting and provided information about the Great River Road.

Agency and Regional Updates

MNRRRA/National Park Service (John Anfinson): The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is beginning a disposition study for Locks 1, 2 and 3. There will then be a 60 day decision making period. Friends of the Lock has raised funding to transform the Upper Lock into a world class visitor center. NPS is also completing a study on their future presence at the Upper Lock. A community meeting regarding potential options for the Mississippi River is scheduled for July 13 at St. Peder's Church in Minneapolis. Ideas under consideration include removal of Lock and Dam 2 and 3, allowing the river to be restored to rapids. This is a time of tremendous opportunity and change. A question was raised regarding what would happen with invasive carp if locks are removed. The Upper Lock would remain, serving as a barrier to movement and native fish species would increase if Locks 2 and 3 are removed and the river returns to rapids. There was discussion regarding impact on future hydropower projects. Overall this is big news coming more quickly than anticipated and there could be a role for the MN-MRPC such as a presence in the visitor center. It was advised that the Commission keep an eye on developments. The Paddle Share program opened for the season on June 2 with expansion planned for later this summer.

Minnesota Historical Society (Andrea Kajer/David Kelliher): The grand opening of the Oliver Kelley Farm was held on May 6. New facilities are beautiful and all were encouraged to visit. There will be work beginning soon at Mill City Museum in the ruins area to repair damage from fire and freezing in the past. \$4 million was included in the state bonding bill for design work on the new Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center. This will allow the project to continue to progress toward opening in time for the bicentennial in 2020. Additional funds will be needed for the construction. Thanks were expressed to the MN-MRPC for their letter of support for the bonding funds.

Natural Resources (Keith Parker/Gina Bonsignore): A press release went out today describing the largest invasive carp ever caught in Minnesota. It was taken in a private gravel pit near Redwood Falls after likely getting there during high water from the Minnesota River. The DNR continues to monitor invasive species and is working with MSU Mankato and the Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota. Acoustic speakers have been installed at Lock & Dam 8 and similar deterrent systems are under consideration for Lock & Dam 5 to prevent invasives from entering both the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. The 2017 Governor's Fishing Opener was held in the Greater St. Cloud area and focused on the Mississippi River. Keith Parker spoke at the opening dinner on behalf of the DNR. The City of St. Cloud, Greater St. Cloud Convention & Visitor's Bureau and Explore Minnesota Tourism did a fantastic job with the event. The City of St. Paul continues plans for the Great River Passage project, including the east side river district. Many partners including the DNR are involved in this effort and credit was noted to Mary deLaittre, Great River Passage Manager, for her work. DNR continues to plan summer outreach with activities scheduled for Get Outdoors Day and also an event at Hidden Falls.

Elk River to Hastings (Cordelia Pierson): Development plans continue for the Upper Harbor terminal in Minneapolis including an entertainment venue and mixed use area. The demolition of the former Fuji Ya site is underway in the Waterworks area, and 9 acres of land in the St. Anthony Historic District will be undergoing new development soon. Increased numbers of people will be moving near the river as a result. Dakota County recently dedicated a new MRT section. As new residents are moving into riverfront areas, it would be helpful to have user friendly GRR Ambassador materials available. A question was also raised about the role of the MN-MRPC and public-private partnership in maintaining a list of shovel ready projects as discussed earlier in the meeting. It was noted that the Corridor Management Plan includes an investment inventory list of projects that will be updated.

Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids (Nancy Salminen): The historic bath house on Lake Bemidji has been restored and a grand opening was held on June 2. The facility will be available for rentals. "Mississippi Music on the Waterfront" will be taking place each Wednesday this summer at the Bemidji City Park. The

Bemidji "Loop the Lake" festival is planned for June 17 and includes a bicycle event, food, and artists. Replacement of Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline is under discussion in the region. Meetings will be held in Park Rapids, Bemidji, Cass Lake and Grand Rapids. A draft Environmental Impact Statement has been released and is open for public comment. Details will be forwarded via email. Review of the EIS indicates that Native American communities appear to be disproportionately impacted by all route options, and all route options would impact the river. A grant from Beltrami Electric will fund new benches on the boardwalk at the Lady's Slipper Scenic Byway interpretive area.

Grand Rapids to Brainerd: Amanda MacDonald has resigned her position on the Commission due to changes in availability. The position will remain open until the planned regional meeting/election in late 2017.

Brainerd to Elk River (Karl Samp): The Brainerd Riverfront Group continues to pursue their priority project, the Three Bridges Trail, which would include trail suspended over the river. They are also looking at ways to connect Crow Wing State Park to the Mississippi Northwoods property, and would be interested in having John Anfinson come to a future meeting. The Brainerd Group is moving into the third year of a grant from the Brainerd Area Community Foundation which will now be used to fund a project coordinator to implement the plan. The River to Rails initiative aims to connect the Mississippi River to the NP Center in Brainerd which now offers event space in a historic rail center. The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area and Cuyuna Lakes Trail continue to see increases in visitation and economic development. The trail association has raised \$600,000 for trail improvements. Funds were also included in the recently passed bonding bill to expand the system to 75 miles of trails which will eventually connect to the Paul Bunyan Trail. St. Cloud area information in the meeting packet was referenced including a recently installed selfie station featuring the Mississippi River, and an article on the St. Cloud Riverwalk Project. Chris Miller reported on the Riverwalk Concept Plan presented at the last committee meeting, which involves two phases and redevelopment of the riverfront area north of downtown with a goal of being a new river destination for visitors and residents alike. Shore Excursions will be offering another Headwaters Trip in August, affiliated with the American Queen. 23 people are already registered and Karl Samp will again be serving as a step on guide for the tour which begins in St. Cloud and goes to Itasca State Park.

Transportation (Carol Zoff): David Kelliher is a new member of the Minnesota Scenic Byways Commission, representing the Minnesota Historical Society – welcome! A strategic plan framework for Minnesota byways is being created and will be available at the MN Scenic Byways Workshop in early October. In preparation, all byway groups are asked to complete a short survey. The survey link was sent earlier today and deadline is June 14. MN-MRPC feedback is important to the process. Carol Zoff has been asked to provide interpretation for a day of the 2017 MN Commissioners on Wheels/Business First Stop Tour. The event includes Commissioners from eight state agencies and this year's tour will be in southeastern Minnesota including Mississippi River towns. Carol recently met with the Mayor and Economic Development Director in Lake City to discuss a variety of topics including redevelopment of the riverfront and opportunities for partnership. The city will look for resources needed to replace the deteriorated interpretive panel at the Lake City Concourse and their efforts are appreciated.

Other Business

Anne Lewis announced that there will be a presentation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the Pokegama Lake Association on June 19. Karl Samp added that the Corps is having conversations with a group in Cross Lake regarding creation of a potential Loon Center.

Next Meeting

2017 3rd Quarter Meeting
Thursday, August 31, 2017 • 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
State Office Building Room 500 North

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



Mississippi Multimedia Gallery™

A Curated Exploration of America's Greatest River:

- ***Interactive, Educational River Games***
- ***The River Through the Arts***
- ***The River Through Time and Place***

The ***Mississippi Multimedia Gallery™*** offers national audiences a museum-quality, immersive exploration of the Mississippi River from its Headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico. The program's large-format (55"), multi-touch, ultra high-resolution (4K) table-top computer kiosks bring the riverway vividly to life through highly detailed map explorations and compelling stories told through high-definition video, photo galleries



and immersive panorama photography. Interactive games encourage users to reduce river pollution. The Gallery also includes segments focusing on river-inspired work by notable artists and special places and people related to cultural and natural history.

The Gallery's powerful, engaging, multimedia story-telling experience connects with audiences of all ages—tourists and residents—from Minnesota to Louisiana. The program is produced by Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE), building on more than a decade of educational program development about the Mississippi. Support has been generously provided by CGEE's sponsors in the greater New Orleans area: the Arlene and Joseph Meraux Foundation, the Burns-Torres Trust, Associated Terminals, and Turn Services. The Gallery can be customized to highlight content from specific regions and topics of special importance to sponsors. As the Gallery is deployed in different destinations content can be easily added to allow in-depth exploration of local places, artists, and current happenings.



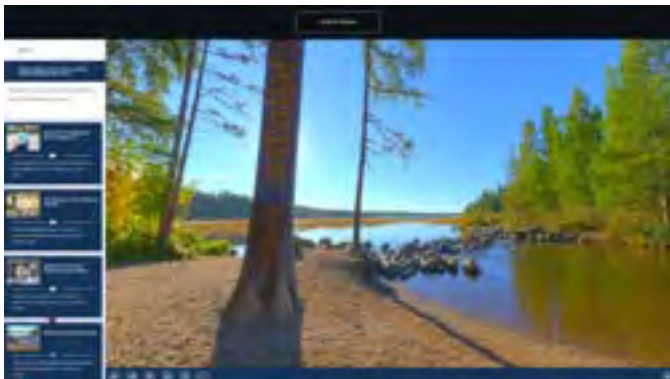
Interactive map interface

Intimate Interactivity

The Gallery program offers an intimate media experience. Content is accessed by hotspots links on a highly detailed map interface.

The River Through the Arts

This segment showcases how artists throughout the length of the Mississippi are interpreting and influenced by the waterway.



Headwaters 360-panorama

The River Through Time and Place

This segment features short stories in HD video format, photo galleries, and interactive 360-degree immersive panoramas that bring to life the river's natural and cultural history.



Journey of a Raindrop interactive

River Interactive Games

This segment includes compelling multimedia interactives drawn from CGEE's extensive multimedia resource library highlighting pollution problems and solutions.

For more information, contact:

John Shepard (jshepard@hamline.edu • 612-816-2814)
or Tracy Fredin (tfredin@hamline.edu • 651-823-8923)

Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education

***Mississippi Multimedia Gallery™* Content Outline** **September 22, 2016**

The *Mississippi Multimedia Gallery™* program provides a curated exploration of the Mississippi River’s natural and cultural history from the headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico. Media are associated with 35 hotspots located on navigable ultra-high-definition maps of the Mississippi River corridor. Through these hotspots, which are grouped into three categories, users can explore more than five hours of interactive content: 59 short videos (38 produced by CGEE, 21 curated), six 360-degree panoramas produced by CGEE, five curated photo galleries, and CGEE four interactive modules.

Hotspots categories

- 1. *River Games***
- 2. *The River Through the Arts***
- 3. *The River Through Time and Place***

Category I: *River Games*

This segment features adaptations of four CGEE interactive learning modules that introduce important concepts of how human activities impact river environments.

Total hotspots: 4

Hotspots	Description
1. Journey of a Raindrop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive depicting issue of runoff pollution and encouraging citizen prevention strategies
2. Streets to Stream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive depicting how impervious surfaces in urban environments impact surface water runoff and how impacts can be addressed
3. Watershed Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive introducing a watershed-orientation to understanding North American landscapes
4. Water Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive introducing how earth’s water resources are continually recycled by natural processes

Category 2: The River Through the Arts

This segment showcases how a sampling of current and historic artists throughout the length of the Mississippi have interpreted and been influenced by the waterway.

Total hotspots: 11

- **Videos: 15 (9 produced by CGEE, 6 curated)**
- **Photo Galleries: 3**

Hotspots	Media Description	Location	Source of Media
1. MaryLee Hardenbergh, <i>Dancing the Mississippi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: <i>Confluence</i> • Video: <i>One River Mississippi</i> 	Minneapolis MN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardenbergh
2. Henry Bosse & Chris Faust, <i>The Henry Bosse Legacy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo Gallery: St. Paul 1800s & today • Video: Bosse Legacy with Chris Faust. 	St. Paul MN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faust/Bosse photos • CGEE video
3. Henry Bosse & Chris Faust, <i>The Edge Effect and Creative Memory</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo Gallery: Red Wing 1800s & today • Video: Edge Effect with Chris Faust • Video: Creative Memory with Chris Faust: 	Red Wing MN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faust/Bosse photos • CGEE videos
4. Henry Bosse & Chris Faust, <i>Then and Now</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo Gallery: LaCrosse 1800s & today • Video: Faust re-photographing Bosse locations 	LaCrosse WI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faust/Bosse photos • CGEE video
5. Sara Lubinski, <i>River Sojourn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video segment from <i>River Sojourn</i> documentary 	Reno MN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video from KSMQ television
6. Mark Twain's Mississippi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: Don Shelby playing Mark Twain, excerpt from <i>Life on the Mississippi</i> 	Hannibal MO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE video

<p>7. John Egan’s giant painted 1800s panorama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video of giant painted Mississippi panorama by John Egan 	<p>St. Louis MO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Louis Art Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art
<p>8. John Ruskey’s Clarksdale Renaissance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video profile of artist and his work 	<p>Clarksdale MS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE video
<p>9. On the Trail of the Delta Blues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: Kevin Stone • Video: YZ Ealy • Video: Scott Barrett 	<p>Greenwood MS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE videos
<p>10. Crevasse 22: Art by the Levee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video of sculpture park interview with artists 	<p>Poydras LA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Alliance of New Orleans video
<p>11. Cry You One St. Bernard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video of <i>Cry You One</i> outdoor theater/dance performance 	<p>St. Bernard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mondo Bizarro and Artspot Productions

Category 3: The River Through Time and Place

This segment focuses on people, places and events that have shaped or are sustaining the Mississippi’s natural and cultural history and international importance.

Total Hotspots: 20

- **Videos: 44 (29 produced by CGEE, 15 curated)**
- **Photo Galleries: 2**
- **360-degree Panoramas: 6**

Hotspots	Media Description	Location	Source of Media
<p>1. Lake Itasca—Mississippi Headwaters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 360 panorama of headwaters • 360 panorama of old-growth red pine stand • Video: Itasca’s historic and cultural importance • Video: Itasca forest ecosystems • Video: Mississippi Water Walk: Sharon Day 	<p>Itasca State Park MN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE panoramas • Itasca videos by CGEE • River Walk video by Sharon Day
<p>2. The Falls that Built a City—St. Anthony Falls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 360 panorama of falls, lock and dam • Video: <i>One-River Thinking</i> • Video: <i>A Waterfall on the Move</i> about falls geology • Video: Falls history 	<p>Minneapolis MN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE panorama • CGEE videos
<p>3. The Eagle’s Story—National Eagle Center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: Introducing the Eagle Center • Video: Habitat and Territory • Video: What it Takes to have an Eagle Eye • Video: A Conservation Success Story 	<p>Wabasha MN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE videos
<p>4. Exploring the Floodplain Forest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 360 panorama of floodplain forest • Photo Gallery: Floodplain Portfolio by Robert Hunt • Video: <i>Living the Island Life</i> 	<p>Winona MN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE panorama • Robert Hunt photos • CGEE video

<p>5. The Working River</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: <i>Barging Ahead</i> • Video: <i>Clearing the Channel</i> • Video: <i>Damming the Upper Mississippi</i> • Video: <i>The Staircase</i> 	<p>Dubuque, IA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barging Ahead video by National River Museum • Other videos by CGEE
<p>6. Effigy Mounds— Sacred Lands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video on Effigy Mounds National Monument 	<p>Harper’s Ferry IA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE video
<p>7. The Apprentice: Mark Twain becomes a Pilot</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: Don Shelby playing Mark Twain, excerpt from <i>Life on the Mississippi</i> 	<p>Hannibal MO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE video
<p>8. James Eads— Master of the Mississippi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video on 19th Century master engineer, James Eads 	<p>St. Louis MO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE video
<p>9. Cahokia Mounds: An Ancient Civilization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: <i>Introducing Cahokia</i> • Video: <i>Mississippian Structures</i> • Video: <i>American Woodhenge</i> • Video: <i>End of an Era</i> 	<p>E. St. Louis IL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videos by Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site
<p>10. Vicksburg: the River & the Civil War</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video on the role of the Mississippi River in the siege of Vicksburg. 	<p>Vicksburg MS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE video
<p>11. The Birth of the Delta: Cradle of Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video on delta formation from <i>Restoring America’s Delta</i> • Video on coastal habitats from <i>Restoring America’s Delta</i> 	<p>Donaldsonville LA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videos by Cornell Ornithology Lab
<p>12. Delta Ecosystems: The Cypress Forest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 360 panorama of cypress forest • Photo Gallery: Dave Chauvin • Video of historic cypress logging • Video: <i>Saving the Cypress</i> 	<p>Bayou Sorell</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panorama by CGEE • Photos by Dave Chauvin • Video of cypress logging public domain

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving Cypress video by CGEE
<p>13. Delta Ecosystems: Coastal Marshes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 360 panorama of coastal wetland • Video on ecosystem services from <i>Restoring America's Delta</i> • Video on rebuilding wetlands from <i>Restoring America's Delta</i> • Video: Land Lost and Gained 	Bayou Sauvage LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panorama by CGEE • <i>Restoring America's Delta</i> videos by Cornell Ornithology Lab • <i>Land Lost</i> video by CGEE
<p>14. Dead Zone: Connecting Fisherman & Farmer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: A Shrimper's Tale—impacts of Gulf Dead Zone on fisheries. • Video: A Farmer's Tale—a MN farmer follows sustainable practices to reduce Dead Zone impacts. 	Chauvin LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE videos
<p>15. Survival in the Hurricane Zone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video on role of coastal marshes for flood and hurricane protection from <i>Restoring America's Delta</i>. 	New Orleans LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video by Cornell Ornithology Lab
<p>16. The Flood Effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: Poydras Crevasse: The Flood of 1922 with John Barry • Video: The Great Betrayal: The Flood of 1927 with John Barry 	Poydras LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE Videos
<p>17. The Battle of New Orleans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video commemorating the historic battle and national monument from <i>Go Coast</i> television show. 	Chalmette LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video from WLAE TV, Educational Broadcasting Corporation
<p>18. The Isleños: A Thriving Tradition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video clip commemorating Isleños culture from <i>Go Coast</i> television show 	St. Bernard LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video from WLAE TV, Educational Broadcasting

			Corporation
19. A Visit to Docville Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video clip from St. Bernard tourism video • Video about the Mississippi River Delta Institute 	Violet LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video from St. Bernard Parish • CGEE video
20. On the River: The Story of Delta Shipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: <i>On the River</i> about shipping activity at St. Bernard Port • Video: <i>At the Slip and Midstream</i> about St. Bernard Port as a transmodal hub • Video: <i>A Legacy of Service</i> about the Port’s history • Video: <i>A Wealth of Opportunity</i> about the Port’s industrial park • Video: <i>A Promising Future</i> about anticipated growth of Port activities 	Chalmette LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGEE videos

Allotment of FY 18 Funds

Legal Citation: ML 2017 1st Special Session Ch 77, Art 1, Sec 2, Subd 4 (approp to LCC). MS 16A.281 (CFD). General fund/1000 fund. Any unexpended funds roll to CFD at the end of FY19.

FY: **COMMISSION NAME:**

AMOUNT:

2018	Mississippi River Parkway Commission Operations (MRPC)	63,000.00
-------------	---	------------------

<u>Object</u>	<u>Description</u>	
41000	Full-time	
41030	Part-time, Seasonal, Labor Services	
41070	Other Benefits	3,000.00
41100	Space Rental, Maintenance, and Utilities - Non-State Owned Space	
41110	Printing & Advertising	1,000.00
41130	Professional and Technical Services - Outside Vendor	32,000.00
41145	IT Professional and Technology - Outside Vendor Services	
41150	Computer and Systems Services	
41155	Communications	1,000.00
41160	Travel & Subsistence - Instate	4,000.00
41170	Travel & Subsistence - Outstate	6,000.00
41180	Employee Development	1,000.00
41190	Agency Provided Prof/Tech Service	
41300	Supplies	
41500	Repairs to Equipment and Furniture	
42010	Statewide Indirect Costs	
43000	Other Operating Costs (MRPC State Dues)	15,000.00
47060	Equipment	
TOTAL *		63,000.00



*Total must be equal to:

63,000.00

Need to yet allot:

-

MN-MRPC FY18 Activity/Project Budget

<u>Activity/Item</u>	<u>Estimate</u>
Quarterly Meetings (4 @ up to \$1,600 each)	6,400
Special Meeting (tentative - dependent on need)	1,600
Executive Committee Meetings (2 @ \$500)	1,000
MRPC Dues*	6,000
Admin Contract	26,400
Website & phone basic costs (800 website + 300 phone)	1,100
National Meetings	7,000
Regional Meetings/Elections (3 @ \$300 +)	1,000
GIS/LIS Conference Presentation & Exhibit (CMP Implementation Project)	1,300
Partner Update Event (CMP Implementation Project)	2,000
Mailing/Shipping Maps (10 State and MN GRR Maps)	800
Additional Staff Hours (GIS/LIS Conference, Projects, etc. FY 17 average - 10 hrs per month @ \$55 = \$6,600 for year)	6,600
Website Programming Changes - Minimal	500
Other Meetings/Travel/Per Diems	TBD
CMP Implementation (in addition to GIS/LIS Conference, Partner Update Event)	TBD
Website Updates for Map Tools, Mobile Devices**	
Ambassador Development Pilot**	
Map Redesign/Reprint**	
Total Estimate	61700
Total Budget	63000
* a portion of the \$15,000 total was paid at end of FY '17	
** discussion needed on other sources of funding/support	



Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota

300 33rd Avenue South, Suite 101 • Waite Park, Minnesota 56387

Phone: 651-341-4196 • E-Mail: info@MnMississippiRiver.com

Members of the House: Sheldon Johnson (DFL – 67B) – Chair **Members of the Senate:** David Senjem (R – 25); Patricia Torres Ray (DFL – 63) **State Agency Appointees:** Paul Hugunin – Agriculture, Scott Bradley – Transportation, Adam Johnson – Explore Minnesota Tourism, Keith Parker – Natural Resources, Andrea Kajer – Historical Society **Regional Appointees:** Nancy Salminen – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids, Open – Grand Rapids to Brainerd, Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River, Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings, Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border **Member at Large:** Anne Lewis

DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION 8/31/17

Process for Project Comments, Letters of Support, or Related Action

The following process will be followed after a request for Commission action is received.

- 1) If the timeline allows for discussion at a regular quarterly meeting –
 - The topic will be placed on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair with information sent out to members in advance for review and consideration.
 - The agenda will be posted to the legislative calendar and MN-MRPC meeting webpage to allow for public notice. Public testifiers may be asked to sign up in advance.
 - Discussion and public testimony, if applicable, will take place at the meeting.
 - Commission will vote on requested action.
 - Staff will follow up with letter requestor as directed by the Commission.
- 2) If the timeline does not allow for discussion at a regular quarterly meeting –
 - A regional Commission member may choose to attend meetings for information or communicate with their stakeholders directly regarding an issue, without speaking on behalf of the full Commission or representing the full Commission.
 - The Chair will determine whether to call a special meeting for consideration of the request.
 - The request and any background information will be emailed to MN-MRPC members.
 - A meeting of the MN-MRPC will be scheduled to allow for public testimony with the agenda posted to the legislative calendar and the MN-MRPC meeting webpage. A meeting notice will be posted on the Commission's website, and a room will be available at the State Office Building to allow for members of the public to attend.
 - MN-MRPC members may participate by phone or in person.
 - Discussion will take place and a decision will be made on how to proceed.
 - Commission will vote on requested action.
 - Staff will follow up with letter requestor as directed by the Commission.

The MN-MRPC asks for the following information to help facilitate the process -

- Name of requestor and contact information
- Topic
- Brief overview or link to details for Commission review
- Action requested (letter, MN-MRPC representation at a meeting, presentation to MN-MRPC, material/update for information purposes only, etc.)
- Positive or negative impacts to the Great River Road, Scenic Byway Intrinsic Resources (archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, scenic) and/or MN-MRPC mission (To preserve, promote and enhance the scenic, historic and recreational resources of the Mississippi River, to foster economic growth in the corridor and to develop then national, scenic and historic byway known as the Great River Road.)
- Deadline for requested action or related meeting date
- Details on where letter is to be sent, or meeting to be attended

Adopted 5/19/16

Revised 3/2/17

Additional Information for Consideration 8/31/17



**Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Executive Committee – July 10, 2017
State Office Building, St. Paul MN
MINUTES**

Members Present

Anne Lewis – At Large Member
Rep. Sheldon Johnson – Chair
Andrea Kajer – Historical Society Appointee

Members Absent

Sen. David Senjem
Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings

Technical Advisors & Staff Present

Carol Zoff – Transportation
Diane Henry-Wangenstein – LCC
Greg Hubinger - LCC
Chris Miller – Staff

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Chair Johnson, followed by introductions. A quorum was present.

Commission Membership

DEED Invitation: There was discussion regarding inviting participation of the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), especially due to expertise defining and measuring economic impact. It would be very beneficial to the Commission's work to have DEED as a partner, whether in voting capacity, technical advisor capacity or other type of working arrangement. Rep. Johnson offered to contact DEED to get the process started. Committee members advised contacting the agency's legislative liaison. Diane Henry-Wangenstein could also provide contacts. Carol Zoff and Anne Lewis will work with staff on a request letter that could be sent in advance of a call, along with talking points defining the needs.

Regional Member Elections – Review Plans for 2017: Regional meetings and elections are due for the Itasca to Grand Rapids; Grand Rapids to Brainerd; and Brainerd to Elk River Regions. Tentative plans are to hold the meetings in late November – early December due to other commitments for the Commission earlier in the fall. The Grand Rapids to Brainerd position is currently open and will be held open until the election takes place. A sample agenda from 2016 was provided for discussion and revision. It was suggested that the sense of place presentation being developed for the GIS/LIS Conference and Drive the Great River Road Month also be used as part of the regional meeting agendas. Committee members agreed. The agenda will be updated to reflect this and other changes as needed to best reflect current conditions and needs. Email notices will be sent to regional stakeholder lists announcing the meetings and inviting applications for the Regional Member positions. Committee members were asked to help get the word out if they know of potential candidates.

Agency Appointments – Timeline and Process for Renewals: MN-MRPC agency appointments have not been renewed since prior to the CMP process and should be addressed. A sample letter was included in the meeting packet. The letter would be sent to agency commissioners requesting renewal of their appointment to the Commission, or a new appointment if appropriate. Current appointees would be contacted regarding their interest in continuing, and that information would be included in the letter. Committee members reviewed the draft letter, recommended addition of a thank you statement in the opening, and recommended proceeding with the process.

National MRPC Responsibilities

Dues Status: 2017 dues have been paid in full, and an invoice for 2017 dues has been received from the National MRPC. Funds remaining after payment of all FY '17 expenses will be applied toward the 2018 dues invoice.

Upcoming National Meetings – Plan for Attendance: The 2017 MRPC Annual Meeting will be held in Marquette, Iowa, September 29 – 21. The agenda and registration information were referenced. Past practice has included the following criteria for attendees representing the MN-MRPC – out-of-state travel allowability; available budget; committee/board coverage; and first time attendance. Executive Committee members agreed that these considerations should continue. Staff will send out information to Commission members, requesting indications of interest in attending and will then provide a list to the Chair for consideration. The 2018 Semi-Annual Meeting location and dates are being finalized and will be shared as soon as available.

Drive the Great River Road Month: Anne Lewis described the MRPC's Drive the Great River Road Month promotion, held annually in September. A report on 2016 activities were included in the meeting packet and an overview of the 2017 plan for the Minnesota Great River Road was distributed for discussion. The theme for 2017 will be taken from the presentation being developed for the GIS/LIS Conference – "Drive the Great River Road to Find Minnesota's Sense of Place." A press release will be developed and distributed to partners and media, information will be posted on the MN GRR website and social media and member agencies will be asked to help with promotion and sharing of information. A proclamation of September as Drive the Great River Road Month will be requested from the Governor. Six communities/attractions along the Great River Road will be featured, one from each destination area. Draft information will be sent out to MN-MRPC members for review and then featured communities/attractions will be contacted prior to the launch of the promotion. GRR Interpretive Centers will receive additional supplies of 10-State GRR brochures as needed and as inventory allows.

Interpretive Center Visits: The MRPC asks each state to complete annual visits of all GRR Interpretive Centers. The MN-MRPC should begin a regular cycle of visits and Zoff and Miller recommended that these take place when the Plan Your Trip mapping tool is ready for launch (likely in early 2018), which would provide a focus for the visits and new tools for sites to use. That timing would also fit well as follow up to the regional meetings/elections that will take place in late 2017. Regional members are welcome and encouraged to visit Interpretive Centers in their regions in the meantime. Committee members recommended proceeding with this plan and timeline. MN-MRPC will also consider suggesting revisions to the MRPC Interpretive Center visit form.

MN GRR Corridor Management Plan Progress

Carol Zoff reported on initial implementation project progress.

Wayshowing signage – the Great River Road and five other MN byways will be re-signed between this fall and next fall. Project letting is scheduled for July 28 and there will be some work accomplished yet in 2017. Committee members discussed and recommended dual language signage in tribal areas if possible. Andrea Kajer noted that dual language signage will be part of the new visitor center project at Historic Fort Snelling.

Plan Your Trip/Plan Your Project Interactive Maps – work continues on development of story maps for each destination area to be included in the Plan Your Trip tool. ADA accessibility is a goal and so straight line maps will be available in addition to the story map format. The Plan Your Trip tool will come a bit later in the process and will incorporate GIS locations of all new GRR signs that will be installed.

Ambassador Development – implementation will begin when interactive maps are ready to go.

MN-MRPC Budget – FY' 18 Funding and Priorities

Chris Miller referenced the FY '18 operating budget allocation form in the meeting packet. Budget priorities and estimates for the year were discussed, including quarterly meetings, potential special meeting, Executive Committee meetings, MRPC dues, MRPC national meetings, basic website and phone costs, map shipping, regional meetings/elections, GIS/LIS conference presentation and exhibit, partner update event and administrative contract. Projects dependent on available funds include map redesign/printing and website updates. Committee members discussed the need for maps and that other funding sources or sponsorships would likely be needed. Maps/brochures are important tools for promotion of the Great River Road and information about local/regional things to see and do, to draw

visitors and place a focus on the Mississippi River. The Minnesota Bicycle Map was discussed as an example of format and cost. It was suggested that sponsorships be included on the August 31 MN-MRPC meeting agenda.

MN-MRPC/GRR Partner Update Event

Event Purpose: Purpose is to raise awareness of the role of the MN-MRPC and importance of the Great River Road to Minnesota and to river communities. The sense of place presentation currently will be an important tool and information about the GRR and MN-MRPC utilized during the recent legislative session could be updated and utilized as well.

Target Audience/Invitations: Committee members discussed target audience and identified legislators and their staff, especially those representing Mississippi River districts. Other groups and partners can and should be invited as well, as appropriate. MN-MRPC members would be asked to participate in the event and also to invite others, especially from partner state agencies, to help build understanding of the GRR and MN-MRPC. Invitations should go out 30 days in advance with a reminder one week out. House and Senate floor announcements would also be helpful.

Potential Date: Early to mid-March was discussed as the best timeframe, early in the legislative session. Possible dates identified – March 6, 7, 13 or 14. Time frame would likely be 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. A room in the Capitol was suggested. Diane Henry-Wangensteen will provide links to room information for the committee to review, and availability will be checked for the identified dates. MN-MRPC members should be notified as soon as a date is confirmed.

Tentative Details: Several stations would be available for attendees rather than a formal presentation. Greeters would be needed and conversations between MN-MRPC members and attendees would be a priority to individualize the experience. Show and tell items are important – a draw is needed so people want to attend. Suggestions included a map of the Great River Road where people could mark their favorite view or place. MN GRR videos are available for use. MN-MRPC member agency work impacting the Mississippi River and Great River Road could be featured on posters. Working titles for the event were considered – “Great River Road/Mississippi River Day at the Capitol” was the general theme with detailed wording to be confirmed. Mississippi River needs to be woven into the title to increase recognition. Feedback on the event plan and discussion on member roles will be sought at August 31 MN-MRPC meeting.

Mississippi Multimedia Gallery – Next Steps

Carol Zoff reported on a presentation of this project to MnDOT Commissioner Zelle recently, with discussion on potential future application to properties including rest stops. Anne Lewis proposed that the MN-MRPC actively pursue placement of the kiosks and lead the way for GRR Interpretive Center involvement. This is a good example of providing value and information to Interpretive Centers. The National MRPC will also be reviewing the project and possible applications. Committee members recommended that the MN-MRPC consider a letter defining a partnership between the MN-MRPC and Hamline University to include topics such as facilitating connections/communications with GRR Interpretive Centers, providing letters of support for funding applications, etc. A draft will be developed for consideration at the August 31 MN-MRPC meeting.

Next Meeting

January 2018 date to be announced

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota

300 33rd Avenue South, Suite 101 • Waite Park, Minnesota 56387

Phone: 651-341-4196 • E-Mail: info@MnMississippiRiver.com

Members of the House: Sheldon Johnson (DFL – 67B) – Chair **Members of the Senate:** David Senjem (R – 25); Patricia Torres Ray (DFL – 63) **State Agency Appointees:** Paul Hugunin – Agriculture, Scott Bradley – Transportation, Adam Johnson – Explore Minnesota Tourism, Keith Parker – Natural Resources, Andrea Kajer – Historical Society **Regional Appointees:** Nancy Salminen – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids, Open – Grand Rapids to Brainerd, Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River, Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings, Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border **Member at Large:** Anne Lewis

DRAFT – FOR MN-MRPC CONSIDERATION 8-31-17

Mr. Robert Edstrom
St. Paul District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
180 5th Street East, Suite 700
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Re: Mississippi River Lower Pool 4 Dredged Material Management Plan

Dear Mr. Edstrom,

This letter is to indicate the Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission's (MN-MRPC) interest in the Mississippi River Lower Pool 4 Dredged Material Plan, as related to the Great River Road National Scenic Byway.

The mission of the MN-MRPC, established under Minnesota Statute 161.1419, is to promote, preserve and enhance the resources of the Mississippi River Valley and to develop the highways and amenities of the Great River Road. The MN-MRPC promotes, supports, and advances actions, responsibilities, procedures, controls, operational practices, and strategies to maintain the intrinsic archaeological; cultural; natural; historic; recreational and scenic resources that support National Scenic Byway designation. The MN-MRPC is concerned about potential impacts to these six byway intrinsic resources.

The online materials regarding the Pool 4 Dredged Material Plan indicate there are existing active and tentatively selected dredge spoil sites that abut and/or are visible from the Great River Road National Scenic Byway, and that transport activities will extend this impact beyond the parcels highlighted and may specifically affect the volume and composition of traffic on the byway itself. The MN-MRPC requests that potential impacts be assessed specific to the Great River Road traveler and the byway's scenic, archeological, historic, recreational (including Mississippi River Bicycle Trail - MRT), natural and cultural resources.

In addition to requesting consideration of the potential impacts to Scenic Byway intrinsic resources, the MN-MRPC supports and encourages consideration of comments submitted by our member agencies including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact the Commission office at 651-341-4196. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rep. Sheldon Johnson, Chair



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CENTRAL REGION
ECOLOGICAL AND WATER RESOURCE
1200 WARNER ROAD
ST. PAUL, MN 55106

July 12, 2017

Transmitted Electronically

Robert Edstrom
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
180 5th Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Draft Lower Pool 4 Dredged Material Management Plan

Dear Mr. Edstrom:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the *Lower Pool 4 Dredged Material Management Plan*. The stated purpose of this plan is to provide a “coordinated, long-term plan for managing dredged material in Lower Pool 4 of the Upper Mississippi River for the purposes of continued operation and maintenance of the 9-foot navigation channel.” As a partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and many other state and federal agencies in managing the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS), MNDNR is firmly committed to the river as a multipurpose system that supports vital commercial navigation, fish and wildlife habitat, water supply, recreation, and other services.

We understand the importance of updating the Lower Pool 4 dredged material management plan and have previously emphasized that continued use of emergency disposal measures in the absence of an updated plan is not acceptable. However, we also understand that public support for the Mississippi River as a multipurpose system is predicated on managing dredged material in ways that are both socially and environmentally acceptable. Therefore, while MNDNR’s review of the draft plan focused on natural resources-related considerations, we also want to emphasize our commitment to working with the Corps to ensure that the St. Paul District has the authority and resources needed to implement a socially and environmentally acceptable approach to dredged material management on Lower Pool 4 and elsewhere on the UMRS.

From a natural resources perspective, aquatic habitats in the Upper Mississippi River have been significantly impacted by impoundment and sedimentation, and it is important that dredging and dredged material placement are done in ways that minimize further loss or degradation of aquatic or terrestrial habitats. Placing dredged material within the floodway should be avoided. We have subjected the draft Lower Pool 4 Plan’s proposed placement sites to an interdisciplinary resource review and have not identified significant fisheries, wildlife, water, or rare resource concerns. However, that does not mean MNDNR is endorsing the selection of these sites, absent willing sellers. Moreover, as the process for developing a Lower Pool 4 Dredged Material Management Plan continues, MNDNR reserves the right to provide further comments regarding impacts on natural resources that may occur as a result

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CENTRAL REGION
ECOLOGICAL AND WATER RESOURCE
1200 WARNER ROAD
ST. PAUL, MN 55106

of dredging or dredged material placement, and on requirements for any MNDNR permits. As a purely illustrative example, if fill is proposed to be placed below the ordinary high water level to create access points to the Carrels sites, a Minnesota DNR Public Waters Work Permit would be required and a hydrological model would be needed to determine effects prior to any dredged material placement.

We are appalled that potentially affected property owners and partner agencies were not consulted in advance of the draft plan's public release. We understand the challenges when a plan or project involves unsecured real estate interests, but the lack of advance consultation has undoubtedly created its own set of problems. In the future, MNDNR encourages the Corps to work closely with all partners as early as possible to help develop its dredged material management plans. Early input from partners can help lead to a better plan that is more broadly accepted by those impacted by the plan and thus more durable.

Finally, MNDNR understands that the costs of managing this complex, internationally important commercial navigation system and ecosystem are increasing. Particularly as the more readily accessible dredged material placement sites are becoming full, the limitations of the Corps' "least cost environmentally acceptable" Federal Standard are becoming more evident. We strongly believe that managing the Corps' dredging program in both a socially and environmentally acceptable manner is foundational to the success of the commercial navigation system. As such, we are prepared to work with the Corps and other partners to help inform the Administration and Congress about the Corps' needs for a more flexible authority and additional resources.

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, thank you for the consideration of these comments. Please feel free to contact me with any questions (keith.parker@state.mn.us or 651-259-5635).

Sincerely,



Keith Parker
Regional Director

CC:

Barb Naramore, DNR Assistant Commissioner
Luke Skinner, Director, DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources



Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota

300 33rd Avenue South, Suite 101 • Waite Park, Minnesota 56387

Phone: 651-341-4196 • E-Mail: info@MnMississippiRiver.com

Members of the House: Sheldon Johnson (DFL – 67B) – Chair **Members of the Senate:** David Senjem (R – 25); Patricia Torres Ray (DFL – 63) **State Agency Appointees:** Paul Hugunin – Agriculture, Scott Bradley – Transportation, Adam Johnson – Explore Minnesota Tourism, Keith Parker – Natural Resources, Andrea Kajer – Historical Society **Regional Appointees:** Nancy Salminen – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids, Open – Grand Rapids to Brainerd, Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River, Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings, Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border **Member at Large:** Anne Lewis

DRAFT – FOR MN-MRPC CONSIDERATION 8-31-17

Mr. John Shepard
Associate Professor, Assistant Director
Center for Global Environmental Education
Hamline University MS A1760
1536 Hewitt Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Re: Mississippi Multimedia Gallery - Proposed Partnership

Dear Mr. Shepard,

The Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MN-MRPC) learned much from the demonstration and overview of the Mississippi Multimedia Gallery provided recently. We believe the project is a good fit with the Minnesota Great River Road Corridor Management Plan and mission of the MN-MRPC which is to promote, preserve and enhance the resources of the Mississippi River Valley and to develop the highways and amenities of the Great River Road. The MN-MRPC is interested in serving as a collaborative partner as the Gallery Project continues and develops.

The MN-MRPC has expertise regarding the Great River Road Route and Network of Great River Road Interpretive Centers (12 locations in Minnesota and 70+ locations along the full length of the Mississippi River designated for their remarkable river stories), established connections to local river communities and experience with Great River Road travel promotion.

The MN-MRPC potentially could contribute to the Mississippi Multimedia Gallery Project by –

- facilitating connections/communications with Great River Road Interpretive Centers,
- providing letters of support and collaboration on funding applications,
- providing cultural and historical expertise regarding the Mississippi River and individual locations,
- providing endorsement of kiosks as education tools and historic and engagement assets,
- providing content to enrich the product as appropriate (such as six regional Minnesota Great River Road videos),
- marketing these as new traveler resources when installed, and
- encouraging the ten-state Mississippi River Parkway Commission to consider adoption of a similar arrangement.

If the partnership parameters I've outlined here hold promise for you, as they do for the Commission, I would invite you to contact Chris Miller at the Commission office (651-341-4196). We would proceed to discuss this in greater detail once we hear from you. We look forward to your response and to working with you to further the Mississippi Multimedia Gallery Project.

Sincerely,

Rep. Sheldon Johnson, Chair