



**Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
February 21, 2024 • 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Hybrid – Zoom/Centennial Office Building Meeting Room 101**

DRAFT AGENDA

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- Welcome & Review of Agenda
 - MRPC 2024 Annual Meeting
 - Review Needs and Options
 - Recommend Minnesota Location to Forward to National MRPC
 - Other Business
 - Adjourn

**Please note –
No public testimony will be taken during this meeting.**

Mississippi River Parkway Commission 2024 Annual Meeting – Site Needs (2/12/24)

The National Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MRPC) is seeking a location for their 2024 Annual Meeting and Minnesota is being asked to host. The Minnesota MRPC has suggested Winona and Bemidji as possible options. Please provide preliminary information on meeting venues, hotels, and availability. This is very short notice, and we understand that details will need to be worked out as the process moves forward.

- Annual Meeting of the National Mississippi River Parkway Commission (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana)
- See attached sample agenda from 2023. Wednesday arrival, afternoon Board Meeting and evening welcome reception. Thursday is a full day of meetings and an evening dinner with speaker and awards. Friday morning meeting sessions wrap up around noon.

Dates

- September 18 – 20 (1st choice)
- September 11 – 13 (2nd choice)

Number of Attendees for Initial Planning

- 60 - 75

Travel

- What are the best options for travelers from the ten states listed above to reach your community? Cost and availability of flights and ground transportation will be considerations, as will mileage for neighboring state partners choosing to drive.

Lodging

- Room block of 40 on Wednesday and Thursday, 10 on Friday
- Prefer half king and half two beds but flexible. Request that breakfast is included in the room rate. Rates are a consideration (based on what is typical for the location).

Meeting and Meal Facilities

- Room on Wednesday afternoon for Board Meeting (15 – 20 people, u-shape if possible)
- Space for Wednesday evening welcome reception on or off site
- Thursday – Friday: Classroom set up for 60 – 75 people for general sessions and separate room for meals in rounds. Meals Thursday noon, Thursday evening (need catering). Standard audiovisual needs for meeting presentations.
- Separate rooms for technical committee meetings on Thursday afternoon – 4 rooms that fit 15 people each. Could do all four meetings in corners of a large room if needed.
- Minimal or waived room rental fees, especially if in same venue as hotel rooms and meals
- Helpful to have meeting facilities in the same location as lodging block, or within easy walking distance. Other meeting locations can be considered if transportation options are available in the area

Agenda

- To be developed by a planning team from the Minnesota MRPC and local host community, in partnership with the National MRPC
- Special activities can be added as the budget allows, or if there are sponsors

Timeline for National MRPC Communications

- Announce location in next few weeks
- Open hotel reservations in April
- Open meeting registration in May (meeting structure and budget complete)

Next Steps

- Information received back by end of day on February 16 will be provided to the MN-MRPC Executive Committee for review the following week. A recommendation will be made and sent to the National MRPC Office and they will handle site details and contracts moving forward. The MN-MRPC will share information on the site decision as it becomes available. Additional locations will be contacted if needed.

If interested return information to Chris Miller, MN-MRPC – chris@togpartners.com or 651-341-4196



2023 MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING

— Illinois | Sept. 20-22, 2023

Celebrating 85 years of the Great River Road and Drive the Great River Road Month

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 3-5pm Board meeting - *Calhoun Meeting Room*
- 4-5:30pm Registration - *Lobby*
- 6-8pm Welcome Reception - Hors D' Oeuvres, Music and Beer & Wine
National Great Rivers Museum - 2 Locks & Dam Way, East Alton, IL
A shuttle bus will leave the hotel at 5:30pm and leave the Museum at 8pm to return to the hotel. You are welcome to take the shuttle or drive yourself (approximately 25-minute drive).

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- 7:30am-12:15pm Registration - *Pre Function Hallway - outside Clinton Meeting Room*
- 7:45am New Member Orientation - Pilot Emeritus, Anne Lewis
Clinton Meeting Room
- 8:30am-12:15pm Opening Morning Session - *Clinton Meeting Room*
- Pilot's Welcome - Norma Pruitt
 - IL Welcome - Illinois Mississippi River Parkway Commission
 - Annual Showcase - Susanne Thiede-Barnet, National Office
 - State Success Highlights - State Chairs
 - Sustainable Tourism Development Planning & Socioeconomic Observations Along the Great River Road - Dr. David Perkins
 - Made in Illinois - Daniel Thomas
 - Illinois Success Stories - Cory Jobe, JD Lorton, Mike Morrow and Kyle Moore
- 12:15-2:15pm Lunch and Bison Bridge Project - Chad Pregracke
Clinton Meeting Room
- 2:30-4:30pm Technical Committee Meetings - *Clinton Meeting Room*
- 6-7pm Social Hour - Hors D' Oeuvres and Drinks - *Madison A & B*
Sponsored by Great Rivers Country
- 7-9pm Celebration Banquet - *Madison A & B*
- Speaker: Colonel Andy Pannier
 - Recognition, Drawing and Stewardship Award

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:30am-Noon

Closing Session - *Clinton Meeting Room*

- Nominations Report & Elections - Pilot Emeritus, Anne Lewis
- Mississippi River Water Trail - Melissa Sauter
- Illinois Great River Road Transportation Update - John Paris
- Illinois' Investments in a Statewide Public EV Charging Network - Holly Bieneman
- Pollinator Playbook - Mike McClanahan
- Keep America Beautiful - Edmond McDavis III
- Mississippi River Country Update - Lyn Pilch, National Office
- Technical committee updates - Committee Chairs
- Closing Comments and Final Drawings - Norma Pruitt

A special thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this meeting, especially the Illinois-Mississippi River Parkway Commission, our knowledgeable and generous speakers, as well as the sponsoring organizations who went above and beyond to ensure a great time was had by all!

