



**Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting  
August 11, 2022 • 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.  
Virtual via Zoom**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

- |                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>2:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>   | Senjem/All   |
| <b>2:05 p.m.</b> | <b>Approve Today's Agenda &amp; Minutes from 6/2/22</b>  | Senjem/All   |
| <b>2:10 p.m.</b> | <b>Informational Presentation – Land &amp; Water Conservation Fund</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Minnesota Program Overview</li><li>- Commission Discussion</li></ul>  | Audrey Mularie, DNR  |
| <b>2:35 p.m.</b> | <b>Commission Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Budget Report</li><li>- Regional Meetings/Elections</li></ul>   | Handout<br>Miller/LCC  |
| <b>2:45 p.m.</b> | <b>National MRPC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Annual Meeting, Memphis</li><li>- Committee Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Communications &amp; Marketing</li><li>▪ Culture &amp; Heritage</li><li>▪ Environment, Recreation &amp; Agriculture</li><li>▪ Transportation</li></ul></li></ul> | Lewis/All<br><br>Christianson<br>Anfinson<br>Karnowski<br>Wilcox |
| <b>3:15 p.m.</b> | <b>Drive the Great River Road Month 2022</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Promotion Updates &amp; Details</li><li>- Requests for Commission Member Involvement</li><li>- Commission Discussion &amp; Feedback</li></ul>   | Mallory Forseth, MDA   |
| <b>3:45 p.m.</b> | <b>Commission Member Updates</b>   |  |
| <b>4:15 p.m.</b> | <b>Other Business</b>  |  |
| <b>4:30 p.m.</b> | <b>Wrap Up and Adjourn</b>   |  |



**Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
2nd Quarter Meeting – June 2, 2022  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
MINUTES – Draft**

**Commissioners Present**

Sally Fineday – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids  
Megan Christianson – Grand Rapids to Brainerd  
Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River  
John Anfinson – Elk River to Hastings  
Jennifer Weaver – Hastings to Iowa Border  
Sen. David Senjem  
Sen. Patricia Torres Ray  
Rep. Kristin Robbins  
Paul Hugunin – Agriculture Appointee  
David Kelliher – Historical Society Appointee  
Grant Wilson – Natural Resources Appointee  
Lisa Havelka – Tourism Appointee  
Anne Lewis – At Large Member

**Technical Advisors/Staff Present**

Kelli Bruns – Natural Resources  
Tim Wilcox – Transportation  
Carol Zoff – Transportation  
Diane Henry Wangensteen – LCC  
Carol Bisbee - LCC  
Chris Miller – MN-MRPC Staff

**Members Absent**

Rep. Emma Greenman  
Marni Karnowski, Transportation Appointee  
Tucker Blythe, National Park Service

-----  
Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Senjem. A quorum was present. Sen. Senjem and Carol Zoff expressed thanks on behalf of the MN-MRPC to Jack Flom, MnDOT SEEDS Student Worker, for excellent work on MN Great River Road projects. Jack has graduated from the University of Minnesota, will now be leaving the SEEDS program and will be missed.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion by Anne Lewis and seconded by Megan Christianson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes from 2/23/22 and 4/8/22 Meetings:** Motion by John Anfinson and seconded by Sen. Torres Ray to approve the February 23, 2022 and April 8, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Informational Presentation – Three Rivers Park District – Plans, Projects & Program Along the Mississippi River:** Jennifer DeJournett and Boe Carlson were welcomed to the meeting. Three Rivers Park District is a 27,000-acre park system with a seven-member board. It is the only regional park system in Minnesota. Information was shared about the Mississippi Gateway Redevelopment Project, South Pond Learning Lab, West Mississippi River Regional Trail, and land purchases along the Mississippi River in Dayton. Discussion followed, including questions that have been received from residents about the land acquisitions. Superintendent Carlson noted that activities and acquisitions are done in partnership with local communities. Thanks were noted to the presenters for the information shared.

**Budget Report:** The budget report in the meeting packet was referenced followed by discussion and consensus approval.

**Regional Member Terms:** Chris Miller reported that a proposed change to regional member terms was included in the Legislative Coordinating Commission's policy bill and became part of the State Government Finance Omnibus Bill. If adopted, regional members would serve four-year terms (instead of the current two-year terms). Staggering of the terms would also be defined to assist with Commission continuity. The bill was not passed during the legislative session but may be considered if a special session is called. If not, regional member terms will remain two years in length and elections for the Metro and Bluffs Regions would take place in the fall of 2022.

**National MRPC Annual Meeting and Updates:** Anne Lewis shared information on the 2022 MRPC Annual Meeting scheduled for September 7 – 9 in Memphis. The agenda will focus on working sessions to strengthen state commissions. Thursday will be a "State Dialogue Day" where all states will be asked to share practices of benefit to the other states, along with discussion on areas of need. Friday will be dedicated to technical committee work sessions. The agenda and

registration materials will be available soon. Sen. Senjem encouraged all members to consider attending, and Chris Miller and Diane Henry-Wangenstein reviewed the out-of-state travel request process.

**MRPC Marketing Committee:** Megan Christianson reported on Marketing Committee activities including Drive the Great River Road Month and the new ten-state Great River Road map. She recommended that a winter promotion be considered by the committee, which could be of help especially to smaller communities. The new ten-state map will be going to print soon. The majority of the Minnesota supply will likely go directly to Interpretive Centers but there should be some quantity remaining. Members interested in receiving maps were asked to contact Chris.

**MRPC Culture & Heritage Committee:** John Anfinson reported that the committee and MRPC National Office are working on outreach to Interpretive Centers, including requests for completion of an online profile to ensure that up to date information and photos are available for the map and other promotional use. There are still some Interpretive Centers that have not responded and the committee has been discussing how to handle this for the new map. 150,000 maps will be printed. The committee will continue to look at ways to better connect with and provide benefits to the Interpretive Centers.

**MRPC Transportation Committee:** Tim Wilcox reported on the most recent meeting including a presentation by Anne Lewis on coordination with other committees, discussion on the route alignment and signage, presentation by Wisconsin MRPC on their pollinator efforts, and other states considering U.S. Bicycle Route 45 designation for their portions of the Mississippi River Trail. Minnesota's segment of the Mississippi River Trail already holds this U.S. Bicycle Route designation.

**Drive the Great River Road Month 2022:** Paul Hugunin introduced Christina Iliev of the MN Department of Agriculture, who is leading efforts for the Drive the Great River Road Month promotion. The theme is Fall Harvest on the Great River Road, sponsored by Minnesota Grown. An overview of the plan for the promotion was included in the packet and presented, followed by discussion. Members indicated interest in partnering and participating and provided suggestions. A meeting with regional commissioners will be set up to discuss ideas for itineraries and Great River Road kits. Agency members will be contacted separately. Information will be shared with Commission members as plans continue to come together and a possible press event is planned (potentially at the State Fair). Assistance will be needed with distribution of information, social media sharing and representation at the press event.

**GRR Roadside Storybook:** Chris Miller and team members provided an update. The team met in March and May and has been reviewing information on the history of the project, existing panels, and storybook (interpretive panel) content for 21 counties developed 20+ years ago. MnDOT has organized all materials and made them available electronically. LCC is looking at options to develop a longer term secure web page to store the materials for team access and future use within an implementation project. The team recommends that all content be reviewed and updated and will be doing a review of two examples to develop a project scope for review of all content. Completion of the Roadside Storybook would potentially take place in two phases (if funding is secured) – content updating followed by panel fabrication and installation. Options to post content online will also be considered. A lead agency/organization and project manager will need to be identified prior to seeking funding. The project team will continue working on the project scope and cost estimate.

**Partner Projects/Letter-of-Support Requests:** Letter-of-support requests were considered for three projects – Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Wild Parnip Project (National Scenic Byway grant application); Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tourism/Interpretive Center Project (National Scenic Byway grant application); and National Loon Center construction project (federal appropriation). Sally Fineday, Megan Christianson and Karl Samp shared information on the requests from their regions. Motion by Megan Christianson and seconded by Anne Lewis to authorize the letters of support as requested. Motion carried. Chris Miller reported that letters of support for National Scenic Byway grant applications were also provided for projects in Dakota County and Washington County as approved by members via email after initial discussion at the April 8 MN-MRPC special meeting.

**Commission Members Updates/Other Business:** David Kelliher reported on the new visitor center at Historic Fort Snelling, which opened to the public on May 28. The center will be open Wednesday through Sunday each week and has a focus on re-connecting people to the river. David suggested the site as a possible location for a future MN-MRPC meeting. Appreciation was noted to the MN-MRPC and individual members for support of the visitor center project.

Anne Lewis noted that the U.S. Postal Service has just released a new series of Mississippi River "Forever" stamps. All ten Mississippi River states are reflected and member were encouraged to pick up a set.

Diane Henry-Wangenstein provided an update on status of the MN-MRPC staffing contract. A formal Request for Proposal process is required periodically. The current contract expires at the end of August. A Request for Proposals for FY 23 – 24 services has been posted and placed in the State Register. Proposals are due June 30. Volunteers were requested to assist with the review process. Several members indicated interest and Diane will follow up.

Karl Samp reported that a groundbreaking event will be held on June 6 for the Brainerd Mississippi Riverfront Trailhead Park. LCCMR funds have been approved for this project and an additional \$1 million is still being sought to fund an amphitheater. Two tours are scheduled for early fall for groups from American Queen cruises, with Karl leading one and Kris VonBerge of the Little Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau serving as lead on the other tour.

Sen. Senjem noted that he will not be seeking re-election to the Minnesota Senate in November. He will remain in office until the new Senator is sworn in, and then a new MN-MRPC member and new MN-MRPC Chair will be needed. Sen. Senjem has been a member of the MN-MRPC for 20 years, since he first started in the Senate.

**Next Meeting:** August 11, 2022, from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

# MN-MRPC FY22 Budget Report

8-1-22

<u>Activity/Item</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>7/11/2022</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Remaining</u>	<u>% Spent</u>
Quarterly Meetings	\$4,500.00	\$275.00		\$4,225.00	6%
Commission Members - other meetings travel & per diem	\$1,000.00	\$314.20	\$55.00	\$630.80	37%
Dues - MRPC and National Scenic Byways Foundation	\$15,000.00	\$15,150.00		-\$150.00	100%
National Meetings	\$5,500.00	\$0.00		\$5,500.00	0%
Ambassador Program	\$5,000.00	\$405.00		\$4,595.00	8%
Communications including website hosting, phone, Zoom, Constant Contact, etc.	\$2,000.00	\$1,272.37	\$23.73	\$703.90	65%
Website Edits and Updates	\$2,500.00	\$1,292.50	\$107.84	\$1,099.66	56%
Shipping	\$500.00	\$216.71	\$18.00	\$265.29	47%
General Material Printing & Supplies	\$600.00	\$145.77		\$454.23	24%
Admin Contract	\$26,400.00	\$24,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	100%
Staff Hours for CMP Implementation Activities with Partners & Stakeholders including letters of support/comment, regional mtgs and elections, ambassador program mgmt, work groups	\$15,000.00	\$14,080.00	\$1,265.00	-\$345.00	102%
Marketing - Explore MN MSP Airport Brochure Program (MN GRR maps)	\$0.00	\$450.00		-\$450.00	
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$78,000.00</b>	<b>\$57,801.55</b>	<b>\$3,669.57</b>	<b>\$16,528.88</b>	<b>79%</b>
Notes:					
Final FY22 expenditure details will be available after fiscal year close out					

## Allotment of FY23 Funds

Legal Citations: ML 2021, 1st special session, Ch 12, Art 1, Sec 2, Subd 4 (approp to LCC). MS 16A.281 (CFD).

Expires 6/30/23 and then rolls to LCC CFD. General Funds/1000 Fund.

FY:                      COMMISSION NAME:

budget allocation

<b>2023</b>	<b>Mississippi River Parkway Commission Operations (MRPC)</b>	<b>78,000.00</b>	<b>notes</b>
-------------	---	------------------	--------------

<u>Object Code</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	500.00	
41130	Professional and Technical Services - Outside Vendor	45,000.00	
41145	IT Professional and Technology - Outside Vendor Services		
41150	Computer and Systems Services	1,000.00	
41155	Communications	1,000.00	
41160	Travel & Subsistence - Instate	1,000.00	
41170	Travel & Subsistence - Outstate	10,000.00	
41180	Employee Development	1,000.00	
41190	Agency Provided Prof/Tech Service		
41300	Supplies	500.00	
41500	Repairs to Equipment and Furniture		
42010	Statewide Indirect Costs		
43000	Other Operating Costs	15,000.00	Natl MRPC Dues
47060	Equipment		
		78,000.00	

**TOTAL \***

*\*Total must be equal to:*

**78,000.00**

*Need to yet allot:*

-



## **Drive the Great River Road Month**

### **Update for Commission Meeting**

### **August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Fall Harvest on the Great River Road planning and organization is in full swing! So far, we have an amazing assortment of items to go in our kits. (see photo below and the 1 pager for the kits)



We want to thank all the agencies and regional reps for sending everything in and making this a great give-a-way that we think people will be excited to receive! We created a website that we will promote on social media ([Order a Road Trip Kit for Fall Harvest on the Great River Road - Minnesota Grown](#)) that the first 250 people to sign up will receive a kit. We also want to thank everyone that sent in ideas for the different itineraries that we have put together to encourage the public to get out there and drive the great river road without having to plan out their own trip! ([Fall Harvest on the Great River Road - Minnesota Grown](#))

We will have a social media photo contest where people that drive the Great River Road can post photos to social media using the hashtag #MNGRR. We will choose the best photos in October and send prizes to the winners.

The MDA has hired a PR firm (Bellmont Partners) that will help pitch story ideas about Drive the Great River Road Month and encourage their media contacts to cover the press event. They'll also track media coverage on our behalf.

We have a press event scheduled at the Minnesota State Fair on Tuesday, August 30th at 10am. So far, the attendees are: Senator Senjem, Grant Wilson (DNR), John Anfinson (Vice Chair of MN-MRPC), MDA Commissioner and/or Assistant Commissioners. We have requests to attend in for the MnDOT Commissioner, DNR Commissioner, TOUR Executive Director, MNHS Executive Director, and the Governor's Office. We'd love for you to attend so please let us know as soon as possible. The event plan so far is to have Senator Senjem read the Governor's Proclamation. We will have a fun GRR trivia game to get folks engaged and we will hand out a few of our kits to the winners and there will of course be plenty of photo ops to go on social media!

Documents to review: Great River Road Press Release, Governor's Proclamation request submitted on July 15th, GRR letter to go into the kits, and the list of itineraries. Letter and itineraries are attached, press release and proclamation will be shared when finalized/received.

Asks:

- GRR themed trivia questions
- Small prizes to give away to the photo contest winners (not as small as the items in the kits but not expensive)
- Share all GRR social media posts using #MNGRR





## Congratulations!

You were one of the first 250 people to sign up for the enclosed Fall Harvest on the Great River Road Kit! The Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission and Minnesota Grown are excited to be able to provide you with this set of resources to help you explore and enjoy all that the Great River Road has to offer in Minnesota!

The Great River Road is a network of roadways following the course of the Mississippi River through ten states offering a bounty of river stories and experiences in a parkway setting. Minnesota's Great River Road spans 565 miles, 43 communities, 20 counties, three tribes and six unique destination areas.

Check out everything in your kit including **one Free Pass** to a Minnesota Historical Society historic site to jump start your Great River Road adventures this Fall!

### MAPS

Map of the full Minnesota Great River Road with community insets and Interpretive Center photos  
Minnesota State Highway Map  
Minnesota State Bicycle Map  
Minnesota State Parks and Trails Map and Visitor Guide

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

Minnesota Grown "What's in Season" guide, with QR code to an online directory of over 1,000 farms and markets across the state  
Minnesota State Parks Program and Events brochure  
Explore Minnesota State Travel Guide  
Brainerd Visitor Guide from the Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce

### ROAD TRIP GOODIES

One Free Pass to a Minnesota Historical Society historic site  
Great River Road reflective bumper sticker  
Explore Minnesota water bottle sticker  
Minnesota Grown/Great River Road water bottle  
Minnesota Grown trip journal  
Minnesota Historical Society felt tip pen  
Minnesota Grown frisbee  
Minnesota Historical Society "History Matters" fabric kite  
Minnesota Grown temporary tattoo and magnet

Have fun exploring and don't forget to take photos along the way! Post them on social media using #MNGRR by October 1<sup>st</sup> and we will choose the best photos and send out special prizes to the winners!

Scan the QR code below to go to our Drive the Great River Road month webpage to help you get started on your adventures. You'll find links to the Great River Road Map and Trip Planner with thousands of sites and activities to choose from. We have come up with suggested itineraries including: a "Foodie tour", a "Romantic Get-a-way" tour, a tour to "Burn off energy with the kiddos", and a "Get your Hands Dirty" tour.



Or follow this link: <https://minnesotagrown.com/great-river-road/>



## Itineraries for Fall Harvest on the Great River Road From Itasca to Winona September 2022

Include on web page for additional resources:

Link to interpretive Centers: <https://www.mnmississippiriver.com/interpretive-centers/>

More itineraries: <https://experiencemississippiriver.com/itineraries/>

Plan your trip interactive map: <https://www.mnmississippiriver.com/the-minnesota-great-river-road-is-an-all-american-road/>

### Itasca Area:

Burn off some energy with the kiddos:

- [Itasca State Park](#)- Head Waters of the Mississippi (photo credit Explore Minnesota)



- Itasca Bison Kill Site- Native American Site
  - [Chippewa National Forest](#)- Suomi Hills Trail or at the Laurentian Divide
  - [Douglas Lodge](#)
- [Lone Rock Farms](#)
- [Bemidji Area Farmers Market](#)

## Grand Rapids Area:

### Romantic Getaway:

- [Pick apples at Lavaliers Farm](#)



- [Grand Rapids Farmers Market](#) (open Wed & Sun from 8am-1pm)
- [The DocHouse Suites](#)
- Explore a fall colors trail: <https://www.experiencegr.com/articles/post/fall-hikes-and-trails/>
- [Rapids Brewing Company](#), Grand Rapids

## Brainerd Area:

### Get your hands dirty:

- [Brainerd Lakes Area Growers Market](#)
- [Rustic Acres Greenhouse](#)
- [Crow Wing State Park and Campground](#)
- [Triple S Pumpkins LLC](#)- weekends from mid-September to the end of October 10a-6p



- [Kiwanis Park](#) – Fishing and canoe access

### St. Cloud Area:

Romantic getaway:

- Munsinger-Clemens Gardens - <https://www.munsingerclemens.com/>
- Visit historic downtown - <https://www.visitstcloud.com/downtown/>
- [St. Cloud Area Farmers Market](#)
- [Dancing the Land Farm](#)



- Dine at <https://julesbistrostcloud.com/> or <https://www.whitehorsemn.com/about/>

### Twin Cities:

Foodie Tour:

- [Mill City Farmers Market](#): Every Saturday in September, 8am - 1pm
- [St. Paul Farmers Market](#) – See <http://www.stpaulfarmersmarket.com/calendar>
- [Farmers Kitchen + Bar](#)- MFU owned (Photo credit to MFU)



- [Owamni](#) – Minneapolis - James Beard winner – Indigenous food (Photo credit to Nancy Bundt)



- [Lakes & Legends Brewing Company](#) – Minnesota Grown Partner

### Lake City-Wabasha Area:

Burn off some energy with the Kiddos:

- [National Eagle Center](#), Wabasha
- [LARK Toys - Toy Store in Kellogg, MN - Best Toy Store in MN!](#)
- Hok-Si-La Park, Lake City - <http://hoksilapark.org/>
- [Spring Lake Park Reserve](#)
- [Wescott Orchard & Agri Products](#)



### Winona Area:

Foodie tour:

- [NOSH Scratch Kitchen](#) (other great ideas in include: The Boat House and the Heirloom Seasonal Bistro)
- [Winona Farmers Market](#)
- [Goodview City Farmers Market](#)



- [Garvin Heights Vineyards, LLC](#)



- [Heart and Soil Ridge](#)- Bed and Breakfast Farm Stay